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2007 UPDATE CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS AND SERVICES

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, April 3, 2008, 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. This report also provides information regarding the number of licensed spaces and the number of children receiving child care fee assistance, by municipality, in 2007.

3. BACKGROUND

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

At its meeting on March 12, 1998, Regional Council authorized the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to sign Purchase of Service Agreements with operators of licensed child care programs within the Regional Municipality of York (Clause 6 of Report No. 3 of the Community Services and Housing Committee), to flow fee subsidy funding.

Operators must meet specified criteria including possession of a clear license to operate a Day Nurseries Program from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and an approved rate schedule that does not exceed the currently approved Regional Schedule of Rates.

In 2007, as a result of changes to provincial requirements, the existing Purchase of Service Agreement was revised and incorporated in the new Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement. All operators were required to sign a new Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement effective January 2007 which includes Purchase of Service for child care fee assistance.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements enable residents to access child care fee assistance

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

Approximately 22,986 (85%) of the 27,126 licensed centre-based spaces and 867 (100%) of home child care spaces in use by licensed home child care agencies were covered by Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreements with York Region in 2007.

Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement activity in 2007

Regional Council directed the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to provide an annual report on the number of agreements entered into, amended, or terminated by the Region. Amendments include the addition of a new site and or the addition of a rate for a new age group. Table 1 summarizes this activity for 2007.

Table 1
Consolidated Day Nurseries Agreement Activity 2007

Reporting Period	New	Amended	Terminated
January—March	1	15	3
April—June	2	21	0
July—September	5	261	1
September—December	5	200	0
Total	13	497	4

York Region provided child care fee assistance to a monthly average of 3,232 children in 2007

There are 27,126 licensed centre-based spaces and 867 home-based child care spaces in York Region. A monthly average of 3,232 children were subsidized by York Region within the 2007 budget approval. Table 2 shows these numbers by municipality.

The largest percentage of children receiving child care fee assistance resides in the Town of Markham, followed by the City of Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill.

Table 2
Licensed Spaces and Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Fee Assistance, by Municipality in December 2007

Municipality	Number of Licensed Centres	Number of Licensed Centre-Based Spaces	Average Monthly Number of Children Receiving Fee Assistance	Average Monthly Percentage of Children Receiving Fee Assistance
Markham	112	7,447	847	26.2
Vaughan	110	8,384	768	23.8
Richmond Hill	74	4,658	628	19.4
Newmarket	38	2,397	468	14.5
Georgina	14	905	225	7.0
Aurora	24	1,667	183	5.6
Whitchurch-Stouffville	17	764	59	1.8
East Gwillimbury	10	492	39	1.2
King	11	412	10	.3
Cross Jurisdictional	N/A	N/A	5	.2
Total	410	27,126	3,232	100.0

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The approved 2007 Regional budget for child care fee assistance was \$20,713,100. The actual expenditure was \$20,697,748 or 99.9% of the approved 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 3,232 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 2,949 children in December 2007.

For more information on this report, please contact Elizabeth Wagle, Director of Family and Children's Services at Ext. 2089.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.