

Creating even more safe and unstructured hangout space for Youth in North Oakville¹

A. Community Buy-In: Breaking Down Physical Barriers and Perceptions regarding Youth Hangout Space

How

- Seek Stakeholder allies to be champions and advocates for liaison work (i.e. Police, Town of Oakville, Halton Region, etc) in order to use existing space in Oakville (i.e. sub-committee)
- Continue to research, network and learn about best practice models in the community for obtaining Youth space
- Develop transparent and strategic communications so that community understands *why* Youth space is important in North Oakville and *how* we can go about achieving this (i.e. reports, presentations, events)—this can be shared with other Stakeholders like businesses
- Youth develop Guidelines with Adults/Stakeholders for use of space and take ownership for space

B. Youth Buy-In

How

- Seek Youth to work with Stakeholder allies to be champions and advocates for liaison work (i.e. Youth Advisory Committee and/or Youth sub-committees)
- With the help of Youth, develop space according to Youth feedback collected with regard to their wants and needs in a hangout space
- *Develop messaging around the importance of Youth self-care?*

Building more meaningful and caring relationships with Youth in North Oakville

A. Building Adult Knowledge, Understanding of and Connections with Youth

How

- Youth and Adults develop a campaign to challenge perceptions and stereotypes about Youth, as well as educate on various subjects through promotions, events, trainings, and websites on topics like
 - Youth & Adult Communication

¹ Information provided in this document is based on input from YVM Steering Committee, Stakeholders Forum, Youth Focus Group 2016, OPNC Youth Engagement (May 2017), CYAN Youth Engagement (June 2017), LGBTQ Youth Engagement (June 2017), and various Youth from other organizations

- Youth Achievements
- Building Meaningful relationships
- Adult Stakeholders to develop a plan to provide Youth in North Oakville with even more ways to volunteer within organizations/corporations at all levels in order to build even more connections with Youth, mentor, and provide them with opportunities

B. Youth Voice & Empowerment

How

- Ensure a 'Youth Advisory Council' continues in the North Oakville community to take part in decision making and tasked with areas such as
- Youth-led initiatives and community engagement projects
- Peer Engagement
- Working with Adult in various areas of the project
- Finding ways to make 'Youth Advisory Council' sustainable in the North Oakville Community (fundraising?)

Better connecting Youth in North Oakville to existing supports

A. Community Service Integration to support Youth Mental Health & Resilience

How

- Identify common linkages in the Youth Mental Health services we are all providing so that we can partner with each other to support Youth in North Oakville
- Create a moderated, anonymous online Mental Health Forum for Youth to share their thoughts and access feedback
- Increase access to Bravo Officers
- Form a group (run by Youth?) to support Peers in navigating Mental Health services

B. Increasing Youth Knowledge about Existing Services and Resources

How

- Schools as Hubs for Mental Health information (not just through school counselors). Schools need to promote mental health service information to make easily accessible for Youth. Perhaps get students from each school to run Peer mental health group services in the schools (and after school)

- Use existing Apps (Instagram, SnapChat)
- Create or use a text App
- Google Map it
- Work with Halton database to make their Youth web site even more user friendly, and help to actively promote their various databases (including Youth Volunteer Database) to residents in the community

C. Youth Access to Services i.e. transportation, waiting lists

How

- Bike donations and scooters
- Advocacy around School Split passes
- Possible Advocacy and Partnerships with Halton Transportation (funding for this)?
- Parent School Car Pooling (or Peer Carpooling)
- Church busses
- Waiting Lists???

D. Funding & Resources for Innovative Youth Mental Health Services

How

- Possibly Youth Led, or Form a Youth-Adult Sub-Committee to flesh this out