



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

FROM: Malcolm Hunt, Director of Planning and Development Services

MEETING DATE: October 13, 2011

**SUBJECT: Report PLHDJSSC11-02
Housing is Fundamental 2011 – Information Report**

PURPOSE

A report on "*Housing is Fundamental*" 2011, which is an annual publication of the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC).

RECOMMENDATION

That Joint Services Steering Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report PLHDJSSC11-02 dated October 13, 2011, of the Director of Planning and Development Services, as follows:

That the report "*Housing is Fundamental 2011*" of the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC) be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget and financial implications arising from this recommendation.

BACKGROUND

Housing is Fundamental is published annually by the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC) and is compiled by of the Community Education Sub-Committee of AHAC. This is the sixth year of its publication.

In 2011, *Housing Is Fundamental* focuses on the theme of mental health, addiction and housing.

Housing is Fundamental 2011 will be available to the public through a targeted mailing, by request, accessible through the City website and the media, and distributed at city, county and community forums. Upcoming housing forums over the coming year include the annual Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) conference, and City meetings with community partners interested in promoting housing solutions.

Housing is Fundamental 2011 will be shared with other municipalities, the province and the federal government.

As a tool for public education on the housing needs in the greater Peterborough area, this report is a comprehensive, single source document.

HOUSING IS FUNDAMENTAL 2011 FOCUS AND FINDINGS

“Housing is Fundamental 2011” highlights the theme of mental health, addiciton and housing. The potential of housing to mitigate problems, be a source of stability and promote personal recovery is explored in the 2011 document.

Highlights include:

- For those with serious mental illness, poverty is a major barrier to housing. All OW and ODSP recipients spend in excess of 30% of their total monthly entitlement, placing them in core housing need. About 70% of unemployed people with a psychiatric disability are subsisting on Social Assistance.
- A “housing first, recovery will follow” approach is proving to be a successful strategy in the largest project in Canadian history to study the link between homelessness and mental health.
- Peterborough’s homelessness partnering strategy has helped more than 70 people, “whatever their needs may be”, to find and keep housing.

- The seriously mentally ill are disproportionately affected by homelessness, tend to be homeless for longer periods of time, have less contact with family and friends, encounter more barriers to employment and tend to be in poorer health than the general homeless population.
- The stress of being homeless may encourage anxiety or depressive disorders.
- Peterborough's affordable housing situation remains an issue from social, health and poverty perspectives. Peterborough has the highest core housing need in Canada: 50.43% of renters spend 30% of household income on housing.

SUMMARY

The Community Education Sub-Committee of the Affordable Housing Action Committee will continue its work to provide factual information and to follow housing trends and indicators to help guide program and policy decisions of municipal councils, community agencies, and other levels of government.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Housing is Fundamental 2011