

Letter of Support

February 17th, 2023

Family Service Thames Valley was pleased to be part of such a comprehensive, cross-sectoral process looking to address the housing crisis in our area.

Individuals and organizations from across the community – from community health and social services, institutional healthcare, education, emergency services, business and economic development, land and housing development, City of London staff, and staff from other levels of government – came together with a commitment to do things differently, together. That, in and of itself, is unique and transformational. It's something that has never been done before in London and is something to be recognized and celebrated. The proposed solution is based on a common set of principles and functions, which were agreed upon by all participants and which we strongly support. We are already seeing progress in the breaking down of silos and barriers, and the building of new, strengthened relationships between organizations in a multitude of sectors and roles.

Our organization is committed to supporting the process in any way it can. We believe London can play a key role as a leader in the province in demonstrating that collaborative transformation is possible. There has never been a more important time to support an effort like this given that the majority of urgent referrals to our agency include housing needs. Individuals we support are either at risk or experiencing homelessness. Our organization strongly urges City Council to act in favour of this work by supporting this community plan and supporting the allocation of London Community Recovery Network funding to initiate implementation. Ultimately this work is about saving lives, alleviating suffering, mitigating the whole of community impacts of this crisis and safeguarding our community's health and prosperity for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Nicola Memo, MSW, RSW
Executive Director