



A United Vision:
**GUELPH'S
COMMUNITY PLAN**



Social, health and education sector workshop summary



November 23, 2018

Hosted by:

Nancy Sullivan, Chair of the Board
Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health

Colleen Clack, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
City of Guelph

A Community Plan workshop with leaders and community builders from social, health and education sectors to gain their perspective on the role their sectors will play in developing Guelph's future.



Social, Health and Education Sector Workshop

Hosted at one of Guelph's newest community hubs and shared spaces, 10 Carden (10C), located at 42 Carden Street.



On November 23, 2018, Nancy Sullivan, Chair of the Board, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health and Colleen Clack, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, City of Guelph hosted a Community Plan workshop. Community builders and local leaders in the social, health and education sectors provided their input with respect to the inclusion of their priorities in the development Guelph's Community Plan.

Acknowledgements:

The City of Guelph is grateful to the 45 community leaders who came together to participate in the workshop. It was a time of honest dialogue, championing this important initiative and helping to shape the Community's Plan that will guide our community for the next 10 years and more.

Agenda:

- Welcome and opening remarks
 - » Marva Wisdom, Community Plan Co-chair, external advisor
 - » Colleen Clack, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Public Services
- Presentation and remarks
 - » Nancy Sullivan, Chair of the Board, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health
 - » Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Physician Consultant and Acting Director of Family Health, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health information
- Community Plan progress and what we're hearing from the community
 - » Jenny Smith, Manager Corporate and Community Strategic Initiatives
- Facilitated conversation and activities
 - » Community shares something they are proud of in their work or sector
 - » Community identifies what barriers are in the way of achieving work in their sector
 - » Community discusses and shares what would be a win for Guelph's Social, Health and Education sectors
 - » Community highlights one thing they would like to see happen next
- Next steps and questions
 - » Thank you and closing summary by Barb Swartzentruber, Executive Director, Strategy Innovation and Intergovernmental Services, City of Guelph



What we heard:

Victoria Road renovation—the look on a child’s face when he first got to try the new pool pod entry system—6 years old with cerebral palsy and he was able to get in and out of the pool independently.

- The importance of a new citizen-friendly community plan that everyone can read and see himself or herself represented within
- There is a need to address not only the affordable/supportive housing situation but also affordable accessible spaces for early learning and childcare
- Services and support are limited or non-existent in some high need areas of the city. Those most in need have the least resources in their area
- Public Health Data helps to paint an accurate picture of our communities. The interactive dashboard developed and shared with community partners helps to inform planning and service delivery, and drivers of health in the community

1. Something the social, health and education communities are proud of:

During the workshop, we heard many things people are proud of in their work and sector including projects, data sharing, collaborations, partnerships, and community outreach and involvement. What came through loud and clear was the acknowledgement of the collective impact this sector is having on the community by working together to deliver services the community needs and values.

There were many stories shared that spoke about how proud people and organizations are of the collaborations, partnerships and cooperation that is happening in areas of this sector, and the value of the work that has gone into building trust and nurturing relationships essential to creating that collective impact. A sample of the 62 great stories shared:

“Conestoga College research identified that 55% of adults in Guelph have taken learning at Conestoga college—proud to touch so many people.”

“Community of Hearts collective impact: In order to build on participants’ (youth/adults with developmental exceptionalities) professional and social networks, we partner with The SEED via Guelph Community Health Centre to package garden fresh boxes for Guelph citizens on a monthly basis and set up the accessible community Food Market on Tuesdays. This is not a group of people with disabilities walking around the community. This is a group of community members working together with other community members to give back and serve our city members who need access to food security options.”

“Volunteering with Muslim Society of Guelph, supporting Syrian refugee settlement. Community came together to support newcomers. As well as partnering with services across the city to support newcomers to our city.”

“Therapy, violence against women, rehabilitation for perpetrators of violence. Walk-in clinic once a week where they receive treatment straight away and the only place in Guelph Wellington.”

- 40% consider self-harm—up from 10-20% last year
- 20% are women in abusive situations
- Supported only by the United Way (no provincial funding)
- 400% over target for walk-in, they turn no one away

“Staff of Evergreen reached out to The Elliott to ask for assistance in helping their senior outreach program. The Elliott responded by supplying their bus twice monthly to travel Guelph and gather senior residents that would not have attended Evergreen Seniors programming—good partnership for organizations collaborating to help our citizens.”

The group is hearing positive comments from outside our borders about Guelph’s reputation as a great place to work, which in turn reinforces the pride in the work of this sector. The group is proud of the work they do to support, create opportunities and improve outcomes for the clients they serve.

2. Barriers in the way of the social, health and education communities achieving success.

The group identified a number of key barriers to their work including:

- **Funding:** red tape, silos, competing priorities, inadequate/limited or instability of funding provincial vs. municipal, and investment in upstream activities. Access to adequate capital funding to build new spaces, funding instability due to provincial and/or municipal government priorities, financial barriers to secondary education and training, risks created by transition in funding, inability to shift funding to meet the need, and funding imbalances.
- **Infrastructure/services:** accessible childcare facilities, affordable/assisted housing, services available to areas in most need, aged and people living with disabilities and needing food, and supporting people with mental health challenges. Transportation came up in a number of ways including affordability of public transit, transportation for clients to access programs and idle public sector capacity to collaborate with programs in need of partnerships.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** training/focus groups on cultural diversity and inclusion, address misconceptions and language barriers.



3. What would be a win for Guelph's social, health and education sectors?

The community organizations in Guelph are extremely ambitious and proud of our community with more than 170 wins identified from this group alone to see Guelph realized as a leader in Canada on many fronts from a living wage for all and collaborations between organizations, to health and education and the highest graduation rates in the country.

Five major themes emerged as future wins from the Social, Health and Education community:

- Funding
- Social
- Health
- Education
- Infrastructure



Funding:

- Predictable and ongoing funding for housing, new spaces, hospice care
- Implement the living wage for all with decent employment opportunities
- Address the root causes instead of reacting to the problem
- Early childhood educators recognized as professionals and paid well, resulting in higher quality of childcare

Living wage for all—have Guelph lead the charge!

Social:

- Youth social hubs in all neighbourhoods
- Cure poverty: health care costs saved in spades
- Community centres in all high need areas of the City of Guelph

Collaborative initiatives:
GNSC/SEED/TCG/PEFT—help meet people needs where they are—Real Strength of Guelph

Health:

- Access to mental health services—less than 4-week wait list and safe injection sites
- Accessible free or low cost trauma counselling
- Analytical team that collaborates with service providers to gather data, provides interactive reports and community assets
- Health and social policies that support inclusion, dignity and opportunity for healthy living
- Access to affordable nutritious food

Guelph – One of the healthiest communities in Ontario

Education:

- Increase college education offering in Guelph (potential Baker St. redevelopment), which results in an increase in the standard of living, increased skills in the workforce and re-training for changes to local, regional, global and sectoral economies
- Easy access to childcare in schools, every child under age 12 has access to quality childcare, before/after school programs and summer camps
- Mental health is embedded in all approaches to education from early years to adult
- Collaborative partnerships initiating ongoing education and support in schools, college, university and city/neighbourhood groups to build volunteer engagement, decrease mental health concerns and increase feeling of self worth

Guelph – best graduation rates in the Country

Infrastructure:

- Supportive and affordable housing, live-in support for mental health/addictions issues, chronically homeless, aging population and youth
- Infrastructure in the East end, and communities with dense, mixed land use with access to green spaces. Increase greater control over land developers in both purchasing and developing green space land, and development of living spaces with enforced acceptable plans that meet the needs of the community and not the developer
- Expand public transit to reduce roadway congestion by cars and access to school, work and play
- Land designation for religious spaces
- Develop safe walkways and bike lanes away from/separated from traffic, connected East to West and North to South of the city

4. What is the one thing they would like to see happen next?

The general consensus for what happens next from the Social Health and Education sector echo what has been mentioned previously in the report regarding prioritization of the community needs, realistic timelines, engaging with a broader representation of the community including youth, non-traditional groups and greater diversity. Highlighted themes include funding, health, education, housing and the environment.

Funding:

- Sustainable funding, especially early learning and childcare—accessible, affordable spaces and operational funds. Ideally situated in schools and public spaces
- Courage and perspective of leadership not to wait for provincial or federal decisions
- Rethink how we plan, while funded in silos can't afford to play in silos

Health:

- Health care for all and the ability for people to age with dignity

Education:

- Public land available for early childhood/childcare facilities
- Increase in postsecondary education options in Guelph

Housing:

- Address affordable and supportive housing needs in our community
- Greater control over local developers in the development of living accommodations

Environment:

- Protection of our green spaces, oversight of land developers



Have courage and perspective as we tackle issues for the future of the community.

Next steps

During the last year, we have heard from many sectors in Guelph through community engagements and workshops that surfaced great ideas, comments and feedback. We have conducted similar workshops with the arts and culture; environment; and economic sectors. The planning, research and engagement phase of building the Community Plan wrapped up in January and the focus of activities has transitioned towards developing and presenting the Community Plan.

The Community Plan is being presented to City Council on May 16, 2019.

Additional Community Plan resources

- Community Plan website is guelph.ca/communityplan
- [Community Plan video](#)
- [Guelph as a Village of 100](#)—a fun way of looking at our community through numbers
- Watch quick, informative [videos](#) from our community

Our year of listening

