



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner, Community Services

Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

Report: Delegated Authority for Intermunicipal Child Care Agreements,
Report CSSS24-021

Subject

Children's Services requires intermunicipal agreements with neighbouring municipalities to allow families access to fee subsidies to support the cost of child care in neighbouring communities.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSSS24-021, dated October 28, 2024 of the Commissioner of Community Services as follows:

That the Commissioner of Community Services be authorized to execute intermunicipal agreements related to child care on terms satisfactory to the said Commissioner and in forms acceptable to the City Solicitor.

Executive Summary

- Currently residents of Peterborough can only access a Child Care fee subsidy in Peterborough. Therefore, if Peterborough residents work outside of the city, they must still use child care within Peterborough. This presents a challenge for families to access child care within the child care centre's hours of operation.
- Having intermunicipal agreements will allow families to take their children to child care programs located in the community in which they work, allowing for ease of access to affordable child care.

- Families needing child care outside of the community in which they live have no access to fee subsidies and are struggling financially or taking extended leaves from work due to the lack of child care fee subsidies.

Background

Currently families with children are able to access child care fee subsidy programs through the Social Services Division and specifically the Children's Services area. Fee subsidies allow for middle and lower income families to access fee subsidies directly with Peterborough City and County child care centres to offset the cost of day care based upon one's income. Fee subsidies are 100% paid for through Provincial grants and the City is simply the flow through delivery agent for these subsidies to families.

Access to child care can often be dependent on where parents work to ensure that schedules can work for child care. Allowing Peterborough residents to be able to access child care fee subsidies in adjacent municipalities and vice versa allows parents a greater level of flexibility and is conducive for economic development to allow the workforce to cross boundaries to access child care. Agreements with neighbouring communities will allow Social Services to provide child care and funding to residents living in Peterborough and working within Peterborough or in other communities. Lack of intermunicipal agreements is negatively impacting families from accessing child care at an affordable rate. The Social Services staff have been working on an agreement with their counterpart staff in Hastings County and direct delegated authority for such an agreement could not be found.

The City currently has longer standing intermunicipal agreements for child care subsidies with the City of Kawartha Lakes, Durham Region and Northumberland County; however, staff could not verify the delegated authority to have entered into these previous agreements.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Governance & Fiscal Sustainability

Strategic Initiative: Continue the work to strengthen our relationships with the provincial/federal government, and our regional partners to make these relations more productive, collaborative and complementary.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget implications related to this request. All child care fee subsidies provided to families are paid by the Province and administered by the City on behalf of City and County residents.

Conclusion

Intermunicipal agreements will allow the use of fee subsidy in neighbouring communities such as, Durham, Northumberland, Hastings and Kawartha Lakes. This allows families access to child care in Peterborough from a neighbouring community or residents from Peterborough to access child care in neighbouring communities.

Submitted by,

Sheldon Laidman
Commissioner of Community Services

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