

Grey County Update to Grey Highlands Seniors Advisory Committee August 14/2023



- Grey County is responsible for wide range of services including:
 - County roads and bridges
 - Land Use Planning
 - Economic Development, Tourism and Culture
 - Social Housing
 - Licensed Childcare
 - Income Support (Ontario Works)
 - Paramedic Services
 - Long-Term Care
 - Provincial Offences Courts (Owen Sound and Walkerton)

How the County is supporting/initiating efforts to staff the new hospital in Markdale?

- \$1M investment in BScN program at Georgian College
- GBLIP, Welcoming Communities Partnership
- 2 rounds of PSW training with Y Employment

What is the County doing to attract and retain family physicians and other healthcare practitioners?

- Access to primary care is a complex, longstanding issue. County is not in control of many critical factors.
- County supports access to care with our community paramedicine, remote home monitoring and SOS program with nurse practitioner.
- Supported application from CHC to add resources
- County recently invited to participate in discussions locally and Grey Bruce wide.
- Active participant in Ontario Health project to improve access to primary care

Is the County planning for live-in care homes/apartments for special needs and elderly residents to live independently as an alternative to LTC?

- County focus is doing the very best to provide required LTC services
- Community paramedicine program fills some of the gaps in home care provision.
- Planning rules amended to provide approval for secondary units
- 12 units of assisted living housing newly created in Owen Sound

What possibilities are there to provide more social housing in the County?

- Access to funding is limitation. Costs to build or renovate have risen significantly. Grant funding highly competitive
- Partner with nonprofits to assist them with operating costs or constructing new projects
- Rent supplements for tenants to make up the difference between income and rent expense provide access to private rental market

- Maintain Grey County's Affordable Housing Fund
- Proceed with a Housing Land Bank/Surplus Lands Project
- Maintain & Enhance Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Incentives
- Maintain and enhance development charge deferrals and conditional exemptions for rental & non-profit housing
- Create supportive/ transitional Housing
- Maintain and enhance support services for those experiencing homelessness

- Action Plan adopted 2022
- Focuses on the World Health Organization's (WHO) eight age-friendly community domains: outdoor spaces and public buildings, transportation, housing, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, community and information, community support and health services, and social participation