

London, October 3, 2023.

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We are writing to support the proposed Homelessness Hubs Implementation Plan now before Council. We understand that this Plan has been developed with the active input of community agencies including Atlohsa Family Healing Services, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and CMHA Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services. These organizations bring many years of professional and lived expertise as well as direct practical experience to the task addressing the complex issues related to homelessness in the most compassionate possible way for unhoused Londoners and for our whole City. They deserve our thanks and our respect for their work.

We live in a part of the London (Ward 13) which certainly sees and feels the effects of the homelessness crisis, and we know that it will take a sustained effort from all parts of the city to address the growing needs of our most vulnerable residents, especially those who are currently unhoused. Part of the plan must include transitional housing for women who are ready to take the next step towards housing stability but still need support and services in order to get there. Since some of these women have dependent children living with them, it makes sense for these services to be located in areas where they will have access to schools, parks and other community facilities that families need to thrive.

Each of the proposed Hubs has been planned to address specific needs in a particular specific context, with the appropriate services needed to succeed for all Londoners, both housed and unhoused. We urge you to adopt the proposed Homelessness Hubs Implementation Plan in its entirety, and we give our consent for this letter to appear on the public agenda.

Sincerely,

David Heap & Stephanie Kelly
Longtime London residents and concerned citizens