

HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING COALITION UPDATE

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 20, 2003, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.
2. A presentation on the human services government relations strategy be made to the Finance & Administration Committee on October 2, 2003.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on human services planning and 2003/04 workplan of the Human Services Planning Coalition (HSPC).

3. BACKGROUND

The Human Services Strategy, approved by Regional Council in November 2000, is a key policy document in Vision 2026 and the Regional Official Plan. Human Services planning is an integral component of the Region's growth management strategy. Human services are defined as those programs and services that support a safe, health community and maintain and promote its quality of life. Among others, they include the police, schools, hospitals, housing providers, social services, public health, municipal recreation departments, religious organizations, neighbourhood centres, individual practitioners, non-profit, voluntary and commercial organizations.

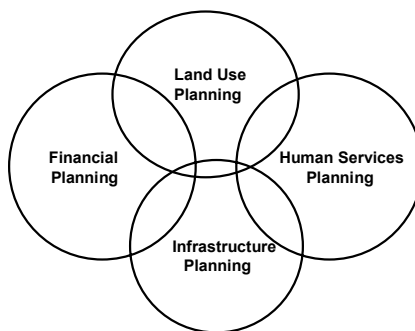
The HSPC was formed in recognition of the need for long-term, sustainable integrated planning and funding of human services. Established in February 2001, HSPC partners include representatives of government, service provider agencies and corporations, the non-profit sector and consumers of human services. The HSPC is Co-Chaired by Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio and Mr. Bill Hogarth, Director of York Region District School Board.

The HSPC approved its first annual report *From Plan to Action 2001-2002* on March 26, 2003. On May 21, 2003 the HSPC approved its 2003/2004 workplan.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Human Services Planning in a Growth Management Strategy

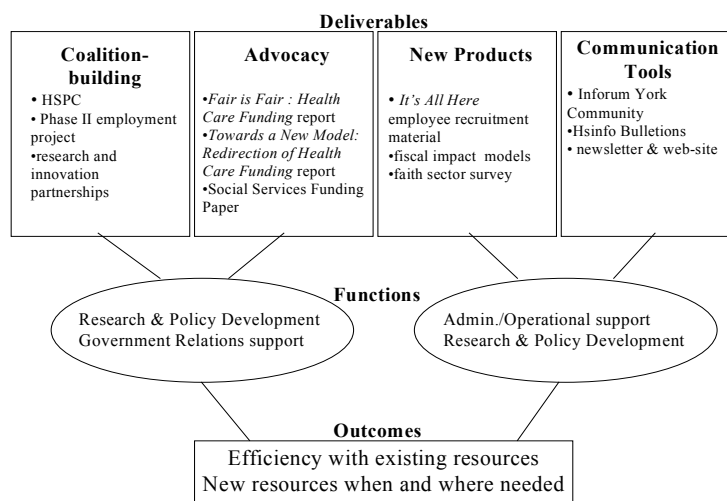
York Region was the first municipality in Ontario to have a comprehensive, inclusive Human Services Strategy in place. The Human Services Planning



branch was established in the Planning and Development Services Department in 2001 to ensure the recommendations of the strategy were implemented. The close proximity of human services planning with long-range strategic planning, transportation and transit planning and York Region's housing strategy facilitates a seamless and integrated approach to community planning – in its broadest sense.

Chart 1 indicates the deliverables, functions and outcomes for the Human Services Planning branch.

Chart 1
Human Service Planning in a Growth Management Strategy



4.2 HSPC Workplan for 2003/2004

The HSPC workplan identifies five priorities for 2003/04:

- Leadership
- Funding
- Communication
- Education and information-sharing
- Long-term planning

It is interesting to note that these same five priorities have been maintained by the HSPC since its establishment in 2001.

In 2003/04 the HSPC will be continuing a number of projects that were started in the previous two years.

4.2.1 Social Services Funding Paper

A cross-sectoral report documenting under-funding of social services in York Region and its impact on families, individuals and the community has been in development for the past year. The report will be a companion paper to the health care funding report called *Towards a New Model*. Both papers recommend the provincial government initiate new funding models that adhere to the principles outlined in the *Rozanski Report* on

education funding – adequacy, affordability, equity, stability, flexibility and accountability.

A final draft of the paper is scheduled for adoption by the HSPC at their September 17 meeting.

4.2.2 Employment Project

This project has leveraged new funding of \$483,440 over two years from HRDC to address labour shortages in the human service sector to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. Phase I of the project focussed on recruitment and retention tools for human service employers. Phase II is expanding the scope of collaboration to include private sector and business employers.

The project has made a significant contribution by producing and marketing resource material to employers and potential employees to promote York Region as a great place to live, learn, work and play. The project will host a workforce summit on September 26 with participants from business, government, educational institutions, unions, professional associations and the non-profit sector. The summit agenda is organized to produce a region-wide action plan for recruitment and retention.

4.2.3 Research

The HSPC recognizes the value of research and innovation partnerships. In 2002, the coalition reached an understanding with York University that mutual benefit could be gained in collaborative research. The HSPC has struck a Research and Innovation Action Group with cross-sectoral representation to provide leadership in coordinating research efforts in the human services sector in York Region.

A major project is joint research on immigrant settlement patterns in York Region, capacities and gaps in settlement service programs. The scope of the project will encompass a broad range of agencies that serve new Canadians in York Region. Provincial and federal sources of funding are being sought through the sponsorship of the HSPC, York University and York Region.

Other projects in development include a study of the impact of integrated planning models and a catalogue of local research activities that can be accessed through York Region's human services planning website.

4.3 New Projects in 2003/2004

The HSPC has already started work on a number of new projects. For example, over 200 churches and places of worship were asked about the human services they provide in their communities. The results will be mapped to better understand the availability of faith-based services and programs in York Region.

In another project, a sector consultation has been initiated with HSPC representatives to evaluate the effectiveness of the coalition and channels of communication with the broader community. The HSPC's nine community members are playing an active role in completion of this project. The results of the consultation will be presented for HSPC's further consideration in January 2004.

Other projects that have been identified for consideration in 2004 include a seniors summit, a diversity strategy, a youth strategy and vision 2026 performance indicators.

4.4 Government Relations Strategy

The HSPC struck an Action Group, with representation from participating funding partners, to guide the development of a government relations strategy. The strategy is jointly funded by hospitals, school boards, the United Way and York Region.

As a result of the strategy, the Regional Chair, HSPC Co-Chairs and regional staff have met with MPPs to highlight the issues of rapid growth in York Region and the need for adequate and timely investment in human services. The main thrust of the presentations has been:

- government funding for human services should be, on balance, the same no matter where you live
- York Region's historical under-funding has magnified the differences between service demands and current funding

The HSPC's health care and social services funding papers are critical components of the strategy, documenting how and why the *Rozanski* principles are the foundation for new funding models.

The government relations strategy has focussed on creating a win-win solution for York Region and senior levels of government that address historical under-funding for York Region and relentless requests for more funding from all jurisdictions. Response to the Region's position on under-funding and the need to create new, rational models of funding for human services have been well received but upcoming provincial elections have stalled commitments from MPPs to proceed with further discussions.

Given the political environment, the next steps in the strategy will be to:

- complete documentation of under-funding and impacts in social services and health care papers
- Communicate strategy to all local area and Regional Councillors
- Communicate strategy to media and public in preparation for implementation in 2004

In order to advance activity on the last two steps, it is recommended that a presentation on the human services government relations strategy be made to the Finance and Administration Committee on October 2, 2003. Mayors who are not members of the Committee will be invited to attend.

4.5 Relationship to Vision 2026

Human services planning and the HSPC meet a number of goals in Vision 2026. The most compelling is goal 6 which states "York Region will grow at a pace that supports healthy communities, economic vitality, sustainable natural environments and effective human services".

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications at this time.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local municipalities are important partners in the provision of human services in York Region. Programs and services provided by the Human Services Planning Branch continually and consistently include representation of the interests of area municipalities.

Wherever feasible, representation from area municipal councillors or staff are included on committees and focus groups. Communications from the HSPC and the Human Services Planning Branch are routinely circulated to area municipal councillors and staff.

7. CONCLUSION

Regional Council's investment in human services planning is bringing added value to the Region. In terms of direct funding, the HSPC has leveraged \$483,440 in additional dollars from the federal government to address labour market issues. The social services and health care funding papers document the extent and impact of under-funding for human services in York Region and the government relations strategy is actively advocating for new funding models that recognize the pace of growth.

York Region's leadership in integrating human services with growth management has increased the capacity for service providers and funders to ensure effective use of existing resources and to proactively plan for new resources when and where they are needed.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.