

For Information Only

Early Learning/ Child Care Community Update

Presented To: Community Services
Committee

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Recommendation

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Summary

This information report gives a broad overview of the children's services system in Greater Sudbury and the role of Children Services section as the System Manager.

Children Services System- System manager roles

Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) have been appointed by the Province "to act as system managers to plan and deliver community-based early years programs and services governed and funded by the Ministry of Education".(Ontario's Early Years Policy Framework). Funding for all approved programs and services is either cost-shared with, or wholly funded by the Ministry of Education. As the System Manager, the Children Services section provides the following services, in collaboration with child care agencies and other children services partners:

Signed By

Report Prepared By

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Digitally Signed Oct 28, 15

Health Impact Review

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Division Review

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Recommended by the Department

Ron Henderson
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Recommended by the C.A.O.

Kevin Fowke
Acting Chief Administrative Officer
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We provide leadership and funding for the Licensed Child Care System

Licensed Child Care is provided as an early learning and education service for children from 0 to 12 years, and as an employment support for families.

Licensed child care centres and family homes are operated by community agencies and independent providers. They are funded mostly through parent fees (paid by families, or through child care subsidies)

with support from Operating Grants from the City, as well as some fundraising activities.

Children Services works with the child care operators to ensure that adequate levels of service are available to meet the needs of the community. Children Services provides funding for approved spaces through the General Operating Grant, promotes program quality improvement, and provides operators with a centralized waiting list and registry service for parents requiring care. In 2015, the total projected General Operating Grant is approximately \$5.5 million.

The Licensed Child Care System includes:

17 Agencies (including 3 for profit providers)

72 individual sites (55 located in schools)

1 Home child care agency (licensed for up to 25 homes)

1798 spaces for children 0 – 3.8 years

60 sites offering school age programs (before and after school and school holidays)

765 employees work in Licensed Child Care (May 2014)

302 Registered ECEs work in Licensed Child Care (May 2014)

We deliver Child Care Subsidy

Child Care Subsidy is a program of the City of Greater Sudbury that helps families reduce their child care costs in licensed child care programs. Subsidy is administered by the City of Greater Sudbury, and may cover all, or part, of eligible families' child care costs. The amount of subsidy provided is determined by an income test. Families where the parents are working or going to school, or where the child or parent has an identified need (medical, social or special needs) and who require child care are eligible to apply. In addition Children Services supports the Early Development and School Readiness (EDSR) program for the preschool age children of Ontario Works/ODSP clients.

Children Services assesses families, administers the subsidies and maintains ongoing case management for child care subsidy. The approximate projected expenditure for child care subsidy in 2015 is \$8.0 million.

Child Care Subsidy Program Stats 2014

1966 families served (77% single parent families)

2663 children served

71% of clients working full/part time

17% of clients attending school

We provide leadership and funding for the Family Support/ Best Start Hub System

Children Services provides approximately \$1,000,000 in Family Support funding to wholly or partially fund 15 Best Start Hub sites. This funding represents less than 50% of the total budget spent on Best Start Hubs

in the community. The additional funding comes from Ontario Early Years funding and other provincial and federal programs.

Children Services works with the operators to ensure adequate levels of responsive services are available in each neighbourhood. Children Services provides base funding, promotes program quality improvement, and coordinates a shared calendar and website.

Best Start Hub statistics

Five non profit agencies provide 15 Best Start Hubs sites, all in schools

2,577 unique adults served, 2014

23,039 adult visits, 2014

3,237 unique children served, 2014

31,918 child visits, 2014

Types of Best Start Hubs:

1 Aboriginal, 4 Francophone, 1 French Immersion and 9 Anglophone

Types of Services (2014):

Family Centered / Drop-In / Playgroups- adults served: 12,890

Family Centered / Drop-In / Playgroups- children served: 17,085

Referrals & Screening- children served: 834

Infant Programs- adults served 2,893

Infant Programs- children served 3,309

School Readiness / Early Learning- adults served: 1,047

School Readiness / Early Learning-children served: 1,614

Parent Discussion/workshops- adults served: 908

We manage and fund Special Needs/ Inclusion Services in Child Care

Children Services provides funding to two different agencies to provide inclusion services for children with special needs who require licensed child care. Child and Community Resources' Inclusion Program provides training, accommodation and support to assist children with social, behavioural and physical needs. The Children's Treatment Centre, Health Sciences North's SPOT program provides specialized onsite rehabilitation services in child care for identified children with physical disabilities. In 2015, the approximate projected expenditure in Special Needs Resourcing is \$1.6 million.

Leadership Model

Child and Community Resources has recently developed a Leadership Team Model which supports child care agencies by building their capacity to provide inclusive care for all children.

Enhanced Staffing

Child and Community Resources uses CGS funding to support enhanced staffing, when required, for child care centres to successfully include some children with special needs.

We deliver and coordinate Quality Assurance/Improvement

Children Services employs two full time quality coordinators to ensure the Municipality is purchasing quality programming for children in the community. They also offer mentoring to agencies along with support and training for staff.

Program Quality Services Statistics

2 Quality Coordinators

Approximately 264 Quality Consultations (2014)

Approximately 1248 hours of on-site /field consultations and support (2014)

We lead community planning and engagement

Children Services provides leadership and support to the Integration and Planning Network for Sudbury Families (currently known at Best Start Network) and other planning committees and initiatives. Support for this planning network is provided by the Province in the amount of \$28,000.