

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Final Report 2012

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																				
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> <tr> <td>May 2012 – 0</td> <td>Sep 2012 - 2</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>4462</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>4593</td> </tr> </table>	Jun 2009 – 30	Nov 2009 – 12	Apr 2010 – 13	Oct 2010 – 16	Jun 2011 – 7	Sep 2011 – 4	May 2012 – 0	Sep 2012 - 2	<u>YEAR:</u>	<u>Number of Complaints</u>	2008	6863	2009	5504	2010	5085	2011	4462	2012	4593
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Green Valley Motel Action Team	RCMP, John Howard Society, Street Clinic, URM, Caretaker of Green Valley, Social Planning Council, CMHA, Probation, Ministry of Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A meeting of stakeholders was held in June 2012 to discuss two issues regarding the Green Valley Motel. The first is the level of criminal behaviour and RCMP response to the motel. The second issue is what happens to the tenants if the site is developed. Many of these individuals would be sleeping outside if the motel was sold. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Stakeholders more clearly defined the issues and created a work plan to resolve the problems. The caretaker of the Green Valley Motel will work more closely with the RCMP and service providers to help provide more supervision and support to tenants with mental health and/or addictions. Other housing options were identified in the case of the motel being sold.
City Policy for Displaced Tenants in Affordable Housing Units	City of Vernon, John Howard Society, Ministry of Social Development, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Social Planning Council coordinated a meeting between the City Planning Department, John Howard Society and the Ministry for Social Development. A draft policy was created as a result of the meeting and forwarded to City Council for their feedback and consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ In January 2012, City Council supported a policy that included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Increasing the current requirement of 2 months' notice of eviction to 3 months. ✚ In addition to the required one month's rent compensation the developer must pay another month's compensation to the John Howard Society Housing Outreach Program. ✚ The society will work with individual tenants to use the funds for housing needs that will not interrupt their income assistance benefits if they are on the system. ✚ This could include damage deposits, unpaid utility bills, moving expenses etc.
IMPLEMENTING HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY			
Educate Community on Methadone Programs	NOYFSS, Downtown Primary Care Centre, Social Planning Council, Ministry for Social Development, John Howard Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ An action team was created to host an educational workshop on methadone and to consider any concerns amongst service providers on the use of methadone as part of an addictions treatment plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The presentation on methadone took place in October 2012 and included: a presentation from Dr. Stewart; a panel discussion; and time for group discussion and feedback. ✚ Over 60 people attended and an evaluation report is available upon request.

<p>Community Consultation Regarding the Merging of the Primary Care Centre with Mental Health and Substance Use Programs</p>	<p>IH, Primary Care Centre, Social Planning Council</p>	<p>✚ IH has a plan to merge the existing downtown Primary Care Centre with Mental Health and Substance Use Programs (which are currently located at the Health Unit). There is also additional funding to hire more staff to work with marginalized individuals with mental health and addictions. An action team was created to ensure stakeholders had input into the merging of services (in particular the DVA as the new expanded centre will be located downtown).</p>	<p>✚ In December 2012, a community consultation was held with over 75 stakeholders present. Feedback was provided to IH on potential location, hours of operation and philosophy of service. An evaluation report is available upon request.</p>
<p>Access to Local Detox Services</p>	<p>IH, NOYFSS, John Howard Society, Restorative Justice Program, Social Planning Council</p>	<p>✚ There are currently no local detox services in Vernon with the nearest referral being Kamloops (Kelowna's program is closing in January 2013). The action team is tasked with researching the possibility of home detox services and/or a "day-tox" program in Vernon.</p>	<p>✚ The team has researched a home detox model offered in Cranbrook and is working on creating a model for Vernon that could use existing resources and staff. It is recognized that there is no additional funding available to start a new program so the community will have to be creative to secure additional services.</p>
<p>Good Neighbour Agreement for "Bill's Place"</p>	<p>Harwood Residents, John Howard Society, Social Planning Council, Community Policing Office</p>	<p>✚ Partners in Action assisted with the creation of the Harwood Neighbourhood Council in order to address concerns of the neighbourhood about the sober living house (Bill's Place). Social Planning Council assisted the Neighbourhood Council and the John Howard Society to draft a Good Neighbour Agreement and host another community meeting regarding Bill's Place.</p>	<p>✚ A Good Neighbour Agreement and Neighbourhood Security Plan are now in place and a second community meeting was hosted in December 2012.</p> <p>✚ The Harwood Neighbourhood Council continues to meet with the John Howard Society as a member and there are plans to expand the scope of the Neighbourhood Council to include issues around traffic calming and parking.</p>

Responsible Gambling Awareness Week	BCLC, City of Vernon, Social Planning Council, NOEES, John Howard Society, Kindale, UBCO and OC students, Gambling Counselling Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ City of Vernon entered into a \$50,000 sponsorship agreement with BCLC for a responsible gambling initiative. The City of Vernon approved a proposal by the Social Planning Council to host a Responsible Gambling Awareness Week over two consecutive years. NOEES has been hired to work with the action team and coordinate the activities and communications campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The January 2012 campaign was a huge success and evaluation results were presented to City Council in the Spring of 2012. ✚ As a result of the success of the campaign, BCLC decided to expand the project to four other communities in BC in 2013: Kamloops, Langley, Prince George and Westshore. ✚ The evaluation for the January 2013 campaign will be forwarded to the City of Vernon in March 2013.
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
The Viridian Affordable Housing Project	BC Housing, Social Planning Council, Kindale Developmental Association, the Land Trust, Constructive Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ In the Spring of 2011, Social Planning Council assisted the partner organizations to develop a business plan that outlined an affordable housing project that would be a mix of market and non-market units. In the Fall of 2012, BC Housing was able to fund the complete purchase of the project so that all the units can be non-market affordable units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ BC Housing will fund the Vernon Viridian project which will potentially provide up to 20 units of affordable housing. The project will be managed and operated by Kindale Developmental Association.
Housing Forum	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Vancouver Foundation, City of Vernon Affordable Housing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Social Planning Council and the City of Vernon's Affordable Housing Committee hosted a housing forum for potential developers of affordable housing (both non-profit and private). The forum included an overview of the Affordable Housing Developer's Package and presentations from BC Housing and CMHC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A Housing Forum was hosted on January 26, 2012 with over 100 participants from the non-profit and private housing sector.

North Okanagan Affordable Housing Developers Package	Social Planning Council, City of Vernon, Community Futures, Vancouver Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Social Planning Council received funding from the Vancouver Foundation to create an affordable housing developer's package that provides information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Definitions/terminology ✚ Targets and price points ✚ Overview of municipal policy ✚ Information on provincial and federal grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A comprehensive developer's package on affordable housing is now posted on the City of Vernon and Social Planning Council's websites. This resource will assist both non-profit and private developers of affordable housing to understand the policies and programs that exist to support the creation of affordable units.
Land Inventory for Affordable Housing	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Vancouver Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Social Planning Council 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 was hired to compile the list of organizations and identifying land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A land inventory is now in place that can assist with identifying potential partnerships/opportunities for affordable housing initiatives. The inventory was presented as part of a developer's package at the Housing Forum in January 2012.
Regional Housing Needs and Demand Study	Vision North Okanagan, Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Okanagan College, City of Vernon Affordable Housing Committee, RDNO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A regional housing needs and demand study was identified as a priority in the development of the affordable housing developer's package. The scope could include both market and non-market housing and would detail the typology, location, unmet needs and potential market demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The City of Vernon has hired a consultant to complete a Housing Needs and Demand Study for Vernon as part of the OCP Review. Social Planning Council will assist with this process. There is a possibility that RDNO will expand the study to a regional scope if grant funding is secured.
Safety Strategies for Families in Potentially Unsafe Housing	City of Vernon, John Howard Society, Early Childhood Development Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ There have been a number of house fire tragedies in BC that could have been prevented with proper smoke detectors and fire plans. The action team was created to address this issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The City of Vernon Fire Department took the lead on this problem and have developed a comprehensive program to ensure residents in Vernon have access to proper smoke detectors. Partners in Action met with the Fire Department to provide feedback and support to the project.

INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION			
Create a Children's Charter in Vernon	North Okanagan ECD Coalition Coordinator, Social Planning Council, Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An action team was created to facilitate the development of a Children's Charter for Vernon and host a Champion for Children's Forum in May of 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Community Charter for Children was developed and signed by key community organizations including the City of Vernon. The Charter was presented at the Champion for Children's Forum in May 2012. City of Vernon now has representation on the Early Childhood Development Coalition.
BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY			
Creating a Community Farm	BC Schizophrenic Society (BCSS), Social Planning Council, Okanagan College, Kindale, Food Action Society, CMHA, interested citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In March 2011, an action team was created to support the partnership development to create a community farm in Vernon. A business plan was completed by March 31, 2012. Kindale has agreed to be the lead agency for the non-profit groups who will make up the community farm consortium (Patchwork Community Farms). A partnership has been created between Patchwork Community Farms and OC for use of ½ acre at the Vernon Campus. OC and the Community Farm will work on developing integrated programming, sharing resources and partnering on grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of the infrastructure is now in place at the OC site, including fencing and irrigation. A food forest was planted in the Fall of 2012 and programming will begin in the Spring of 2013.
Strategy for Welcoming Communities Funding	Social Planning Council, Vernon Immigrant Services, City of Vernon, Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures, NOEES, First Nations Friendship Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province of BC has funding for communities to increase their capacity to be welcoming and inclusive to New Immigrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Planning Council has secured \$167,000 for projects in Vernon that are targeted towards welcoming New Immigrants. A strategic planning session is being held on January 23, 2012 to create an action plan on how to best use the funds. Partnerships are currently being developed to implement the action plan.

INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
Justice Park	DVA, Social Planning Council, Tolko, Nixon Wenger, Okanagan Regional Library, ECD Coalition, Independent Living Vernon, Province of BC, City of Vernon, RDNO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DVA has identified Justice Park as a green space in need of some improvements. The new library, Nixon Wenger and Tolko buildings have increased the pedestrian traffic in this area. The DVA has also contacted the Province of BC (the owners of the park) and the City of Vernon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The action team developed recommendations on what improvements should be prioritized for the green space. The following areas were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safety and security – in particular at the back of the water feature more amenities – including more benches and tables accessibility – pathways and stairs difficult to navigate for people with mobility issues The action team and City of Vernon have liaised with the Province of BC to discuss these improvements. The Province of BC will meet with the action team in the Spring of 2013 once they establish if there is a budget for these improvements. In the meantime, two potential donors of benches for the park have come forward.
Toilet Action Team	DVA, Okanagan Regional Library, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Toilet Action Team met with the City of Vernon in June 2012 to discuss the gap created for access to public washrooms by the relocation of the library. The Toilet Action Team came up with a series of short, intermediate and long term recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Summer of 2012, a flyer was created and distributed to downtown businesses that identifies existing public washroom times/locations. City Council is pursuing “high end” portable public washrooms in Centotaph Park.
CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES			
Wide Community Representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the quarter, the Partners in Action Committee made an effort to recruit the skills and resources needed to achieve the goals of the action teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 150 organizations, institutions, community champions and businesses have participated in action team events this year.