

Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of November 14, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 8, 2019

From: Councillors' Thornton-Joe, Alto, & Potts

Subject: Funding for Sanctuary Youth Centre

BACKGROUND

Currently, there are mainly two organizations that provide drop in for homeless youth. They are the Youth Empowerment Society and the Sanctuary Youth Centre. The Youth Empowerment Society has programs such as the Alliance Drop In that runs Monday through Thursday 12:30pm-7:30pm and Friday 12:30pm-2:30pm. The Sanctuary Youth Centre supplements the gap by opening Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3:00-6:00pm. Upon meeting with the staff of The Sanctuary, it was identified that if there was the ability to stay open longer, youth would not have to leave their location and to find a place to keep warm until the Out of the Rain Shelter opened at 9pm. They have provided a letter on how much would be required to try this on a pilot basis.

Secondly, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness would like to partner with The Sanctuary to be able to open during the day and provide warm space for youth when there is extremely cold weather between the dates of November 15-April 2020.

Sanctuary Youth Centre is a drop-in centre for street entrenched and at-risk youth. between the ages of 14 and 22. Located in the basement of Church of Our Lord. in downtown Victoria, Sanctuary serves as a safe place for some of the most vulnerable. people in our city.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide \$26,000 out of 2019 Contingency to fund the Sanctuary Youth Drop In for an additional 3 hours on days that they are currently open and to provide funds for a day shelter in the event of extreme weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Thornton-Joe

Councillor Alto

Councillor Potts