

4.0 WWLHIN Local Priorities for Change

4.1 Determining Local Priorities

- **ACCESSIBILITY**
- **POPULATION HEALTH**
- **SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS**
- **SUSTAINABILITY**

Determining local priorities for health system integration involves taking an innovative approach to service planning and delivery. This means it is necessary to look beyond “institutions” and “sectors”. The WWLHIN has identified four system-wide priorities that impact integrated local health service delivery.

These priorities form the foundation of the Action Plan contained in this IHSP and will be addressed within the context of continued and inclusive community engagement. They will provide the backdrop for the integration activities to be undertaken and advanced over the next three years. Recognizing the interdependence and connectedness of these system priorities and the need for leadership and coordination among our community partners, they will not be considered to be mutually exclusive. Rather, each priority will in fact be affected by the progress and development of the others. In light of this dynamic process, the integration priorities and the related Action Plan in Section 6.0 will continue to evolve and be addressed simultaneously over the next three years.



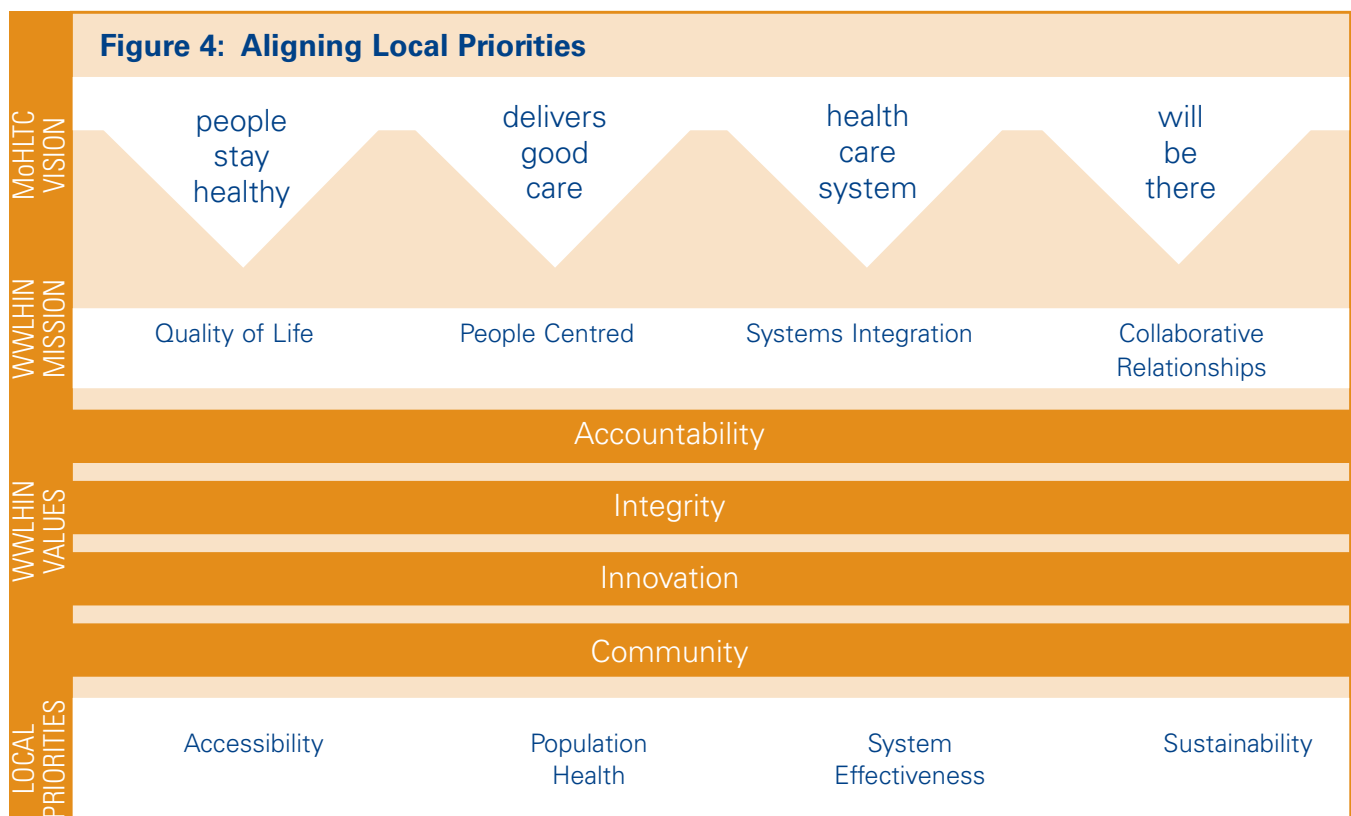
It is anticipated that the long-term outcome of integrated health service planning will be the highest possible level of health and wellness for WWLHIN residents. To this end, new conversations have already started both within and across service sectors.

4.2 Alignment with Provincial Strategic Directions

WWLHIN local priorities are aligned with provincial strategic directions described in Section 1.0. This alignment ensures that our communities will:

- benefit from opportunities to access resources,
- benefit from the sharing of best practices,
- be able to identify gaps in services relative to provincial benchmarks,
- have equitable access to new and emerging clinical practice techniques and information technologies, and
- have a sustainable local health system, and ultimately improved health status.

Strategic alignment with the directions of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MoHLTC) is also critical to ensure that the activities of the WWLHIN support both the needs of the local community and the broader, overall vision for health across the Province. At the end of the day, the goal of the WWLHIN is not simply to adjust the health system, but to transform it into a true system.



4.3 Community and Provider Readiness for Change – READY...

The Burning Platform for Change – Ensuring Sustainability

Across the WWLHIN, both the public and provider communities appear ready to transition the current set of health care services into a coordinated, easy to use, sustainable health system. During the community engagement activities the WWLHN Board and staff became keenly aware that the public, the patients, the providers, the caregivers and our local elected officials all recognize the need to identify and implement new solutions to old problems. The communities represented in the WWLHIN have a long history of collaboration and “community spirit” as evidenced by high levels of volunteerism.

The good news is that within the WWLHIN many have embraced the vision and seen the value of an integrated health system. Work has begun on exploring new models and best practices for health service delivery. It is anticipated that the long-term outcome of integrated health service planning will be the highest possible level of health and wellness for WWLHIN residents. To this end, new conversations have already started both within and across service sectors.

The factors that will contribute to the success of local health system networks include:

- Shared accountability for planning, implementation and outcomes
- Shared vision, principles and objectives
- Infrastructure support
- Strong leadership commitment
- Stakeholder engagement and buy-in
- Meaningful evaluation and acting on findings
- Sustainable funding

While there is a strong desire to move towards an integrated system, it is also evident that across the WWLHIN, networks are in various stages of preparedness to move towards this shared goal. The findings suggest that while a number of initiatives are currently contemplated, there are several factors that are necessary for success in implementing sustainable solutions.

The WWLHIN will play a key role in supporting the evolution of existing networks as well as creating new discussion and planning tables, called “Communities of Interest” that focus specifically on solutions to locally identified priorities.

Not only do we see the need for change, we are ready to “Champion the Change”!