



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Peterborough Regional Liaison Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner of Community Services

Meeting Date: October 15, 2020

Subject: Report CSSSPRLC20-004
Housing and Homelessness Plan: 2019 Progress Report

Purpose

A report to present the Progress Report 2019 on the Housing and Homelessness Plan for the City and County of Peterborough.

Recommendation

That the Peterborough Regional Liaison Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report CSSSPRLC20-004, dated October 15, 2020, of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

That the Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report 2019 be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

Background

The Housing Services Act 2011 requires the City of Peterborough, as Service Manager for the City and County of Peterborough, to have a Housing and Homelessness Plan and to report annually on the progress made towards targets

included in the Plan. The City of Peterborough's plan was launched in 2014, then reviewed and updated in 2019.

The Progress Report 2019, attached as Appendix A, provides highlights of key housing and homelessness statistics from 2019. It includes a summary of achievements from 2014-2019.

2019 was a transition year between the 2014 Plan and the new Plan (December 2019). This is the last year of reporting under the commitments from the 2014 Plan.

Highlights

The review of the Plan was a key accomplishment in 2019. Staff, community partners, and people with lived experience helped shape the review and ground it in lived experience. 576 community members gave feedback into the new Plan. Some of the key pieces from the review are included in the progress report, as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Strategic Direction: Ending Homelessness & Staying Housed
- Strategic Direction: Building Housing
- Guiding Principles for Housing and Homelessness Services
- Community Summary of Local Needs
- Housing and Homelessness Plan Steering Committee and Working Group Structure

The Progress Report highlights progress made in 2019 including:

1. 238 low income households received a municipal rent supplement to help pay their rent.
2. 20 new affordable rental apartments in development. The total number of affordable units since 2014 is 284.
3. 20 low-income homeowners received help for necessary repairs, upgrades, and accessibility modifications to ensure they could stay in their homes.
4. 2,844 issuances to help pay for rent and utility arrears, last month's rent, and other housing costs.
5. 4% more shelter beds were used in 2019 than 2018.
6. 7 community partners agreed to dedicate resources exclusively to the By-Name Priority List. This means people experiencing homelessness are chosen for housing based on their level of need.
7. 29 people were supported by Home for Good Supportive Housing Program.

8. 61 people gave feedback on Housing and Homelessness Services through the community partner survey.
9. Goal of assisting 200 low and moderate income households with necessary home repairs to remain housed is 88.5% complete
10. 275 persons assisted to move from homelessness into housing

Distribution

The Progress Report 2019 will be available to the public through the City website, presented to County Council, the Housing and Homelessness Plan Steering Committee and the Working Groups. It will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing through the Eastern Municipal Services Office.

Progress towards ending chronic homelessness and building housing

Staff are collaborating to ensure there is quality data to track the City's progress towards the goals of the new Plan.

As captured in the Plan, the City is working to:

- End chronic homelessness by the end of 2025, and
- “Meet all housing needs” by 2029 by creating 580 supportive housing units for people experiencing chronic homelessness, 2,680 new rental units and 796 new homeownership units.

Meeting these targets requires collaboration across all levels of government and local organizations, and community members, with input from people with lived experience of homelessness. The Housing and Homelessness Plan Working Groups are helping to support and inform the work of the Plan. A few examples are as follows:

The 2020 action plan for the Ending Homelessness and Staying Housed Working Group is focused on discharges into homelessness from the justice system, child welfare system, and the health system. City staff continue to support the community members in the Working Group by providing local data and other administrative support.

The homelessness system has made necessary shifts through out the COVID-19 pandemic response in order to secure housing while ensuring the health and safety of everyone accessing shelter services. The new Centralized Intake phone line allowed for staff and homelessness-serving agencies to best serve the vulnerable population during the state of emergency.

The Housing Action Task Force Working Group is focused on a land inventory and identifying potential housing project models for people experiencing homelessness. City staff continue to provide support to community members and City and County Councillors in this Working Group by providing information and administrative support.

City staff are also working to improve how affordable housing units are tracked and to improve processes to apply for municipal incentives and capital funding.

This report is also provided to the General Committee on October 5, 2020 for information as Report CSSS20-019.

Submitted by,

Sheldon Laidman
Commissioner of Community Services

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Attachment:

Appendix A - Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report 2019