



BOARD REPORT

REPORT No.: 2023-33

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS' SERVICE PLAN 2023-2028

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2023-33 (Integrated Social Services Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, approve the draft 2023-2028 Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan as presented;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to submit the approved 2023-2028 Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan to the Ministry of Education.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information regarding the proposed 2023-2028 Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan.

BACKGROUND

The *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* requires Service System Managers to establish a Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan for their service area that addresses matters of provincial interest under the Act. The current TBDSSAB plan was presented to the Board at the July 27, 2017 meeting (Report No.: 2017-50) and was established to prepare for TBDSSAB assuming responsibility for service delivery and management of the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres as of January 1, 2018. An updated plan was initially requested by the Ministry of Education but was deferred until 2023 due to the changes brought about by the Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care program.

Building on the provincial interest under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, the 2023-2028 Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan assesses community need, is reflective of engagement with community partners, establishes key priorities and outcomes, and outlines steps for implementation.

The proposed plan is intended to be fluid and flexible to adapt to the ongoing implementation of the Canada Wide Child Care and Early Years System implementation over the next five years.

Service plans are required to include the following key elements:

- environmental scan results that assess current and future child care and early years' service gaps and opportunities;
- a description of the community planning processes used to inform the development of the plan and a commitment to consult, at regular or relevant intervals, through the life of the plan;
- strategic priorities and intended outcomes that are responsive to community needs and align with Ontario's vision for child care and early years and provincial interest;
- a measurable and action-oriented implementation plan that describes how strategic priorities and outcomes will be met; and
- accountability methods including the public posting of plans and reporting in accordance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*. In addition to the key areas identified, Service System Managers should also identify any other programs, needs, opportunities and/or challenges that may exist in their communities in their service system plan to support the ongoing reporting and planning process.

Administration held three consultations sessions with key stakeholders and community partners to gather feedback and input into the plan. Consultations included the Child Care Supervisors Network, EarlyON Children and Family Network and Children and Youth Community Partners Table. On July 20, 2023, the plan was presented to TBDSSAB's Child Care and Early Years Advisory Table where it was reviewed and endorsed to bring forward to the Board.

COMMENTS

The plan includes internal information and external data obtained through broad research and review. The data is an important component of service system planning as Administration endeavors to maintain an understanding of the environmental factors that influence the delivery of child care and early years' services in The District of Thunder Bay.

The plan will guide the service delivery and management of the sector and ensure that key priorities are addressed. The communication of the plan throughout the sector will support open understanding and promote a system-wide focus.

An annual review of the plan will be conducted to measure progress and identify new additions that may come forward in a given year. The commitment to have the plan be flexible is important to the transformation of the Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care System.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

This Report supports the Strategic Plan vision of establishing flexible, inclusive services through enhanced Child Care and Early Years' Programs. Decisions made as part of the plan will continue to support the Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



There are no immediate financial implications related to the approval of the Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan, however, the plan will guide ongoing investment in sustaining the child care and early years system. Any future implications will be presented to the Board as part of the TBDSSAB annual budget process.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the draft 2023 – 2028 Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan be approved as presented and submitted to the Ministry of Education.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Attachment #1 [DRAFT Child Care and Early Years' Service Plan 2023-2028](#)

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| APPROVED BY | Ken Ranta, Director, Integrated Social Services Division |
| SIGNATURE |  |
| SUBMITTED BY: | William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer |