

Identified Community Issues – Resource Centre

A. Consultation Process

- Community felt there was inadequate consultation around the location of the RC
- There is a need for more ongoing communication between the community and the VRHB around these types of issues.

B. Location – *Why was it located there?*

- The site is too close to the Lord Strathcona Elementary School and daycare centers.
- The RC should have been placed in an existing facility.
- The RC is displacing viable businesses in the area.
- The RC is across the street from Mental Health services and will expose a vulnerable population to people who may take advantage or abuse them.

C. The Resource Centre and Harm Reduction – Overview of Services

- There needs to be an overall plan for harm reduction and services so that the RC has other resources supporting it.
- There are too many health related services concentrated in the area – there needs to be more decentralization.
- The RC cannot function properly without safe injection sites and legally prescribed drugs.
- The harm reduction model from other countries does not take into account the special problem that Vancouver has with cocaine.

D. Client Population and Behaviour around the Resource Centre

- There is fear that the RC will attract more dealers and users to the area than there already are.
- There is fear that people who live outside the area will come here for the services.
- There is a fear that users will go in and out of the RC on a frequent basis to buy drugs and use them.
- There is a concern that people will loiter on the street around the RC

E. Policing and Public Safety Issues

- Strathcona has experienced a change over the past year as a result of police activities in the Downtown Eastside resulting in more users and dealers in the neighbourhood and around the school.
- Policing in the area is not able to keep up with the increased problems.
- Discarded needles are a major problem in and around Strathcona Elementary School. *Threatening behaviour*

F. Hours of Operation

- The hours of operation of the RC (originally stated to be from 8 pm through until 12 noon the next day) will have addicts leaving the center at times when children may be going to and from school. Some groups feel the RC should be open 24 hours while others (DEYAS) feel that it should not be open at night.
- Mental Health Services are concerned that people leaving the “Living Room” will wander into the RC when they should be going home.

G. Youth Issues

- There need to be clear policies around the issue of youth who want to use the Resource Centre.

H. Management of the RC

- There is no existing Society that could properly manage the RC