



Administrative Report

Office of the Manager, Community Services

To: Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

From: Jeanie Diamond-Francis
Manager, Community Services

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Subject: Essex County Homelessness Hub Update

Report #: 2022-0921-LCS-R21-JDF

Purpose

To provide County Council Members with updated information on the status of the Essex County Homelessness Hub program.

Background

On June 1st, 2022, County Council approved funding for a two-year pilot program for the County of Essex to enter into an agreement with a Service Provider to deliver homelessness services to Essex County residents. These services would be provided through the development of a Homelessness Hub located in Leamington and services to be deployable to any parts of the County where needed.

Discussion

Since June 1st, 2022, the County of Essex has entered into an agreement with Family Services Windsor Essex (FSWE) to develop a Homelessness Hub Program and deliver various services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Essex County. County Administration and leadership staff at FSWE collaborated to find appropriate space and engaged with the South Essex Community Council (SECC) to lease space out of their existing building located at 215 Talbot Street.

On September 12th, 2022, the “Essex County Homelessness Hub” opened its doors and has already been visited by individuals seeking support and services. Engagement has commenced with community agencies such as Housing Information Services, Faith Leaders, Windsor Essex Community Health Center Addiction Counselling Program and the HEP C outreach team to attend the Hub on a consistent basis. Furthermore, the plan is to have many other community services to attend the program to deliver their services.

Currently, FSWE is awaiting the completion of a sign to post on the building to advertise the program. Once the sign is complete and installed, FSWE and County Administration will collaborate on scheduling a media event to officially launch the program. An invitation will be sent to all County Council Members to attend the event.

Furthermore, County Administration and FSWE will collaborate on completing a presentation to County Council once sufficient data is gathered to identify trends and community needs. It is expected that such information would be available within three months of the program being operational.

Financial Implications

There is no financial implication as this report serves to provide information.

Consultations

Consultations for this report were held with:

Mary Birch: Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

David Sundin: County Solicitor

Joyce Zuk: Executive Director, Family Services Windsor-Essex

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2022-0921-LCS-R21-JDF, Essex County Homelessness Hub Update as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanie Diamond Francis

Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Manager, Community Services

Concurred With,

Mary Birch

Mary Birch, B.A., CMO, Director, Legislative and Community Services/Clerk

Concurred With,

Mary Birch,

Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix Number	Title
N/A	N/A