HS-C3-1

Region of Peel
Working for you

REPORT
Meeting Date: November 24, 2011
Regional Council

DATE: October 13, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **HOUSING INVESTMENT OPTIONS - ST. LEONARD'S PLACE (PEEL)**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the St. Leonard's Expansion of 22 beds as part of the proposed Housing Investment Plan 2011-2031, in the amount of $585,000 annually, for a period of 3 years, be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This report proposes that St. Leonard's Expansion of 22 beds be funded under Strategic Direction #4: (Enhance Housing Stability) of Peel's Housing Investment Plan presented to Regional Council on November 24, 2011.
- St. Leonard's Place (Peel) has served the community for over 40 years by providing housing services to clients who have complex needs and who are underserved by the current system.
- St. Leonard's Place (Peel) community services were recognized by the Provincial and Federal Governments and awarded a grant from the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund for capital expenses to expand the residential services to those most at risk in the community.
- An evaluation of the services provided by St. Leonard's will commence mid way through the second year, followed in Year 3 with program and sustainability recommendations for service improvements.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

St. Leonard's Place (Peel) is the only facility of its kind in Peel providing housing services to clients that are most at risk with complex needs in the community, and who are underserved by the current system. Serving the community for over 40 years, they have provided an intensive level of community based residential support for men over 16 who have significant mental health, substance use and justice system involvement. In addition, many have high risk behaviours which make them ineligible for supported housing in the community's mental health sector. Prior to their residence at St. Leonard's Place, these men are caught in a repetitive cycle of homelessness and justice involvement often leading to incarceration and mental health inpatient admissions.

Within the last year, St. Leonard's Place (Peel) services to the community were recognized by the Provincial and Federal Governments. St. Leonard's was awarded a grant from the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund for capital expenses to expand their residential services to those most at risk in the community. The goal of St. Leonard's Expansion will be to increase residential care capacity, allowing for increased individual supports to residents to identify and achieve recovery goals. Reintegration services will also be provided so that many of these individuals may return to the community with the appropriate transitional, long-term mental health and community supports in place, thereby moving the most chronically homeless and hard to serve along the Region's housing continuum.

2. Overview of St Leonard's Funding Proposal

St. Leonard's Place (Peel) community and staff recognized that for individuals to be healthy, resilient and their lives to be fulfilling, they need to experience and engage in a variety of interactions and activities. St. Leonard's integrated case management approach includes a variety of needs and assets assessments, as well as a multitude of programming and supports, from psychiatric counseling to life-skills, to group outings, employment opportunities, and recreational activities etc. The main components of the St. Leonard's approach are as follows:

- Supportive Housing;
- Housing First approach;
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT);
- Harm Reduction Approach;
- Sustainable Livelihoods and Asset Management; and
- Social Purpose Enterprise.

The purpose of St. Leonard's Expansion is to respond to the complex needs of men with serious mental health issues, who are unable to access or maintain the mental health services they require. Without it, St. Leonard's reports that:

- There is no long-term Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funded residential or reintegration supports for this high-need population. The target population has a need for ongoing, long-term, 24/7 support, but do not meet the criteria of 24/7 mental health and housing support, due to risk factors.
- Domiciliary hostel capacity across Peel has been operating at full capacity for the last twelve months with ongoing waitlists. This expansion is an opportunity to increase Peel's operating capacity.
- Mental Health and Justice Discharge planners identified 20 clients in a one-year period that could not be referred to the short-term residential program (Safe Bed) facilities. This is because the behavioral issues and offence types the clients presented too high a risk for the staffing level at these community programs. Seventy-one per cent of mental health and justice clients were male (CMHA Peel CDS data, 2008-9). Community and hospital mental health providers, who are the largest referral source to SLP (representing 35 per cent of referrals), will continue to experience these challenges.

The intended objectives and phases of the St. Leonard's Expansion proposal are as follows:

- To respond to the intensive and complex needs of individuals with serious mental health issues who because of their behavior and justice system involvement are excluded from access to the mental health services they require.

- Increase service capacity by creating a new program, which will be outcome focused and will result in safely reintegrating 22 men back into the community annually. The program will include:
  - Intake beds allocated for a maximum of 30 days to allow high risk individuals a place to get off the streets and enter a safe environment (orientation and stabilization period).
  - Assessment/Observation beds allocated for a maximum of 90 days to allow residents to go through a series of comprehensive and cooperative goal setting and assessment processes with support workers that will assist in customizing a 'care plan' that is needs based.
  - Integrated Case Management and clinical care beds are allocated for up to a maximum of 20 months to allow the implementation of the care plan, clinical support, pre-employment planning and employment opportunities working towards their transition strategy.
  - To provide extended stay, intensive, 24/7 residential support services to enhance stability, safety and promote recovery of this high-needs and high-risk population.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Region of Peel currently has a contractual agreement with St. Leonard's in the amount of $918,374 to support a 24 bed residence for the most highly at risk men in the Region who have complex needs. The Region of Peel receives room and board revenue from each resident in receipt of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). A request was submitted for additional funding as part of Peel's new Housing Investment Strategy to support the St. Leonard's Expansion of 22 beds in a self contained, separate building. ODSP room and board revenue for the new beds will off set the total cost of this program, resulting in the net funding being requested. The break down of costs is provided below:

Funding Source	# of Beds		
	24 Beds	22 Beds	Total
ROP Funding (Net Budget)	918,374	585,000	1,503,374
ODSP Room & Board Revenue	219,456	201,168	420,624
St. Leonard's Gross Budget	1,137,830	786,168	1,923,998

CONCLUSION

Based on Peel's current contractual relationship with St. Leonard's and the unique services provided to this population, it is recommended that funding for this proposal be integrated as part of the Housing Investment Planning Process. A total of $585,000.00 annually for three years from Peel's Housing Investment Plan is required to fund the 22 beds. This recommendation is being made for the following reasons:

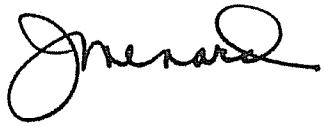
1. St Leonard's provides residential services to Peel residents who are chronically hard to serve due to severe mental health issues, physical and systemic challenges.
2. The residents served will receive supports which will allow them to become contributing members of society.

3. Being housed means they will not remain in circumstances that lead to unsafe conditions for other Peel residents.

The three year period will also allow for an independent evaluation of the entire 46 beds. Results of the evaluation will foster a service model and program adjustments that will demonstrate achievements of outcomes for the purpose of creating ongoing capacity within Peel. This will be done without the need to further increase beds and will demonstrate long term impacts of the supports provided moving residents along the housing continuum towards self sufficiency and independence.

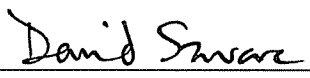
During year one, Regional staff will work with St Leonard's to identify and develop expected outcomes and milestones using 2012 as the benchmark year. Funding beyond year three will be contingent upon positive outcomes of the evaluation and the efforts of St. Leonard's to obtain additional funding support at the provincial and federal level.

Funding for the St. Leonard's Expansion, as part of the Region's Housing Investment Plan, will provide immediate and long-term support to people during vulnerable times in their lives, thereby helping Peel build a community that is more stable, responsive and adaptable.



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



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