

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** September 10, 2024  
**To:** Social Services Sub-committee  
**From:** Kelly Stone, Supervisor of Social Services  
**Report Number:** SOC24-011  
**Attachments:** None

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**Title:** Supported Transitional Housing Pilot Project

**Objective:** To provide information on an operational pilot project, known as Supported Transitional Housing, where a limited number of units will be allocated within the Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation, to be utilized for transitional housing for individuals who have an active application for Rent-Geared-to-Income housing and are experiencing chronic, unsheltered homelessness.

**Background:** Local By-Name List (BNL) data demonstrates that the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness has significantly increased over the last three years. In January of 2021, in our service area, 91 households were identified as experiencing chronic homelessness ('chronic' is defined as a period of homelessness lasting 6 months or longer),<sup>1</sup> while BNL data in June of 2024 was indicative of 150 households meeting the criteria for chronicity.

The Supported Transitional Housing pilot project intends to function as a support available to individuals who could benefit from intensive in-home support services, with a focus on providing guidance on developing the skills required to live independently. This type of support could include education on tasks such as housekeeping, laundry, grocery shopping, budgeting, how to be a good neighbour, making and attending appointments, conflict resolution, and guest management. The program will see participants receive in-home support a minimum of three times per week and will serve as a transition between living outdoors and living in a traditional landlord/tenant relationship where rules are expected to be followed under the Residential Tenancies Act.

<sup>1</sup> Housing, I. a. C. C. (2024, August 7). *Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada - Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives*. [https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/directives-eng.html#\\_toc2](https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/directives-eng.html#_toc2)

**Analysis:** Individuals who experience chronic homelessness can require highly individualized care plans in relation to their varying depth of needs and success in a transitional housing program will vary from person to person. Eligibility for the program will be determined on a case-by-case basis, however all eligible participants will be active and 'chronic' on the local homelessness By-Name List, will have an active application for Rent-Geared-to-Income housing, and will have demonstrated, over time, that they could benefit from an intensive support transition program to work toward long-term success once housed, either in the private market or within Rent-Geared-to-Income housing. Program success factors will be measured by level of engagement with supports, program participation, progression of life skills development, connections to health and social services, guest management strategies, and the length of time in transitional housing before becoming housed.

Understanding that safe and stable housing is an integral part of the overall Social Determinants of Health<sup>2</sup>, program success will also be measured by improved overall health outcomes related to **financial stability**: learning to make and keep appointments with Social Assistance Caseworkers; **health care access and quality**: bringing health care to the home by working closely with the Community Paramedic team who can facilitate connections to Family Health Teams, pharmacies for medication management, wound care, and ongoing health monitoring; **neighbourhood and built environment**: safe housing, transportation, and the ability to access nutritious foods; **social and community context**: social support, community engagement, and freedom from discrimination and violence. All these factors contribute to ongoing physical and mental wellness.

<sup>2</sup> *Social Determinants of Health - Healthy People 2030* | Health.gov. (n.d.).  
<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

The average rental income on a one-bedroom unit in Rent-Geared-to-Income housing, for a single adult in receipt of Ontario Works (OW), is \$122.00; \$146.00 for a single adult in receipt of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

As participants in the Supported Transitional Housing Program will be signing occupancy agreements rather than traditional leases, there will be no rent charged. Therefore, the potential monthly revenue loss on the unit is \$122.00 x 12 months totaling \$1,464.00 per year for OW recipients, and \$146.00 x 12 months totaling \$1,752.00 for ODSP recipients. The benefits of this program would be seen through increases to individuals' overall wellness, and opportunities for long-term independence. Additionally, it is intended that there would be less pressure on the social, health, and criminal justice systems, through a wrap around support approach. This is more cost-effective than using emergency housing solutions through motels.

## **Financial Implications:**

### **Financial impact to current year operating budget:**

This program began in August 2024, and it is anticipated that any costs in 2024 will be managed within the 614 – Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation budget.

### **Financial impact on future year operating budget:**

Potential impacts would include lost rental revenues for 1-2 units and the value of these is based on the income levels of the individuals. With increased transitions, there could also be increased replacement of in-unit appliances required for transitions including refrigerator, induction cooktop, microwave, and more significant repairs such as flooring, drywall, plumbing, electrical. An additional \$50,000 has been included in the draft 2025 budget to address these estimated costs.

## **Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

### **Build Housing Stability**

This pilot program aligns with this objective as the primary focus of transitional housing is to stabilize housing for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, through a variety of in-home supports.

### **Work Together For Greater Impact**

This pilot program aligns with this objective as the program will require collaboration with a variety of internal and external agencies who can assist individuals with housing stability, as well as physical and mental wellness.

## **Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

### **Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

### **Equity and Local Economy**

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Supported Transitional Housing Pilot Project" (SOC24-011), be received for information.**

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| <b>Prepared by:</b>    | Kelly Stone, Supervisor of Social Services                                             |
| <b>Recommended by:</b> | Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services<br>Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer |