WOODSTOCK POLICE SERVICE BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Police Response to Persons in Crisis
Policy Number:	LE-013
Effective Date:	December 4, 2024
Reviewed:	
Amended:	

Authority/Legislative References

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1

Ontario Regulation 392/23 Adequate and Effective Policing (General)

Ontario Regulation 87/24 Training

Policy Statement

The Woodstock Police Service Board (the "Board") is committed to ensuring a compassionate, effective, and informed police response to individuals who are in crisis, have a mental illness or have a developmental disability. Recognizing the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by these individuals, the Board emphasizes the importance of collaboration, specialized training, and adherence to best practices in all interactions.

Policy Application

1. It is the policy of the Board with respect to the police response to persons who are in crisis or have a mental illness or a developmental disability that the Chief of Police (the "Chief") shall:

a. work, where possible, with appropriate community members and agencies, including but not limited to, the Canadian Mental Health Association's Mental Health Engagement and Response Team (MHEART), health care providers, government agencies, municipal officials, other criminal justice agencies, and the local Crown to address service issues relating to persons who have a mental illness or developmental disability;

b. establish procedures and processes that address police response to persons who are in crisis or have a mental illness or a developmental disability, with consideration of collaborative initiatives involving MHEART; and

c. ensure that the Woodstock Police Service's policy addresses the training and sharing of information with officers, communications operators/dispatchers and supervisors on:

i. local protocols; and

ii. conflict resolution and use of force in situations involving persons who may be in crisis, or may have a mental illness or developmental disability.