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2008 UPDATE ON CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS AND SERVICES

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated February 26, 2009, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report informs Council of the number of new, amended, and terminated Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements for Child Care Fee Assistance in 2008. It also provides information regarding the number of licensed spaces and the number of children receiving child care fee assistance in York Region, by municipality, in 2008.

3. BACKGROUND

York Region provides child care fee assistance to eligible families through agreements with licensed child care programs

The Execution of Documents By-law No. A-0368-2005-088, enacted and passed October 27, 2005, provides the delegation of authority for the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to sign Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements (Purchase of Service Agreements) with operators of licensed child care programs within the Regional Municipality of York, to flow fee subsidy funding.

All operators entering into a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region are required to meet specified criteria including possession of a clear license to operate a Day Nurseries Program from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Operators that enter into a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region are able to provide child care services to families that are deemed eligible to receive child care fee assistance.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements enable residents to access child care services in approved programs

Residents of York Region, who qualify for fee assistance in accordance with provincial legislation and regional policy, are able to access child care services if there is fee assistance funding available, space in the approved program, and the operator has a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement in place. The Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement enables fee assistance to be paid to the operator by York Region for child care services provided for eligible residents.

Approximately 24,910 (86%) of the 28,905 licensed centre-based spaces and 867 (100%) of home child care spaces in use by licensed home child care agencies were covered by a Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement with York Region as of December 31, 2008.

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement Activity in 2008

Table 1 summarizes the number of agreements entered into, amended, or terminated by York Region in 2008.

Table 1
Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement Activity 2008

Reporting Period	New	Amended	Terminated
January to March	2	17	0
April to June	4	165	0
July to September	4	16	2
October to December	1	226	3
Total	11	424	5

York Region provided child care fee assistance to a monthly average of 3,440 children in 2008

There are 28,905 licensed centre-based spaces and 867 home-based child care spaces in York Region. As of December 2008 a monthly average of 3,440 children were subsidized by York Region. Table 2 shows these figures by municipality.

Table 2
Licensed Spaces and Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Fee Assistance, by Municipality (as of December 2008)

Municipality	Number of Licensed Centres	Number of Licensed Spaces (Centre Based)	Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Fee Assistance	Percentage Distribution by Municipality
Markham	117	7,652	917	26.7
Vaughan	122	9,147	835	24.3
Richmond Hill	77	5,116	681	19.8
Newmarket	37	2,459	475	13.8
Georgina	14	962	227	6.6
Aurora	24	1,609	186	5.4
Whitchurch-Stouffville	17	961	53	1.5
East Gwillimbury	10	501	42	1.2
King	12	498	16	0.5
Cross Jurisdictional	n/a	n/a	8	0.2
Total	430	28,905	3,440	100.0

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditures related to child care fee assistance were managed within the Community and Health Services Department 2008 Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Child care fee assistance provides support to employment and/or education for families in York Region. This, in turn, supports local industry, promotes economic development, and strengthens local communities.

7. CONCLUSION

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements between York Region and child care operators enable a monthly average of 3,440 children of eligible residents to access child care fee assistance.

The child population and number of low income families continue to grow in York Region. The current level of provincial funding for child care fee assistance does not meet the need of the rapidly growing population as reflected by the waitlist of 3,552 children in December 2008, an increase of 20% from December 2007.

For more information on this report, please contact David Rennie, General Manager of Social Services at Ext. 2013.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.