



United Way

Kingston, Frontenac
Lennox and Addington

Change starts here.

Give. Volunteer. Act.

Mobilizing Local Capacity To End Youth Homelessness

Kingston and Area

2013



Background

- Application and Selection
- Eva's Initiatives
- Meeting with stakeholders
 - City staff, Mayor
 - School Boards
 - MP, MPP
 - Family & Children's Services
 - Service Providers





Steering Committee

- **Youth Diversion; Children & Youth Services Planning Committee** - Daren Dougall
- **Kingston Home Base Housing** - Colleen McAlister-Lacombe , Tara Everitt
- **Kingston Youth Shelter** - Jason Beaubiah
- **Pathways for Children and Youth** - Joanne Maltby
- **Family and Children's Services** - Mehroon Kassam
- **St. Lawrence Youth Association** - Diane Irwin
- **Limestone District School Board** - Christine Herron
- **Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board** - Darlene Bolger
- **Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation** - John Vince
- **City of Kingston** - Sheldon Laidman
- **M.P. Ted Hsu's Office** - Raly Chakarova
- **Labour Council Kingston & District** - Darlene Medhurst
- **United Way of Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington**
Bhavana Varma, Kim Hockey, Andrea Johnson



Early discussion

- Age range
 - 15-24 years
- Planning process
 - Process outlined
- Definition

“Homelessness describes the situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household’s financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination. Most people do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, stressful and distressing.”



Typology

Homelessness encompasses a range of physical living situations, organized here in a **typology** that includes

- 1) **Unsheltered**, or absolutely homeless, living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation;
- 2) **Temporarily Sheltered**, those staying in overnight shelters and those impacted by family violence;
- 3) **Provisionally Accommodated**, accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure,
- 4) **At Risk of Homelessness**, people whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet standards.”





Count

- Picked a date
 - Night of March 7th & 8th, 2013
- All shelters were asked to provide data
 - Number of youth
 - Gender
 - Age range
- School Boards: Adolescent Care Workers
 - Estimate of absolute and precariously housed youth





Youth Count in Shelters

<u>Youth Count March 7th 2013</u>					
	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>		
	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	
Homeless Shelter					
Kingston Youth Shelter	0	0	5	2	
HBH - In From The cold	0	1	0	6	
Kingston Interval House	1	0		0	
Elizabeth Fry Society	4	5	0	0	
HBH - Lily's Place	1	3	0	0	
Ryansdale Shelter	0	0	0	0	
Salvation Army Harbour Lights				1	
Dawn House Women's Shelter	0	0	0	0	
Totals	6	9	5	9	29
Total Females	15				
Total Males	14				



Transitional Housing

Youth Count March 7th 2013					
	Female		Male		
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	
Transitional Housing					
KIH - Robin's Hope Transitional Housing	1	2	0	0	
HBH - Rise@one4nine	5	0	3	0	
HBH - Journey House	0	0	1	3	
Ryandale - Transition House	0	0	0	1	
Totals	6	2	4	4	16
Total Females	8				
Total Males	8				



Adolescent Care Workers in High Schools

Youth Count March 7th 2013

	Female		Male		Total
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	
Absolute Homeless Youth	7	1	4	2	14
Total Females	8				
Total Males	6				

	Female		Male		Total
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	
Precariously Housed Youth	29	9	21	5	64
Total Females	38				
Total Males	26				



Results

Absolutely Homeless

- 45 youth in homeless shelters on March 7
- Equal split – female, male
 - 29 youth in homeless shelters
 - 15 female, 14 male
 - 16 in transitional/supported housing
 - 8 female, 8 males

Precariously housed

- 64 (estimate) high school students precariously housed
 - 38 female, 26 male





Focus Groups

9 focus groups

- Delivered through shelters, transitional housing, agencies

79 participants aged 15-24

- Consistent questions, forms used to collect data
- 3 most commonly listed themes:
 - Family Conflict
 - Addictions and Mental Health
 - Employment & Training





Focus Groups

A snapshot of the participants:

- Relatively equal between males and females
- 50% - were homeless for months
- 81% - lived in local area for most of their lives
- 52% - Family Conflict was main reason for homelessness
- 40% - were alone with no family support
- 41% - were still in high school
- 29% had some high school
- 36% - identified themselves as having suffered from mental illness





What Youth said – some of their comments

What can be done to end youth homelessness?

- Educating the public, breaking down stereotypes
- Shed media light on the issue
- More advertising of services for youth
- More support for at-risk families
- Youth employment programs (training and supports) & counseling
- More affordable/low-income housing (youth-focused)
- Better communication with youth services/local schools/agencies





Next Steps

- **Youth Out Loud Kingston Forum**
 - November 14, 2013
 - Led by Youth Planning Committee
 - For youth with diverse backgrounds
 - Recommend solutions
- **Community Forum – Spring 2014**
 - Propose identified solutions and plan
- **Confirm Plan – Summer 2014**

Change starts here.



Youth Planning Committee



Calling All Youth!

Want to help end youth homelessness in Kingston?

Come have **YOUR** voice heard!

We want to hear your solutions!

Youth Out Loud Kingston Forum

Thursday November 14, 2013

City Hall 216 Ontario Street, Memorial Hall

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch provided)



[facebook.com/YouthOutLoudKingston](https://www.facebook.com/YouthOutLoudKingston)



twitter.com/YOLK_2013



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Awareness

- Picked a colour for youth homelessness - Orange
- Hope to go national with this campaign (with a new generic slogan)
- Bracelets





Mobilizing Local Communities project

- Shone a spotlight on youth homelessness
 - Looked at data differently
 - Identified the problem as being more acute than anticipated
- Bringing stakeholders together
 - Local systems and solutions
 - Community support for the issue
- Youth engagement
 - Voices of youth
 - Meaningful engagement, change
- Courage and resiliency of youth in very difficult situations

