

Barrie SCS Neighbourhood Consultations: Q & A

Neighbourhood consultation sessions were planned for the month of April, 2021 to address the benefits, concerns, and mitigation strategies for the proposed location options for a Supervised Consumption Site in the City of Barrie.

Questions that were posed during the sessions are important and are addressed in this document. Please note that if similar questions were posed, they have been amalgamated, and one answer provided. As a result, you may not see the exact wording of your question below.

How will you be assured that there is statistical significance in the responses so that we have a true sense of what the feedback from the community was across all the consultation/survey responses?

Answer: Multiple methods of data collection and different data sources were used at different points in time to gain insight and to develop a comprehensive understanding of the public's views towards having a SCS Site at one of the proposed locations in Barrie. In total the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit received 2,885 responses to two online surveys and had 104 participants in the neighbourhood engagement sessions. Input was also received through direct interactions with individuals accessing the health unit and this feedback was also incorporated into the overall consultation strategy for consideration. Full details of the consultation process can be found on the health unit website smdhu.org/SCS.

What has been done to engage people with lived experience in this process?

Answer: The input of people with lived experience in this process was very important. In the winter of 2019, a separate survey was undertaken to engage them in considering what would and would not be helpful in a SCS Site, with 47 respondents to that interview process. The SCS Site Advisory Committee included members with lived/living experience of substance use. They were active participants in the process up to the declaration of the global pandemic. During this most recent process in 2021, the applicants reached out to local community partners who were working directly with this population for support in gathering their insights on the benefits, concerns and mitigation strategies of the specific site locations being considered. Many community partners participated in helping with this and were able to gather 50 hard copy paper surveys that were included in the on-line survey reporting. In addition, many partners were also able to support their client's with accessing the on-line survey directly.

Which site would require the least amount of work to get ready, i.e. is most turnkey?

Answer: Each site has its own merits and limitations. There is no one site that is more “turnkey” than another, however zoning and building code use are considerations in the criteria established in the site search process. Of the four sites all are zoned appropriately; both 110 Dunlop St. W. Unit 4 and 11 Sophia St. W would require a change in use for building code.

Will there be testing kits to test what people are bringing in to consume themselves?

Answer: There are a variety of testing methods now available for individuals to determine whether dangerous additives are in their substances. The current model for a SCS Site in Barrie does include the availability of testing of substances by the client. Although harm reduction counselling will accompany the results, the decision as to whether to proceed with using the substance will be made by the client.

What will be the staffing model? (e.g. how many staff will be on site?)

Answer: Final decisions as to the staffing model are yet to be made, however, the Ministry of Health (MOH) does stipulate that a designated health care professional (e.g. a nurse) must be present at all times and that the staffing model include peers/people with lived experience of drug use. It is anticipated at this time that the staffing model will include nurses, harm reduction workers, and peers/people with lived experience. CMHA-SC staff will also be available to support access to other services as necessary, and other health and social service agencies will provide on-site service.

Will there be medical professionals located on site?

Answer: The MOH does stipulate that a designated health professional needs to be on site at all times. Additional information on MOH requirements can be found in the [Consumption and Treatment Services: Application Guide](#).

How many people will be able to use the site at one time?

Answer: The current vision for the Barrie SCS site includes four (4) injection booths, allowing for 4 individuals to be injecting at one time. There will also be a waiting area for people as they await the availability of a booth. After use, there will be another waiting area where people can stay post-use to ensure their safety.

What will be the hours of operation?

Answer: The hours of operation are still being finalized and will be based on information provided by potential clients of the site in previous surveys and by data showing the time of Emergency Department visits at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre for suspected opioid poisonings.

How long will people remain at the site

Answer: Although individuals will be encouraged to remain at the site until staff determine that it is safe for them to leave, an individual can leave the site at any time. To encourage them to stay until it is safe for them to leave, an inviting and comfortable environment will be created to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Is there a strategy to address loitering that will occur around the site?

Answer: Loitering is a concern that many residents and business owners have raised. The site will be planned to include both a waiting area inside if all injection booths are full as well as an aftercare space where clients will be encouraged to wait after use. Peer support workers will be on site to engage with the client's and facilitate their exit from the site and means of moving onto their next destination.

How do you measure the success of these sites? What metrics are being used?

Answer: As part of the monitoring and reporting requirements outlined by the MOH, the site will be required to report on several indicators monthly. These indicators refer to overall site data on number of visits; access, update and referral to services; safety and security; overdose events; emergency service calls; provision of basic care and education; community engagement and liaison; drug checking if available and any additional comments. Full details can be found on page 16 – 18 of the [Consumption and Treatment Services: Application Guide](#).

What specific safety/security measures are being proposed? Will residents need to pay into these security services?

Answer: A proposed overall budget is part of the application process, a section of the budget is specific to safety and security. Specific safety and security measures will be dependent upon the site chosen, however, any site will have a security guard, specifically trained in this type of work, present at all times; lighting and cameras will be used to monitor the site and surrounding area; peer support workers will be present to engage with the clients.

What is being done to prevent people from getting into this situation before sites like this are needed?

Answer: The Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) is the overall drug strategy for the Simcoe Muskoka Region. It is based on a five operational pillar structure and 2 foundational pillars. The five operational pillars include, Treatment, Prevention, Harm Reduction, Enforcement and Emergency Management, with foundational pillars of Data and Evaluation and Lived Experience. The Prevention Pillar continues to be active in activities to address root causes of substance use to prevent the onset. Details of all of the SMOS activities, and progress updates can be found on the www.preventod.ca website.

Were Barrie police engaged in this process? If so, how?

Answer: The Barrie Police Service have been involved with this process since 2019 and had a role on the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee. Ongoing engagement with Barrie City Police is vital as we move forward in the application process.

What is the impact that a site near residential areas will have on property values?

Answer: It is difficult to predict the impact of a SCS on property values. Municipalities similar in size to Barrie, such as London have evaluated the overall impact of SCS sites on the local community. [Saving Lives, Changing Lives](#) is a report detailing the evaluation process and results for the overdose prevention site in London, ON.

Have mobile mental health and addictions teams that work on withdrawal management in the home been considered?

Answer: CMHA's new Mobile Withdrawal Management Support (WMS) program which offers in-home withdrawal management support, will be attending the SCS on a regular basis to ensure that clients are aware of the program and can be easily referred