

Subject: Men's Homelessness Committee: Needs Assessment

Department: Corporate Services

Division: Clerks

Report #: CPS-2021-086

Meeting Date: 2022-01-24

Recommendations

That report number CPS-2021-086, Men's Homelessness Committee: Needs Assessment be received;

And that the University of Guelph's Men's Homelessness in Dufferin County: A Needs Assessment be received;

And that Council accept the committee report and recommendations from the Men's Homelessness Committee;

And that Council approve a donation to the University of Guelph, Research Shop in the amount of \$2,500 from the Council Public Relations budget.

Background and Analysis

On April 26, 2021 Council approved the creation of the Men's Homelessness Committee to explore the options and approach various stakeholders to research the issue of men's homelessness.

On May 31, 2021 the terms of reference for the Men's Homelessness Committee were approved by Council. The goals and objectives within the terms of reference were;

Phase 1:

- Review needs assessment currently underway through the University of Guelph
- Meet with County Staff to review current status of men's homelessness in Orangeville and Dufferin County.

Phase 2:

- Evaluate the completed needs assessment and formulate recommendations regarding next steps
- Report to Council on the results of the needs assessment and recommendations regarding next steps including funding requirements.

On July 22, 2021 the Men's Homelessness Committee had their inaugural meeting and met on a bi-weekly basis throughout 2021 and into January 2022. The committee would like to thank the variety of stakeholders that provided invaluable information and resources at the various committee meetings including:

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| • Meghan Wrathall, PhD Candidate, University of Guelph | • Heather Hayes, Orangeville Food Bank |
| • Karen Nelson, Research Shop Manager, Univ. of Guelph | • Randy Narine, Choices Shelter |
| • Carol Barber, Housing Program Manager, Dufferin County | • Thomas DiCarlo, S.H.I.P. |
| • Anna McGregor, Director, Dufferin County | • Louise Kindree & Lina Termini, S.H.I.P. |
| • Emily Duncan, PhD Candidate, Univ. of Guelph | • Pastor Matt McLean, The Lighthouse |
| • Mahesh Bhalerao, Mohanji Foundation & ACT Foundation | • Darla Fraser, CEO, Orangeville Library |
| • Pastor Andrew Gordon, Compass Community Church | • Sylvia Bradley |
| • Pastor Roger Barrow, New Hope Community Church | • Constable Jennifer Roach, OPP |
| • The Venerable Peter Scott, St. Mark's Anglican Church | • Deacon Jim Menken, Canadian Reformed Church |

The University of Guelph, Research Shop was invited to conduct a Needs Assessment on social services available to men experiencing homelessness in Dufferin County and to identify areas for potential development.

The central research questions guiding the needs assessment included:

- What general social services exist in Dufferin County to support folks without shelter, and what social services exist with a mandate for supporting men?
- What are the gaps in existing services?
- Could current gaps be addressed with existing services?
- What gaps remain that need to be addressed? What possibilities exist to fill these gaps?

The University of Guelph Men's Homelessness in Dufferin County: A Needs Assessment report (Attachment 2) includes a literature review, environmental scan and research through two surveys; community and service providers surveys, plus considerations for future planning, opportunities and next steps.

The Men's Homelessness Committee has reviewed the Needs Assessment and proposes the following recommendations as outline in Attachment 1 – Men's Homelessness Committee Recommendation Report.

Strategic Alignment

Orangeville Forward – Strategic Plan

Priority Area: Community Stewardship

Objective: Engaged and involved

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Social Well-being

Strategy: Ensure residents have access to affordable housing and community services; contribute to County initiatives that address poverty and homelessness at the source.

Notice Provisions

Surveys were conducted by the University of Guelph, Community Engaged Scholarship Institute online over a duration of two (2) weeks which is the University's standard survey notice period.

Financial Impact

There is no direct cost to the Town associated with Men's Homelessness in Dufferin County: A Needs Assessment report from the University of Guelph.

A donation to the University of Guelph, Research Shop in the amount of two-thousand and five hundred (\$2,500) from the Council, Public Relations budget is requested to be given to assist the education institution continue providing research studies and services to municipalities.

Any direct financial implication that may come out of the committees proposed recommendations are to return to Council for further direction and approval. Indirect

financial implications should be acknowledged in regard to staffing and administration of the proposed recommendations forward.

Respectfully submitted

Prepared by

Men's Homelessness
Committee of Council

Andrea Shaw
Committee Administrator

- Attachment(s):**
1. Men's Homelessness Committee Recommendations Report
 2. Men's Homelessness in Dufferin County: A Needs Assessment by the University of Guelph, The Research Shop