

Background

In January 2017, the Community Services Committee received an information report entitled [Service System Management of Early Years and Family Support Programming](#). This report outlined the Children Services Section, Community Development Department planning process to work collaboratively with the community to develop a local plan to guide the transformation of the current system of Best Start Hubs to a new system of Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres.

Since 2007, the City of Greater Sudbury's Children Services Section, through the Planning Network for Sudbury Families, has led the coordination of child and family support programs in the community, which were funded through different funding streams. Effective 2018, the Ministry of Education has established a new Provincial approach where all existing child and family programs currently funded by the Ministry of Education will be combined into one program model. With this new model, Municipal Service Managers will be mandated to administer all provincial funding to the service providers, as well as oversee the planning and delivery of these programs.

January 16, 2017 Community Services Committee Meeting

[Service System Management of Early Years and Family Support Programming](#)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1150&itemid=12296&lang=en>

The Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Planning Report

The Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Planning Report (Appendix A) is the local plan developed to guide the transformation of the current system. The following sections provide further details and information on the key elements:

The New Funding Model

The amount currently allocated through the cost-sharing agreement between the Ministry of Education and the City of Greater Sudbury is approximately \$1 million.

As a result of the provincial change in program administration, the total 2018 allocation for the OEYCFC program of \$3,330,956 will be directed to the City of Greater Sudbury, Children Services Section and allocated to the current service providers based on community needs through data collected.

The following chart represents the service providers and the source of funding:

Current Service Provider	Better Beginnings Better Futures	Child & Community Resources	CPTM	Jubilee Family Resource Centre	Our Children Our Future
# of Hubs	2 English – 1 Aboriginal – 1	7 French – 2 English - 5	2 French – 2	2 English – 2	2 English - 2
Future Funding Sources					
Provincial (Administered by the City)	100%	100%	100%	100%	20%
Federal	0%	0%	0%	0%	80%

With the new model, the following are some of, but not limited to, the added administrative responsibilities:

- Financial management
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Reporting requirements
- Quality assurance
- Communications with families and partners
- Media Management
- Expectation to lead collaborative community planning and integration of services
- Capacity building
- Workforce management
- Enhanced core services

Readiness

With ten years of experience planning together, the City of Greater Sudbury, Children Services Section, community partners and the members of the Planning Network for Sudbury Families were well positioned to follow the new provincial direction, building on existing community strengths, while ensuring minimal disruptions for families.

The following chart compares the current existing practice with the new provincial direction for 2018:

Current Existing Practice	2018 Provincial Direction
Collaborative service planning in our community has been in place since 2005 through the Children services planning networks	Mandated collaborative service planning
Service providers offer similar services under various mandates	Common mandated core services
Limited responsibilities and authority with current System Management role	Mandated System Manager role with defined administrative responsibilities
Equal distribution of services across catchment areas	A mandate to ensure responsive and flexible services across the community

Equitable Distribution of Services

Programs and services are responsive to early learning by focusing on mandated core services for children under 6 years of age and their families. Core services include supporting parents, early learning, and connecting families to the services needed. All programs are expected to align with Ontario's early years pedagogy which describes the foundations of early learning.

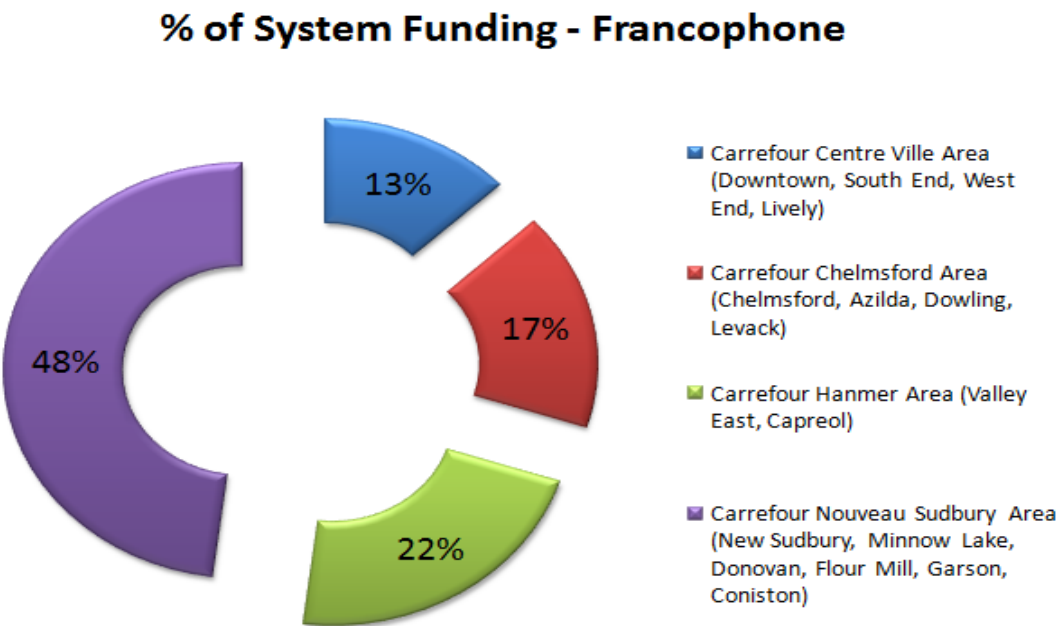
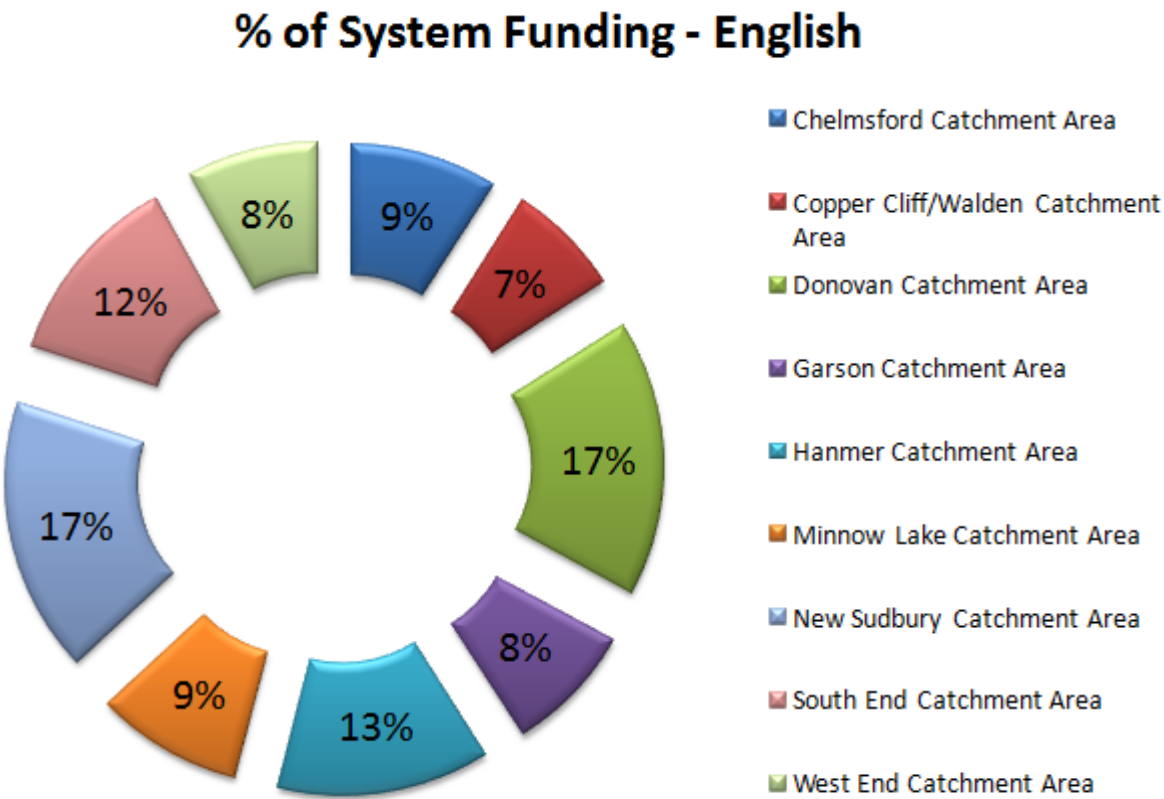
Using a comprehensive needs assessment, the system funding will be allocated based on the following percentages:

- Aboriginal across all catchment areas – 11 %
- Francophone catchment areas – 24%
- English catchment areas – 65%

To further ensure responsive services, the OEYCFC Plan plan will outline an equitable distribution of programs and services. In order to achieve this, the demographics of child population and family poverty were weighted as follows:

- Child Population – 70%
- Family Poverty – 30%

As a result, the following charts represent the distributions for the 9 English catchments and 4 Francophone catchments:



Building on Community Strengths

This OEYCFC provides further detail of service planning by examining each of the catchment area maps within the community, with respect to population, family need and current infrastructure. Reflecting upon local considerations, universal core and targeted services have been outlined for each catchment area, incorporating current service providers' strengths and expertise. During the remainder of 2017, the Children Services Section will work with the existing service providers to confirm and/or re-assign service locations. Any potential reassignments will be transitioned by the end of 2018 in coordination with the service providers.

Overall Key Messages

The following are key messages as a result of the new Provincial funding model for the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFC):

- All across the Province, Best Start Hubs and like programs will now be referred to as "Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFC)"
- Most programs will remain the same, building on what early years professionals know about how children learn
- Some programs will move closer to where families live
- Locations where families gather may be used to offer programs, in addition to neighbourhood schools

Next Steps

Building upon the work that has been accomplished, the following are the next steps:

1. Service provider agreements will be revised to reflect core service delivery expectations, outcome measurements, and funding allocations
2. An accountability framework will be created in 2018
3. Communication strategy will be implemented

Appendix A – Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Planning Report