


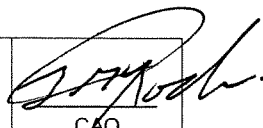
COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION

Closed
 Reg. Council
 Supplemental

Date: _____
Date: April 29, 09
Date: _____

Item # _____
Item # 9
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Director


CAO

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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
750 – 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

COUNCIL REPORT

Date: April 7, 2009 File: 2630-07-02
From: Leanne Sexsmith, Community Planner - Social Services
Subject: **Youth Safe House - Update**

RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The report on the Youth Safe House from the Community Planner – Social Services dated April 7, 2009 be received for information.

Purpose

To provide Council with an update on the progress and status of the Youth Safe House.

Discussion

- 1.1 Youth Safe House – Re-opening December 2007

Just over a year ago, the North Shore Youth Safe House, which provides a shelter for the North Shore's most vulnerable youth, celebrated its grand reopening. The Safe House had been closed between October 2006 and November 2007 as a result of insufficient funding. It was reopened in December 2007, primarily as a result of a large donation from a private citizen in West Vancouver. This represented a significant accomplishment in addressing critical needs of youth and families across the North Shore.

- 1.2 Youth Safe House Outcomes – January 2008 - Present

As demonstrated in the attached correspondence from the North Shore Youth Safe House Advisory Committee, the Safe House has achieved many critical outcomes which clearly demonstrate the value of the program and the importance of partnerships with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Police and our Youth Outreach Workers, who all play such an essential role in supporting vulnerable youth in our community.

In the one year period between January 2008 – December 2008, 400 youth were referred to the Safe House, and 200 youth were served. Youth were able to access a safe place to sleep as well as receive other key resources, such as

alcohol and drug addictions services, youth outreach, parent/youth mediation and reunification, and other critical services.

One of the most satisfying outcomes is that 44 youth were reunited with their families during the 2008 year. This is an extraordinary success, rarely seen to this extent elsewhere, and is attributed to programs available at the Safe House that focus on restoring relationships in the family home and providing continuing services and supports.

1.3 Current Status of Funding for the Youth Safe House

Since the Youth Safe House re-opened, operating funding has been secured through the Federal Government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). On April 6, 2009, the Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development announced a funding commitment through HPS of \$802,702 for the North Shore Youth Safe House. This will support operating costs for a two year period (April 2009 to March 2011).

The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides funding for 1.5 staff positions for the Transitional Supported Living component of the Youth Safe House. The District of North Vancouver, who owns the house and land, leases the property to the Safe House for \$1 per year. Municipally funded Youth Outreach Workers from all three municipalities support and work with youth at the Youth Safe House.

The Youth Safe House operators and staff work hard with the community to secure additional funding throughout the year to support emergency shelter needs and recreational programming through three major fundraising drives with North Shore Service Clubs and the North Shore Mayor's Golf Tournament.

1.4 Operations and Management of the Youth Safe House

The Youth Safe House is operated and managed by Hollyburn Family Services Society, under the guidance of the North Shore Youth Safe House Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from the three North Shore municipalities, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the North Shore School Districts, North Shore service clubs, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, youth-serving community agencies, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and the North Shore Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. The Youth Safe House is a licensed facility under the auspices of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

1.5 Program Description

The North Shore Youth Safe House is a two tier, multi-component resource for youth between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, in need of a safe bed where their immediate basic needs can be met. The upper floor of the home is a four bed 24 hour staffed resource providing short-term emergency accommodation

and support services designed to return the youth to a stabilized family home or alternate living environment. The lower level of the home is a separate, two bed Transitional Supported living apartment which serves as a longer-term resource (up to 6 months) for sixteen to eighteen year olds, designed to provide transitional support towards independent living.

The Youth Safe House utilizes an Integrated Case Management approach to provide the community supports required to meet the complex needs of high risk youth. Residents of the Safe House have access to:

- Family Support Workers, Parent-Teen Mediation and Transitional Youth Workers provided by Hollyburn Family Services under contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development;
- Drug and Alcohol Assessment provided by Vancouver Coastal Health;
- On-going and after-care support of Community Youth Outreach Workers funded by the three North Shore municipalities;
- Referral to other required services such as medical help, mental health support, educational and vocational counselling.

1.6 Social Implications

The funding commitments and outcomes achieved through the Youth Safe House over the past year represent significant accomplishments in addressing critical social needs in our community, and illustrate how important this resource is to youth and families on the North Shore. Supporting at-risk populations during times of crisis is essential to social well-being and sustainability.

Author:



- Appendix A Correspondence from the Advisory Committee / North Shore Youth Safe House (March 16, 2009)
- Appendix B North Shore Youth Safe House Statistics (updated for January 2008-March 2009)

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MAR 17 2009

MAYOR'S OFFICE
DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER

March 16, 2009

Ms. Pam Goldsmith-Jones
Mayor / Municipality of West Vancouver

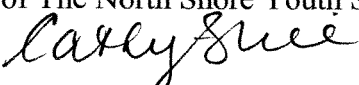
Dear Pam,

I am attaching the statistical information for the Youth Safe House for 2008. I am sure that this information is available on-line in a Municipal report but I thought this might highlight the information for you.

- In the first year, the occupancy rate is very high – 82 %
- The North Shore occupancy rate went up over the year as more North Shore Youth heard about the facility
- The self referral rate is very high – a good indicator that youth are confident about the service
- MCFD – and the Provincial Government also made many referrals – although MCFD only funds the transitional beds (this is the facility that MCFD uses to support very needy youth who qualify and who the Social Workers are helping move towards independent living circumstances) MCFD still does not fund the beds for the other youth
- The particular satisfying outcome is that 44 youth have been reunited with their families. This is the outcome that I believe most reflects the success of the Youth Safe House. The North Shore Communities should be very proud of this accomplishment because, although this is an expensive facility to operate, we all believe that the human and financial savings are well worth the costs.
- Most notably, when the first Safe House was closed down, many youth were discouraged and felt that their communities didn't value young people. North Shore Youth now see the Youth Safe House as a sign that the adults and leaders in our communities care about them and will help those youth who are in most need.

Thank you for taking the time to look at this information and thank you for being such a great supporter of The North Shore Youth Safe House.

Cathy Still,


Advisory Committee / North Shore Youth Safe House



NORTH SHORE YOUTH SAFE HOUSE

Hollyburn Family Services Society

Monthly Statistics

Jan 1-Dec 31, 2008

NEW CLIENTS	YOUTH SERVED	MALES	FEMALES	TRANS-GENDER	NIGHTS OCCUPIED	NORTH SHORE NIGHTS OCCUPIED
119	197	130	67	0	1193	785
Occupancy Rate: 82%				Number of referrals: 402		
North Shore Occupancy Rate: 66%				Number declined: 205		
Average Length of Stay: 6				Children in Care: 19		
North Shore Average length of stay: 7				Average Age: 16 Average NS Age: 16		
12- 0	13- 17	14- 20	15- 24	16- 57	17- 38	18- 42

REASON FOR REFERRAL:	TOTAL
Shelter	91
Respite	32
Waiting for MCFD Placement	9
Wanting a YAG/Housing Support	37
Wanting Family Support	12
Waiting for Detox/Treatment	4
Waiting to get into Care	7
Escaping Unsafe Situation	5

REFERRAL SOURCE:	TOTAL
Self Referral	84
MCFD Social Worker	37 / half is after hours
VACFSS Social Worker	2
Other Safe House	10
Youth Workers	34
Probation/RCMP	8
Family or Other Caregiver	15
Other: Family Support, friend, counselor	6

OUTCOMES:	TOTAL	OUTCOMES	TOTAL
Self Discharged	58	Living with Friend	14
A&D- Detox	2	Independent Housing	5
A&D- Treatment	1	MCFD Intake/Placement	20
Reconnected with Family or Guardian	44	MCFD Youth Agreement	2
Mental Health Services	0	Transferred to Medical Services	0
Still Accessing NSYSH	N/A	Other Safe House	26
Other : PLEA bed	1	Other: Over Age Supported Transition Housing	2
School Camping Trip	1		1

Number of Youth Discharged due to Violations of NSYSH Expectations: 19

NORTH SHORE YOUTH SAFE HOUSE



Hollyburn Family Services Society

SERVICES OFFERED	TOTAL	N.S. ONLY
A&D services- Detox	1	1
A&D services- Addictions Practitioner	58	33
Community Health Nurse/Medical	1	1
Community Outreach/Youth Worker	33	27
Mental Health Worker	4	4
Family Support	3	3
Parent Teen mediation	19	19
Youth Transition Worker	7	7
Social Worker	7	7
Other: PLEA services	1	1

REASON FOR SERVICES DECLINED:	TOTAL
No Vacancy	128
Incompatible with Program	20
Did Not Arrive	27
Found Alternative Safe Place	19
Youth Declined	11

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NORTH SHORE YOUTH SAFE HOUSE

Hollyburn Family Services Society

Monthly Statistics

January 1, 2008-March 31, 2009

NEW CLIENTS	YOUTH SERVED	MALES	FEMALES	TRANS-GENDER	NIGHTS OCCUPIED	NORTH SHORE NIGHTS OCCUPIED
140	234	147	87	0	1500	1037
Occupancy Rate: 82%				Number of referrals: 499		
North Shore Occupancy Rate: 69%				Number declined: 257		
Average Length of Stay: 7 days				Children in Care: 20		
North Shore Average length of stay: 10 days				Average Age: 16 Average NS Age: 16		
12- 0	13- 17	14- 31	15- 30	16- 62	17- 42	18- 52

REASON FOR REFERRAL:	TOTAL
Shelter	105
Respite	40
Waiting for MCFD Placement	9
Wanting a YAG/Housing Support	44
Wanting Family Support	15
Waiting for Detox/Treatment	4
Waiting to get into Care	9
Escaping Unsafe Situation	8

REFERRAL SOURCE:	TOTAL
Self Referral	104
MCFD Social Worker	48
VACFSS Social Worker	2
Other Safe House	11
Youth Workers	39
Probation/RCMP	8
Family or Other Caregiver	15
Other: Family Support, friend, counselor	7

OUTCOMES:	TOTAL	OUTCOMES	TOTAL
Self Discharged	64	Living with Friend	16
A&D- Detox	2	Independent Housing	5
A&D- Treatment	1	MCFD Intake/Placement	21
Reconnected with Family or Guardian	53	MCFD Youth Agreement	2
Mental Health Services	0	Transferred to Medical Services	0
Still Accessing NSYSH	4	Other Safe House	30
Other : PLEA bed	1	Other: Over Age Supported Transition Housing	2
School Camping Trip	1		1

Number of Youth Discharged due to Violations of NSYSH Expectations: 22

NORTH SHORE YOUTH SAFE HOUSE



Hollyburn Family Services Society

SERVICES OFFERED	TOTAL	N.S. ONLY
A&D services- Detox	1	1
A&D services- Addictions Practitioner	65	38
Community Health Nurse/Medical	1	1
Community Outreach/Youth Worker	46	37
Mental Health Worker	45	5
Family Support	3	3
Parent Teen mediation	19	19
Youth Transition Worker	7	7
Social Worker	9	9
Other: PLEA services	1	1

REASON FOR SERVICES DECLINED:	TOTAL
No Vacancy	163
Incompatible with Program	33
Did Not Arrive	27
Found Alternative Safe Place	20
Youth Declined	14