

Background

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Tool is an evaluation method that can be used to identify and address effects of a policy, program, or initiative on specific population groups. A HIA Tool recognizes social, economic, and cultural determinants of health of a community with an upstream thinking approach aiming to maximize positive health effects and minimize negative health effects on a population.

The purpose of a Health Impact Assessment includes:

- Providing opportunities to develop a healthy and sustainable community
- Promoting inclusive strategies and policies
- Developing a participatory approach that values the views of the community

The process of conducting a HIA consists of reviewing policies, programs or initiatives with a Population Health lens to ensure the implications of decisions and recommendations related to the City of Greater Sudbury (City) Population Health Priorities have been considered.

To align with the City's Population Health Initiative, a Health Impact Assessment Tool will be applied for City Council and all Committee reports. The HIA statement will be used to highlight health effects in relation to the ten City of Greater Sudbury Population Health Priorities that were identified in the November 22nd, 2017 City Council Report, Population Health – Community Priorities.

Population Health Priorities:

1. **Indigenous Youth** - Flexible learning opportunities within the community and schools.
2. **Resiliency** - Community resiliency, support youth transitioning to adulthood in schools, campuses, workplaces and community, safe communities, skill-based learning for all ages.
3. **Families** - Developing a family well-being strategy, support family units with changing family needs, promote positive life choices.
4. **Mental Health** - Elimination of social stigma, sensitivity for mental illness & addictions, inclusion & belonging, creating mindful environments for schools, work & play and neighbourhoods with greater connectivity and cohesion.

5. **Compassionate City Design** - Promote an inclusive society and neighbourhoods, programs and services that are welcoming/supportive and neighbourhoods that are safe, connected, accessible, green and playful.
6. **“Play” Opportunities** - Promote equal & accessible play opportunities, crime prevention through environmental design for safe play, utilize play further within educational system.
7. **Housing** - Increased affordable & suitable housing, encourage creative approaches to homelessness.
8. **Holistic Health** - Promote quality personal time, healthy work environments, progressive health policies, supportive families, health equity, poverty reduction, accessible local food, healthy weights, community based models of care.
9. **Age-Friendly Strategy** - Promotes suitable outdoor spaces & buildings, housing, transportation, social participation, civic participation & employment, community support & health services, communication & information, and respect & social inclusion.
10. **Healthy Streets** - Promote active transportation opportunities, natural resources as incorporated into the landscape for trails & neighbourhood development, public spaces where people feel safe, relaxed, and welcome, urban spaces socially and economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable, streets are inviting to walk, cycle or use, pedestrian friendly.

Recommended Usage

Currently, HIA statements are utilized on reports that are presented to the Community Services Committee under the heading, Relationship to Strategic Plan/Health Impact Assessment. Including HIA statements on all City Council and Committee reports will ensure new policies, programs, and/or initiatives will provide informed decision making in terms of the City's Population Health.

Health Impact Assessments will be completed for each City Council and Committee report by the report's author using a standardized HIA Tool (see Appendix A-Health Impact Assessment Tool). The HIA Tool is a one-page document that contains the ten Population Health Priorities and specific checkboxes to indicate if the policy, program

or initiative has positive impact, negative impact or no impact on Population Health Priorities. The HIA Tool includes a comment section for each Population Health priority to provide additional information. Significant impacts to any of the Population Health Priorities will be identified on City Council or Committee reports under the Relationship to Strategic Plan/Health Impact Assessment heading.

Health Impact Assessment Statements

The following responses are guidelines for current Health Impact Assessments included in Community Services Committee reports that are recommended to be included in all City Council and Committee reports:

If the response to any or all of the Population Health Priorities indicates a **positive** impact, a HIA statement will need to be included in the body of the report that reflects the consideration taken regarding the topic of the report.

If the response to any of the Population Health Priorities and services indicates a **negative** impact, the report writer should follow-up with supporting information including an HIA statement as to why the decision has a negative impact and the rationale for the recommendation to be approved. Information will also need to be provided to determine if a further investigation will need to be conducted dependent upon the degree of negative impact on the community.

If the response to any or all of the Population Health Priorities is **not applicable** or has **no impact**, then no follow-up is required.

Next Steps

Upon Council approval, the HIA Tool will be distributed to all City and Committee report writers and begin to appear in Agendas Online by the fourth quarter of 2018. Training for report writers who will use the HIA Tool will occur in the third quarter of 2018.

Sources

National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy

http://www.ncchpp.ca/54/health_impact_assessment.ccnpps

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools

<http://www.nccmt.ca/knowledge-repositories/search/146>.

Wellesley Institute <http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/topics/health-equity/heath-equity-impact-assessment/>

November 22nd, 2017 City Council Report: Population Health - Community Priorities

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1137&itemid=14036&lang=en>