
MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: February 13, 2023
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Darren Barkhouse - Manager of Children's Services
Report#: COU23-028
Attachments: None

Title: Children's Services Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement 2023-2027

Objective: Provide Council with the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement that pertains to all funding allocations for all licensed child care and early years programming in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County and, to have Council give approval to delegate the authority to the Director of Social Services and/or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the individual service contracts with each licensed child care and EarlyON provider.

Background: The Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement has been updated and extended for the period of January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2027. The funding covers all licensed child care centres and early years programs that the City of Stratford as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) flows to eight current service providers across 25 licensed locations throughout Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County. This funding agreement mirrors previous ones with the addition of Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding allocations to help reduced child care costs to \$10 a day by 2026.

Analysis: This Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) meets the funding requirements for all licensed child care and early years programs for the duration of its term, and reflects the proposed expansion needs for our service area over the next five years. The 2023 budget submission was based on previous recommendations from the Ministry, and the received funding aligns with what was submitted.

It is recommended that Council also consider delegating their approval authority for entering into individual service contracts with each licensed child care and EarlyON provider, once the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement has been authorized by Council. This will enhance efficiencies with this program and reduce the requirement for preparing reports and seeking Council approval for each licensed provider.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There are no impacts on our current 2023 projections. CWELCC funding will automatically flow to services providers in the same manner that existing funding supports are flowed. Total funding allocation for all service areas totals \$14,008,335 for 2023 and will be paid out in monthly installments.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

This TPA will cover the funding period from January 1, 2023 until December 31, 2027, and at this time the agreement meets our proposed expansion targets and funding supports required to maintain current funding allocations to our service providers. We anticipate there may be some amendments to this agreement throughout its life span which is expected as a variety of industry pressures continue to provide obstacles for current service providers. The effect of any such potential changes to the City's bottom line is not expected to be significant and is limited to the shared portion.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Developing our Resources

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment.

Widening our Economic Opportunities

Strengthening Stratford's economy by developing, attracting, and retaining a diversity of businesses and talent.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Culture and Community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities, and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled "Children's Services Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement 2023-2027" (COU23-028) be received;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to enter into the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of

Education (Province of Ontario) that pertains to all funding allocations for all licensed child care and early years programming in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County;

THAT City Council delegates its approval authority to the Director of Social Services to execute individual service contracts with each licensed child care and EarlyON provider;

AND THAT section 13.9 of the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, be amended to include licensed-based programs for child care, before and after school programs and EarlyON programs.

Prepared by: Darren Barkhouse, Manager of Children's Services
Recommended by: Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer