

Staff Report



To	Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee
Service Area	Public Services
Date	Wednesday, October 9, 2024
Subject	Impact from Closure of Guelph Consumption and Treatment Services Site

Recommendation

1. That the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee recommend to City Council that the report, Impact from Closure of Guelph Consumption and Treatment Services Site, be received for information.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To respond to questions posed at the September Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance committee related to the impact on emergency services of the closure of Guelph’s Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site.

Key Findings

Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Services staff are trained and equipped to respond to drug-related incidents and will continue to provide this service to the community. We continue to adapt our service to ensure we’re achieving the fastest possible response times based on the community’s evolving needs.

Based on data provided by the Guelph Community Health Centre, since opening in 2018, there have been over 41,000 visits to the CTS, and 311 drug poisonings were reversed at the site during that time.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This report relates to the People and Economy theme as we support community-wellbeing by considering emergency services response times, and by partnering with other agencies to addresses substance use issues in the community.

Future Guelph Theme

People and Economy

Future Guelph Objectives

People and Economy: Support community well-being

Financial Implications

We will continue to monitor the call volumes and address service changes as required through the budget process, and through our annual response time reporting. At this time, it is not possible to quantify if there will be a fiscal impact.

Report

The Ministry of Health recently announced they would be banning supervised drug consumption sites within 200 metres of schools and childcare centres, which will result in the closure of Guelph's provincially funded site no later than March 31, 2025. The Guelph site, operated by the Guelph Community Health Centre, has been encouraged by the province to submit a proposal to transition to a HART Hub, which will connect people with complex needs to comprehensive treatment and preventative services.

Information provided by the Guelph Community Health Centre (and contained in Attachment-1 of this report) indicates that since opening in May 2018, there have been over 41,000 visits to the Guelph CTS with close to 1,000 referrals being made to primary care. In the past year, on average 44 people per month were connected to addiction treatments and supports. In total, 311 drug poisonings have been reversed at the Guelph CTS since it opened in 2018, and of these incidents, only 12 resulted in a transfer to hospital; there have been zero fatalities in the Guelph CTS.

The staff of Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Services are trained and equipped to respond to drug-related incidents, including poisonings, and will continue to provide this service to the community regardless of location. We continue to adapt our service to ensure we're achieving the fastest possible response times based on the community's evolving needs; this includes updating of the Optimal Resource Deployment Of Emergency Services study, originally undertaken in 2016 and currently being updated to reflect evolving demands on the Paramedic service.

Financial Implications

We will continue to monitor the call volumes and address service changes as required through the budget process, and through our annual response time reporting. At this time, it is not possible to quantify if there will be a fiscal impact.

Consultations and Engagement

Guelph Community Health Centre

Attachments

Attachment-1 Consumption & Treatment Services Fact Sheet

Departmental Approval

Stephen Dewar, Chief and General Manager, Guelph Wellington Paramedic Services

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This report was approved and recommended by:

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