
SURREY COMMUNITY CHILD CARE ACTION PLAN

PREPARED BY THE SURREY COMMUNITY
CHILD CARE TASK FORCE & THE CITY OF SURREY



FOREWORD

The 2021 Child Care Action Plan was created through a grant received from the Community Child Care Planning Program, which provides funding for local governments to engage in child care planning activities. This updated 2023 version was completed by the City of Surrey. Through partnerships and engagement, the project collected information regarding the child care needs of the community; created an inventory of existing child care spaces; identified space creation targets over the next 10 years; and identified actions that could be taken to meet those space creation targets. The information gathered was shared with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, and may inform future investments in child care space creation that the Government of British Columbia may provide the community through funding programs such as the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund.

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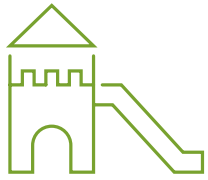


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Surrey Child Care Action Plan provides an overview of the landscape of child care in Surrey during 2023. This is the second version of the Surrey Child Care Action Plan. Surrey is a large, growing community and child care is a topic that matters significantly to both families, and the overall economy. There is an opportunity to improve child care in Surrey by increasing the number of spaces, and by ensuring that high quality, affordable, and inclusive child care is available to families. The following data highlights the existing gaps in Surrey over different measurements.



Surrey has

17.9

licensed child care spaces per

100 CHILDREN



533
Child Care
Providers

SURREY NEEDS OVER

7,000*

SPACES



to meet the
Canadian National Average of

**27.2 licensed child care
spaces per 100 children.**

Surrey has

14,337



licensed child care spaces¹

FOR 80,000 CHILDREN²

Only
10%



of child care providers in
Surrey are operated by
non-profit organizations.

611 Universal Child Care prototype spaces⁴



In Surrey, 36.6% or 1,753 kindergarten children were vulnerable on one or more scales of the EDI in Wave 8 compared to the current Provincial vulnerability rate of 32.9%.

¹Child Care Options CCRR. (2023).

²Statistics Canada. (2021).

³Child Care Options CCRR. (2023).

⁴Province of British Columbia Universal Child Care Prototype Sites. (2023).

⁵EDI Wave 8 collected between 2019-2022 for children Vulnerable on One or More Scales.

⁶Change 2016 to 2021

INTRODUCTION

Surrey is a unique and diverse community of over 568,322 residents . Our city is one of the fastest growing, culturally diverse cities in Canada, as well as the largest city in land area in the Metro Vancouver area. Surrey is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Salish Peoples, including the ǫíćəý (Katzie), ǫʷɑ:ńłəń (Kwantlen), Semiahma (Semiahmoo) land-based nations, and Surrey Delta Metis Association which is a chartered community. The City of Surrey and community partners are committed to developing a complete community that balances a high-quality living environment with a diverse, vibrant, and sustainable local economy. Our strong economy generates a wide range of stable jobs for Surrey residents, supports a robust and stable tax base to fund essential community services, and provides wide access to consumer goods, services, and business investment opportunities.

Part of developing a strong economy is ensuring that there are enough child care spaces to meet demand. Surrey is currently well below the Canadian National Average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children. A gap analysis completed in 2023 showed that there are 17.9 licensed child care spaces for every 100 children requiring care for children between the ages of 0-12. The data was analyzed using 2021 population statistics compared to the number of licensed child care spaces in 2023. The number of child care spaces needs to increase significantly to meet demand. Non-profit child care operators also contribute to a sustainable economy by providing affordable, wrap-around supports for families. However, with the very low number of non-profit child care operators in Surrey, they are stretched to meet this overwhelming demand for care. Data collected in 2023 shows that Surrey has a total of 533 child care providers. Only 10%, or 42 of these, are operated by non-profit organizations.

Regardless of the gaps, Surrey is strong and there is hope for the future. With funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments, the City of Surrey and the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force are well-informed and positioned to support key and significant investments.

The Value of the Community Child Care Action Plan

The Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (SCCTF) incited the creation of the Child Care Action Plan that will be used to tell the story of child care in Surrey. The perspectives shared within will do more than shine a light on the current and future needs, but also give insight into the unique challenges that are experienced. Additionally, child care operators seeking funding will use the plan to document community need.

In March 2019, Surrey was one of 70 BC Municipalities that received a grant through the Community Child Care Planning Program. The information gathered through these plans is shared with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and informs future investments that the Government of British Columbia may provide Surrey through funding programs such as the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund. Surrey received \$25,000 through this grant, and a draft child care action plan was created. In 2020, Surrey's Child Care Task Force reapplied for the grant and received an additional \$25,000 to complete the original version of this plan.





THE SURREY COMMUNITY AND THE LANDSCAPE OF CHILD CARE

The Surrey Community Child Care Task Force

Representatives from the City of Surrey and Alexandra Neighbourhood House are co-chairs for the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (SCCTF). The SCCTF supports collective actions that will utilize research and data to advance policy and licensed child care program expansion. In 2015, Non-profit community partners called on the City of Surrey to create a Surrey Community Child Care Task Force. Since then, highlights include the Task Force gathering data and making recommendations to the City of Surrey and the BC Government in 2018. In addition, the SCCTF has applied for and received two UBCM Community Child Care Planning Grants in 2019 and 2020.

In the 2018 SCCTF report, the Task Force made three major recommendations:

1

Invest in local child care resources and support services to families, child care providers, and employers through additional funding to the Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCRR) to meet growth needs and provide one-time support for local government to develop an immediate space creation plan with a focus on building capacity of the non-profit sector.

2

Invest in local ECE training spaces in partnership with high quality public educational providers in Surrey (e.g., explore potential opportunities with Surrey School District SD36, with the City of Surrey as a partner).

3

Invest in increased Fraser Health Authority quality control licensing resources to facilitate and keep up with the continuing growth in child care licensing applications and support regulatory functions to mitigate pressures on child care quality and reduce risks to children in child care.

The SCCTF maintains a shared terms of reference, and members choose to work together and support underlying values and beliefs to improve and increase child care in Surrey. The SCCTF also looks for patterns created by deeper systemic processes, which include how child care is funded and how programs are developed and delivered. Together, the diverse membership of the SCCTF will drive Surrey towards the progress that is needed to ensure there is adequate child care coverage and support for families.

The SCCTF provides information to members that link to internal mandates of each organization and promote the work of child care expansion in Surrey. The role of each member within the SCCTF varies.



The diverse membership of the SCCTF will drive Surrey towards the progress needed to ensure there is adequate child care coverage and support for families.

As a municipality, the City of Surrey has the authority, scope, and responsibility for bylaws, as well as planning and development relating to child care. The City of Surrey also operates extended hours preschool programs for ages 3-5. Finally, the City of Surrey is working to increase the number of licensed spaces in Surrey by renovating existing spaces and adding new buildings and that are purpose built for child care. Non-profit organizations have service provision authority and, in some cases, land for child care development. Some non-profit organizations also apply for child care space creation grants to increase the number of licensed spaces in Surrey by renovating existing spaces and adding new buildings and that are purpose built for child care.

The SCCTF meets monthly and has driven the Child Care Action Plan to date. The members are from a variety of organizations and levels of government. Here is an overview of the current Task Force members in 2023.

SURREY COMMUNITY CHILD CARE TASK FORCE MEMBERS, 2023

Organization	Name	Title
Alexandra Neighbourhood House	R. Hubbard	Director, Program Strategy
Child Care Options CCRR	M. Davies	Manager
City of Surrey	S. Rennie	Recreation Operations Manager
City of Surrey	K. Van Eaton	Project Manager
City of Surrey	C. Elliott	Early Years Manager
City of Surrey	C. Colquhoun	Middle Years Manager
City of Surrey	S. Macdonell	Project Coordinator
Fraser Health Licensing	J. Mischuda	Licensing Officer/Practice Consultant
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	A. Begalka	Dean, The Faculty of Academic and Career Advancement
Métis Nation British Columbia	L. Joshi	Child Care Project Lead
The Children's Foundation	M. Pouliot	Program Manager, Early and Middle Years Child Care
Surrey Schools	C. Northway	Assistant Superintendent
Surrey Schools	L. Christensen	Principal, Early Learning and Child Care
YMCA of Greater Vancouver	C. Poole	General Manager, Early Years and Family Development
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association	V. Hickman	Director of Strategic Innovation
DIVERSECity Community Resources Society	S. Bhatti	Assistant Manager of Child and Family
Government of British Columbia	M. Kirby	Manager of Engagement, Childcare BC
Metis Family Services	M. McVicar	Director of Early Years Programs and Facilities



A Spotlight on Surrey's Communities

Surrey is the largest city by land area and the second most populated in Metro Vancouver. Surrey is one of the fastest growing and most culturally diverse cities in Canada. As a large and geographically diverse city, Surrey is made up of seven distinct neighbourhoods. In the past 20 years, Surrey has experienced a significant demographic shift. The City welcomes approximately 1500 new residents each month and the population is projected to increase by an additional 250,000 people in the next 30 years. In 2022, there were 5994 babies born with an average of 500 babies each month.⁸ By 2041, one in five Metro Vancouver residents will call Surrey home. Of the new Surrey residents, many are recent immigrants. Currently, over 95% of recent immigrants are visible minorities. Surrey has the largest Urban Indigenous population in BC. The young and growing Urban Indigenous population is expected to grow exponentially over the next 15 years.⁹

The changes in demographics and rapid increase in population have contributed to a child care crisis in Surrey. In 2018, David Macdonald, a Senior Economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives found that the number of 0-4-year-old children in Surrey totalled 28,680, with just 25%¹⁰ having access to licensed child care. Surrey's population is projected to continue to grow another 12-16% in the next twenty years which will further compound the critical child care shortage.¹¹

As mentioned, Surrey is composed of seven distinct neighbourhoods which are City Centre, Whalley, Guildford, Newton, Fleetwood, Cloverdale, and South Surrey. An overview of each neighbourhood follows with a highlight on statistics related to child care.

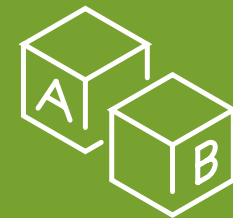
⁸ BC Vital Statistics. (2021).

⁹ Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee. (2016).

¹⁰ Macdonald, D. Child Care Deserts in Canada. (2018).

¹¹ Surrey Population Projections and Estimates. (2019).

The changes in demographics and rapid increase in population have contributed to a child care crisis in Surrey.



CITY CENTRE AND WHALLEY

The City Centre neighbourhood is in the midst of a significant transformation. What was once a suburban town centre is developing into a walkable, transit oriented, downtown core for business, culture, and entertainment. In 2016, the population of City Centre was 26,945, or 5% of Surrey's total population with 17% of those residents being under the age of 19. The breakdown of family sizes in City Centre was quite different than the breakdown for Surrey. 55% of families in City Centre consisted of two people, which is much higher than the percentage citywide at 42%. City Centre's population grew by 18% between 2011 and 2016, and this was much higher than the rate of growth citywide, which grew 11% between 2011 and 2016. In 2015, about 1 in 4 people in City Centre were low income, which is higher than the percentage for the overall city. There is a lower number of recent immigrants living in City Centre, with only 2,085 of 36,335 living in Surrey. The top place of origin of recent immigrants to City Centre was the Philippines. By comparison, the top place of origin of recent immigrants to the City was India. There were 13,460 people that identified as aboriginal living in Surrey, and 1,230 or 5% lived in City Centre.¹²

Close to, and surrounding City Centre is Whalley. Whalley is one of Surrey's oldest neighbourhoods. Whalley is home to 15% of Surrey's total population and 25% of the population is under 19 years of age. Whalley's population

grew by 5% between 2011 and 2016, which was much lower than the rate of growth citywide. Recent immigrants accounted for 6,210 of Whalley's residents. The top place of origin of recent immigrants to Whalley was India. There were 2,280 people who identified as aboriginal living in Whalley.¹³ In 2015, 16% of the residents in Whalley were considered low income.

When reviewing Early Development Instrument (EDI) data, Whalley North stands out as an area of high vulnerability. In Surrey, 35% of children are vulnerable on at least one area of development as measured by the EDI in Wave 7, but in Whalley North, 49% of children are considered vulnerable.¹⁴ Whalley North is considerably higher than the city-wide average and has the most vulnerable children that are documented. In terms of licensed child care spaces, Whalley, including City Centre, only has 14.5 spaces per 100 children¹⁵ which is the lowest coverage in the City. Whalley can benefit from the expansion of every type of child care for all ages 0-12 considering that the children showing high levels of vulnerability as measured in the EDI, live here and there is the lowest amount of child care.

¹² City of Surrey City Centre Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

¹³ City of Surrey Whalley Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

¹⁴ EDI Wave 7 Community Profile Surrey School District. (2019).

¹⁵ Census statistics 2016 and a review of total child care programs in 2020 by CCRR.

Whalley (including City Centre)	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 4-5 years	Preschool Program 30m-5y	Population 5-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family
	3,148	2,098		8,617			
# of Spaces	438	845	288	505	133	31	14
# of Programs	29	38	16	25	17	4	2

In City Centre and Whalley, the most needed type of child care is for children aged 6-12 years, as there are currently only 5.8 licensed spaces per 100 children. Closely following this is a need for ages 0-36 months at 15.2 licensed spaces per 100 children. Ultimately, as noted above, every age group in the City Centre and Whalley is well below the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed child care spaces per 100 children. City Centre and Whalley continue to grow, and the Average Annual Population Growth Rate (2020 to 2031) is above the city wide average at 2.2%. The need for child care spaces in City Centre and Whalley will continue to increase.



Whalley (including City Centre)	
Total Number of Children	13,863
Total Number of Spaces	2,254
Space Deficit	11,609
Spaces per 100 Children	17.5

GUILDFORD

Guildford is comprised of mature urban neighbourhoods, as well as the newer Fraser Heights subdivision which slopes down toward the Fraser River. Tynehead and Surrey Bend Regional Parks are some of the significant natural environments in Guildford. In 2016, the population of Guildford was 60,745 with 24% of residents being under the age of 19. In 2016, 5,285 of Guildford's residents were considered recent immigrants having immigrated to Canada between 2011 and 2016. The top place of origin of recent immigrants to Guildford was the Philippines. In the same time period, there were 13,460 people that identified as aboriginal living in Surrey. Of those, 1,575 or 12% lived in Guildford.¹⁶ In 2015, the average household income in Guildford was \$87,256, which was lower than the city's average income and about 1 in 5, or 20%, of the people in Guildford were considered low income. Guildford also has the highest growth rate in the entire city at 3.9% for the Average Annual Population Growth Rate (2020 to 2031).

In terms of child care spaces, Guildford falls below the city-wide average of 17.9 licensed child care spaces per 100 children, coming in slightly higher at 18.7 spaces. Guildford Centre was identified as having a higher percentage of children as vulnerable on at least one area of development as measured by the EDI in Wave 7, at 43% of children.¹⁷ In Guildford, the most needed types of child care are for ages 0-36 months and ages 6-12 years. The rate per 100 children for ages 0-36 months is 11.1 licensed spaces per 100, and 13.5 licensed spaces per 100 for ages 6-12. All types of child care are needed in Guildford due to the growth rate, and the fact that every age group is well below the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed child care spaces per 100 children.

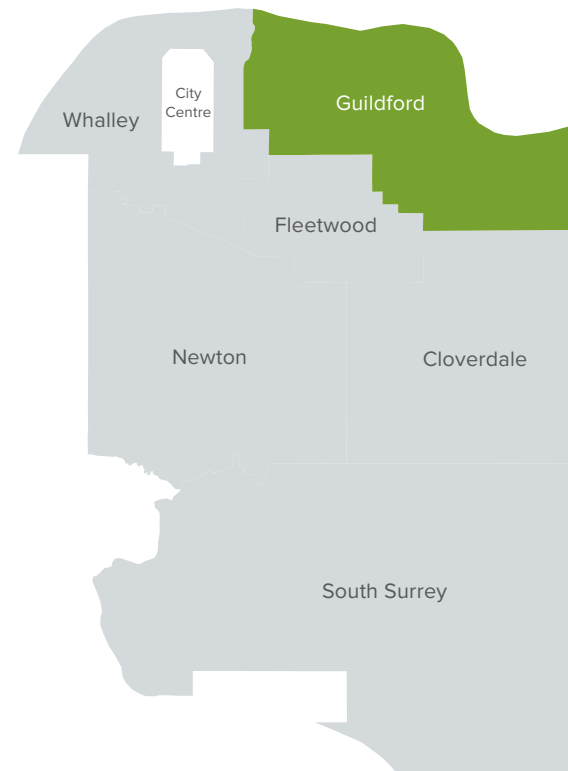
¹⁶ City of Surrey Guildford Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

¹⁷ EDI Wave 7 Community Profile Surrey School District (2019).

Guildford	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 4-5 years	Preschool Program 30m-5y	Population 5-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	1,715	1,268		5,782				
# of Spaces	191	563	225	325	152	87	63	2
# of Programs	7	22	12	13	18	11	9	1

Guildford	
Total Number of Children	8765
Total Number of Spaces	1638
Space Deficit	7217
Spaces per 100 Children	18.7

In Guildford, the most needed types of child care are for ages 0-36 months and ages 6-12 years.



NEWTON

Newton is a vibrant and culturally diverse community that is home to the region's largest South Asian community. As of 2016, the population of Newton was 149,040 or 29% of Surrey's total population. Newton's population grew by 12% between 2011 and 2016, with 26% of residents under the age of 19.¹⁸ Newton has a large population of recent immigrants. As of 2016, approximately one third of all recent immigrants in Surrey live in Newton. The top place of origin of recent immigrants to Newton is India and 54% of Newton residents spoke English at home, which is lower than the citywide average. In terms of the Urban Indigenous population, 25% of the total population in Surrey live in Newton.¹⁹ Lastly, in 2015, 15% of Newton's population were considered low income.

In terms of licensed child care spaces, Newton has 15 spaces per 100 children²⁰ which is lower than the city wide average. Newton can benefit from the expansion of every type of child care, for all ages 0-12. Newton also has the highest number of children ages 0-12 compared to other Surrey communities. Although Newton has the most children, it also has the lowest Average Annual Population Growth Rate (2020 to 2031) in the City at 0.8%. Newton North West is the second highest area in Surrey with the most children who are vulnerable on at least one area of development, as measured by the EDI in Wave 7, at 45%.²¹

In Newton, the most needed type of child care is for ages 5-12 years as there are only 5 spaces per every 100 children in this age group. Every type of child care is needed in Newton, and all age groups are below the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed child care spaces per 100 children.

¹⁸ City of Surrey Newton Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

¹⁹ City of Surrey Newton Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

²⁰ Census statistics 2016 and a review of total child care programs in 2020 by CCRR.

²¹ EDI Wave 7 Community Profile Surrey School District. (2019).

Newton	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 4-5 years	Preschool Program 30m-5y	Population 5-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	4,888	3,384		15,369				
# of Spaces	497	1,062	5143	778	392	104	91	16
# of Programs	28	41	33	34	46	13	13	8

Newton	
Total Number of Children	23641
Total Number of Spaces	3547
Space Deficit	20094
Spaces per 100 Children	15

In Newton, the most needed type of child care is for ages 0-36 months as there are only 6 licensed spaces per 100 children in this age group.



FLEETWOOD

The Fleetwood neighbourhood is centrally located in the northern area of Surrey. Fleetwood is the smallest town centre in Surrey and is one of the more recently developed but fastest growing areas. The neighbourhood is a diverse residential area comprised of mostly single-family dwellings. The planned SkyTrain extension will connect Fleetwood to the rest of the city. In 2016, the population of Fleetwood was 62,735 or 12% of Surrey's total population with 25% of the population consisting of people 19 and younger. Fleetwood's residents include 4,160 recent immigrants having arrived in Canada between 2011 and 2016. The top place of origin of recent immigrants to Fleetwood was India. In 2016, there were 13,460 people that identified as Indigenous living in Surrey. Of those 1,240 lived in Fleetwood.²² In 2015, Fleetwood had the third highest average household income of all seven Surrey communities and 13% of the population in Fleetwood was considered low income. The Average Annual Population Growth Rate (2020 to 2031) in Fleetwood is lower than the citywide average at 1.2%.

No areas in Fleetwood exceed the citywide average of children who are vulnerable as measured by the EDI in Wave 7. Although well below the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed spaces per 100 children, Fleetwood is above the citywide average of 17.9 spaces per 100 children at 21.2 spaces.

In Fleetwood, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 years as there are only 8.3 licensed spaces per 100 children. The second most needed type of child care closely follows at 11 spaces per 100 children for ages 0-36 months. In Fleetwood, all age groups are below the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed child care spaces per 100 children, and child care spaces need to increase to meet the need.

²² City of Surrey Fleetwood Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

Fleetwood	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 4-5 years	Preschool Program 30m-5y	Population 5-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	1690	1225		5883				
# of Spaces	194	448	418	490	265	56	91	6
# of Programs	8	18	17	17	34	7	13	3

Fleetwood	
Total Number of Children	8798
Total Number of Spaces	1870
Space Deficit	6928
Spaces per 100 Children	21.3

In Fleetwood, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 years as there are only 8.3 licensed spaces per 100 children.



CLOVERDALE

Cloverdale is the third largest community in Surrey. Areas within the Cloverdale Town Centre like Clayton Heights have gone through significant growth to develop newer residential areas. To support area residents, new facilities and amenities are being added, including the Clayton Community Centre. In 2016, the population of Cloverdale was 65,645 with 27% of those residents being under the age of 19. Cloverdale's population grew by 21% between 2011 and 2016. This was much higher than the overall city growth rate of 11%. The Average Annual Population Growth Rate (2020 to 2031) in Cloverdale is 2.7%, which is higher than the citywide average. In 2015, Cloverdale had the second highest average household income of all Surrey communities, and only 8% of the population in Cloverdale was considered low income.²³

In Cloverdale, the Cloverdale North area is identified as the highest in the town centre for having children who are vulnerable on at least one area of development as measured by the EDI in Wave 7, at 33%.²⁴ The Cloverdale North area is below the citywide average of 35% of children in Surrey who are vulnerable on at least one area of development. The number of licensed spaces in Cloverdale are near the citywide average of 17.9 spaces, at 17.2 licensed child care spaces per 100 children in Cloverdale.

In Cloverdale, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12, as there are only 8.8 licensed spaces per 100 children. The second most needed type of child care is for ages 0-36 months at 12.4 licensed spaces per 100 children. In Cloverdale, every type of child care is needed, and all age groups are under the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed child care spaces per 100 children.

²² City of Surrey Cloverdale Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

²³ EDI Wave 7 Community Profile Surrey School District. (2019).

Cloverdale	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 4-5 years	Preschool Program 30m-5y	Population 5-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	2445	1853		8243				
# of Spaces	304	537	292	724	208	32	56	8
# of Programs	13	22	13	24	26	4	8	4

Cloverdale	
Total Number of Children	12541
Total Number of Spaces	2161
Space Deficit	10380
Spaces per 100 Children	17.2



In Cloverdale, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12, as there are only 8.8 licensed spaces per 100 children.

SOUTH SURREY

South Surrey is a vibrant area with many recent developments and rapid growth. In 2016, the population of South Surrey was 77,170, with residents under the age of 19 comprising 22% of the population. South Surrey's population grew by 12% between 2011 and 2016. The Average Annual Population Growth Rate (2020 to 2031) for South Surrey is 3.1% which is higher than the citywide average. In 2016, 3,850 South Surrey residents were considered recent immigrants having immigrated to Canada between 2011 and 2016. The top place of origin of recent immigrants to South Surrey was China. 84% of South Surrey residents spoke English at home, which is much higher than the percentage for the city. In 2015, South Surrey had the highest average household income of all seven Surrey communities.²⁵

In South Surrey, the Rosemary Heights area is identified as having 36% of children vulnerable on at least one area of development as measured by the EDI in Wave 7²⁶, which is slightly higher than the citywide average of 35%. South Surrey is the closest to achieving the number of spaces for licensed child care compared to the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed spaces per 100 children; South Surrey has 22.9 licensed spaces per 100 children.

In South Surrey, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 as there are only 7.5 spaces per 100 children. All types of child care are needed in South Surrey and all age groups are below the Canadian National Average of 27.2 licensed child care spaces per 100 children.

²⁵ City of Surrey South Surrey Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

²⁶ EDI Wave 7 Community Profile Surrey School District. (2019).

In South Surrey, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 as there are only 7.5 spaces per 100 children.

South Surrey	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 4-5 years	Preschool Program 30m-5y	Population 5-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family
	2324	1847		8326			
# of Spaces	572	1173	321	626	101	40	34
# of Programs	17	32	15	28	12	5	

South Surrey	
Total Number of Children	12497
Total Number of Spaces	2867
Space Deficit	9630
Spaces per 100 Children	22.9



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND ACTIONS

Strategic Directions Identified by the SCCTF Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Actions

The strategic directions were created in a collaborative process with all members of the Surrey Community Child Care Task force having the opportunity for co-creation. All the directions build on previous work done by the SCCTF and align with current local and provincial government goals.

The four areas of focus are to: provide high quality child care, increase accessibility and affordability of child care spaces, increase inclusive practices and vulnerable population services, and prioritize coordination and build capacity. The lead organizations listed in the table are all members of the Surrey Community Child Care Task force.

Provide High Quality Child Care

Quality early child care experiences can “determine whether a child’s developing brain architecture provides a strong or weak foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health.”³⁰ Additionally, for children from low-income families, “participation in very high-quality... early education programs has been demonstrated to enhance child cognitive and social development.”³¹ Due to the lasting importance of early childhood supports in a child’s life, ensuring that child care is high quality is listed first.

³⁰ Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy. (2007)
³¹ Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy. (2007)

... participation in very high-quality ... early education programs has been demonstrated to enhance child cognitive and social development.

Provide High Quality Child Care		Timeline	Lead Organization(s)
1.1	Provide child care services which are child focused, family centred, culturally competent, inclusive, and integrated into the broader network of child and family support services.	Short	All
1.2	Provide child care services that demonstrate evidence based on early childhood and middle childhood development best practice and are aligned with the BC Early Learning Framework and MCM's Five Dimensions for Assessing the Well Being of Children Aged 6-12, and the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework.	Short	All
1.3	Increase programs and resources that provide caregiver education, involvement and engagement that are easily accessible.	Short	All
1.4	Invest in professional development for ECE staff, as well as networking for staff between agencies.	Short	All
1.5	Establish a lead to coordinate discussions regarding a local ECE training centre for Surrey and use the outcome of discussions to inform strategic planning for the development of an ECE training centre.	Completed	KPU
1.6	Determine a strategy or an understanding on how Task Force members will share recruitment and retention practices for the ECE sector.	Short	All
1.7	Collate information, data, and experiences from Surrey agencies and inform Government of ECE recruitment challenges.	Medium	All



Increase Accessibility and Affordability of Child Care Spaces

Child care fees remain unaffordable for many families. Lack of affordable child care is creating economic hardship for many low- and middle-income families. In Surrey, the average monthly fees for group child care are over \$1,000 per month for children ages 0-3, and nearly \$1,000 for children ages 3-5 years. The cost of school age child care is around \$500.³² Considering that many children are from low-income or single parent homes, the cost of child care is unaffordable for many families. With a recent announcement from the Government of BC to increase the number of \$10 per day prototype sites, child care providers in Surrey have applied. This is a unique time in history when the federal and provincial governments agree that the cost of child care and access to quality spaces is a priority to support our children and families. The Provincial Government continues to have a variety of fee reduction initiatives for families and child care providers.

³² Appendix 2 Child Care Options Fee Survey

Increase Accessibility and Affordability of Child Care Spaces		Timeline	Lead Organization(s)
2.1	Achieve target of 40 spaces per 100 children by 2030. Investing in the creation of child care spaces will ensure capacity keeps up with population growth, and current shortages are addressed.	Long	All
2.2	Develop a Child Care Policy for Surrey.	Short	City of Surrey
2.3	Follow Recommendations from the Planning and Policy Review, 2021.	Short	City of Surrey
2.4	Prioritize and expand Non-Profit operators into City and School District owned child care building infrastructure.	Medium	City, School District and Non-Profits
2.5	Increase low and no cost services by participating in Provincial programs (i.e., \$10 /day child care program, ACCB) and strive to remove or minimize financial barriers for all families.	Short	All Non-Profits
2.6	Complete an initial, benchmark inventory of non-standard hours programs and services.	Short	CCRR
2.7	Develop a strategy to investigate how non-standard hours of care can be increased. These services must be viable for the child care provider.	Medium	All

Increase Inclusive Practices and Vulnerable Population Services

Surrey is a very diverse community and there are gaps in service to many vulnerable populations. The specific needs of families for child care varies across the city but in all areas, there is an insufficient number of spaces, and low- and middle-income families for whom child care is unaffordable. Additionally, new immigrants, refugees and Indigenous residents cannot access culturally specific or sensitive programming, and young parents have limited options for programming. The need for child care is vast: however, the specific populations discussed above are often our most vulnerable residents.

Surrey’s Urban Indigenous population is the fastest growing in British Columbia. The Urban Indigenous community in Surrey also experiences one of the highest child and youth poverty rates in the region. There is currently only one early education centre for Indigenous specific pre-school in North Surrey. Métis Family Services is the only agency providing wraparound support and resources specifically for Métis families. Métis Family Services offers inclusive, culturally competent, trauma-informed Early Years programming. Quality early childhood experiences for young children that are culturally relevant can be a powerful equalizer to ensuring that they are given the best chances to thrive later in life. The creation of additional spaces specifically for the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit population is also needed.

Increase Inclusive Practices and Vulnerable Population Services		Timeline	Lead Organization(s)
3.1	Work with Indigenous partners and Elders to ensure the needs of Indigenous children are met with cultural sensitivity.	Short	All
3.2	Learn and share information, through a survey or town hall, that would meaningfully address the needs of at-risk families requiring additional help, children with special needs to be included as much as possible, and new immigrants and refugees.	Medium	City of Surrey
3.3	Gather stories that will personalize the challenges that families have in accessing safe, quality, child care. Share these stories as part of advocacy work.	Short	All





Prioritize Coordination and Build Capacity for Children with Exceptional Needs

There are insufficient services to support children with special needs. At the Centre for Child Development, they have 37 spaces to meet the needs of the approximately 12,000 children with special needs. Options has a program for children with extra support needs,³³ but inclusive child care programs are extremely overburdened and often located in one specific geographic region. The lack of support exacerbates existing barriers, and inevitably this leaves many families and children without access to these essential services.

Increase Inclusive Practices and Vulnerable Population Services		Timeline	Lead Organization(s)
4.1	Continue the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force, which is a community table focused on child care planning that works to enhance, expand, and support the long-term sustainability of high quality, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive child care services for Surrey families with children up to age 12 years.	Long	All
4.2	Continue advocacy at all levels of government: municipal, provincial, and federal to ensure the needs of Surrey families and children are met.	Short	All
4.3	Implement the child care community engagement plan to allow for input and feedback from community.	Medium	City of Surrey
4.4	Collect and integrate additional data from the City and School District #36 into the existing Phase 1 map of data from Child Care Resource & Referral (“CCRR”) and Licensing Branch (Fraser Health).	Medium	City of Surrey SD 36 Fraser Health
4.5	Create a plan to increase accessible spaces for inclusion and vulnerable populations.	Short	City of Surrey
4.6	Providing support and endorsement for Indigenous organizations to accessing funds, space, and resources to build capacity.	Short	City of Surrey All
4.7	Provide training and support for non-indigenous child care providers and staff on decolonization and reconciliation.	Short	All

CONCLUSION

Monitoring, Implementing, and Reporting

Through the process of child care planning, members of the SCCTF affirmed the significant gap for child care spaces in Surrey, the depth of structural and financial constraints amongst Surrey operators and organizations to address the current deep child care shortage, and the significant investment needed to even come close to maintaining the current shortfall of licensed child care spaces.

The City of Surrey has a Sustainability Charter that will aid staff to monitor and report on child care. Surrey's Sustainability Charter 2.0³⁴ is an ambitious vision for sustainability in Surrey and the Charter guides all City decisions. The measurements for the Sustainability Charter are tracked in the Sustainability Dashboard 2.0 which is an important tool in the implementation of the Sustainability Charter. The specific areas of the Sustainability Charter 2.0 that speak to child care fall under the themes of Inclusion, Education, and Culture, and Health and Wellness.

³⁴Surrey's Sustainability Charter 2.0

Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes (DO) and Strategic Directions (SD):

- Diversity and Accessibility DO1: Surrey welcomes, includes, embraces and values the diversity of people who live here;
- Diversity and Accessibility DO2: Surrey is a caring and compassionate City that supports its residents of all backgrounds, demographics and life experiences;
- Learning DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families;
- Diversity and Accessibility DO7: Surrey's Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment, and opportunities for cultural connections;
- Age Friendly Community DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local child care;
- Age Friendly Community SD14: Ensure sufficient high-quality child-care spaces are available in the City;
- Health Services and Program SD5: Support access to high quality child care services and facilities.

The City of Surrey also uses the Surrey Excels Dashboard to track, measure, and report on work relating to child care as listed in the Surrey Excels³⁵ tiered plans. Surrey Excels is the City's strategic framework, and guides staff in achieving the vision of a thriving, green, inclusive city. Measurements and reporting for child care show up in the Tier 2 plan for Parks, Recreation, and Culture, as well as Planning and Development. In Parks, Recreation and Culture, there is a key measure that monitors the number of licensed child care spaces. There is also a key strategic initiative to work with the Province to secure additional child care spaces and grants (B2). Measurements and reporting for child care are also included in the Tier 2 plan Planning and Development and is listed as a key strategic initiative to work with Parks, Recreation and Culture and the Province on additional child care spaces and grants (A3). The strategic initiatives in Surrey Excels are measured ongoing through the dashboard and are updated annually.

³⁵ Surrey Excels, 2021

A Commitment to the Children and Families of Surrey

The community of Surrey is growing, and the need is great. Currently there are only 17.9 licensed child care spaces for every 100 children, so Surrey must work diligently to reach 20,000 quality child care spaces to attain the national average of 27.2 spaces for every 100 children. While this is a daunting task, if even 10,000 spaces are created over the next three years, we will be well on our way to meeting the needs of families that live and work in Surrey. Since 2021, the number of spaces has increased from 14.9 to 17.9 per 100 children city-wide across Surrey.

Our non-profit agencies are best suited to provide those child care spaces, as research shows that they are better suited to provide “better ratios, better health and safety conditions; to provide caregiving that is more sensitive, developmentally appropriate, and less harsh; to have lower staff turnover and stress; better trained staff, and better wages and working conditions.”³⁶ Efforts should be made to support these non-profit agencies working in Surrey to provide additional wrap-around family supports that will enable children and families to thrive. The federal and provincial governments have committed to funding quality, affordable and accessible childcare like never before, and it will be essential for all Surrey community partners to work together to access this funding and advocate for additional funds for the services that the children and families living in Surrey deserve. To

support non-profit agencies to create new quality spaces, things like access to suitable indoor and outdoor space and funding to dedicated to support non-profit agencies with the development of spaces is critical. Although there is funding from the Province and Federal governments, it still does not come close to covering the costs that are incurred by non-profit agencies.

³⁶ Child Care Canada, Childcare Resource and Research Unit (2007)



To do this, the following actions should be undertaken immediately:

- Advocate for additional funding allocations from the provincial and federal governments for Surrey to create new quality child care spaces and get us closer to the national average of 27.2 spaces for every 100 children.
- Advocate for additional funding for underserved groups and those who need wrap-around services, such as families with special needs.
- Advocate for additional provincial Universal Child Care Prototype spaces for Surrey to be operated by non-profit agencies so that they can ensure that families have access to affordable and accessible child care spaces.
- Conduct space inventories of public agencies and institutions to see where additional child care spaces may be able to coexist with other services and programs that focus on the needs of children and families.
- City and public partners continue to ensure key staff are engaged in the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force so the work to date continues and additional child care spaces are created.
- Focus funding provision on non-profit agencies to assist them in developing their infrastructure to operate additional quality child care spaces.

With these actions, Surrey will be on the road to establishing affordable, accessible, and quality child care spaces that provide fun and creative opportunities for children to thrive and at the same time provide broader support for families living and working in Surrey. As the African proverb states: “It takes a Village to raise a child,” and if there ever were a time for the City of Surrey, its public partners, public institutions, and non-profit agencies to be a “Village,” it is now. The children and families of Surrey deserve better. The importance of providing quality child care services in our community is apparent and aligned with federal, provincial, Surrey Schools and City of Surrey initiatives. The creation of new quality child care spaces is a huge task that cannot be done in isolation and will require the attention and support of many community partners. Together, we can do this.

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APPENDIX

Child Population and Child Care Spaces Overview

APPENDIX 1

	Guildford	Newton	Cloverdale	Whalley	City Centre	South Surrey	Fleetwood	Total
Population 0, 1, 2 (0-36 months)	1715	4888	2445	2035	1113	2324	1690	16210
Spaces	191	497	304	217	221	572	194	2196
# of Programs	7	28	13	18	11	17	8	102
Spaces per 100 children	11.14	10.17	12.43	10.66	19.86	24.61	11.48	13.55
Population 3-4 years	1268	3384	1853	1431	667	1847	1225	11675
Spaces	563	1062	537	460	385	1173	448	4628
# of Programs	22	41	22	21	17	32	18	173
Spaces per 100 children	44.40	31.38	28.98	32.15	57.72	63.51	36.57	39.64
Preschool Program 30	1887	5143	2811	2188	986	2816	1899	17730
Spaces	255	607	292	218	70	321	320	2083
# of Programs	12	33	13	12	4	15	14	103
Spaces per 100 children	13.51	11.80	10.39	9.96	7.10	11.40	16.85	11.75
Population 5-12 years	5782	15369	8243	6330	2287	8326	5883	52220
Spaces	325	778	724	376	129	626	490	3448
# of Programs	13	34	24	19	6	28	17	141
Spaces per 100 children	5.62	5.06	8.78	5.94	5.64	7.52	8.33	6.60

Multi Age Centres								
Spaces	152	392	208	102	31	101	265	1251
# of Programs	18	46	26	13	4	12	34	153
In Home Multi Age								
Spaces	87	104	32	31	0	40	56	350
# of Programs	11	13	4	4	0	5	7	44
Liscenced Family								
Spaces	63	91	56	14	0	34	91	349
# of Programs	9	13	8	2	0	5	13	50
Register Licence Not Required								
Spaces	2	16	8	0	0	0	6	32
# of Programs	1	8	4	0	0	0	3	16
Total Number of Children								
Total Number of Children	8765	23641	12541	9796	4067	12497	8798	80105
Total Number of Spaces								
Total Number of Spaces	1638	3547	2161	1418	836	2867	1870	14337
Space Deficit								
Space Deficit	7127	20094	10380	8378	3231	9630	6928	65768
Space Deficit to National Average 27.5%								
Space Deficit to National Average 27.5%	746.08	2883.352	1250.152	1246.512	270.224	532.184	523.056	7451.56
Space Deficit to Provincial Goal 59%								
Space Deficit to Provincial Goal 59%	3533.35	10401.19	5238.19	4361.64	1563.53	4506.23	3320.82	32924.95
Spaces per 100 Children								
Spaces per 100 Children	18.69	15.00	17.23	14.48	20.56	22.94	21.25	17.90

**SURREY
COMMUNITY
CHILD
CARE**
ACTION PLAN

