

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members, Community and Protective Services Committee Meeting
From: Kevin Dickins, Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development
Subject: 2022-2023 Winter Response Program and Action and Accountability Working Group Update
Date: November 29, 2022

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, the following report “2022-2023 Winter Response Program and Action and Accountability Working Group Update” **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes.

Executive Summary

This report provides an update of the actions taken to support the Action and Accountability Working Group proposal that included the identification of increased basic needs and drop-in spaces for those living unsheltered for the 2022-23 winter months.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

2019-2023 Strategic Plan for the City of London

The City of London identifies ‘Strengthening Our Community’ and ‘Building a Sustainable City’ as strategic areas of focus.

Londoners have access to the supports they need to be successful.

Londoners have access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health, and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the city.

Housing Stability for All: The Housing Stability Action Plan for the City of London (2019-2024)

London’s Homeless Prevention and Housing Plan, Housing Stability for All: The Housing Stability Action Plan for the City of London (Housing Stability for All Plan), is the approved guiding document for homeless prevention and housing in the City of London and was developed in consultation with Londoners.

Links to Community Recovery

The City of London is committed to working in partnership with the community to identify solutions that will drive a strong, deep, and inclusive community recovery for London as we move out of and beyond the global COVID-19 pandemic. This report, and the items within, are linked to supporting Londoners experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic to attain and retain permanent housing. This work supports recovery efforts through a coordinated COVID-19 Response that will support the transition of homeless individuals and families.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- City of London 2021-22 Program for unsheltered individuals (April 12, 2022)
- City of London 2020-2021 Winter Response Program for Unsheltered Individuals (November 2, 2021)
- Homeless Prevention COVID-19 Response (SSRF Phase 3) – Single Source Procurement - #SS21-29 (June 22, 2021)
- Municipal Council Approval of The Housing Stability Plan 2019 to 2024 as Required Under the Housing Services Act, 2011 (CPSC: December 3, 2019)
- Core Area Action Plan (SPPC: October 28, 2019)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Background

The proposal submitted by the immediate action and accountability working group evolved from conversations and actions taken over the summer months identified the need for increased basic needs of those living unsheltered. These needs include provision of essential needs such as showers, washrooms, the provision of increased supports for daytime and overnight drop-in space to address the immediate needs including those associated with the upcoming winter months, and immediate supports with training of agencies and direct service staff.

Elements of the proposed response will build on current resources with enhancements including 160 day and 143 overnight spaces, 56 additional spaces during Middlesex London Health Unit identified cold weather alerts, a coordinated approach to orientation and training, and an overall approach to ensure unified support through the winter months. Available temporary shelter options will include some spaces for couples and pets, for women and non-binary individuals, for Indigenous community members. These spaces are being planned to support the over 400 people who are currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness in our community.

Program locations and dates of operation:

- **Training and Additional Outreach:**
 - London Cares will support 519pursuit in enhancing their existing outreach program to reach the most marginalized and hard to find individuals living unsheltered.
 - London Cares will lead a coordinated approach to orientation and training, and an overall approach to ensure unified support of all agencies, including outreach through the winter months and beyond.
- **Day Drop-In Space/Shower/Laundry/Washroom/Basic Needs:**
 - London Cares supporting, Ark Aid- 696 Dundas Street Location, December 2022, to March 31st, 2023. Open 12 hours per day, 7 days a week, including holidays, Services include showers, laundry, washrooms, basic needs provision. This program includes 30 rotational drop-in spaces.
 - London Cares supporting, Ark Aid- 568 Richmond Street Location, December 2022, to March 31st, 2023. Open 12 hours per day, 7 days a week, including holidays. Services include showers, laundry, washrooms, basic needs provision. This program includes 75 rotational drop-in spaces.
 - London Cares Hub- 602 Queens Ave, December 2022, to December 1, 2023, Open 12 hours per day, 7 days a week, including holidays. Services include showers, laundry, washrooms, basic needs provision. This program includes 25 rotational drop-in spaces.

- CMHA London Coffee House- 371 Hamilton Road, December 1, 2022- March 31, 2023, Open 8 hours per day, 7 days a week, Services include laundry, washrooms, basic needs provision. This program includes 25 rotational drop-in spaces.
- London Cares Resting Spaces- 717 Dundas Street, Ongoing, Open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, Services include basic needs provision, the program includes 5 extra shelter beds for 3aytime use in addition to the current 10 beds, plus 2 additional beds for cold weather alerts
- Salvation Army Centre of Hope, 281 Wellington Street, December 2022 to December 1, 2023, Program includes 2 male and 1 female showers, Operates Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 12pm.
- **Night Drop-In Space:**
 - Unity Project, 636 York Street, December 2022 to March 31st, 2023, Program includes 10 additional shelter rooms.
 - London Cares Resting Spaces- 717 Dundas Street, Ongoing, Open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, Services include basic needs provision, the program includes 5 extra shelter beds for overnight use in addition to the current 10 beds, plus 2 additional beds for cold weather alerts
 - Salvation Army Centre of Hope, 281 Wellington Street, December 2022 to December 1, 2023, Program includes 15 additional shelter beds for women only, plus 4 additional beds for cold weather alerts.
 - London Cares supporting, Ark Aid, location being finalized, December 2022 to March 31, 2023, program includes 25 overnight drop-in spaces, plus 8 additional beds for cold weather alerts.
 - London Cares supporting, Ark Aid, location being finalized, December 2022 to March 31, 2023, program includes 25 overnight drop-in spaces, plus 8 additional beds for cold weather alerts.
 - London Cares supporting, Ark Aid, location being finalized, December 2022 to March 31, 2023, program includes 25 overnight drop-in spaces, plus 9 additional beds for cold weather alerts.
 - London Cares supporting, Safe Space, location being finalized, December 2022 to December 1, 2023, program includes 20 overnight drop-in spaces for women only, plus 15 additional beds for cold weather alerts.
 - Wiigiwaaminaan Indigenous healing space, St. Joseph's Health Care, 550 Wellington Road Building J, Services provided until March 31st, 2024. This program includes 18 spaces for high needs Indigenous people, plus an additional 10 spaces for cold weather alerts.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

The total amount of approved funding is up to \$5,000,000. The source of funding will be through the remaining one-time funding from the Provincial Social Services Relief Funding Phase 5, Reaching Home one-time COVID response funding, any required available funding from remaining provincial Homelessness Prevention Program funding and municipal funding from the Housing Stability Service base budget.

Funding for this response is available on a one-time basis. Any addition or continuation of this community response is required to be addressed as part of Multi-Year Budget process.

Attached as Schedule 1 "Overview of Housing Stability Services Funding Allocations" provides a breakdown by agency of service to be provided, cost estimate, and duration.

Conclusion

The Action and Accountability Working Group proposal will support individuals who sleep unsheltered through the provision of a range of options, including day/night spaces, shower/laundry/washroom and basic needs supports.

Prepared & submitted by:
Recommended by:

Craig Cooper, Director, Housing Stability Services
Kevin Dickins, Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development

Schedule 1

Overview of Housing Stability Services Funding Allocations

Program/Service	Duration Up To:	Agency	Cost Estimate
Training	1 year	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$65,175
Additional Outreach supports	1 year	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$140,100
Showers	4 months	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$125,900
Shower provision	1 year	The Salvation Army Centre of Hope	Up to \$52,800
Dundas St Drop-in	4 months	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$144,230
Richmond St Drop-in	4 months	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$315,500
Day Drop-in	1 year	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$312,300
Day Drop-in	4 months	CMHA Thames Valley Addiction & Mental Health Services	Up to \$68,550
Shelter bed increase	4 months	Unity Project	Up to \$90,150
24/7 drop in	1 year	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$458,125
Shelter bed increase	1 year	The Salvation Army Centre of Hope	Up to \$345,925
Wiigiwaaminaan Indigenous Healing Space	2 years	Atlohsa Family Healing Services	Up to \$1,310,400
Overnight Drop-in	4 months	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$804,425
24/7 Drop-in	1 year	London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$650,000
Admin		London Cares Homelessness Response	Up to \$116,420
Total Funding for 2022-23			\$5,000,000