

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Final Report: 2010

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, Service Canada, City of Vernon, Transition House, Women’s Centre, 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
ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS			
Supporting Upper Room Mission	Upper Room Mission, RCMP Safe Communities, Social Planning Council, John Howard Society, Vernon Women’s Centre, Downtown Primary Care Centre, Interior Health Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team re-opened in Spring 2009 in recognition that the Upper Room Mission (URM) is in need of renovations in order to handle the number of homeless people accessing their services. ✚ By April 2010, URM secured federal funding for the renovations to the facility, including more washrooms and the creation of a nurse’s room. URM has approval for building code requirements and the renovations are moving forward. Action team is now closed. 	✚ Renovations to be completed by Spring 2010. Results will be more washroom and shower facilities for the homeless population and a fully equipped nurse’s room for medical outreach.
Strategic Planning: Charitable Food System	Trinity United Church, Upper Room Mission, Food Action Coalition, Social Planning Council	✚ Formed in June 2010, the focus of the action team is to organize a community strategic planning session for charitable food organizations. Trinity United is spearheading the action team as they see an opportunity for more partnerships to address gaps. The action team has created a background paper that outlines an inventory of services and current gaps. A community consultation has been set for Feb 10, 2011.	✚ Partnerships that result in a more efficient community approach to charitable food distribution. Increase in access to charitable food services for marginalized populations.

Harm Reduction Strategy/ Evaluation	North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, RCMP Safe Communities Unit , Social Planning Council, Interior Health, Upper Room Mission, Restorative Justice Program, Downtown Primary Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in Fall 2008 to create a harm reduction strategy that supports efforts for dealing effectively with addictions in our community. In addition, the team will support the Street Clinic during its transition to an outreach model. ✚ By April 2010, the strategy had been launched and action teams implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A community driven harm reduction strategy created and adopted by the Partners in Action Committee. A Harm Reduction Evaluation Team has been put in place to monitor the successes/challenges.
Evaluation and Update of Homelessness Strategy	Upper Room Mission, Social Planning Council, Partners in Action Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A consultant has been hired (Ted Treller, Lochaven Management) to undertake the evaluation. Ted has met with the Partners in Action Coordinating Committee and conducted interviews with stakeholders. The evaluation is now complete and will be used as a guiding document to update the strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ An evaluation of the Homelessness Strategy to be used as a guiding document to update the plan (see attached).
Protocol for Coordinating Services for FASD Clients	FASD Committee, Kindale, Social Planning, Ministry of Social Development, First Nations Friendship Centre, IH, Community Policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The action team has met and come up with a plan for creating a protocol for supporting clients with FASD. Members are working on a background paper that covers existing resources and protocols within Ministries. Once this is completed, a wider community meeting will be organized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A protocol that improves coordination between service providers for people with FASD.
INCREASE NUMBER OF SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS			
Second Stage Housing for Women	Transition House, John Howard Society, First Nations Friendship Centre, Women's Centre, IHA, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Members have developed a business plan and secured a partnership with the Anglican Church for the location of the project. Unfortunately, it has proved challenging to secure funding for a Coordinator of the project. The team is waiting to hear back from various funders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Women with addictions will have access to housing with appropriate programming.
Analysis/ Strategy on Affordability in Housing in Greater Vernon	Social Planning Council, Community Futures, Constructive Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team created in summer 2009 to research other models for affordable housing and create further strategies for Greater Vernon. ✚ By October 2009, research component had been completed. ✚ By March 2010, report was completed and presented to the Affordable Housing Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Further strategies in place for the Partners in Action Committee and Affordable Housing Committee to implement in order to increase affordable and attainable housing units.

Housing Forum	Social Planning Council, City of Vernon Affordable Housing Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Social Planning Council secured funding from ACT in February 2010 to host a housing forum with information booths and speakers in conjunction with the Affordable Housing Committee. The Housing forum was held on April 15th at the Schubert Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Over 150 people took part in the forum.
Under One Roof Partnership	City of Vernon, BC Housing, Ministry of Housing and Social Development, Vernon and District Community Land Trust, Habitat for Humanity, Kindale Developmental Association, Community Futures, Social Planning Council, Okanagan College, Heartwood Homes, MQN Architects, Prestige Inn and Forsters Restaurant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed summer of 2008. By September 2008, the City had purchased the property of 4100 25th Ave. for the purpose of affordable housing. ✚ By December 2008, the Land Trust had formed a partnership with Kindale, Habitat for Humanity and Okanagan College to develop the property into a six-plex. ✚ By March 2009, financing is secured and plans on schedule for construction to begin in April. ✚ By December of 2009, building is almost completed. ✚ By March 2010, families are living in the units. Action Team is closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Six affordable housing units have been added to the affordable housing stock. ✚ The <i>Under One Roof</i> model was presented at The BC Non-Profit Housing Society as a best practices project.
Review of Pet Policy in Affordable Units	Independent Living Vernon, Social Planning, Vernon and District Association for Community Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team was formed in September 2010 to address the issue of lack of affordable housing units that allow pets. The action team hosted a Dialogue on Pet Policies in November. As a result a new action team will be formed to investigate a society that would support low income pet owners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ To be updated.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team created in April 2010 as a result of a speaker event hosted by the ECD Coalition. It was recommended that a Council for Children be created that includes the business sector in promoting early childhood development and education. The action team is developing a draft charter to present to Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ A community Charter and/or Council for Children.

BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY CAPACITY			
Using Lakers Clubhouse for non-profit and/or continuing education programs	People Place, Okanagan College, North Okanagan ECD Coalition, Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team formed April 2010. People Place was interested in leasing the property and renting the space for non-profit programming (including family/child programs and activities). People Place will contact GVS to investigate potential partnerships. The action team is now closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for community non-profit partners involved in Lakers Club House.
Create a “Living in Vernon” brochure/dvd in multiple languages.	Vision North Okanagan Action Team: Social Planning Council, Vernon Tourism, Economic Development Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action team formed in April 2010 as a result of the Social Planning Council successfully securing a \$30,000 grant from the BC Welcoming Communities Fund. A <i>Living in Vernon</i> brochure/dvd will be used to attract businesses/families/individuals by highlighting the advantages of living in Vernon. Having the material in multiple languages ensures that immigrant entrepreneurs/skilled workers feel welcome and valued. A final copy of the brochure is completed and will be posted on the City of Vernon’s website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing/ tools to help attract skilled workers from a variety of cultures/backgrounds to our community (see attached).
INCREASING SENSE OF SAFETY DOWNTOWN			
Public Toilets	Social Planning Council, DVA, Okanagan Regional Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team formed in December 2008 to research the need, accessibility, security and potential funding sources for more public toilets. The action team is working with City of Vernon staff to ensure public toilets are included in the city center/ downtown area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needle drop boxes located in the library public washrooms have significantly reduced the maintenance costs The DVA worked with the City of Vernon to ensure BC transit bus drivers have access to business washrooms when needed Public washrooms will be included in planning for future civic buildings

Security Plan for Teen Night	RCMP, DVA, Community Policing, Upper Room Mission, Salvation Army, PAC's from Fulton and VSS, By-laws Department, NOYFSS, Social Planning,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Action team formed in January 2010 to address concerns about safety issues at the teen nights held at the Lime restaurant. ✚ A draft security plan was created and then presented to event organizer for input. The DJ who hosts the event has already implemented some of the recommendations and is willing to work more closely with the action team. Since there have been no more Teen Nights hosted this year, the action team is now closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Organizers of the event have agreed to implement some of the recommendations. Another teen night has not been hosted since this meeting so we have been unable to evaluate the success of the security plan.
CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PARTNERS INITIATIVES			
Media Coverage	Social Planning Council Morning Star, Sun FM, Kiss FM, CHBC, Shaw Cable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Partner's coordinator and action team chairs engaged local media in their strategies and results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ 15 newspaper articles, 10 radio interviews and 3 television interview on various action team strategies.
Community Presentations	Social Planning Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Presentations on the Partners in Action model and/or specific action teams were made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vision North Okanagan ○ Drug Task Force for the Central Okanagan Regional District ○ Oliver Affordable Housing Committee ○ Nelson Social Planning Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Partners in Action is gaining provincial attention as other communities inquire about the model and/or action team results.
Wide Community Representation on Action Teams	Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Throughout the quarter, the Partners 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 120 organizations, institutions, community champions and businesses have participated in action teams in 2010.