



Community and Health Services Department
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Date: April 6, 2017

Re: **Update on the Implementation of the York Region Seniors Strategy**

This communication provides a progress update on implementation of the York Region Seniors Strategy, including actions to-date and the forecast for the next few months.

A Cross-Departmental Steering Committee is leading implementation of the Strategy

The Steering Committee, co-chaired by Norm Barrette, Chief/General Manager of Paramedic and Seniors Services and Ann Marie Carroll, General Manager of Transit, is made up of regional staff representing each of the Region's seven departments along with York Regional Police. The Committee is responsible for implementing the Strategy by prioritizing and sequencing the twenty-one actions and seven advocacy areas, setting timelines and identifying budget and resource requirements.

The Community and Health Services Department will continue to support implementation of the Strategy and the Steering Committee by: coordinating and monitoring implementation of the actions to ensure timelines are met; identifying required data and research supports; leading engagement activities; and making connections and establishing new partnerships.

The first priority is to establish partnerships to better support seniors

The Region is only one player in the complex system serving seniors. To successfully implement the Strategy, collaboration and alignment with others in the system is essential and work has already begun to build these relationships.

Working with the local municipalities

One of the actions in the Strategy is to establish an external joint planning table with the local municipalities to explore the age-friendly community concept. As a first step, an Age-Friendly Design workshop is being set-up with the local municipalities and key community partners to determine what is being done and what could be done (from a policy, planning and parks and recreation perspective) to support seniors aging in place. The ideas from this workshop will be used to inform specific areas for partnerships with each of the local municipalities to support their age-friendly actions, which facilitate more seniors being able to age in place.

Working with the Central Local Health Integration Network

In December 2016, a funding request was made to the Central Local Health Integration Network (Central LHIN) to advance mutual strategic priorities, one of which was looking for support for seniors to age in place through the establishment of a seniors multi-service centre to be located within the Unionville Affordable Seniors Housing Development. The proposal requested the Central LHINs ongoing expertise and input on the development of the multi-service centre, funding for a planning and needs assessment and a commitment, in principle, to supporting future funding requests related to the multi-service centre. The Central LHIN has already been included in initial planning discussions. Engaging the Central LHIN aligns with the Strategy's advocacy agenda around keeping seniors healthier, longer by:

- Requesting the Province work with the Region to ensure appropriate home and community care supports are available including homecare, adult day programs and respite etc.
- Requesting the Province expand funding for prevention programs that improve and maintain seniors' health.

Next Steps

1. Visioning Workshop – April 10, 2017

- The Steering Committee will use this workshop to identify priority actions, project leads, timelines and resources required for successful implementation of the Strategy. The end result will be a proposed comprehensive five-year action plan (2017-2022).

2. Age-Friendly Design Workshop – May 2017

- A session with the local municipalities and key community partners to exchange ideas and identify opportunities to work together to create age friendly, complete communities, while also clarifying the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Region and the local municipalities.

3. Progress Report to Council – June 2017

- The report will outline the proposed five-year action plan for implementing the twenty-one actions and the government relations plan to guide the Region in moving its advocacy agenda. Any additional resources required to implement the actions will be identified in this report.

4. Connecting Caregivers Workshop – June 21, 2017

- The workshop is intended to connect caregivers, including family caregivers, long-term care home front-line staff, community agencies and health care providers to available services and supports.
- Staff will present key aspects of the Strategy and gather firsthand insight on caregiver needs, system navigation challenges, gaps and areas for improvement.

Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

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