

Background

In 2008 the Children Services Section implemented an online child care registry called OnPath to ensure fair access to available licensed child care spaces within the City of Greater Sudbury. The registry allows families to register their child(ren) online and select from a group of available child care programs in the neighborhood of their choice. Families also indicate the type of care they require based on:

- the age of the child
- number of days/hours per week required
- special needs of the child
- start date required

The City of Greater Sudbury was the only remaining user of the OnPath system in the province and updates were no longer being provided by the software designer. The system was not mobile-friendly and difficult to access for parents.

In 2017, Children Services contracted with a local consulting firm to conduct an assessment of OnPath's capacity for improvements and upgrades, along with an environmental scan of current systems in other Ontario municipalities. The consultant's recommendations suggested the replacement of OnPath with the implementation of OneHSN, which is currently in use by 22 other municipalities.

Implementation

In December 2017, Children Services Section purchased the OneHSN child care registry module called Child Care Connect. Data migration began in December 2017 and culminated into the official launch of the new registry in January 2018. The child care registry can be accessed at <https://onehsn.com/Sudbury>.

Training for all licensed child care operators was provided in partnership by Children Services, IT and OneHSN. Parents who had historical data within the former OnPath system received an email notification that their data was transitioning securely to a new system.

OneHSN also provides reporting capabilities, allowing the Children Services Section to analyze placement and utilization data more readily. The one-time cost of transition and implementation, as well as the ongoing annual support is being funded with 100% provincial dollars.

Next Steps

The Children Services Section will continue to support child care operators and parents as they acclimatize to the new child care registry and will also mine the data available through enhanced reporting and content management features, ensuring community needs regarding licensed child care are addressed.