

Toward Common Ground

Strategic Plan



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INTRODUCTION



Who we are

Toward Common Ground (TCG) is a collaboration of the following 13 social and health service organizations:

- City of Guelph
- Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington
- County of Wellington
- Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington
- Family Counselling and Support Service for Guelph-Wellington
- Guelph Community Foundation
- Guelph Community Health Centre
- United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin
- University of Guelph Community Engaged Scholarship Institution
- Volunteer Centre of Guelph Wellington
- Waterloo Wellington Canadian Mental Health Association
- Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health
- YMCA-YWCA of Guelph

Through much dialogue, decisions and prototyping of ideas, we have created an innovative, sustainable collective planning model for Guelph & Wellington.

This strategic plan is a living document that describes our model and provides us with direction and focus as we move together toward our collective vision.



What we do and how we do it

Vision

Everyone in Guelph & Wellington is happy, healthy and thriving.

Mission

We identify needs and take collective action that improves the lives of people in Guelph & Wellington.





What we do and how we do it

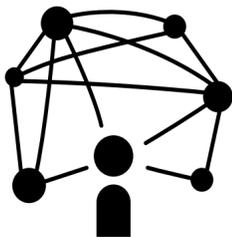
Pathways

Pathways describe the mechanisms that we use to affect change.



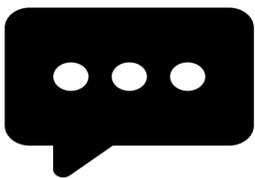
Create a bird's eye view

Through common language, centralize and create a high-level view of information and data about collective social and health needs, gaps, strengths and responses in Guelph & Wellington.



Connect the dots and contextualize

Through common language, centralize and create a high-level view of information and data about collective social and health needs, gaps, strengths and responses in Guelph & Wellington.



Continous Communication

Share information and data about social and health needs, gaps, strengths and responses in an ongoing and accessible manner as a resource for human service stakeholders to make informed and strategic decisions about how best to support and meet the needs of people who live in our community.



Build Collective Capacity

Build organizational and collective capacity as needed in, or requested by, the local human services sector



Champion and support strategic action

Champion or support new and existing initiatives to take strategic action in response to social and health needs in our community to maximize collective impact.



What we do and how we do it

Guiding Principles

1. Priorities are evidence-based and community-driven

We recognize and value many sources, including people with lived experience, service providers, community stakeholders, applied and academic research, and evaluation.

We know that we find better solutions when we leverage strengths and support or build on existing community efforts, knowledge, expertise and momentum to effect change.

2. Actions are chosen based on a shared commitment to a long-term vision

We believe that we need to address the root causes of issues to be able to effect long-term meaningful change.

We acknowledge that addressing complex social and health issues is messy and not easy.

3. Collaboration helps us to maximize our collective impact

We believe that working together strengthens our responses to collective needs.

We acknowledge that our work happens within and alongside existing systems.

4. Social and Health wellbeing are influenced by many factors

We believe that social and health needs and strengths are interconnected. They are influenced by access to the social determinants of health, as well as people's life experiences.

We know that multi-faceted solutions are needed to address social and health needs.

5. We prioritize the best interests of the people living in our communities

We work across individual organizational mandates in order to objectively share information, identify gaps and responses to needs.

Prioritizing well-being in Guelph and Wellington requires a deliberate choice and a commitment to our shared vision.



What we do and how we do it

Actions 2017-2018

1. Adverse Childhood Experiences

Support the development of a comprehensive community plan to prevent and mitigate the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

2. Data dashboard

Develop, launch, maintain and update data dashboard.

3. Community of Practice

Facilitate Community of Practice for practitioners who support collaborative initiatives to address complex issues.

4. Social Enterprise

Explore a TCG social enterprise function as part of the TCG model.

5. Joint Resource Development

Seize opportunities to secure local funds for a common purpose.

6. Local Funders

Work with funders to align funding expectations and requirements.

7. Crisis stabilization

Work with local stakeholders to develop a crisis stabilization model for people with mental health and addictions who do not need hospitalization.



Who we do our work for

Audience

- Senior leaders in Social and Health Sector
- Social and Health Service Managers
- Collaborative Initiatives focused on system-level changes related to priority populations or social issues
- Municipal Partners & Planners
- Provincial and Federal Governments
- Funders

Target Population

Our target population is broadly defined as everyone living in Guelph and Wellington because we believe that everyone has the right to be happy, healthy and thriving. At the same time, we understand that interventions may be targeted at priority populations and/or people accessing service and supports when they experience enhanced barriers to the social determinants of health.





How does Change Happen?

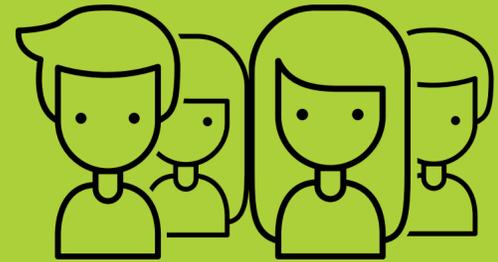
Theory of Change



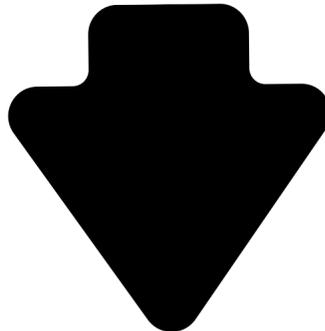
By holding a bird's eye view and connecting the dots, we have insight into strengths gaps and needs



By centralizing access to local data and conducting research, we have empirical evidence



By being present at many tables and in many conversations, we have relationships



We use our insights, empirical evidence and relationships to seize opportunities to:



build the collective capacity of stakeholders of social and health wellbeing



champion and support strategic action that improves the wellbeing of people in G&W



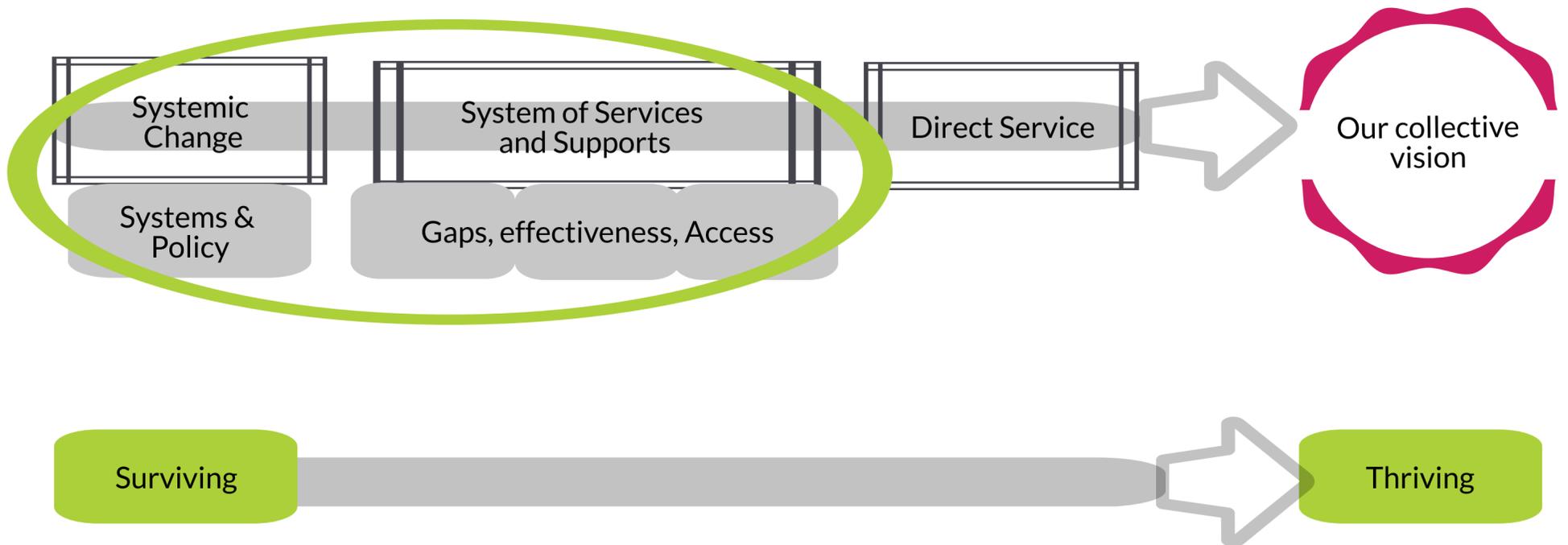
How does Change happen?

Where do we intervene?

In general, Toward Common Ground supports collective initiatives or interventions that work on “systems”. That is, TCG supports systemic change and/or the system of services that support social and health wellbeing in Guelph and Wellington.

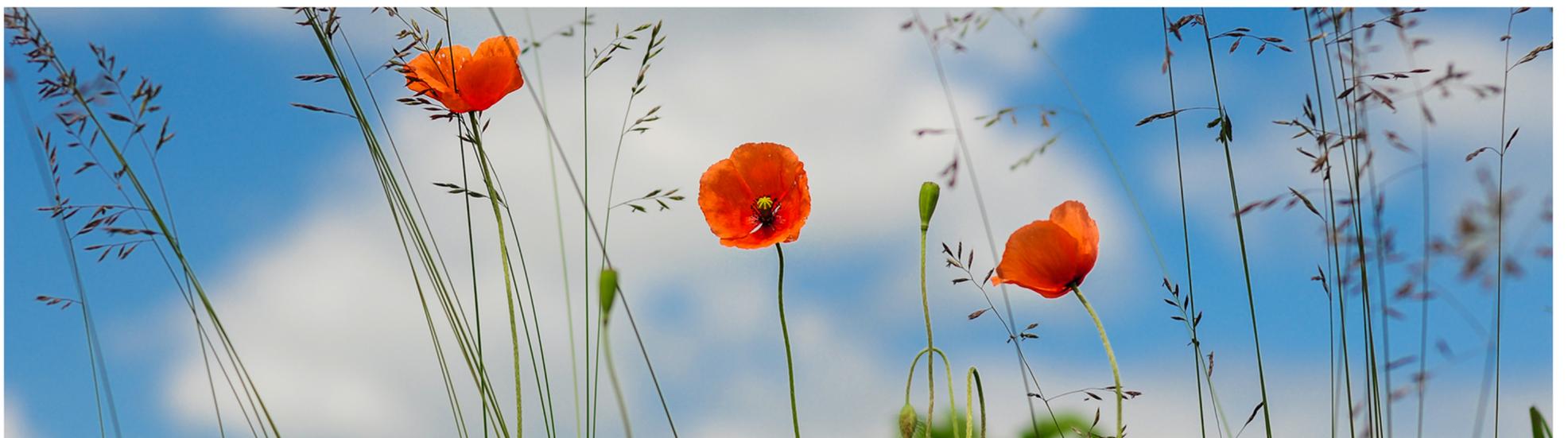
In some cases, there may be a focus on the community’s overarching value and beliefs.

In all cases, meaningful change at any level should lead to meaningful impact in the lives of people who live in our community.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has”

~Margaret Mead



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