

FINDINGS REPORT

OLDER ADULT TASK FORCE

Recommendations

The Older Adult Task Force recommends the following to Council for consideration:

1. That the City of Vaughan commence the process required to be recognized as an Age-Friendly city and that grants supporting this initiative be pursued; and,
2. That consideration be given to funds being included in the 2019 budget process to commence the first step in the age-friendly designation process by developing a community action plan that defines local principles, conducts a community assessment and develops strategies for action; and,
3. That consideration be given to the Older Adult Task Force being re-established in the next term of Council; and,
4. That inclusive eligibility models and initiatives that will assist in older adults in remaining in their homes, be explored and developed; and,
5. That a hub or hubs of integrated programs and services for seniors, be established; and,
6. That the information found in the Attachments to this report related to Ontario's Age-Friendly Planning Model and the Task Force's S.W.O.T. analysis of community issues, be received.

Background

At its meeting on October 24, 2017, Council adopted Item 10, Report No. 35 of the Committee of the Whole, entitled "Older Adult Task Force". In so doing, Council approved the establishment of the Older Adult Task Force, its Terms of Reference, and appointed Councillor DeFrancesca, Regional Councillor Ferri and Regional Councillor Singh to the Task Force.

Recruitment was undertaken for six (6) citizen members and one (1) representative from a senior's organization. Advisory and technical staff support for the Task Force was provided by representatives from the City's Community Services and Transportation Engineering departments, as well as from Fire and Rescue Services, Vaughan Public Libraries, York Region Community and Health Services, and the York Catholic District School Board.

The Task Force had a total of three meetings. Appointed members of the Task Force include the following:

Regional Councillor Ferri, Chair
Councillor Rosanna DeFrancesca
Barbara Holmes
Vin Le
Nadia Nascimben
Gerard J O'Connor
Kashmir S. Sangha
Darlene Share
Elissa Shnier
Regional Councillor Singh

The mandate of the Task Force is to make recommendations on the implementation of action items related to Vaughan's Older Adult Strategy, including exploring opportunities to move towards an age-friendly community and promotion of healthy seniors. A requirement of the Task Force is to submit to Council a "Findings Report" by June 2018.

Conclusion

The Task Force would like to express to Council its thanks for supporting the establishment of an Older Adult Task Force and its consideration of the recommendations in this report.

Attachments

1. S.W.O.T Analysis of Older Adult Issues in the City of Vaughan
2. Ontario's Age-Friendly Community Planning Model

Older Adult Task Force Meeting, April 12, 2018

S.W.O.T. Brainstorming of Older Adult Issues in the City of Vaughan by Task Force

(Note: List below is not prioritized, nor is considered exclusive of issues related to older adults)

Strengths

- Wonderful library services in Vaughan
- Existing Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services' (VFRS) "Alarm for Life" Program- firefighters are assisting older adults by checking smoke alarms/changing batteries on alarms and alerting social services of any issues relating to health and safety of seniors
- VFRS – growing role in community safety partnerships to ensure seniors are not in isolation, in unfit habitations or living in conditions that present fire and safety risks (including mental health)
- Existing "Vulnerable Persons Registry"
- Existing partnership with B.A.S.I.C.
- Multiple and many resources in many areas that exist
- Excellent Older Adult Clubs/groups in community centres
- Older Adult Clubs in Vaughan –self serve their cultural groups well
- Recreation Tai Chi, Pilates and Yoga courses and low-key sports/activities eg. bocce, bingo
- SAVI (Umbrella Older Adult Organization in Vaughan) has lots of activities and advocates for Vaughan's older adults
- Transportation –Mobility Plus
- Exercise programs through Recreation at City of Vaughan
- Programs in Vaughan provided through agencies
- Programs for older adult women in Vaughan
- Available computer skills courses for older adults.

Weaknesses

- Fees for Recreation activities too high
- Recreation activities across the City for older adults are not equal e.g. west end vs. east end
- More housing options for seniors to age in place needed/seniors want to remain in their homes and live independently
- New homes/buildings are not senior-friendly- lots of stairs
- No formal seniors' education program locally through educational institutions eg. Ryerson etc.
- Caregiver programs are not comprehensive /need to give a break to caregivers/family members caring for seniors
- Need large seniors' hub (one-stop centre that provides information/resources for seniors)
- Scattered services /absence of one-stop service centre for seniors' issues
- Lack of home services for seniors i.e. groceries, cleaning for seniors that cannot leave the house
- Transportation, especially subsidized and for disabled requires improvement
- Need more space for seniors- not enough room for seniors.
- Elder abuse issues -financial/physical - seniors not coming forward due to cultural issues of not wanting to speak about these kind of issues
- Bottom-up community engagement should happen -what are seniors saying about their needs
- Those lower income workers that are now seniors are living in poverty- benefits and pension are not enough to live on
- More handicap parking required at public facilities.

Opportunities

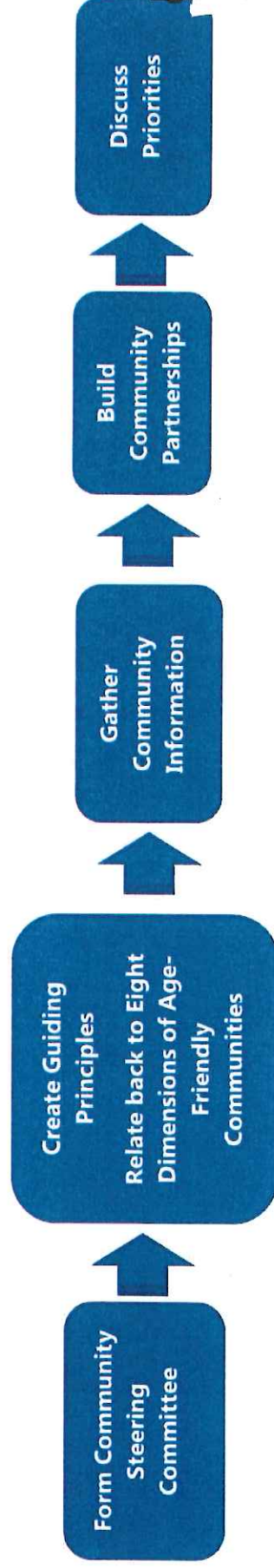
- Creating service hubs for older adults in community buildings and schools
- Bottom up consultation- go to people for ideas and issues
- Transit system – way to help improve seniors' lives
- Built environment -planning for active communities/close by destinations, easy physical access to community resources/parks, community hubs (e.g. commercial shopping areas)
- Accessibility legislation- accessibility for seniors or for seniors that have physical limitations
- Vaughan's open spaces and buildings
- Connected sidewalks and trails system
- Traffic signals crossing time -make sensitive to older generations.
- Subsidize services to lower income for older adults only; those that can pay should pay
- Home sharing for seniors- ability to collect rental income while living with someone that can help older adults still living in home
- Grants /funding opportunity to service older adults is expanding
- Free programming through various agencies
- Take advantage of Provincial investment
- Intergenerational programs to help with socialization and isolation
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan -opportunity to help with infrastructure development and accessibility
- City policies, programs, master plans
- Creating non-cultural based older adult groups that are managed and operated by older adult volunteers
- Ensuring both men and women have programs they each would like to participate in.

Threats

- Older adult population is increasing as a demographic group - resources must be put towards this age group or critical social issue will be result
- Government debt -long-term sustainability of programs and services for older adults may not be possible with government debt at upper levels
- Lack of beds in nursing homes creates stress for families/caregivers.

Ontario's Planning Model to Becoming an Age-Friendly Community

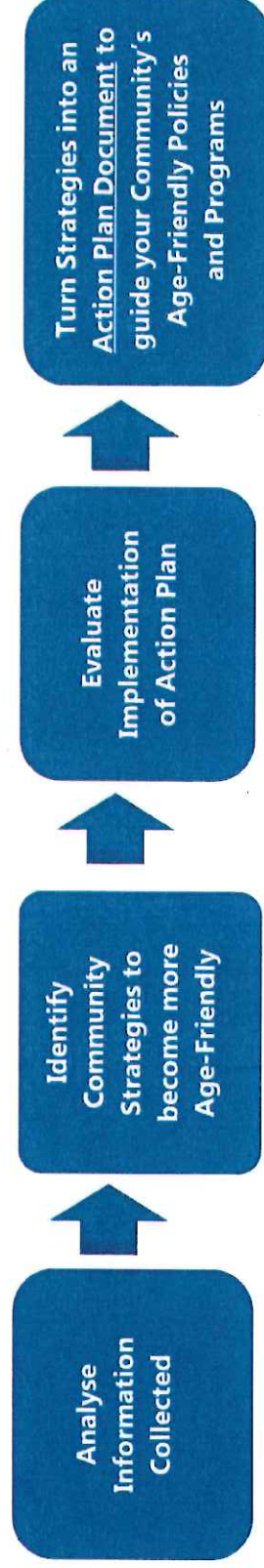
Step 1: Defining Local Principles



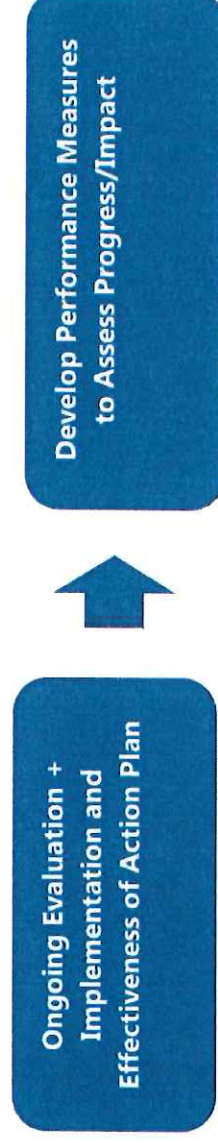
Step 2: Conduct Community Needs Assessment



Step 3: Develop an Action Plan



Step 4: Implement and Evaluate



World Health Organization (WHO) Eight Dimensions of Age-Friendly Communities Criteria/Areas to be Considered in Developing a Community Action Plan		Examples
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings		Safe and accessible public buildings, removing barriers that limit social and physical opportunities for seniors.
Transportation		Accessible signage, transportation-related infrastructure, (lighting, sidewalks), public transit.
Housing		Ability to age in place, access to affordable housing.
Social Participation		Opportunities for social participation/interaction with community.
Respect and Social Inclusion		Removal of negative attitudes, intergenerational understanding.
Civic Participation and Employment		Opportunities to be involved in community life, volunteer opportunities, opportunities to remain employed.
Communication and Information		Information to community events and resources. Ability to reach diverse cultures.
Community Support and Health Services		Access to services that promotes healthy behaviours and life choices including recreation opportunities.