



County Council

Meeting Date: October 24, 2023

Submitted by: Paul Shipway, Acting Manager of Legislative Services/County Clerk
Cindy Howard, General Manager Finance and Community Services/Treasurer

Subject: Strategic Framework for Future Enhancements to the Wraparound Support Services Model and Continuum of Housing Alternatives

BACKGROUND:

The Province of Ontario designated the City of London as the Service Manager for the service delivery area of the County of Middlesex and the City of London as it pertains to Housing, Ontario Works, Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre Services.

The City of London and Middlesex County subsequently entered into agreements to delegate to Middlesex County, as agent for the City, for the delivery of the Homeless Prevention Program, Ontario Works and Children Services in the portion of the service delivery area that comprises the geographic area of the County of Middlesex excluding the geographic area of the City of London.

Middlesex County's Social Services Department provides a range of progressive, wraparound support services to County residents to assist with financial, employment, homelessness, early years and child-care needs.

The Social Services Department also works closely with the City of London on the Housing Continuum including Transitional Housing, Social Housing (Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI)), Affordable and/or Attainable Housing, and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program (COHB).

ANALYSIS:

An innovative, sector leading initiative Middlesex County has implemented is the Middlesex Accommodation Program. The Middlesex Accommodation Program, which was launched in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services (CMHA TVAMHS), the Countryside Motel, and the Middlesex-London Paramedic Services, provides emergency/transitional

accommodations with wraparound supports to individuals and families experiencing or nearing homelessness in the County.

Since its inception, the Middlesex Accommodation Program has been successful in serving over 200 adults and children and diverting them from living rough by providing shelter, food, and wrap-around community supports. The program has also reduced the strain on local hospitals by providing access to community paramedics who are able to treat program participants in the community.

The Middlesex Accommodation Program operates out of the Countryside Motel at 3343 Egremont Dr, Strathroy, ON. The Countryside Motel is located within the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe approximately seven kilometres from the population centre of Strathroy.

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc represents 31% of the population of Middlesex County, however, approximately half of the current Ontario Works clients in Middlesex County are from Strathroy-Caradoc. Additionally, 21.3% of the 2021 Census respondents living in the population centre of Strathroy reported not having suitable housing.

Fundamental to creating healthy and inclusive communities is the availability of a variety of housing options to meet the differing needs of current and future residents. Similar to communities all across Ontario and Canada, Middlesex County is experiencing housing pressures due to changing demographics and market trends. Access to a range of housing forms, including attainable, affordable, and accessible housing, is a priority in the communities of Middlesex County. This has been identified in the Middlesex County Attainable Housing Review and Middlesex County's 2019-2024 Homeless Prevention and Housing Plan: Change Begins with Choice.

With the success of the Middlesex Accommodation Program, the growing community demand, the statistics for Ontario Works and current provincial funding programs and priorities, staff seek Council direction to engage with the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc on wraparound support services opportunities, specifically related to a range of housing, within Strathroy-Caradoc. Discussion may provide strategies and actions related to innovative housing and homelessness supports within Middlesex County.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Cultivating Community Vitality 	Advance a diverse, healthy, and engaged community across Middlesex County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support community wellness Innovate social and community services Attract, retain, and engage youth in our community
Promoting Service Excellence 	Innovate and transform municipal service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipate and align municipal service delivery to emerging needs and expectations Engage, educate and inform residents, businesses, and visitors of county services and community activities Collaborate with strategic partners to leverage available resources and opportunities Build organizational capacity and capabilities

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Strategic Framework for Future Enhancements to the Wraparound Support Services Model and Continuum of Housing Alternatives Report be received for information;

AND THAT staff be directed to engage with the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc on wraparound support services opportunities.