

Waterloo Region

*Focus on Youth*

2018

# Focus on Youth 2018

**Goal:** *each agency to present their top 3-4 initiatives related to a “Focus on Youth”.*

## **Objectives:**

1. Opportunity to network, share resources, create new pathways to better support and care for our youth in Waterloo Region
2. Embrace future collaboration and co-creation
3. To know what each group/agency is doing

# FOCUSING on YOUTH in 2018

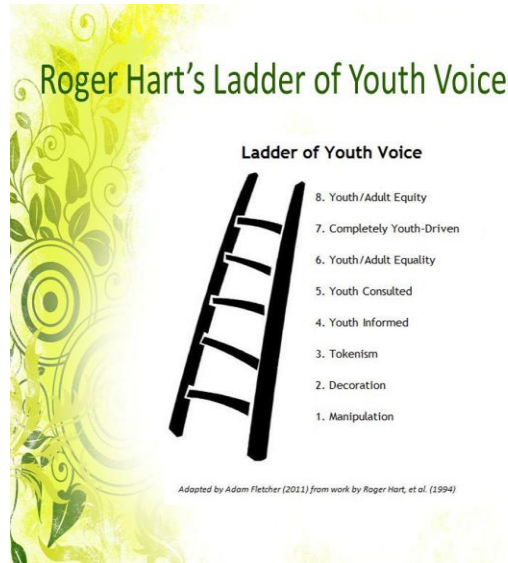
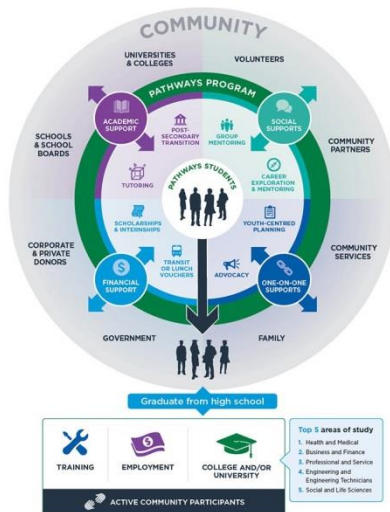
- Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region
- Woolwich Community Health Centre
- Local Health Integration Network
- Langs
- YMCAs of Cambridge & Kitchener-Waterloo
- Lutherwood
- Carizon
- Ray of Hope
- Waterloo Region Police Service
- John Howard Society
- United Way Waterloo Region Communities
- Family and Children Services
- Developmental Services Resource Centre
- Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council
- Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council
- Ministry of Child and Youth Services



# Carizon – Debbie Engel

1. Newcomer Programs for Youth
2. Standing Strong (Teen Girls Group) 12 -16
3. Youth in Two Cultures – male youth 12 – 16.
4. Youth in Diverse Cultures –male youth 17 – 24.
5. Youth Drop In

**SUPPORTING THE STUDENT JOURNEY:**  
An integrated approach



# Crime Prevention Council – Chris Sadeler

1. Engaging Hard to Serve Youth
  - Understanding what makes youth ‘hard to reach’
  - What are the best practices related to supporting ‘hard to reach’ youth
2. Funding to continue to do this work
3. Focus groups – opioid use among youth

Note: Focus on Youth has been slow due to the need to focus on the Opioid Crisis in our Region

# Developmental Services Resource Centre – Laura Thies

- 1. Youth specific team** - to support complex youth
- 2. Co-ordinated Service Planning** is continuing to work with community partners . The service coordinators have been hired.
- 3. FASD case manager position** – new ministry annualized position



# Family & Children's Services – Chris Reitzel



Review of new legislation and the mandates attached:

- Protection Services for 16 – 17 Year Olds
- Effective January 1, 2018
- ensures that 16 and 17 year olds will be eligible for the full range of protection services
- Includes youth who have left home because of concerns about safety or risk of harm at home, and youth who are homeless,
- The process for making a referral regarding protection concerns about a 16 or 17 year old youth remains unchanged

# John Howard Society – Joan Nandlal

1. Best practices related to Diversion programs
2. Youth in Transition support
3. Work with children and youth at risk of offending



# Langs – Bill Davidson

1. Development of community services and recreational opportunities
2. Youth Wellness Hub concept
3. Youth programming in the schools
4. Enhance the connection of youth with primary care
5. Enhance work with newcomers



# Lutherwood – Kathy Payette

## MCYS: Moving on Mental Health Waterloo Region



**Vision:** *Children, youth and families get compassionate, quality mental health supports when and where they need them.*

## Waterloo Region, community key priority areas for 2018/19

- Awareness
- Access
- Youth Engagement
- Family support & Engagement
- Clinical/Service Excellence

## Lutherwood Focus on Youth 2018

*Increase the number of integrated groups, systems, services and pathways for youth in Waterloo Region.*

1. **Youth Engagement** (LWD/KW Counselling/Community)
2. **Youth Wellness Hub** (LWD/Carizon/Langs/Ray of Hope/CMHA)
3. **Transition Aged Youth protocol** (LWD/CMHA)
4. **Life Launch** (LWD)



# Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) – Jennifer Kaytar

1. Focus on home and community care – including youth
2. Improve access and care
3. Review structured psychotherapy programs for youth
4. Improve access to psychiatry for youth

# Ray of Hope – Harry Whyte

1. Residential Treatment Programming (6 provincial beds for 13-17yr males)
2. Day Treatment Program (Females & males 13-17yrs)
3. Community –Based Treatment Program (Females & males 13-17yrs living in Waterloo Region)
4. Ray of Hope's Youth Employment Training Program, in partnership with Service Canada, has the goal to help young people receive the employment training, life skills development, and work experience

# Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services – Healthy Living Division

1. Collaborate with organizations across Waterloo Region, through the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, to plan and implement activities, programs, and supports that promote healthy weights among children 0-12 years  
[www.regionofwaterloo.ca/healthykids](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/healthykids)
2. Support local youth groups in the creation and implementation of tobacco, e-cigarette and other health initiatives
3. Co-Chair the Waterloo Region Youth Engagement Community of Practice (YE CoP)
4. Partner with local Youth Advisory Councils related to tobacco use prevention

# Woolwich Community Health Centre – Denise Squire

1. Looking at their rural youth population / focusing on their needs
2. Enhancing primary care – specializing in youth mental health
3. Establishment of a Youth Advisory Committee
4. Addressing youth engagement (Mennonite youth)



Woolwich Community  
HEALTH CENTRE

## Youth & Hate Crimes – Sarah Shafiq

- New focus for our region coming out of a forum last year after shooting in Quebec and is just getting established

# YMCA – Beth King

1. Focus on youth 13-18yr. focus on older youth 19-24yr as staff and young leaders
2. Currently have a youth drop-in zone in Cambridge
3. Provision of a significant number of newcomer youth/family programs (youth employment, groups, 1;1 supports, theater project, etc.
4. Focus for strategic plan → how can we more effectively serve youth?

# United Way Waterloo Region – Julia Gingrich

1. **Increase the successful transition to adulthood** of vulnerable youth, by helping them build developmental assets
2. **Collective Impact Strategy**

**Intended Impact:** Vulnerable children and youth will experience a significant increase in the developmental assets they need to be healthy, caring, responsible and succeed

# Waterloo Regional Police (WRP) – Lee Fitzpatrick



1. Enhance the work of the new School Support Branch and the services they provide
2. Children's Safety Village enhancements
3. National Youth Leadership Workshop



# Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council (WRSPC) – Tana Nash

- **Upstream Preventative - HOPE**

1. Youth related education materials
2. Free community skates
3. Free light therapy lamps
4. APP for primary care providers
5. Free tickets to the Titans game.

- **Intervention - HELP**

1. Skills for Safer Living (SFSL) Pilots for ages 13-16 with concurrent parent group.



# Gaps/thoughts discussed:

1. Indigenous representation around the table
2. Need to hear from the school boards and the work they are doing
3. Can we use the Hub model to further look at gaps, have the community help build the concept
4. How do we support the school boards – teacher/cyw staff – as they support struggling youth?
5. Keep a focus on prevention – this is an area that is most difficult to ensure sustainable funding yet is +++ important. How do we address universal prevention in our region?
6. Community needs to look for the connection points for all Focus on Youth initiatives
7. Wellbeing Waterloo Region and the work of the Children's Planning Table (Family Compass program) → here is potentially a place to have prevention a priority – how can we further create/work on with youth?
8. Prevention needs to become a way of thinking verses a program.
9. All youth need to have a feeling of security in our region

# Specific focus areas

1. **Newcomers:** Carizon, Langs, YMCA
2. **Rural population:** Woolwich, Langs
3. **Drop-in/Hubs:** Carizon, Langs, LWD, Ray of Hope, CMHA, YMCA
4. **Youth engagement:** LWD, Woolwich
5. **Youth in transition:** CAS, John Howard, LWD, United Way
6. **Substance use/Tx:** Ray of Hope, CPC
7. **Connecting youth to primary care/psychiatry:** Langs, LHIN, Woolwich, WRSPC
8. **Hard to serve youth:** CPC
9. **Complex youth:** DSRC
10. **Youth Housing:** LWD



**OPPORTUNITY  
AHEAD**

