

LANARK COUNTY

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS PLANNING

ONTARIO EAST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY: SANDY GREY, SOCIAL HOUSING MANAGER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2013



DEMOGRAPHICS OF LANARK COUNTY

- ✓ Population = 65,700
- ✓ 60% of population is over 40 years old
- ✓ 9 Municipalities
- ✓ Area = 3,033 square kilometers
- ✓ Influenced by next door neighbour trends – Ottawa
- ✓ 4 towns and the remainder is rural



BACKGROUND

- No previous housing studies
- Manager, 2 caseworkers, 1 clerk
- Busy time – introduction of the Housing Service Act, Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, assumed responsibility for Centralized Wait List from Lanark County Housing Corporation
- Social Service expertise on Homelessness issue but less-so on Housing issues

Lanark County
Administration Building
Perth, ON



WHERE DID WE START?

- Ensured involvement of all local municipalities
- Municipal Planners group
- Invited community agencies to a general meeting in January 2012

Our vision is...

A county where residents have access to safe and healthy homes that help to build strong local communities.

TOOLS

Data Profile

- Summarized census and CMHC data; used this information to produce summary for community members

Surveys

- 3 Surveys in total – Planners, Organizations, General Public

Community Meetings

- Five initial meetings – one held in each town

Sector Specific Meetings

- Seniors, Youth, Non-Profit Housing Providers

Final Community Meetings

- Held 2 community meetings in order to review draft Strategic Objectives and Recommended Actions with interested parties

DATA

- Knew this would be our biggest challenge
- Lack of local data
- Historically CMHC hasn't set Average Market Rent in Lanark due to small sample size
- Vacancy rates not available
- Split into 2 LHIN's, Champlain and South East
- Limited strategic planning documents to refer to

All people have access to safe, affordable, appropriate, efficient housing in a supportive community.

Theme Statement, Lanark County's Official Plan, 2012

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- ✓ Advertised to public – at municipal expense
- ✓ Majority of attendees were representing their organization
- ✓ Difficult targeting the “working poor”
- ✓ Held some sector specific meetings with groups that lacked representation at public meetings
- ✓ Attempt to be inclusive

“The time is ripe to develop a brand new way of thinking about housing for needy groups / individuals; I believe Lanark County and surrounding communities have the potential to become leaders and national examples for creative housing solutions – ideas such as developing mixed use, multi-purpose residence which offer clients hope, and the opportunity to move from subsidized rental space to some form of home ownership would do wonders for personal and local pride.”

Lanark County Service Provider, 2012

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS RESOURCE CENTRE



- Thank you – very helpful
- Samples of plans
- Preliminary analysis of data profile
- Small Service Managers didn't have to repeat same work – sensible use of resources
- Came late in the game – would have been helpful earlier

“Housing is primary. Ground zero. Everything begins there.”

Lanark County Resident, 2013

CHALLENGES

- ✘ Incorporating the groups not represented – discussions tended to be skewed depending upon who was at the table
- ✘ Local municipal involvement – official plans, housing development
- ✘ Measurement – high level plan
- ✘ Time restriction
- ✘ Separated town of Smiths Falls – data and resources
- ✘ Limited budget
- ✘ Regular updates to plan – loss of long form census

“A man of my age, a university graduate, born and raised in Ottawa, with no criminal record and no hospital admissions, is not supposed to need assistance. Fair enough. But I did need it... I faced impending eviction.”

Lanark County Resident, 2013

FINAL PRODUCT

Housing & Homelessness Blueprint

- Structured around the Provincial Interests
- Environmental Scan – useful to others, summarizes local situation
- 7 Strategic Objectives
- 16 Recommended Actions



"Housing is primary. Ground zero. Everything begins there."

Lanark County Resident, 2013

LANARK
COUNTY

LANARK
COUNTY

Lanark County and the Town of Smiths Falls
Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan
2014 - 2024

What We Heard...

- Awareness – organizations we work with every day did not know/understand the program we currently offer
- Communications – we need to improve our profile in community
- Coordination amongst agencies needs improvement

What We Plan to Do...

- Housing Coalition
- Partnerships
- Improve environmental sustainability
- Support non profit & market housing providers
- Assist individuals and families along continuum of housing
- Monitor developments in Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy
- Housing First

Next Steps...

- Consider Ministry feedback
- Direct funding toward measures identified in plan
- Annual Report Card
- Concentrate on developing / improving partnerships
- Living document

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

Sandy Grey

Social Housing Manager

Lanark County, Department of Social Services
99 Christie Lake Road, Perth, ON K7H 3C6

Phone: 613-267-4200 ext. 2401

Toll Free: 1-888-952-6275

Email: sgrey@lanarkcounty.ca

Web: www.lanarkcounty.ca

Complete plan can be found online at:
www.lanarkcounty.ca