

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY and PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 20, 2015
FROM:	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	LONDON'S HOMELESS PREVENTION SYSTEM STREET LEVEL WOMEN AT RISK PREVENTION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the award of the contract regarding Request for Proposal (RFP) 15-47 Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program Host Agency:

- a) that the proposal submitted by Addiction Services of Thames Valley, 200 Queens Avenue, Suite 260, London, ON, N6A 1J3 **BE ACCEPTED**; it being noted that the bid submitted by Addiction Services of Thames Valley was the only bid received and meets the City's terms, conditions and specifications;
- b) that the funding for this service, in the amount of a maximum of \$400,000 per fiscal year **BE APPROVED**; it being noted that the funding will commence on a pro-rated basis November 1, 2015; and,
- c) that the funding approval noted in b) above is **SUBJECT TO** the ongoing funding available under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, City of London and other funding sources.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- London's Homeless Prevention System Progress Report and Update (CPSC: September 22, 2015)
- London's Homeless Prevention System: Presentation (CPSC: January 20, 2015)
- Homeless Prevention System for London Three Year Implementation Plan (CPSC: April 22, 2013)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CPSC: December 17, 2012)

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Community and Protective Services Committee that the City of London enters into a Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Purchase of Service Agreement for Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program Host Agency to be operated by Addiction Services of Thames Valley. The Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services (or designate) will execute the standard form Purchase of Service Agreement provided by By-law No. A-6955-156.

Purchasing Process

A request for proposal was issued on August 19, 2015 through Purchasing and Supply, Finance and Corporate Services. Advertising for the request for proposal included the London Homeless Coalition, community agencies, and posted on the City website, along with the general advertising practices of Purchasing and Supply. A public question and answer meeting was held for organizations interested in considering submitting a proposal. One (1) bid was received, it being noted this is an irregular result according to the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy. The submission was reviewed by staff from Finance and Corporate Services, Purchasing and Supply, Homeless Prevention and external reviewers to ensure compliance with the specifications, terms and conditions outlined in RFP 15-47 and the City of London Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan.

BACKGROUND

The City of London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan is a coordinated and integrated individual and family centred Housing First approach that is outcome focused and designed to address, reduce and prevent homelessness in London. These efforts directly contribute to Council's 2015 - 2019 Strategic Plan for the City of London including strengthening our community through caring and compassionate services. Our work with community agencies helps tenants keep their existing housing and to reduce and prevent homelessness in London.

A Housing First approach assists individuals and families by seeking out the right housing, at the right place, with the right level of support to develop lasting housing stability. It is a housing and service intervention that provides immediate access to permanent housing and support services. A key element of Housing First is assisting individuals and families at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, in their efforts to secure and maintain housing.

London's Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program is a highly collaborative model of service with evidence informed practices aimed at addressing the housing, exit strategies, health and well-being outcomes of street involved sex workers. At this time, 24 organizations from multiple sectors and services have signed letters of endorsement committing to the model and the Prevention Plan.

LONDON'S COMMUNITY PLAN REGARDING STREET LEVEL WOMEN AT RISK BACKGROUND

In 2013, the London Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan was introduced and approved by all orders of Government and the London Homeless Coalition. London's Homeless Prevention System is aimed at the reduction and prevention of homelessness for individuals and families through strong systems and services and is based on the vision that the solution to homelessness is housing with support. The primary goal for London's Homeless Prevention System, agencies, programs, and funding is to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to achieve housing stability. The System applies a Housing First philosophy and approach to succeed at addressing, reducing, and preventing homelessness in London. One key area of focus is to develop a community plan regarding street level women at risk.

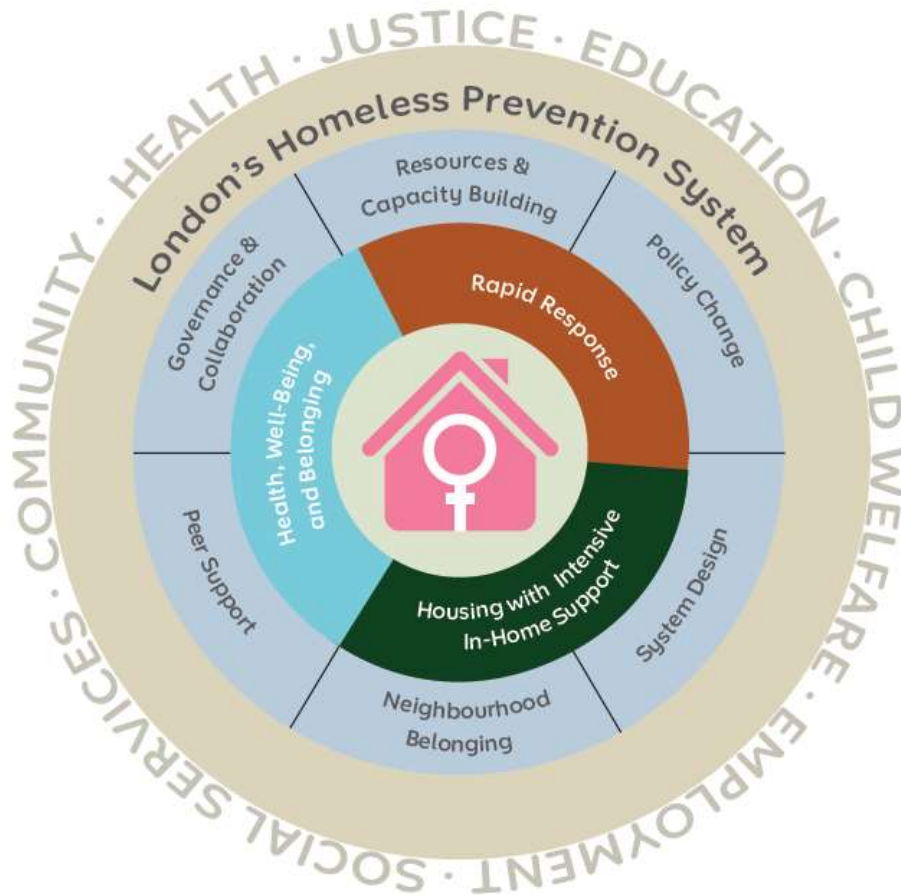
In 2014, an extensive community consultation was undertaken regarding street level women at risk in London which included interviews and surveys with women with lived experience, meetings with organizations from multiple systems, conducting an international literature review, and reviewing housing models in other communities that work with street involved women. Four sessions were held with service providers and academics to develop and confirm the principles and service components for a community model.

The Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program has been endorsed by 24 organizations who are working collaboratively to implement the Prevention Plan. The community response to women and homelessness will include a rapid response with a focus on housing with support, exit strategies, and health and well-being outcomes.

The Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program is aimed at supporting housing stability, sustainable exit strategies, long-term health, well-being and community belonging for women involved in survival sex work. The Prevention Program is framed in a Housing First service collaboration providing rapid response, housing with intensive in-home support, and a system of supports focused on long term community integration and belonging. The primary components include:

- Rapid Response – Intended to provide immediate assistance and warm transfers or intentional connections for street involved sex workers whose housing, health, and physical safety are at risk.
- Ongoing and Regular Communication – Intended to provide integrated services that identify women, assign roles to the participating agencies, and review plans to address high risk situations for street involved sex workers who are not housed, not safely housed, or are recently housed.
- Housing with Intensive In-Home Support – Intended to assist women in attaining and retaining housing. Provide intensive and ongoing service coordination, coaching, and support to women by maintaining frequent, in-home contact and working in collaboration with other services providers. Support is based on need and will be available 7 days a week.

- Health, Well-Being and Community Belonging – Intended to provide a strong support system for the participant and her family, with a focus on community integration and belonging. A support team may be peers, natural supports, volunteers, and professionals.



STREET LEVEL WOMEN AT RISK PREVENTION PROGRAM HOST AGENCY

To support the collaboration between participating services, a host agency is needed to manage the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all of the components. The host agency will be responsible for managing the operational model of the Prevention Program which includes providing infrastructure resources, stewarding the financial resources, and overseeing all human resources related to all project staff, including the Implementation Coordinator, the Intensive Case Manager, and the Housing Finder, as well as other positions that may be determined.

The host agency will serve as an active member of the collaboration providing leadership and oversight, fidelity to the Prevention Program, accountability, and outcome measurement.

CONCLUSION

The Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program contains a variety of elements that together create a comprehensive, collaborative and integrated strategy to address the many challenges facing street level women at risk. A Housing First philosophy, providing a permanent home with supports, is at the core of the Prevention Program.

Civic Administration will continue to work on informing and engaging Londoners in a collaborative manner to support the implementation of London's Homeless Prevention System and its actions to achieve our collective vision of strengthening our community through caring and compassionate services to address, reduce and prevent homelessness in London.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funding for the Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program is available through the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and Municipal contribution for a maximum annual commitment of \$400,000 per year and will be determined on a year by year basis and based on an annual review of budget and alternative funding sources.

It is expected that the Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program will continue to expand over the coming years. As a result, several other sources of funding are expected to support the implementation, sustainability and evaluation of the Prevention Program.

The host agency will receive and manage any funding received from grants, foundations, special projects and programs, along with the City of London's funding as a result of the award of RFP 15-47.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
JAN RICHARDSON MANAGER, HOMELESS PREVENTION NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES