

Purpose

The Housing Services Act (HSA), 2011 and the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update required Service Managers to create a comprehensive, multi-year Housing and Homeless Plan (the Plan) for local housing and homelessness services by January 1, 2014 and requires an annual update on its status. This report provides the required annual update regarding the Plan.

Background

The Plan addresses areas of provincial interest while guiding municipalities in creating a flexible, community-centred housing and homelessness system. City of Greater Sudbury Council approved Greater Sudbury's original Housing and Homelessness Plan on November 18, 2013, and the Five (5) Year Updated Plan on November 18, 2019. The Plans were reviewed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to ensure that they met all legislated requirements. Each year an update of the Plan must be reviewed by Council and submitted to the Minister.

Planning, Housing, Social Services staff along with community members have been working together over a number of years to coordinate and harmonize local housing and homelessness programs, and have established the Homelessness Network to coordinate delivery of various services. These Divisions and community partners will continue to collaborate with partners and stakeholders while moving the housing and homelessness system to a more coordinated, people-centred system.

The goal of the City's Housing and Homelessness Plan is to ensure systems are in place along the full housing continuum to facilitate citizen access to affordable housing. The Plan's guiding principle is to continue to support community based delivery of housing and homelessness services.

Priorities

The City of Greater Sudbury's Housing and Homelessness Plan identifies seven (7) priority areas:

1. There is a need to improve housing options across the housing continuum;
2. There is a need to improve housing access and affordability for low income households;
3. There is a need to strengthen approaches to preventing homelessness, increase the diversity of emergency shelter options and support individuals with multiple barriers in obtaining and maintaining their housing;
4. There is need for additional supportive services coupled with permanent housing (both supportive housing and supports in private homes);
5. There is a need to improve co-ordination, collaboration and partnerships among

a broad range of stakeholders;

6. There is a need for an Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Strategy in the Community; and

7. There is a need to monitor and report on progress towards meeting the Housing and Homelessness Plan objectives and targets.

Planning, Housing, and Social Services along with community partners have developed actions and objectives to address the priorities. Appendix A – Housing and Homelessness Priorities Update 2019 provides details on each priority, including the objectives, actions taken, and actions planned.

Analysis

As part of the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update, the Province made several commitments related to performance measures and reporting. One of the commitments requires Service Managers to publicly report on an annual basis the progress of the Plans based on the previous year's activities. This is intended to enhance local transparency and accountability, while ensuring the local communities remain engaged through regular progress updates. Highlights of the Plan can be reviewed in the Homelessness Report Card.

Next Steps

Planning, Housing, Social Services will continue to work in collaboration with key stakeholders to meet the objectives within the priority areas identified in the Plan and will report back to the Community Services Committee annually on the measures taken and the progress made.

Resources Cited

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