

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Final Report 2011

VISION STATEMENT: A safe, healthy and crime-free environment in which to live, work and grow




MISSION STATEMENT: To identify and implement manageable solutions to the root causes of crime in our community by coordinating and mobilizing community based action teams

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR: Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan

FUNDING SOURCES: City of Vernon

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: RCMP Safe Communities Unit, Community Futures North Okanagan, Interior Health Authority, Kindale Developmental Association, City of Vernon, Transition House, Independent Living Vernon, Downtown Vernon Association, Restorative Justice Program, North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, North Okanagan ECD Coalition, John Howard Society, Upper Room Mission

ACTION TEAM RESULTS:

| OBJECTIVES | ACTION TEAM MEMBERS | ACTIONS/TIMELINES | MEASURABLE RESULTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS/POVERTY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COOL Team - Evaluation Results | John Howard Society, Community Policing Office, Social Planning Council, other related agencies working with people who are homeless |  The COOL team is a partnership between by-law officers and outreach workers for a collaborative approach to addressing homeless camps. |  Significant reduction in number of homeless camps since 2009: <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Jun 2009 – 30</td> <td>Nov 2009 – 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 2010 – 13</td> <td>Oct 2010 – 16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun 2011 – 7</td> <td>Sep 2011 – 4</td> </tr> </table>  Statistics also show a decrease in calls for service (for drug offences, B&E's, mischief etc) in the city centre <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td><u>YEAR:</u></td> <td><u>Number of Complaints</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>6863</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>5504</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>5085</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> </table> | Jun 2009 – 30 | Nov 2009 – 12 | Apr 2010 – 13 | Oct 2010 – 16 | Jun 2011 – 7 | Sep 2011 – 4 | <u>YEAR:</u> | <u>Number of Complaints</u> | 2008 | 6863 | 2009 | 5504 | 2010 | 5085 | 2011 | TBA |
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| <p>Creating a Women's Only Space</p> | <p>Independent Living Vernon John Howard Society, Transition House, Upper Room Mission, Interior Health, First Nations Friendship Centre, Social Planning Council</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ In the summer of 2011, a group of service providers met to identify the gaps that were created by the closing of the Women's Centre. A number of agencies stepped forward and took on extra programming (without additional funding) to ensure women's needs are being met. ✚ Independent Living Vernon has provided space and the Transition House and John Howard Society is providing the staffing for a women's only drop in program. Statistics will be kept on the number of women accessing services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Statistics for Women's Only Space – based on being open one day a week (Friday's). <p>2011 September -18 women October - 37 women November - 38 women December -43 women</p> |
| <p>Strategic Planning: Charitable Food System</p> | <p>Trinity United Church, Upper Room Mission, Food Action Society, Social Planning Council</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Formed in June 2010, the focus of the action team is to organize a community strategic planning session for charitable food organizations. ✚ By the Fall of 2010, a background paper had been completed. ✚ By February 2011, a community consultation had been conducted, three projects had been identified for follow up and a new network had been created. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Three projects were identified and work has begun to move the projects forward (Breakfast for Learning in the Schools, Low Budget Cookbook, and Community Farm). ✚ A new network has been created with stakeholders agreeing to meet on a bi-annual basis. The next meeting is set for April 2012. |
| <p>Protocol for Coordinating Services for FASD Clients</p> | <p>FASD Committee, Kindale, Social Planning, Ministry of Social Development, First Nations Friendship Centre, IH, Community Policing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team created in the Fall of 2010. Members created an FASD brochure for frontline workers and hosted a meeting in June 2011 to develop informal protocols within/between agencies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ There were seventy five participants at the June consultation. As a result, an agency education and referral distribution list was created and will be hosted by the FASD Committee. This will ensure service providers are connected to ongoing education and training regarding FASD. An FASD brochure for front line workers has been created and distributed. |





IMPLEMENTING HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

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| <p>Brochure to Promote Sharps Containers in Private/Public Washrooms</p> | <p>North Okanagan Youth and Family Services (NOYFSS), UBCO</p> | <p>✚ NOYFSS and UBCO Nursing Students have completed a brochure for businesses that explains the benefits of installing used needle (sharps) containers in washrooms with public access (both for staff and the wider community).</p> | <p>✚ Businesses are made aware of the safety benefits to installing sharps containers in the washrooms.</p> |
| <p>Little Black Book for Youth</p> | <p>Community Futures, Social Planning Council, Community Based Youth Committee, Global Education Class</p> | <p>✚ Formed in December 2010, this action team focussed on securing funding to print and produce an on-line resource book for youth called “the Little Black Book”. Out of print since 2005, this resource book was identified by service providers as an extremely useful tool. Funding was secured and the book is available in print and on-line as of May 2011.</p> | <p>✚ Approximately 2000 copies of the Little Black Books have been distributed to agencies working with youth.</p> <p>✚ There were 744 unique visitors to littleblackbookonline.ca between April 2011 and December 2011.</p> |
| <p>Educate Community on Methadone Programs</p> | <p>NOYFSS, Downtown Primary Care Centre</p> | <p>✚ Two committee members attended an excellent presentation in Kamloops on methadone and have committed to organizing a similar event in Vernon in 2012.</p> | <p>✚ Workshop being planned that educates community on successes and challenges of methadone programs.</p> |
| <p>Responsible Gambling Project</p> | <p>Social Planning Council, NOEES, John Howard Society, Kindale, UBCO and OC students, Gambling Counselling Services</p> | <p>✚ City of Vernon has entered into a \$50,000 sponsorship agreement with BCLC for a responsible gambling initiative. The City of Vernon has approved a proposal by the Social Planning Council to host a Responsible Gambling Awareness Week for two consecutive years. NOEES has been hired to work with the action team and coordinate the activities and communications campaign</p> | <p>✚ An evaluation framework has been created to gauge the results of the Responsible Gambling Awareness Week in January 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Evaluation forms will be handed out at kiosks and events ✚ Media coverage will be analysed to measure the scope of community members who would likely have encountered an advertisement ✚ The number of new people accessing problem gambling counselling and supports will be tracked. |

INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

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| <p>City Centre Neighbourhood Plan – Affordable Housing</p> | <p>Vision North Okanagan (VNO), City of Vernon, Social Planning Council, Land Trust</p> | <p>Social Planning Council took a lead role in coordinating the VNO input sessions that took place from January – March 2011. As a result of the consultation, Social Planning Council has agreed to chair an additional action team that will focus on developing case models within the city centre for affordable housing projects.</p> | <p>✚ Case models for affordable housing will be presented as part of a developers package at the Housing Forum in January 2012.</p> |
| <p>Land Inventory for Affordable Housing</p> | <p>Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Vancouver Foundation</p> | <p>✚ Social Planning Council has received funding from the Vancouver Foundation to create an inventory of land that is owned by non-profit societies, faith groups, service groups, and/or various levels of government that may be suitable for affordable housing initiatives. A consultant is compiling the list of organizations and identifying land.</p> | <p>✚ A land inventory that can assist with identifying potential partnerships/opportunities for affordable housing initiatives will be presented as part of a developers package at the Housing Forum in January 2012.</p> |
| <p>Housing Forum</p> | <p>Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Vancouver Foundation, City of Vernon Affordable Housing Committee</p> | <p>✚ Social Planning Council has received funding from the Vancouver Foundation to host a housing forum for potential developers of affordable housing (non-profit and private). The forum will include presentations of successful models and outline the role of each partner in the development of the project. The City of Vernon’s Affordable Housing Committee will co-host the event. It will take place on January 26, 2012.</p> | <p>✚ A Housing Forum is planned for January 26, 2012 that provides information on programs and policies aimed at encouraging the development of affordable and attainable housing.</p> |

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| Affordable Housing – Business Model | Social Planning Council, Land Trust |  Social Planning Council and the Land Trust have been developing a business model for a partnership between private developer(s) and non profit societies. If successful, the model could be used for projects that are in neighbourhoods within or close to the city centre. |  A business model that outlines the partnerships and funding needed to develop affordable housing in conjunction with a private developer has been submitted to BC Housing for consideration. |
| INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION | | | |
| Create a Council for Children in Vernon | North Okanagan ECD Coalition Coordinator, Social Planning Council, Chamber of Commerce |  Action team created in April 2010 as a result of a speaker event hosted by the ECD Coalition. After a presentation to City Council in November 2010, Council agreed to assign a representative from the City on the ECD Coalition. The next focus is to organize a Champion for Children's Forum in May of 2012. |  City of Vernon now has representation on the Early Childhood Development Coalition.  A draft Community Charter for Children is being developed for Council's consideration. |
| BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY | | | |
| Creating a Community Farm | BC Schizophrenic Society (BCSS), Social Planning Council, Okanagan College, Kindale, Food Action Society, CMHA, interested citizens |  In March 2011, an action team was created to support the partnership development needed to create a community farm in Vernon. A \$15,000 grant has been secured for a business plan for the project. The consultants are focusing on a couple of potential sites. The business plan will be completed by March 31, 2012. |  If successful, this action team could initiate a community farm that provides meaningful employment and training, and enhances the community food system by contributing to the environmental, economic, social, and nutritional health of the community. |
| Inventory of Easily Accessible Recreational Activities | Independent Living Vernon, Braintrust Canada |  In June 2011, an action team was created to compile a list of easily accessible recreational activities for people with disabilities and/or on a low income. |  Once distributed, the number of referrals to programs listed on the inventory will be tracked. |

| INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN | | | |
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| City Centre Neighbourhood Plan – Green Space Audit | City of Vernon, Social Planning Council |  As a result of the city centre neighbourhood plan consultation, Social Planning Council and the City of Vernon conducted a green space audit in the city centre. The youngest participant was age 3 and the oldest was + 75. The audit included analysis from a CPTED perspective (crime prevention through environmental design). The final report will be available in February 2012. |  Recommendations to the city and regional planners to ensure that green space in the city centre that is safe, accessible and attractive to a variety of users. |
| CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES | | | |
| Wide Community Representation on Action Teams | Coordinating Committee |  Throughout the quarter, the Partners Committee made an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams. |  Approximately 150 organizations, institutions, community champions and businesses have participated in action team events this year. |