Housing – Implementation Plan

Housing is essential to health and quality of life. Where we live is more than just a roof – it’s a home, a place that is familiar and loved. Most older adults want to live in the residence of their choice (usually an existing home or within an existing neighbourhood), for as long as they are able, as they age. This is called “aging in place” and includes being able to access services or other supports as their needs change over time.

Members of this group include: Older adults, City of London staff from the Housing Access Centre, London Middlesex Housing Corporation, March of Dimes, Cheshire Community Support Services, and Over 55 London Inc.

This Implementation Plan is a working document. Please note that information in this document is subject to change and will be updated periodically. For more information, please contact agefriendlylondon@london.ca or 519-661-CITY (2489) ext. 7208.

Please note: AFL Action Plan Implementation Years run from June to June.
Year 1: June 2017 – June 2018
Year 2: June 2018 – June 2019
Year 3: June 2019 – June 2020

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<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Start Year</th>
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<td>1. Raise awareness of housing options available for older adults.</td>
<td>a) Promote the Seniors Housing Directory and Housing Options Guide to the broader community.</td>
<td>Year 1-3</td>
<td>• City of London Housing Access Centre</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>- Distributed and shared the Directory and Guide regularly. - All group members are responsible for sharing this information within their networks.</td>
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| 2. Support and empower older adults to age in place with dignity. | a) Advocate for affordable and accessible housing options to allow individuals to stay in their neighbourhoods as they age. | Year 3 | • City of London Housing Access Centre  
• Housing Development Corporation | Status: Not started. Target start date: Jan 2020. |
| | b) Research innovative home sharing initiatives such as intergenerational housing, flex housing, and cohousing to advocate for increased options for the community. | Year 1-3 | • City of London Housing Access Centre  
• Cheshire Community Support Services | Status: In Progress.  
Accomplishments:  
- Developed and submitted a grant application to research London-specific solutions to housing needs.  
Next Steps: Explore other funding and partnership options to enhance focus on older adults’ housing needs. |
| | c) Provide information on home adaptation and modification resources, including funding, how to choose a contractor, and Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation resources. | Year 2-3 | • March of Dimes  
• Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp | Status: Complete  
Accomplishments:  
- In combination with Strategy 1.c) Identify and share updated information on housing services, specialized housing, home modification, social housing, and economic supports.  
- Created presentation on affordable home adaptation options for older adults.  
Next Steps: Continue distribution of resources. |
| | b) Provide information to community groups about available housing options so they can support older adults. | Year 2-3 | • Neighbourhood associations, community and seniors groups | Status: In Progress  
Accomplishments:  
- Developed standard package of housing resources and shared this information with seniors’ groups and community organizations.  
Next Steps: Leverage community partnerships to expand reach of this information. |
| | c) Identify and share updated information on housing services, specialized housing, home modification, social housing, and economic supports. | Year 1-3 | • City of London Housing Access Centre | Status: In Progress  
Accomplishments:  
- Developed a standard presentation and resource package on housing options to be presented in the community via Strategy 1.b) Provide information to community groups about available housing options so they can support older adults.  
Next Steps: Exploring a seniors housing symposium in partnership with Over 55 London. |
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| 3. Educate housing providers about the need for increased appropriate housing stock for older adults. | a) Research and identify the gaps between appropriate housing stock and the demand. Map the areas of highest demand. | Year 1-2 | City of London Housing Access Centre | older adults and help workshop in November 2018.  
Next Steps: Incorporate presentation into annual “Educational Opportunities for Seniors” series. |
| | b) Develop a communication plan targeting housing providers to bring a greater awareness to the need for increased levels and types of housing stock for older adults. | Year 2-3 | City of London Housing Access Centre  
Housing Development Corporation | Status: Complete  
Accomplishments:  
- Compiled information from the 2016 census on the older adult population and shelter needs.  
- Researched statistics on older adult on waitlist for social and affordable housing and summarized key issues.  
Next Steps: Use this information in future advocacy efforts. |
| | c) Advocate to all levels of government for increased and greater variety of housing stock for older adults. | Year 3 | City of London Housing Access Centre  
Housing Development Corporation | Status: Not Started. Target start date: Sep 2019. |
| | d) Collaborate with local developers to educate and explore options to meet the housing needs of the aging population. | Year 3 | City of London Housing Access Centre  
Housing Development Corporation | Status: Not Started. Target start date: Sep 2019. |