



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee**

**From:** **Sheldon Laidman**  
**Commissioner of Community Services, City of Peterborough**

**Meeting Date:** **October 24, 2019**

**Subject:** **Report CSSSJSSC19-007**  
**Peterborough Early Years and Child Care Service Plan**

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide an update to the Joint Services Steering Committee on the Peterborough Early Years and Child Care Service Plan, 2019-2024 (the Service Plan) and to recommend approval of the actions related to the plan for the City and County of Peterborough.

## **Recommendations**

That Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendations outlined in Report CSSSJSSC19-007, dated October 24, 2019, of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That a presentation from Sandra Robinson, Children's Services Program Manager, on the Early Years and Child Care Service Plan, 2019-2024 be received;
- b) That the Early Years and Child Care Services Plan be adopted and guide the work of the Children's Service program for the period 2019-2024 within the parameters of the Ministry funds provided, provincial guidelines and available City and County budgets.

## Budget and Financial Implications

There are no immediate budgetary and financial implications to endorsing the recommendations in this report. However, recent announcements regarding reduced provincial funding will impact upon the ability of the City to deliver on all aspects of this Service Plan and will need to be further considered during the implementation phase of the Service Plan.

## Background

The municipality as the consolidated municipal service manager (CMSM) is responsible for planning and managing licensed child care services and early years programs for the City and County of Peterborough. Programs and services in the community are managed through a planning process that reflects current legislation, regulations and policies. The CMSM has the flexibility to determine how best to allocate child care and early years funding to meet the needs of children, families and service providers within the community.

### Five-year Services Plan

As the service system manager responsible for planning and managing child care and early year's services in Peterborough, Children's Services has a mandate and directive from the Ministry to develop a five-year service plan for the community. The Service Plan is to guide and support the delivery of early years and child care services that will:

- Promote the health, safety and wellbeing of all children
- Provide high quality experiences and positive outcomes for children
- Include high quality, professional staff
- Respond to community needs
- Respect the diversity of our community
- Be accountable for public money
- Promote belonging, wellbeing, engagement, and expression for children and their families
- Encourage strong community partnerships

The creation of this Service Plan (Appendix A) was informed by extensive community engagement with children, parents, early learning professionals and service providers. More than 3,200 community members shared their insights and experiences about existing early years and child care services through surveys, focus groups, pop-up events, one-on-one interviews and a children's coloring contest.

The Service Plan focuses on the following four over-arching strategic themes that emerged from the community engagement:

- Sustainable Systems
- Funding
- Workforce Strategy
- Inclusive Programs and Services

Each theme includes a series of proposed actions specifically designed to improve the health and wellbeing of children and ensure a variety of high-quality early years and child care services are available for families.

Over the next five years, pending sufficient budget and resources, Children's Services staff will work in collaboration with members of the Early Years Planning Network to implement the 24 action items identified in the Service Plan. Some of the key action items are:

- Develop a public education and communication strategy to increase family and provider awareness and connectivity across the system
- Develop a system-wide workforce strategy that addresses recruitment, fair compensation and professional development to support a stable workforce
- Develop strategies to strengthen relationships, engagement and planning to support the needs of Newcomer, Indigenous and Francophone populations
- Allocate funding to improve access with a focus on creating more age appropriate spaces i.e. infant spaces and Special Needs Resourcing supports
- Provide better support for children related to physical health and well-being.

Successful implementation of the Service Plan requires continued provincial and federal funding and a commitment from all partners to share knowledge, skills and resources to work together for the benefit of all children and families in the community.

### **Provincial Budget Impact**

The Service Plan was developed before the provincial funding announcements related to Children's Services. The Service Plan describes the community's needs and priorities. Although they have not changed, given the current fiscal reality of reduced provincial funding, the implementation of this Service Plan will be impacted. Proposed activities and plans assumed certain levels of funding some of which has changed such as the Fee Stabilization Support program which has been cancelled by the Province and reduced administration funding. However, the Service Plan is still relevant to guide future decision making within the funds available.

City Council approval of the Service Plan will be followed by submission to the Ministry and presentations to County Councils and other partners. The Service Plan is intended to be updated at least every five years.

Submitted by, Sheldon Laidman  
Commissioner of Community Services

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Peterborough Early Years and Child care Service Plan, 2019 - 2024