

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin's (CMHA) Harm Reduction Home Residential Program (HRHRP), specifically the eligibility criteria, process to house residents, funding and potential to repurpose the space. This report is in response to inquiries at the June 15, 2020 Community Services Committee meeting

## **Background**

At the June 15, 2020 Community Services Committee meeting an information report was presented entitled Emergency Shelter Review Update. Questions regarding the status of 200 Larch Street were raised and a follow up report was requested. This site is owned and operated by CMHA and includes the Off The Street Shelter, Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinic, the Harm Reduction Home Residential Program as well as other services and programs for Greater Sudbury's marginalized populations. The Off The Street Shelter has been temporarily relocated in response to social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff are reviewing the ability for the Shelter to return to this location and inquiries were made regarding the ability to use the second floor of the building at 200 Larch Street. The second floor will house fifteen (15) residents through the Harm Reduction Home Residential Program upon completion.

## **Harm Reduction Home Residential Program**

The Harm Reduction Home Residential Program provides a range of services and supports to individuals challenged with homelessness, and substance use disorders. Managed Alcohol Programs are a type of harm reduction program focused on reducing the negative health and social impacts associated with chronic alcohol dependence and homelessness. Managed Alcohol Programs are typically residential programs that provide regulated doses of alcohol to residents. Trained medical and social service providers oversee the operation of this program. Managed Alcohol Programs seek to provide supportive, stable housing, regulate alcohol consumption, reduce the use of non-beverage alcohol, and improve overall well-being for residents. The program provides a continuum of services and support to the target population which includes: shelter, meals, primary care, mental health and supportive counselling, housing support and case management services. Physicians prescribe alcohol pours hourly throughout the day and alcohol levels are monitored.

The Harm Reduction Home Residential Program housed seven (7) individuals at an alternate CMHA site on Kingsmount Blvd. CMHA will be able to house fifteen (15) individuals at the 200 Larch Street location. In preparation for the transition, CMHA has advised community partners that they are accepting referrals and have been completing intakes with identified individuals.

Criteria in order to be considered as a participant in the HRHRP are as follows:

- 19 years or older;
- Live with severe alcohol use disorder (AUD), including those who are drinking non-beverage alcohol;
- Are impacted by homelessness or are precariously housed; or

- May currently be frequent users of the healthcare system.

The HRHRP has resources to provide both primary care and specialized addiction care (including access to psychiatric supports). Individuals with polysubstance use and concurrent medical challenges would be considered appropriate.

If the referral meets the above mentioned criteria the following would be completed:

- The referral source/the individual will be contacted to schedule an assessment and intake to the Harm Reduction Home Residential Program, and
- The Severity of Alcohol Dependency (SADQ) scale and Eligibility Criteria will be used to assist in determining appropriateness of candidates for the program. These tools will be completed by intake staff upon assessment.

CMHA is in the process of transitioning the existing program participants from Kingsmount Blvd. to the second floor at 200 Larch St. All new clients will have a staggered entry into the program with timelines varying, based on client and program need. Individuals will be selected from their waitlist who have been deemed eligible.

This program supports the Shelter Program/Housing and Homelessness Plan/Strategy by allowing individuals who are currently accessing the shelter program the opportunity to become residents of the Harm Reduction Home. The Housing and Homelessness Plan looks at the entire housing continuum which begins at homelessness and ends by individuals being housed in whatever setting works for them (supportive housing, regular community housing, rent supplement with private landlord, etc.). The HRHRP is guided by a harm reduction philosophy, evidence-based research and practice guidelines; it addresses housing and homelessness of a vulnerable population, and makes primary care services accessible in a safe space; it decreases the financial constraints on communities and meets people where they are but does not leave them there as it fosters more stable patterns of alcohol consumption and improves nutrition; it decreases use of emergency services, presentations to hospital and admissions.

## **Funding**

Funding for the Harm Reduction Home Residential Program is currently provided through the NE LHIN, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Home For Good (HFG) Program, and Rent Supplements provided through various social services agencies. The existing funding agreements/guidelines require all funding be utilized for the provision of fifteen harm reduction residential spaces with the associated wrap around services.