

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: September 10, 2024
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
Shannon Archer, Business Integration Manager
Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
Report Number: SOC24-008
Attachments: None

Title: Updated Fixed Site Supported Housing Agreements

Objective: To consider approval to enter into two updated agreements to deliver fixed site supported housing services in North Perth and St Marys. The North Perth agreement is an updated agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addiction and Mental Health Services. The St Marys agreement is an updated agreement with Little Lake Residential.

Background: The current agreements with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services (herein referred to as CMHA HP) and Little Lake Residential (herein referred to as Little Lake) have been in place since the introduction of the Home for Good funded Supported Housing of Perth Program (SHOPP) in 2018. CMHA operates the facilities in North Perth and provides comprehensive supports for vulnerable youth and families who are experiencing homelessness. Little Lake operates the facilities in St Marys and provides supports for families who were previously experiencing homelessness by providing safe and permanent housing. The agreements have been in place since 2018 and since that time there have been significant enough changes to contract terms, names of agencies and funding sources that a new agreement was warranted to reflect these changes.

In 2022, the Provincial government transitioned homelessness funding from multiple funding streams into one, singular program entitled the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP). All Home for Good funded programs were included within this program, as was the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement program. This change in funding represents a change in the language within the contract.

Further to this change, the Social Services Department has recently completed a review of the agreements and modified the language included within the program guidelines so that it reflects current expectations of operations and more closely aligns with program deliverables. As the program has changed since its inception in 2018, the agreement required a fulsome update.

Analysis: The fixed site supported housing agreements operate as a part of the intensive case management program which formerly operated under the Supported Housing of Perth Program (SHOPP) umbrella. Due to changes in service delivery by the service manager, in an effort to consolidate services, clarify program guidelines and provide a high level of service to the most vulnerable community members, changes have been made to the SHOPP program. Please see report SOC 23-019 for more details regarding program modifications.

The goal of the North Perth Fixed Site Supported Housing Service Agreement is designed to offer intensive support and wrap-around services for individuals who are residing at the facilities in Listowel ON. The program operates utilizing occupancy agreements, in a short-term transitional manner, with the end goal of attaining permanent housing and long-term housing stability for participants in the program. Participants receive intensive case management services, coupled with portable housing allowances and other supports as necessary. Program intake will be completed through referrals from the By-Name List. The program is funded through the Homelessness Prevention Program at a rate of \$260,585, per year.

The goal of the St Marys Fixed Site Supported Housing Service Agreement is designed to offer intensive support and wrap-around services for individuals who are residing at the facilities in St Marys, ON. Participants receive intensive case management services, coupled with portable housing allowances/rent supplements and other supports as necessary. Program intake will be completed through referrals from the By-Name List. This component of the program is also funded through the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) at a rate of \$184,335 per year.

These rates have not changed since the 2023-24 contract was renewed. The language in the agreement is set up to allow the agreements to renew on a yearly basis, upon receipt of a letter detailing agreement by both parties, unless it is terminated or replaced. Furthermore, the program funding can only be sustained if funding continues to be approved within the HPP application and the municipal budget. The proposed contract will be in effect from April 1, 2024 until March 31, 2025, with options for renewal.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The yearly cost to operate the two programs is a combined \$444,920 (for the North Perth program- \$260,585 and for the St. Marys program- \$184,335) which is funded

through the Government of Ontario, the Homelessness Prevention Program. There is no anticipated impact on the municipal tax levy because of operating these two programs.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The cost to operate the program is expected to remain at a total amount of \$444,920 for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fiscal years due to no increase in funding being anticipated from the Government of Ontario for the Homelessness Prevention Program. There is no anticipated impact on the municipal tax levy in future years because of funding these programs.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Build Housing Stability

This report aligns with this priority as this program provides housing stability to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. The two fixed site programs help provide housing stability, social and communal supports as well as individualized programming to ensure successful tenancies.

Work Together For Greater Impact

This report aligns with this priority as this program improves and stabilizes community partnerships with two important agencies in our community.

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.

Culture and Community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services for the operation of the North Perth Fixed Site Supported Housing program;

THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Little Lake Residential for the operation of the St. Marys Fixed Site Supported Housing program;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreements with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-

Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services and Little Lake Residential on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford.

Prepared by: Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
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Recommended by: Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer