

Dundas Town Hall Meeting – June 8, 2017

Summary of Feedback from Attendees

OLDER ADULT WELLNESS

There is desire for one inclusive, integrated Seniors' Centre

- Should be a local place that is big enough for lots of people to go and different things to be happening at the same time
 - The seniors' centre should provide social opportunities
 - The seniors' centre should be a place to offer other services relevant to seniors (health care, food banks, transportation)
 - The seniors' centre should incorporate opportunities for intergenerational programming
 - By having more services integrated into a seniors' centre, services/care could be more integrated

There is a need to address isolation in older adults

- There needs to be more ways to reach older adults who are isolated and spend most of their time at home
 - Reaching out to older adults in their homes is important
- Creating social opportunities is very important
 - Local churches could be better used as a space for social opportunities

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Need for improved awareness and access of available mental health services for youth

- There are many services available for youth but difficult to know what is out there
- There needs to be an easier process to see a mental health professional
- Supports need to be decentralized from hospitals so that they are more available in town
- There needs to be more variety of supports available
- Emergency mental health supports need to be closer because transportation is a challenge

ISSUES THAT AFFECT ALL AGES

Bus schedules and routes are not user-friendly

- Busing to and from Dundas as well as within the town is a challenge due to limited routes, awkward schedules and the need to change buses many times to get to places outside of Dundas
- It is difficult to use the HSR bus trip planner online
- There is openness to innovative transportation ideas (i.e. partnering with Uber)
- LRT is costly to Dundas residents but has little impact

The city needs to be more walkable

- There is a lack of sidewalks on many roads, and sidewalks need to be maintained and designed to accommodate pedestrians with walkers or scooters
- Traffic calming measures need to be installed
- Needs to be easier to cross the road
- There need to be bike lanes and more bike paths

Working, volunteering and financial needs

- It is difficult to find young volunteers
- Paying a living wage/offering guaranteed minimum income is important
- Affordability of goods, services and housing is repeatedly a concern

The physical environment needs to be improved in order to improve wellness

- Transportation is a challenge (keep reading for more details)
- There needs to be more variety of affordable housing for all ages
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities needs to be improved
- Need better access to specialist services closer to home such as what is available at the Juravinski Centre, day surgery clinic, urgent care, emergency

Health, community and city services need to be better integrated

- Community groups/providers need to communicate more when planning and delivering services and engaging the community for feedback
- There needs to be a better way to share knowledge about available services and how to access them
 - Communication between providers and to patients needs to be better

- Different health, community and city providers could do a better job of sharing resources
- Services and recreational opportunities for older adults and younger people need to be provided in the same spaces to encourage intergenerational interaction which has mutual benefits for all parties.

Physical/emotional/spiritual health is important

- Need more opportunities to be social and participate physical activity
 - There needs to be more FREE programming
- A family doctor or a person at the church could be viewed as a trusted person for citizens to talk to
- Need to create more opportunities/emphasis on spiritual health
- Need to provide more supports for caregivers
- More focus needs to be on diabetic care – including providing high quality but affordable supplies
- Older adults are facing ageism

Thank you for participating!

Special thanks to Terry Cooke, President and CEO of Hamilton Community Foundation, and Councillor Arlene Vanderbeek for supporting our meeting.

Do you have questions about this document?

Contact Vanessa.Foreman@HamiltonFHT.ca

Visit our website to stay up to date on our work in Dundas:

<https://www.hamiltonfht.ca/en/what-we-offer/Dundas-Community-Hub.aspx>

please note that this website is a work in progress

