



## Committee Report

**AD-25-01**

**To:** Chair and Members of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee  
**From:** Luisa Artuso, Social Services Administrator  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025  
**Subject:** **Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table One-Year Update**

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### **Background:**

In January and April 2024, the Social Services Department hosted a series of 'Health and Housing Symposiums' to respond to the rising health and housing challenges in the Wellington-Guelph Community. The symposiums aimed to highlight the lack of integration and expansion of health and social housing services for the community's most vulnerable population who access social assistance and the need for collaborative community-wide action to address the complexity of issues facing a growing number of people in Wellington-Guelph.

While participants acknowledged good work happening in our community such as youth services, supportive housing, innovation, and responses to crisis/emergency situations, they also noted gaps in adequate and sustainable funding that prevent equitably available and accessible health services and housing services/options - especially in rural areas and Indigenous-led services.

Gaps identified in the symposium included:

- A lack of access to basic needs for those experiencing homelessness
- A lack of affordable housing including deeply affordable and supportive housing options
- Significant gaps in the provision of health services, and in mental health and addiction services
- A lack of consultation with people with lived/living experiences
- A lack of Indigenous-led solutions and services

Working to address these action areas for those experiencing homelessness and precarious health and housing in the Wellington-Guelph community will require a collaborative community approach, and there was an overwhelming consensus that a 'Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Plan' was needed to address homelessness and experiences of precarious health and housing. The plan must equitably represent health and housing services, urban and rural areas, as well as families, youth, adults, and seniors.

### **Update:**

As identified in the March 2024 Committee report, [Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing January Symposium Summary](#), a Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table 'the Planning Table' was established in May 2024 and meets on a monthly basis. The Planning Table is co-chaired by the Social Services Administrator and the Director of Transformation of the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team, who both serve Wellington County and Guelph and are committed to the four pillars of the Planning Table's work: Health, Housing, Urban, and Rural.

The Provision of Basic Needs Sub-Working was established in June 2024 and, like the Planning Table, meets monthly. With the support of VINK Consulting, members to a Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) were confirmed over July and August and came together for the first time in September 2024. The work of the LEAG is twofold in that it provides advice to the Planning Table and to the Social Services Department in their role for service system planning and programme delivery. The LEAG met monthly from September to December 2024 and are scheduled to meet bi-monthly in 2025.

In November of 2024, a Community Planning Project Manager joined the Social Services team for a two-year contract to support the work of the Planning Table, Sub-Working Groups, the LEAG, and to develop the W-G Health and Housing Community Plan. The Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team has also provided staff support to the work of both the Planning Table and the Provision of Basic Needs Sub-Working Group.

The attached one-year update is being provided to Committee and Council on behalf of the Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table. It provides information on what the Planning Table has achieved to date and plans for the next year:

Section One: **Administrative Structure** describes how the Community Planning Table, Provision of Basic Needs, and LEAG were formed and how their work intersects towards achieving the Planning Table's goals and initiatives. To date, their work has focused on the need to address the siloed nature of services and inequitable access to health and housing services for individuals experiencing homelessness and/or precarious health and housing. Specifically, the development of a coordinated outreach response system, a coordinated access system to engage with individuals experiencing unsheltered homeless, and the need for daytime services/spaces with health, social services, and community support for both housed and unhoused individuals.

Section Two: **Actions Areas** describes how the Planning Table has collaborated with local governments, health and housing services providers, and other community agencies to secure and coordinate funds to urgently address homelessness and precarious health and housing needs across Wellington-Guelph. This includes daytime services in Guelph with the City of Guelph providing \$450,000 one-time funds to the end of 2025 to the Planning Table. Additionally, Planning Table members supported an application to assist the City of Guelph to obtain Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund – Health Outreach Mobile Engagement to services in both Guelph and Wellington County. This section also provides information of the 12 Action Areas from the 2024 Symposiums and the work the Planning Table is doing to define each action area, develop them into SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound), mapping services, leveraging good work already happening in the community, and developing strategies to address gaps.

Section Three: **The Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Plan** describes the extensive and robust community planning process that will require collaboration and leadership from not just those directly involved in the development of the plan, but from other institutions, agencies, and service providers in the Wellington-Guelph community. This section also provides the Community Plan's Vision and Mission Statements, and Values that will help guide this work.

### **Staying Informed**

A communication strategy to provide continuous information on the work of the Planning Table has recently been developed. Community Webinars will occur twice per year and will disseminate the work of the Planning Table for members of the public to stay informed, encourage active participation, and integrate the insights shared during the Symposiums into ongoing planning work. A webinar is scheduled for Monday November 3, 2025, at 2 pm via Zoom.

Information on how to join the webinar will be available on a dedicated W-G Health and Housing Community Planning Table website that is currently under development. Once launched, the website will serve as central repository of updates, easy access to documentation, news, key messaging from each Planning Table meeting, and other relevant information regarding key initiatives. Website launch details will be released through social media by September 2025.

Attachment: Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table One Year Update – May 2024 to April 2025.

### **Strategic Action Plan:**

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:  
Making the best decisions for the betterment of the Community

### **Recommendation:**

That the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee recommend to County Council to receive the report, Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table One Year Update, for information.

Respectfully submitted,



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Social Services Administrator

Attached One Year Update prepared by: Amber Purewal, Community Planning Project Manager

In consultation with/approved by:  
Scott Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer