

**From:** Gabriela

**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2023 11:56 AM

**To:** Council Agenda <[councilagenda@london.ca](mailto:councilagenda@london.ca)>

**Cc:** Rahman, Corrine <[crahman@london.ca](mailto:crahman@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Updated letter in opposition to proposed homeless hub on Fanshawe Park

Good morning Mr Mayor and City Council,

I'm writing with safety concerns on our housing system and the and homeless crisis in our city and specifically to express my **opposition to the proposed homeless hub on 705 Fanshawe Park Rd** for the number of reasons described below.

First of all, the proposed location is not zoned to accommodate an Emergency Care Establishment.

Second, the plans and data regarding the proposed hub are uncertain. The population serviced, services offered and wrap around services of the proposed hub are still unclear and the data on how temporarily housing homeless populations in residential neighbors can reduce drug addiction and the homeless crises is unknown, let alone, data on the impact on the safety of the surrounding communities. This leaves me and our neighbors deeply concerned about the future of our neighborhood.

Third, the hub poses a risk to the surrounding community and the thousands of kids and young adults living in the area.

As a former downtown resident, I have witnessed first hand the safety concerns near the current shelters and homeless areas. Needle drop boxes, miscellaneous homeless things left behind on the street or in front of residential buildings and recurrent acts of theft and vandalism. These safety concerns have been experienced by other neighborhoods with shelters and homeless recently relocated to their communities.

The proposed Fanshawe Park hub will be housed in a residential area, next to the Thames Valley Children's Centre location that services children with autism. This location is also next door to a children's toy store, Mastermind Toys, and within walking distance of the neighborhood park, public schools and hundreds of homes with young children who need a safe place to live, play and develop safe and healthy relationships.

According to the location criteria of London's Health And Homelessness Response: Proposed Hub Implementation Plan, hubs should not be in close proximity to elementary schools or daycare centres. In essence, hubs should not be near child-centric centres within the community. As was mentioned in the Health And Homelessness Movement For Change document sent via email on September 21st, 2023, open drug use will not be forbidden at any hub, "A low barrier and harm reduction approach recognizes that some people will use drugs and so practices need to be in place to ensure this happens in the safest possible way." There is NEVER an appropriate situation wherein a child should be exposed to, or witness, illicit drug use. Location criteria were included in the guidelines for a reason - to limit exposure of vulnerable segments of the population.

The hub poses a risk to our community and the thousands of children and families in this area and can become a larger public health and public safety issue for this community and the city in general.

I respectfully ask you to take into account all of these concerns of our neighborhood and community. I ask you to keep front of mind the needs and safety of our kids and allow them the right to enjoy their neighborhood and to access public spaces, services and businesses safely.

I trust that you will represent your constituents reasonably and equitably.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel to reach out to me directly via email or telephone.

Thank you,  
Gabriela Kongkham-Fernandez