



A
Closer
Look

Presentation January 15, 2020

About A Closer Look Georgina

- A community development initiative
- Exploring the reasons why people struggle to make ends meet
- To support stakeholders in creating positive changes in Georgina
- Funded by United Way Greater Toronto
- One of the two identified areas in YR of concentrated social disadvantage
- Collaborative:
 - Jericho Youth Services (lead)
 - Georgina Food Pantry
 - Routes Connecting Communities
- February 2019 - January, 2021

Community Needs Assessment

- Secondary Research
- Primary Research
 - Service Provider Survey
 - Service User Interviews
- Review and Discuss Preliminary Findings
 - Workshops for Service Providers
 - Focus Groups for Community Members

Priority Needs Areas

Housing and Homelessness Prevention Supports

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of rental housing
- Growth only secondary suites that are in state of disrepair
- Long waiting list for subsidized housing
- Support services outside Georgina
- Perceived lack of coordination service delivery and advocacy

Transportation

- An issue in every needs area identified
- Limitations YRT MOR
- Limitations accessing public transit
- Routes and CHATS help to fill the gap
 - Not enough
 - Cannot meet the full need

Employment and Entrepreneurship

- Few local jobs – lower wages
- Long commutes
- Shift work
- Challenging for youth wanting PT work w/o transportation

Mental Health and Addiction

- High demand
- Long waiting lists
- Issues of loneliness and isolation

Health and Long-term Care

- Not enough health care support services
- Transportation as barrier
- Not enough PSWs

Systemic Issues

- Dedicated but unconnected service providers
- Service users lack knowledge about existing services

Collective Response Needed

- Affordable Housing
 - Raise awareness, increase knowledge
- Transportation
 - Transportation Committee: Town, YRT, Routes, CHATS
 - More education
 - Greater advocacy
- Strengthening Connections and Information Sharing
 - Leveraging Linking Georgina
 - Identify how to share information and advice to service users

Next Steps

- Follow up Focus Group with residents (Feb 5, TBD)
- Organizing residents for Committee engagement benefit community
 - Seniors: Lecture series (third age learning)
 - Seniors: Social program
 - Kids & Youth: Shoe drive (or similar)
 - Families: TBD (4 events)
- Leveraging Linking Georgina

Request for Town Support

- Initiate Transportation Committee
- Have a Town staff member attend monthly Linking Georgina meetings
- Dedicate a Town staff member to work with ACL on communication 30min/ week
- Have a representative of the Town join the Human Services Planning Board of York Region

Next Presentation

August 2020

