



## SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>Ian Hanney, Program Supervisor</b>
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<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>June 19, 2024</b>
<b>INFORMATION ITEM:</b>	<b>Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report</b>

### **BACKGROUND**

Under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, Service System Managers must provide an annual report to the public on the progress towards their housing and homelessness plans by June 30 of each year. The attached Progress Report highlights the work completed over the past year on the implementation of the County of Lambton's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024.

### **DISCUSSION**

The County of Lambton's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024 frames the planning and delivery of housing and homelessness supports within the community. Each year the County works towards the four strategic directions outlined by the plan to achieve the vision "Every person has an affordable, suitable and adequate home."

In 2023, the local Social Services system was met with unprecedented challenges, particularly in homelessness prevention and housing stability, as the national housing and opioid crises worsened. Through 2024, the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness steadily increased, placing increased demands on already overwhelmed housing supports. Through strong partnerships with community agencies, the County continues to make significant advances towards the goals of the Housing and Homelessness Plan while serving an extraordinary number of households who experience housing insecurity.

The Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024 identifies four goals:

1. Increase and sustain supply and appropriate mix of affordable housing;

2. Increase access to affordable housing and supports that meet people's needs to achieve housing;
3. Coordinated housing and homelessness service systems;
4. Ending homelessness.

Some key accomplishments during the 2023 year include the following:

- Over 200 unique individuals progressed into more permanent housing from an experience of homelessness.
- Introduction of the low-barrier local Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre.
- Launch of the Affordable Housing Seed Fund program.
- Approval for various affordable housing units, including the purchase of a duplex to add 2 RGI one-bedroom units to the social housing supply in Lambton.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no financial impact on the County Budget as a result of this report.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Consultations have taken place with members of the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, the Coordinated Access Community Collaborative Table, the internal Social Services Division team, and numerous social service agencies in the community.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Providing safe affordable housing is in keeping with the County's Mission to promote an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services accomplished by working with municipal and community partners.

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;
- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;
- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;

- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning* framework, Lambton Public Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service System Plan*; and
- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

## **CONCLUSION**

The County of Lambton's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024 frames the planning and delivery of housing and homelessness supports within our community. The development and distribution of an annual Report via the County website fulfills the legislative requirement under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* to report annually on the progress of implementation efforts.