

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PLANNING TABLE COLLECTIVE IMPACT RECOMMENDATION WORKING GROUP FINAL RECOMMENDATION

The Children and Youth Planning Table has been readying to move into improving the wellbeing of children and youth through a collective impact approach. In response, a Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group was established. The Working Group's objective was to produce a recommendation for the Children and Youth Planning Table on a priority area of focus for Collective Impact. This Working Group was also asked for this recommendation to go to Wellbeing Waterloo Region (as Wellbeing Waterloo Region has a shared interest in identifying a priority area of focus for Collective Impact related to Healthy Children and Youth, and sees the opportunity to leverage collective energy into a shared area of focus).

In bringing these efforts together, the Working Group was asked to review multiple sources of data (including community input), current efforts, and Collective Impact examples in other Canadian communities across the following 6 potential priority areas:

1. Bullying
2. Early childhood development
3. High school graduation rates
4. Literacy
5. Mental health
6. Sense of belonging

Recommendation to the Children and Youth Planning Table and Wellbeing Waterloo Region

The Working Group is recommending to the Children and Youth Planning Table, and to Wellbeing Waterloo Region, that the best place to start for collective impact work related to child and youth wellbeing in Waterloo Region is **sense of belonging**.

The Working Group developed a set of criteria to help score the six possible areas of focus. The Working Group made the decision that three of the seven criteria (as indicated with an asterisk) were particularly critical and in turn, needed to be weighted more heavily in the scoring (double-weighted).

The criteria used were as follows:

- **Local quantitative and qualitative data supports the need***
- **Upstream in terms of its general impact on child and youth wellbeing – prevention, promotion and proactive focus***
- **Opportunities for multiple “moving trains” to connect, support and actively participate in the work***
- Significant impact on wellbeing
- Has the potential to impact on other items of the list of “6 areas of focus”
- Adds to the momentum already present in the community
- Potential for the general public to connect into the work

The Working Group has made this recommendation based on several sources of quantitative and qualitative data including input from the Children and Youth Planning Table membership (particularly the November 2017 State of Child and Youth Wellbeing forum, and the June 2018 Problem Mapping Sessions facilitated by Overlap Associates [Interconnected Problem Map – Appendix B]), community engagement via Wellbeing Waterloo Region and Smart Cities, and insight from UNICEF Canada's One Youth initiative. For all sources of data and input, see Appendix A.

Of the six potential areas of focus, **sense of belonging** scored the highest through the Working Group's criteria scoring, was the area with the greatest connectivity to the other 5 potential areas of focus, and was recognized by Working Group members as foundational to child and youth wellbeing (see the image on page 3 and Appendix C for further detail). As the Working Group learned through the process, feeling a social and environmental connection gives children of all ages and youth a sense of stability - helping them deal with challenges and uncertainty. Those with a strong sense of belonging are more likely to have social networks and be engaged in their community.

Recommended Next Steps

The Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group is recommending the following next steps in moving forward the recommendation....

1. Establish a Sense of Belonging Collective Impact Working Group via the Children and Youth Planning Table (with membership open to those connected to the Children and Youth Planning Table, as well as those connected to the work of Wellbeing Waterloo Region, and potentially others). This Working Group will be tasked with developing the strategy to move forward with collective impact focusing on sense of belonging for children and youth in Waterloo Region. This strategy ideally is one that could be used for any appropriate funding applications (i.e., Ontario Trillium Foundation Transform Grant), and is created using the following recommended lenses:
 - Promotes growth rather than prevents distress
 - Provides opportunities for strategies related to both children and youth (with intentional thought given to children in the 6 to 12 year old age bracket)
2. Work with children, youth and caring adults in our community to define what sense of belonging, specifically for children and youth, means.
3. Validate with children and youth the perceived connection between sense of belonging and the other 5 areas of focus - bullying, early child development, high school graduation, literacy and mental health.

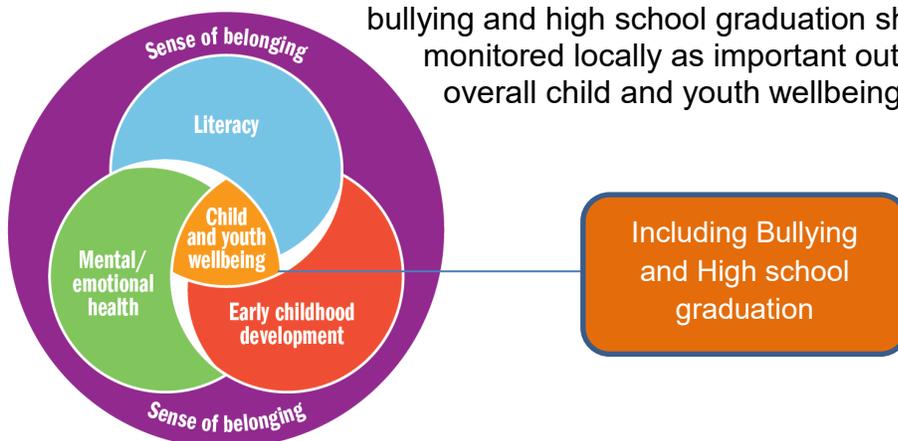
Additional Recommendation to Smart Waterloo Region

Smart Waterloo Region is a complimentary initiative rolling out locally, which is seeking to pair data/tech-enabled solutions to address issues related to healthy children and youth (specifically referencing the same 6 potential areas of focus). In recognition of the efforts of the Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group to understand the relationship between the 6 potential areas of focus, the Smart Waterloo Region team was keenly interested in the Working Group's recommendation on how to meaningfully go forward in working with these areas of focus (and potentially collapsing down).

The Children and Youth Planning Table Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group is recommending Smart Waterloo Region focus on four of the six areas of focus:

- **Early child development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mental health**
- **Sense of belonging**

While bullying and high school graduation are connected to child and youth wellbeing, the Working Group members believe they are symptoms or outcomes of the other four areas of focus. While not a recommended focus for Smart Waterloo Region, both bullying and high school graduation should be tracked and monitored locally as important outcome measures of overall child and youth wellbeing.



The Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group has made this recommendation based on quantitative and qualitative data, input from the Children and Youth Planning Table membership - including the June 12, 2018 Problem Mapping Sessions facilitated by Overlap Associates, community engagement via Wellbeing Waterloo Region and Smart Cities and insight from UNICEF Canada's One Youth initiative.

Recommended Next Steps

1. The forthcoming Sense of Belonging Collective Impact Working Group (mentioned above) can act as a go-to group for Smart Waterloo Region in relation to the sense of belonging pillar in Smart Waterloo Region.
2. Meaningfully involve local children, youth and caring adults in the collective impact approach taken by the Children and Youth Planning Table and Phase 2 of Smart Waterloo Region.

APPENDIX A – SOURCES OF DATA AND INPUT

Source	Notes
A Snapshot of Child and Youth Wellbeing Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 system-level indicators of child and youth wellbeing in Waterloo Region with Provincial comparisons where available
Wellbeing Waterloo Region (WWR) – Wellbeing Report (CIW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A look at well-being in general in Waterloo Region across 8 domains with Provincial comparisons
WWR Community Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of all raw data collected through the WWR community consultation process related to children and youth
Measuring and Monitoring Wellbeing in Waterloo Region – Results of Partner Agency Wellbeing Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A look at wellbeing of targeted groups, including youth, in Waterloo Region across 8 domains with Provincial comparisons
Smart Cities Community Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of all raw data collected through the Smart Cities community consultation process related to children and youth
UNICEF Canada One Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National look at child and youth wellbeing with comparison to other “wealthy” countries
Rural Youth and Young Adult Wellbeing Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from youth living in one of the four townships related to the CYPT 6 Shared Goals for Child and Youth Wellbeing
Public Health Youth Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A look at input from local youth regarding their risk-taking behaviours related to issues of wellbeing
WWLHIN Report (bullying)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A look at local (Waterloo and Wellington regions) data from youth related to bullying experiences
WorldVuze consultation with youth for the Children and Youth Planning Table (November 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input from youth of varying ages across Waterloo Region regarding the 6 Shared Goals for Child and Youth Wellbeing
Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Planning Consultation with parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input from parents across Waterloo Region regarding the importance of the 6 Shared Goals for Child and Youth Wellbeing
Community Fit for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive information related to the wellbeing of young children and families in Waterloo Region (particularly the EDI and KPS)
Halton’s Our Kids Network – Focus on EDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone interview conducted by the Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group

Source	Notes
City of Prince George, BC – Focus on Sense of Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone interview conducted by the Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group
City of London's Child and Youth Network – Focus on Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone interview conducted by the Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group
City of Ottawa – Focus on Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone interview conducted by the Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group
The County Community Foundation (Prince Edward County) – Focus on High School Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone interview conducted by the Collective Impact Recommendation Working Group

APPENDIX B – INTERCONNECTED PROBLEM MAP

Interconnected Problem Map



APPENDIX C- AREAS OF FOCUS & CRITERIA SCORED

Area of Focus	Working Group Score (out of 1000)
Sense of Belonging	642
Early Child Development	574
Mental Health	554
Literacy	446
High School Graduation	407
Bullying	378