



Staff Report

B.7.1

Community Services

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: January 9, 2017
Report Number: CSPW.17.011
Subject: We C.A.R.E. Share Event
Prepared by: Shawn Everitt, Director of Community Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSPW.17.011 entitled "We C.A.R.E. Share Event" for information purposes.

B. Overview

This report provides Council with an update with regards to the We C.A.R.E. Committee's request to explore partnership opportunities with the Town for hosting an upcoming We C.A.R.E. Share Event.

C. Background

At the September 26, 2016 meeting, Council received correspondence from the Grey Bruce We C.A.R.E. Committee regarding an upcoming We C.A.R.E. Share Event.

The event aims to raise awareness about youth mental health and life promotion through a focus on how to **Connect, Ask, Reach and Engage** (C.A.R.E.) young people facing mental health challenges.

The Committee was exploring the possibility of partnering with a municipality to host a one day symposium including topic-specific facilitated workshops. The request included the provision of facility space at low or no cost.

D. Analysis

Community Services Staff made several attempts to contact the We C.A.R.E. Committee to find out more about the proposed event and the responsibilities expected from the host municipality. Staff were ultimately unable to connect with the Committee.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability

Goal #2: Engage Our Communities & Partners

Goal #3: Support Healthy Lifestyles

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence

Goal #5: Ensure Our Infrastructure is Sustainable

F. Environmental Impacts

None

G. Financial Impact

None

H. In consultation with

None

I. Attached

1. Correspondence from Grey Bruce We C.A.R.E. Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Director of Community Services

For more information, please contact:
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September 13, 2016

Mr. Paul McKean, Mayor
Town of Blue Mountains
Box 310, 32 Mill Street
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
PER: _____

Dear Mr. McKean:

I am writing on behalf of the Grey Bruce We C.A.R.E. Committee to inquire about your interest in hosting/supporting the **2017 We C.A.R.E. 'Share' event**. The We C.A.R.E. project is an initiative of Community Agencies, Police Services and School Boards who recognize the importance of working together for youth mental health and suicide prevention. This initiative began in the fall of 2012 following a concerning number of deaths by suicide in local area high schools.

It is the intent of the We C.A.R.E. Project to connect with natural helpers and offer education, information, and support in the promotion of youth mental health and prevention of youth suicide. One of the ways the project aims to achieve this goal is through the annual **'Share' event**.

The 'Share' event brings together adults and youth from throughout Grey and Bruce for a one-day symposium. The goal of the event is to create greater awareness about youth mental health and life promotion, and how to **Connect, Ask, Reach, and Engage** those young people who may be dealing with a mental health challenge. Following a keynote address, participants attend a topic-specific workshop co-facilitated by a mental health professional and young person with lived experience. In the afternoon, participants attend workshops that explore coping tools that could be used to support good mental health. Response to the event has been overwhelmingly positive and the Committee is committed to offering the 'Share' event throughout Grey Bruce from year to year. As such, we are exploring the possibility of partnering with a Municipality at lower or no cost. Hosting the 'Share' event in your community would require the following:

- A large space with a sound system, that could hold up to 300 participants
- Space for 10 breakout sessions both a.m. and p.m.
- Kitchen facilities and the space for participants to eat lunch
- Potential caterers in close proximity
- Easily accessible with parking for participants

In return for your support, your municipality and your commitment to supporting our local youth would be included in the event promotion. Your municipality would also be featured in media ads, on the online registration site, as well as verbally and on signage on the day of the event. We would also be using social media such as Facebook and Twitter to spread the word of your support.

Thank you for your kind and careful consideration of this request. A member of the Committee would be pleased to speak with you further and/or attend a council meeting at your request. Please visit our website www.wecaregreybruce.ca if you would like to learn more about the Grey Bruce We C.A.R.E. project.

Sincerely,

Grey Bruce We C.A.R.E. Committee Co-Chairs

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