

# Safe N Sound Emergency Shelter Feasibility Assessment & Early Overnight Warming Center Pilot Learnings

---

Annette Pedlar- Safe N Sound's Executive Director



# 310 8<sup>th</sup> St East Owen Sound



# Brief History of SNS & Context

- ▶ Started in 2007 by a group of local community members who were concerned about unsheltered individuals in the community
- ▶ Throughout the years and then further accelerated by COVID, the Space has shifted from a coffee and chat community meeting space, to meet the increasing acuity level of participants
- ▶ Feasibility study completed to inform the agency's development of an updated Strategic Plan
- ▶ Our communities are in a housing, opioid and developmental services crisis and SafeNSound is on the frontline

# Who accesses our services

- ▶ 40-75 unique individuals everyday
- ▶ Vast majority with significant ties to Grey & Bruce Counties
- ▶ Most on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program
- ▶ Majority men
- ▶ Unsheltered, precariously or provisionally housed, living in poverty
- ▶ Primary physical point of contact for unsheltered individuals within our communities





## First year of Pilot: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 - March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- ▶ Warming Centre Pilot project
- ▶ \$150,000 funding from Grey County
- ▶ Targeted for unsheltered community members
- ▶ Continued to offer low barrier services
- ▶ Capacity of 18 due to washrooms
- ▶ Continued to enforce service restrictions including no substance use on site

# November 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Unique total participants	134	139	130	140	
Total day visitors	1300	1158	1158	1069	1190
Total evening visitors	811	905	915	973	1116
Total night visitors	725	646	622	628	674
Average nightly	24	20	21	20	22

# Hospital Data



Year	Lion's Head	Markdale	Meaford	Owen Sound	Southampton	Warton
<b>2022</b>						
November		1	2	21		
December				41	2	1
<b>2023</b>						
January	1		1	48	1	1
February			1	29	2	
March		1		25	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>

Year	Markdale	Meaford	Owen Sound	Southampton	Warton
<b>2023</b>					
November	1	1	21	1	2
December		2	22	1	3
<b>2024</b>					
January		2	13	1	
February		1	11		
March			26	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

Site	2023
Owen Sound	164
Southampton	8
Meaford	4
Markdale	2
Warton	2
Lion's Head	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>

Site	2024
Owen Sound	93
Meaford	6
Southampton	5
Warton	5
Markdale	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

▶ 71 fewer emergency department visits by homeless individuals in the 5 months SNS was open when compared to the same 5 month span the previous year

# Second year of Pilot- November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 - November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

- ▶ Total unique participants overnight - 77
- ▶ Average per night - 20.7
- ▶ Total nights of respite - 435
  
- ▶ Morning shift 8am - 4pm - 777 participant visits
- ▶ Afternoon shift 4pm - 12am - 735 participant visits



# Feasibility Study

- ▶ Completed by J Consulting group beginning in the summer of 2023
- ▶ Intended to:
  - ▶ Define the need for emergency housing in Owen Sound,
  - ▶ Determine the overall feasibility and likelihood of success in Safe N' Sound establishing emergency housing, and
  - ▶ Develop a business plan for achieving the desired project, if determined to be feasible.
- ▶ Needs Assessment was completed first using data from the County of Grey, SafeNSound and M'Wikwedong
- ▶ Study determined the need for a 28-bed low barrier facility

# Benefits and Limitations of Different Models of Shelter

- ▶ Motel
- ▶ Private rooms with communal spaces
- ▶ Congregate sleeping
- ▶ Warming centre
- ▶ Low barrier



# Next Steps & Funding

- ▶ Applications for Reaching Homes capital & programming funding
- ▶ Securing an appropriate facility





## Questions?

- ▶ Annette Pedlar
- ▶ [execdirector@safensoundgreybruce.ca](mailto:execdirector@safensoundgreybruce.ca)