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Kawartha Lakes - The Community Pandemic Recovery Task Force, established by Kawartha Lakes Council, is off to a productive start after a couple of successful planning meetings.

The Task Force was created to provide advice and recommendations to Council and staff on resources and support required to ensure the Kawartha Lakes' community recovers from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Task Force is focusing on co-ordination and implementation of recovery and relief efforts to support non-profit and community service providers in the broader health and human services sector.

Heather Kirby from the Kawartha Lakes Food Source and Amy Terrill, Executive Director of the Kawartha Lakes Boys & Girls Club, were elected as co-chairs.

"We need to ensure that our non-profit agencies and community service providers are supported as they continue to provide critical services," said co-chair Heather Kirby.

The Task Force has established working groups to look at funding and service gap analysis. The first area of focus is to understand opportunities for funding from all levels of government and any grant programs that may be available. The second is to conduct a needs analysis of the various community organizations and identify service gaps that may exist in order to understand where assistance might be required.

"We will be having conversations with local organizations as well as the broader public to determine the areas of greatest need, including such things as human resource issues, availability or cost of personal protective equipment, infrastructure needs and innovation," stated co-chair Amy Terrill.

A survey will be sent to local organizations in order to gather more information on the challenges and opportunities that currently exist. The Task Force will also be

engaging with the public through the municipality's online engagement tool [Jump In, Kawartha Lakes](https://jumpinkawarthalakes.ca/) (<https://jumpinkawarthalakes.ca/>).

Meetings of the Community Pandemic Recovery Task Force are open to the public and are live streamed on the municipality's [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQEHs3AwZH3nNaolKg-Aa1A) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQEHs3AwZH3nNaolKg-Aa1A>). Community members can watch previous meetings on the channel as well.

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