Staff Report



To City Council

Service Area Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Date Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Subject Review and Gap Analysis of Homelessness,

Substance Use and Mental Health Services

Recommendation

1. That the Review and Gap Analysis of Homelessness, Substance Use and Mental Health Services report dated September 12, 2023 be received.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

On January 25, 2023 Council passed the following motion:

"That given the financial impacts expected as a result of changing provincial housing legislation, and the increasingly urgent homelessness, addictions, and mental health crisis being felt in our community, staff be directed to assess any identified gaps, while considering the multi-agency and multi-governmental responsibility for these services, and to monitor and report on such impacts before the implementation of the multi-year budget in a stand-alone report outlining any emerging provincial funding opportunities or recommend any potential local governance and service delivery mechanisms for council consideration. And, to help facilitate this work, that staff be authorized to use one time funding in the amount of up to \$150,000 from the Tax Rate Contingency Reserve for expertise in this field to help inform next steps. And that staff respectfully request outside agencies, boards, and stakeholders involved in this work to collaborate throughout this process."

Following this direction, staff initiated a competitive procurement process and awarded this work to Collective Results, a Guelph-based consultancy with extensive experience supporting complex challenges related to health and human services.

Key Findings

The Collective Results report titled "A Review and Gap Analysis of Housing, Substance Use and Mental Health Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in Guelph" is Attachment 1. A confidential report titled Housing: Collective Results Interview Findings is included with the Closed meeting agenda.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This report aligns to the Guelph Future Ready Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023) priority area of building our future where we help increase the availability of housing needs that meet community needs, and continue to build equitable, strong, vibrant, safe and healthy communities that foster resilience in the people who live here.

This report also aligns to Future Guelph, Guelph's 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan through the theme of people and economy where our goal is to support community well-being.

Financial Implications

Any financial impacts flowing from this report will be directed to the 2024-2027 multi-year budget process for decision.

Report

This work is part of a comprehensive approach to understand roles and opportunities to increase supply across the housing continuum.

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Consultations

Collective Results undertook a collaborative process with stakeholders to inform the development of the report and recommendations. Details can be found in Attachment 1.

The City of Guelph will facilitate a drop-in session for participating stakeholders on September 7, 2023.

Attachments

Attachment-1 A Review and Gap Analysis of Housing, Substance Use and Mental Health Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in Guelph

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