



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

AD-23-01

To: Chair and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Luisa Artuso, Social Services Administrator
Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2023
Subject: Renovations to 129 Wyndham Street

Background:

The County has made very strong statements about our commitment to Health and Safety through our current policies. In the County of Wellington Health and Safety Statement Policy, it indicates that “Where reasonable, the County of Wellington will strive to exceed the legislated requirements by adopting the best practices available to protect employees and to promote a positive health and safety culture. The County of Wellington will work towards continuous improvement in its health and safety programme.”

Furthermore, in the County’s Workplace Violence Policy, it indicates “The County of Wellington is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace free from actual, attempted or threatened violence. The County recognizes that workplace violence is a health and safety and human resources issue and will take reasonable precautions to prevent workplace violence and to protect employees at the workplace.”

It is the ultimate responsibility of the County of Wellington to ensure a healthy and safe workplace for all. Scott Wilson – CAO, Luisa Artuso – Social Services Administrator and Susan Farrelly – Director of Human Resources, have been meeting regularly to discuss steps to enhance the safety and security at the workplace, specifically in relation to certain Social Services locations. This work has led to several action items which have included temporary security services until more safety measures can be implemented.

Update:

A staff review of the physical layout of the Social Services reception area at 129 Wyndham Street concluded that this area needs minor renovations to allow for better visibility of people entering the building, limiting people displaying concerning behaviours in certain areas but always with the option to exit the building, the ability to control public access to staff office areas, and for staff to safely exit customer service areas if needed. In addition, the renovations will allow visitors to be greeted immediately upon entering the building and will establish a Social Services Help Centre. Visitors will be allowed into the Help Centre from the reception area where staff can provide information, assistance to complete applications for all social services programmes, and offer referrals to local community resources. The Help Centre will also provide people with access to computers, land line phones, and photocopiers.

Attachment:

Proposed Renovation Drawings from +VG The Ventin Group Architects Ltd.

Financial Implications:

Staff are currently in the investigation phase, and it is unclear what the costs for this work might be. Once more information is known, options for funding will be considered and reported back to Committee.

Recommendation:

That the report, Renovations to 129 Wyndham Street, be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luisa Artuso". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Luisa Artuso
Social Services Administrator