

Ryan O'Hagan  
Ward 5

Re: Health and Homelessness in London

To all City Councillors,

I write this letter in support of the first three proposed Homelessness Hubs in the city of London.

I was deeply saddened by the recent onslaught of letters opposing a shelter aimed at supporting unhoused women and children in the city of London. It seems, as is so often the case, that people want to help others right up until those supports enter into their spaces.

I am glad that these sites will be wholistic and staffed in a way that not only ensures the safety of those folks using the site, but also the safety and wellbeing of neighbouring communities.

I saw a number of letters that brought up concerns around a lack of consultation with the public. In all of my time following municipal issues, I have never once seen a program, policy, or piece of legislation be at the center of so many townhalls, information sessions, and advertising. We have billboards across the city outlining the program, an ongoing feedback system through Get Involved, and over a dozen combined information sessions for the public. Respectfully, I would suggest that if people weren't engaged in these opportunities to learn *before* the sites were proposed, then perhaps we need to question the veracity of these concerns.

I recognize that housing and homelessness is a (sadly) deeply contentious issue in the city of London. I also recognize that this plan was put forward by experts from community organizations across the region, including housing organizations, police systems, healthcare workers, emergency support services, and more. As has been questioned time and time again by a number of members of council, I question who else would be trusted to create a plan to address the lack of housing options for our unhoused population.

I urge **all** councillors to vote in support of this plan.

Thank you,  
Ryan O'Hagan (Ward 5)