

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct22_2019

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Youth Needs and Assets Assessment – Final Report

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee with the final report from the Youth Needs and Assets Assessment.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Report

In response to a motion from Council, the Youth Needs and Assets Assessment (YNAA) was initiated to explore the needs and opportunities for youth and young adults, ages 14-29, in Strathcona County. The project included a literature review and online scan, statistical profile, services directory, and public engagement, culminating in a final report with recommendations on how to support youth and young adults to thrive in the community. Yardstick Research was commissioned to lead the project, guided by a project committee composed of community partners and departments within Strathcona County.

Work on the project was initiated in January 2019, with public engagement taking place from May to August 2019 through online surveys, onsite/intercept engagement, and focus groups. Feedback was provided by 41 agency representatives, approximately 900 youth and young adults, and over 200 parents. Results of the engagement can be found in Enclosure 2.

Through this holistic review and community engagement, Yardstick Research concluded that Strathcona County is a community that actively comes together to support youth and young adults, and there is room to improve. All recommendations were founded on the collective commitment that *Youth feel connected, included and supported and access a range of programs and services that meet their needs without having to leave Strathcona County.*

Key themes that emerged through the research and engagement included recommendations around communication, engagement, mental health, gathering spaces, transportation, and affordability. Through these themes, the overarching recommendation emerged *To create a community-led, collaborative strategy to guide implementation of recommendations, including youth and young adult representation.* The full list of recommendations, along with the complete report, can be found in Enclosure 2.

Council and Committee History

July 16, 2019	Priorities Committee received an interim report on the Youth Needs and Assets Assessment.
February 26, 2019	Council approved "That the Youth Needs and Assets Assessment Report be brought back to Council in December 2019"
July 19, 2018	Council approved "That up to \$100,000 from the R 4 Municipal Projects Reserve be allocated to undertake Option 4, as set out in the June 19, 2019 Family and Community Services report, and that the deliverables

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include assessing data and reviewing current available research, conducting focus groups and community outreach with youth, providing an interim report, and providing a final report with recommendations for Council's consideration by May 2019"

April 24, 2018 Council approved "That Administration work with the Community Living Advisory Committee to prepare a report on how Strathcona County is currently serving the needs of resident youth, ages 14-29, and identifies potential gaps in these services; and that this report be provided to Council by the end of 2018"

Other Impacts**Policy:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** n/a**Interdepartmental:** Communications, Transit, Recreation, Parks & Culture**Master Plan/Framework:** Social Framework**Enclosures**

- 1 Youth Needs and Assets Assessment Final Report Presentation
- 2 Youth Needs and Assets Final Report
- 3 Youth Needs and Assets Assessment Infographic