

For Information Only

Service System Management of Early Years and Family Support Programming

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Resolution

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Finance Implications

The 2018 provincial funding allocation for the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres is still under development and should be shared with municipalities in 2017. However, it is not expected to result in an increase to the current cost-sharing formula, and therefore will not result in an increase to the tax levy.

Health Impact Assessment

Early years and family support programming supports academic achievement, health and well being (happier, healthier and more resilient children) and lifelong success. An extensive needs assessment will be used to determine equitable neighbourhood distribution of programs and services across the community. Service data will be collected to monitor the utilization, quality and desired outcomes of the program.

Background

The Ministry of Education has recently established a new provincial approach for the integration and transformation of early years and family support programs for parents/caregivers and young children (ages 0 – 6). All existing child and family programs funded by the Ministry of Education will be combined into one program model and municipal governments, who already manage child care and some child and family support programs, will be transferred further management responsibility for the delivery of all these programs and identified core services by 2018. The provincial government has committed that it will maintain its current provincial investment in child and family programs which will be branded as Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres and will develop a new transparent and responsive funding approach

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Health Impact Review

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Division Review

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Recommended by the Department

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that will redistribute funding by 2018. It is expected that the ongoing program costs will be 100% funded by the Province and not constitute a new cost-sharing program. This new funding formula may result in a change in the City of Greater Sudbury funding allocation.

Local Impact of the Integration and Transformation of Early Years and Family Support Programming

The City of Greater Sudbury funds and manages many of the programs currently delivered in Best Start Hubs and in this transfer, will assume further responsibility for the former Ontario Early Years Centre (operated by Child and Community Resources) and for some programs operated by Better Beginnings, Better Futures. In an expanded role as service system manager, Children Services will continue to lead mandated local early years service system planning through the Planning Network for Sudbury Families.

Local Planning of Early Years Service System

Through an early year's system service planning process, the Planning Network for Sudbury Families will guide Children Services in the development of an initial neighbourhood service plan which is due to the Ministry of Education in May 2017. Locally, this plan will focus on:

- the transformation of Best Start Hubs to Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres within the context of local community services and identified core services;
- an equitable program and services distribution formula that is responsive to changes in funding levels; and
- the resulting neighbourhood service plans that are based on community needs.

The planning principles being followed include:

- using local needs assessment to ensure informed planning;
- building on existing strengths by maintaining current service providers;
- ensuring minimal service disruption for families; and
- transparency regarding decisions; constant and consistent messaging to families and partners.

The planning process will therefore include:

- a local needs assessment
- core service development and distribution formula
- an accountability framework
- communication strategies
- neighbourhood service implementation plans

Next Steps

The local needs assessment undertaken in the fall of 2016 will be presented to the Planning Network for Sudbury Families in January 2017. Children Services along with the Network will then develop a neighbourhood service implementation plan for the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres. This plan will reflect a collective effort with our community partners, and will include an accountability framework and communication strategies for families and the broader early years community. The provincial funding formula and allocation will be provided to municipalities by the Ministry of Education in the spring of 2017.

These neighbourhood service implementation plans will be presented to the Community Services Committee for approval in April 2017, for submission to the Ministry of Education in May 2017. Children Services will work with community agencies and partners to transition current services within the Best Start

Hub network to the new Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre model for January 2018. New Early Years Funding agreements will be drafted for 2018, to reflect the new funding levels to individual provider agencies, and will include the reporting of measurable outcomes, in accordance with Ministry of Education requirements.