



NO: R024

COUNCIL DATE: January 31, 2022

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **January 27, 2022**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **8000-30**
Acting General Manager, Planning &
Development
SUBJECT: **The Surrey Community Child Care Action Plan and Planning Policies Review**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the Planning & Development Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse the Surrey Community Child Care Action Plan (attached as Appendix "I"); and
3. Direct staff to report back to Council on the City's actions towards implementing the recommendations as outlined in the Surrey Child Care Planning and Policy Review Report (attached as Appendix "II").

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and obtain Council endorsement of the Surrey Community Child Care Action Plan (the "Action Plan") and share outcomes of the Surrey Child Care Planning and Policy Review and obtain Council's endorsement of the recommendations.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Province of British Columbia (the "Province") introduced expanded investment in the child care sector totaling \$1 billion over three years. To ensure that this investment would create child care spaces in areas with the greatest need, the Province provided the UBCM with funds to administer a Community Child Care Planning Program (the "Program"). The Program provides local governments with grants to prepare a local child care space creation action plan. Since July 2018, more than 20,000 new licensed child care spaces have been funded in the Province, including 1,941 new licensed spaces in Surrey.

Through partnerships and engagement, all funded projects collect information regarding the child care needs of the community; create an inventory of existing child care spaces; identify space creation targets over the next 10 years; and identify actions that can be taken to meet those targets.

In 2019, the Parks, Recreation, & Culture Department assigned a staff team to support the coordination of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (the “Task Force”). The City in collaboration with the Task Force sought a number of funding opportunities to support the development of the Action Plan including the following:

- In 2019, Council endorsed Corporate Report R030; 2019 (Appendix “III”), which provided an update on the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force’s actions towards supporting the development of an Action Plan for Surrey. Also in 2019, the City received a grant for \$25,000, through the UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program in support of the Action Plan;
- In 2020, Council endorsed Corporate Report R033; 2020 (Appendix “IV”), which provided an additional update on the progress towards establishing an Action Plan for Surrey. Also in 2020, the City was one of 70 B.C. Municipalities to receive grants through the UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program, receiving an additional \$25,000 funding for a total of \$50,000; and
- In November 2021, Council endorsed Corporate Reports R212; 2021 and R215; 2021 (Appendix “V” and “VI”), and staff proceeded with applications to the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund worth \$5,500,000 for 171 new licensed spaces. To date, staff have not heard back on the status of this application.

To date, the City of Surrey has received \$1,425,172 from the Province of BC for the development of 56 new licensed childcare spaces. The City continues to work closely with its non-profit partners to identify and secure new child care opportunities.

DISCUSSION

The Surrey Child Care Action Plan

Beginning in 2019, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department staff undertook the creation of Surrey’s Action Plan in collaboration with the Task Force. The purpose of creating the Action Plan was to collect information regarding the child care needs of the community; create an inventory of existing child care spaces; identify space creation targets over the next 10 years; and identify actions that can be taken to meet the new spaces targets. The Action Plan was shared as part of the grant requirements with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to help inform future investments in child care space creation through funding programs such as the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund.

Currently, there are 11,301 child care spaces in Surrey. This equates to approx. 14.9 licensed child care spaces for every 100 children. Surrey must work diligently to reach 20,000 spaces to meet the national average of 27.2 spaces for every 100 children. Surrey’s Action Plan helps to demonstrate the need for additional child care development and priority investments required in Surrey (Appendix “I”). Strategic directions and space creation targets are included in the Action Plan and were developed in collaboration with members of the Task Force. The Task Force has set goals for the next 10 years that include partnering with the Province to meet the Canadian Average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children. Parks, Recreation & Culture Staff are working towards creating 228 new spaces over the next 2-years in partnership with Surrey’s non-profit organizations, contingent on secured funding from the Province.

Surrey Child Care Planning and Policy Review Report (the “Review”)

In addition to the Action Plan, the UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program requires that plans funded by this Program include a bylaw, and policy review. Beginning in the spring of 2021, the Planning & Development Department undertook this Review. The purpose of the Review was to identify barriers to the creation of new child care facilities that result from City land use planning processes, policies, and regulations; and to make recommendations with the goal of facilitating the provision of child care facilities.

The outcomes of the review are contained in the Review Report (Appendix “II”) which is a key component of the Action Plan required by the Province.

Planning and Policy Review Process

A series of engagement sessions were held in May and June 2021. This included consultation with the following key stakeholder groups:

- City staff from Planning & Development, Engineering, Fire Services, and Parks, Recreation & Culture;
- The Child Care Task Force;
- Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program;
- Fraser Health Child Care Licensing;
- Private child care operators; and
- Non-profit child care operators.

Key themes or issues related to the City’s planning processes, policies and regulations identified through the engagement process included the following:

- A lack of clear and accessible information about the City’s requirements from a development application perspective;
- The need for a coordinated internal review process of child care applications that would involve City staff from multiple areas, as well as the need for an improved internal tracking system of childcare projects;
- Challenges associated with using existing commercial and residential spaces for child care and the need for more purpose-built child care spaces; and
- Barriers created by certain requirements of the City’s Zoning Bylaw and outdated child care planning guidelines.

Planning and Policy Review Recommendations

Based on the issues identified through the consultation process, the Surrey Child Care Planning and Policy Review Report identified the following eight recommendations for the City to facilitate the creation of new childcare spaces in Surrey.

1. Improve Information and Resources

- Update the City’s information and resources online and in the form of pamphlets to include current and easy to understand information for child care operators.

2. Explore Internal Coordinated Review Process

- Explore the feasibility of creating a Coordinated Child Care Review Group for child care inquiries and applications. Encourage child care operators to meet with the review

group prior to securing or submitting a grant application in order to clarify requirements.

- Set up an application tracking system in AMANDA for Tenant Improvement and Minor Development Permit Amendment child care applications. AMANDA is software used internally by City staff to manage the processing of business licensing, permits, and development applications.
3. Review Requirement for Single Family Use
- Undertake further consultation and research to determine if the requirement that when a child care facility is in a single-family house, that someone must live in the home in which the child care centre is located.
4. Undertake Parking Review
- Undertake a review of child care parking rates, including a comprehensive parking study which also considers stroller and cargo bike parking.
 - Consider the alternate hours of use provision in the Zoning Bylaw.
 - Amend the Zoning Bylaw to reflect revised parking rates, if applicable.
5. Clarify Outdoor Play Space Requirements
- Amend Section J in Parts 20-29, 31, 32, 35-39, 43 and 45-48A and Section B of Part 44 of Surrey Zoning By-law 1993, No. 12000 to remove the word 'direct' from the requirement for access to an open space and play area within the lot.
6. Create Child Care Guidelines
- Create a new child care policy that reflects current realities and promotes the creation of new child care facilities in Surrey. Replace the existing Child Care Guidelines with the new policy.
7. Set up Data Collection and Tracking
- Add a mechanism in AMANDA to track all child care projects, whether or not they require Council approval, such as a checkbox or drop-down menu indicating the project includes a child care use.
 - Set up an application tracking system in AMANDA for Tenant Improvement and Minor Development Permit Amendment child care applications.
 - Add a publicly accessible layer to COSMOS that shows development applications where child care spaces are being proposed. .
8. Explore Policy to Secure Purpose-Built Child Care Facilities Through Development
- To facilitate non-profit child care:
 - Explore the feasibility of creating a universal Community Amenity Contribution ("CAC") to fund non-profit child care facilities, similar to the Affordable Housing and Public Art CACs.
 - Consider the conveyance of non-profit child care space to the City, in exchange for additional density.
 - Explore the concept of allowing the floor area of a building that comprises a purpose-built, non-profit child care facility to be excluded from the calculation of Floor Area Ratio. Ensure the perpetuity of the child care use through a Restrictive Covenant.
 - Consider the development a CAC credit for the portion of a development's floor area that comprises a purpose-built, non-profit child care space, secured through a Restrictive Covenant or conveyed. For example, a 4,000 square foot non-profit

child care facility would provide an equal credit that could be applied to residential density.

- Explore new Official Community Plan or secondary policy that would require large scale comprehensive developments to provide purpose-built child care space as part of development. Examine potential threshold residential unit numbers that would trigger the policy.

Next Steps

Upon Council endorsement of the Action Plan, staff will share the Action Plan with its community partners and post it on the City's website for community access. The Action Plan will also provide a resource for child care providers applying for funding through the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund.

Planning & Development staff will be moving forward immediately on implementing Recommendations #1 and #6 in the Review. New, updated, user-friendly information resources are being developed to assist childcare operators in completing development applications for new childcare spaces. As well, new childcare guidelines are being developed to replace the outdated 1990 policy. Staff will provide Council with updates and reports on these and other recommendations outlined in the Review as they are reviewed

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The child care work supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. 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; and
- Health Services and Program SD5: Support access to high quality child care services and facilities.

CONCLUSION

Guided by Surrey’s Action Plan and through ongoing collaboration and commitment of adequate funding from the Government of BC, the City will work to establish more affordable, accessible, and quality child care spaces that support the social and economic wellbeing of families in Surrey. The recommendations of the Surrey Child Care Planning and Policy Review Report provide clear direction for staff to proceed with childcare improvements in Surrey.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Ron Gill,
Acting General Manager,
Planning & Development

- Appendix "I": Surrey's Community Child Care Action Plan
- Appendix "II": Surrey Child Care Planning and Policy Review Report
- Appendix "III": Corporate Report R030; 2019
- Appendix "IV": Corporate Report R033; 2020
- Appendix "V": Corporate Report R212; 2021
- Appendix "VI": Corporate Report R215; 2021

[https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcadministration/corporate reports regular/2022/the surrey child care action plan.docx](https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcadministration/corporate%20reports%20regular/2022/the%20surrey%20child%20care%20action%20plan.docx)
SR 1/27/22 2:57 PM

SURREY COMMUNITY CHILD CARE

ACTION PLAN

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

FOREWORD

The 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. 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.

CO-CHAIRS OF THE SURREY COMMUNITY CHILD CARE TASK FORCE



Daljit Gill-Badesha

Vice-President Community Health & Child Care Partnerships
The Centre for Child Development



Corrie Elliott

Recreation Operations Manager
City of Surrey



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

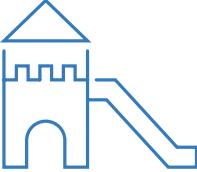


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	7	Strategic Directions and Actions	37
Introduction	9	Strategic Directions Identified by the SCCTF	37
The Value of the Community	10	and Short, Medium, and Long Terms Actions	
Child Care Action Plan		Space Creation Targets	44
Methodology and Data Collection	11	Conclusion	45
The Surrey Community and the Landscape of Child Care	12	Monitoring, Implementing, and Reporting	45
The Surrey Community Child Care Task Force	14	A Commitment to the Children	47
A Spotlight on Surrey's Communities	16	and Families of Surrey	
Surrey Child Care Space Inventory and Map	29	References	49
Meeting the Needs of	30	Appendix	51
Underserved Populations in Surrey			
Stakeholder Engagement	32		
The Voices of Child Care Operators in Surrey	32		
Child Care Operator Engagement	34		
Plans for Community Engagement	35		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Surrey Child Care Action Plan provides an overview of the landscape of child care in Surrey during 2020-2021. 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
14.9**
licensed child care spaces per
100 CHILDREN

**Surrey has
11,301** 
licensed child care spaces¹
FOR 70,000 CHILDREN²

235 Universal Child Care prototype spaces⁴ 



**Only
9%** 
of child care providers in
Surrey are operated by
non-profit organizations.

**Surrey needs over
20,000
SPACES**



to meet the
Canadian National Average of

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

In Surrey, 35% or 1773 kindergarten children, are vulnerable on at least one area of development as measured by the EDI in Wave 7 compared to the current provincial vulnerability rate of 33.4%.⁵

¹ Child Care Options CCRR. (2020).

² Statistics Canada. (2016).

³ Child Care Options CCRR. (2020).

⁴ Province of British Columbia Universal Child Care Prototype Sites. (2021).

⁵ EDI Wave 7, collected between 2016–2019 for children Vulnerable on One or More Scales.

⁶ Statistics Canada. (2016).

INTRODUCTION

Surrey is a unique and diverse community of over 517,000 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 q̓iq̓əy' (Katzie), q̓w̓a:n̓ən̓ (Kwantlen), Semiahma (Semiahmoo) land-based nations, and NOVA Métis Heritage Association. 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 2020 showed that there are 14.9 licensed child care spaces for every 100 children requiring care for children between the ages of 0-12. The data was analyzed using 2016 population statistics compared to the number of licensed child care spaces in 2020. Therefore, the average of 14.9 licensed child care spaces is a generous estimate as the current number of children is higher than the data used. 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 2020 shows that Surrey has a total of 475 child care providers. Only 9%, 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

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 for work to continue. The City assigned an internal staff lead to support the coordination of the final plan on behalf of the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force. Members of the Surrey Child Care Task Force also contributed and provided input to the 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.



METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

Primary and Secondary data collection methods were used when compiling the child care action plan. Primary data collection included interviews, surveys, and focus groups. Interviews were used when collecting information on the programs and services available to vulnerable demographics in Surrey. The interview method was also used to record experiences of non-profit child care operators. These experiences were shared with City Planners and helped inform the Bylaw and Policy review, as well as the creation of new resources for child care operators. Phone interviews were used when collecting data on the number of child care operators. Staff at Child Care Options CCRR conducted phone interviews using a standard set of questions to determine if the centers were opened, closed, and any other pertinent information. Secondary data collection was used when compiling sections on demographics, statistics, and the neighbourhood summaries.

A survey was done with large non-profit child care operators as a preamble to a focus group that occurred in November 2020. The survey focused on answering two big questions that were: “what processes within other municipalities have you observed that are helpful to expedite space creation,” and “what barriers have you observed or experienced that prevented licensed child care space creation?” Subsequently, a series of stakeholder engagement sessions were held in May and June: one for private child care operators and one for non-profit child care operators. Questions in these focus groups were centered around physical space requirements (commercial vs. in-home space), parking, outdoor play space, the application process, and grants and funding.

⁷ Appendix 1: Planning and Policy Review Focus Group Questions

THE SURREY COMMUNITY AND THE LANDSCAPE OF CHILD CARE

The Surrey Community Child Care Task Force

The City of Surrey and the Centre for Child Development 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 as noted.

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. There are 16 members from a variety of organizations and levels of government. Here is an overview of the current Task Force members in 2021.

SURREY COMMUNITY CHILD CARE TASK FORCE MEMBERS, 2021

Organization	Name	Title
Alexandra Neighbourhood House	R. Hubbard	Director, Youth & Family Programs
Child Care Options CCRR	M. Davies	Manager
Child Care Options CCRR	K. Saito	Senior Manager for Early Years
City of Surrey	S. Rennie	Early Years Manager
City of Surrey	K. Ali	Project Manager
City of Surrey	C. Elliott	Recreation Operations Manager
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	S. Wedel	Metis Early Years Manager
The Centre for Child Development	D. Gill-Badesha	Vice President, Community Health & Child Care Partnerships
The Children's Foundation	M. Pouliot	Program Manager, Early and Middle Years Child Care
Surrey Schools	C. Northway	Assistant Superintendent
YMCA of Greater Vancouver	K. Adamson	General Manager, Early Years and Family Development
Ministry of Children and Family Development	V. Hickman	Early Years Program Specialist
DIVERSECity Community Resources Society	Z. Al-Zaim	Assistant Manager of Child and Family
Government of British Columbia	M. Kirby	Manager of Engagement, Childcare BC



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 800 new residents each month and the population is projected to increase by an additional 250,000 people in the next 30 years. In 2020, there were 5228 babies born with an average of 434 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.

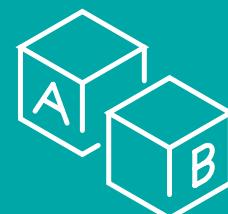
⁸BC Vital Statistics. (2021).

⁹Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee. (2016).

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

¹¹Surrey 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 8.3 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 3-5 years	Preschool Program 2-5	Population 6-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	3255	3345		7975				
# of Spaces	180	371	157	277	86	86	48	10
# of Programs	15	19	8	13	11	11	6	5

In City Centre and Whalley, the most needed type of child care is for children aged 6-12 years, as there are currently only 3.5 licensed spaces per 100 children. Closely following this is a need for ages 0-36 months at 5.5 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 14,580

Total Number of Spaces 1215

Space Deficit 13,365

Spaces per 100 Children 8.3

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 14.9 licensed child care spaces per 100 children, coming in slightly lower at 11.9 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 5.1 licensed spaces per 100, and 5.4 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 3-5 years	Preschool Program 2-5	Population 6-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	1685	1905		5015				
# of Spaces	86	445	304	271	136	120	91	24
# of Programs	5	21	21	13	16	16	13	12

Guildford

Total Number of Children	8605
Total Number of Spaces	1032
Space Deficit	7573
Spaces per 100 Children	11.9

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 11.1 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 0-36 months as there are only 6 licensed spaces per 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 3-5 years	Preschool Program 2-5	Population 6-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	5405	5830		3605				
# of Spaces	326	708	563	497	408	86	110	64
# of Programs	19	30	33	24	47	11	16	32

Newton

Total Number of Children	24,840
Total Number of Spaces	2762
Space Deficit	22,078
Spaces per 100 Children	11.1

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 14.9 spaces per 100 children at 17.8 spaces.

In Fleetwood, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 years as there are only 6.8 licensed spaces per 100 children. The second most needed type of child care closely follows at 8.6 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.

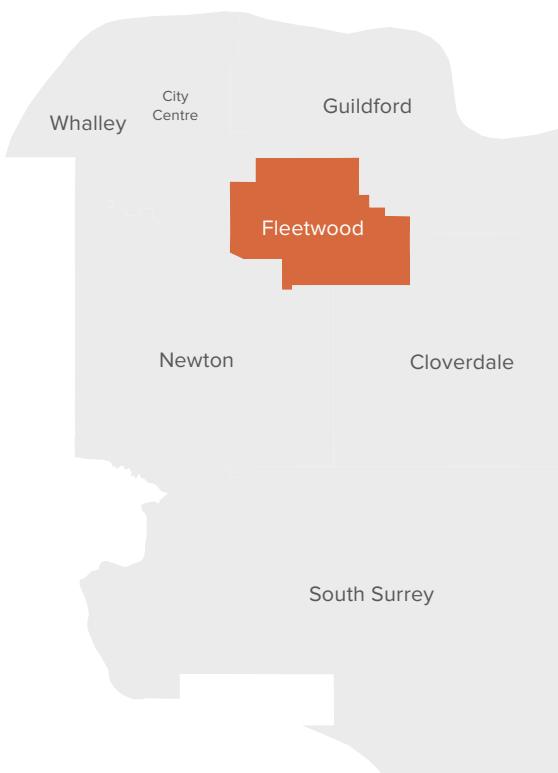
²² City of Surrey Fleetwood Neighbourhood Profile. (2016).

Fleetwood	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 3-5 years	Preschool Program 2-5	Population 6-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	1745	1970		5430				
# of Spaces	150	331	418	368	203	79	77	8
# of Programs	7	15	17	14	26	10	11	4

Fleetwood

Total Number of Children	9145
Total Number of Spaces	1634
Space Deficit	7511
Spaces per 100 Children	17.8

In Fleetwood, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 years as there are only 6.8 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 14.9 spaces, at 15.8 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 6.9 licensed spaces per 100 children. The second most needed type of child care is for ages 0-36 months at 10.4 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 3-5 years	Preschool Program 2-5	Population 6-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	2680	2850		6385				
# of Spaces	280	542	203	470	199	72	96	26
# of Programs	12	21	10	17	25	9	14	13

Cloverdale

Total Number of Children	11,915
Total Number of Spaces	1888
Space Deficit	10,027
Spaces per 100 Children	15.8

In Cloverdale, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12, as there are only 6.9 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 23.2 licensed spaces per 100 children.

In South Surrey, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 as there are only 8.5 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).

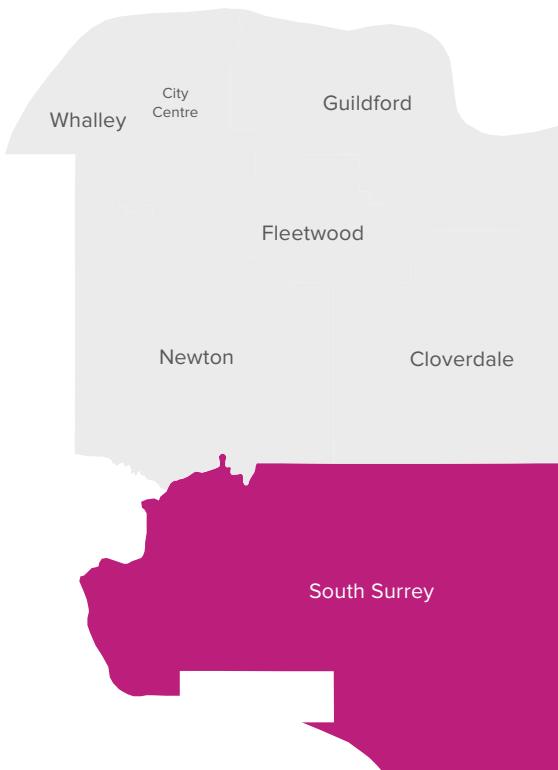
²⁶ EDI Wave 7 Community Profile Surrey School District. (2019).

In South Surrey, the most needed type of child care is for ages 6-12 as there are only 8.5 spaces per 100 children.

South Surrey	Population 0 - 36 Months	Population 3-5 years	Preschool Program 2-5	Population 6-12 years	Multi Age Centres	In Home Multi Age	Licensed Family	Licence Not Required
	1955	2200		5825				
# of Spaces	425	884	341	496	39	48	90	2
# of Programs	14	31	17	21	5	6	12	1

South Surrey

Total Number of Children	9985
Total Number of Spaces	2325
Space Deficit	7660
Spaces per 100 Children	23.2



Surrey Child Care Space Inventory and Map

Child Care Options Resource and Referral staff created an updated map of child care types and locations in 2020. See the interactive map here: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1PKgpEIDZ4XT0LSENBh9tx04II-KGjT8S&ll=49.1129262958666%2C-122.80255&z=11>

Referrals for Child Care

Child Care Options Resource and Referral staff reported that between September – December 2019, there were 13,759 online referrals. In 2020 during the same period from September – December, there were 54,576 online referrals.²⁷ The fall of 2020 saw a large increase in online referrals.

²⁷ Child Care Options CCRR. (2020).



Meeting the Needs of Underserved Populations in Surrey

A review was completed in 2021 that looked at all non-profit child care operators, as well as other support organizations in Surrey and the programs and services they provide.²⁸ Surrey is fortunate to have many organizations that work to deliver and connect residents to high quality licenced child care providers. While reviewing the existing programs and policies, gaps were identified in supports for underserved populations. We are defining underserved populations as including children who have extra support needs, Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) children and families, low-income families, young parents under the age of 25, children and families from minority cultures and language groups, immigrant and refugee children and families, and francophone families.

Low-income families are supported by Child Care Options Resource and Referral, DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, Alexandra Neighbourhood House, the Children's Foundation, the YMCA, and the Centre for Child Development. Young Parents can access support through the City of Surrey, Child Care Options Resource and Referral, and Alexandra Neighbourhood house where specific young parent programs are available. Children and families from diverse cultures and language groups can find programming through City of Surrey, DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, Alexandra Neighbourhood house, and the Centre for Child

Development. New immigrants and refugee's child care, and culturally sensitive and safety training through the City of Surrey, DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, and Alexandra Neighbourhood house. There are few specific resources for LGBTQ families. MNBC's Métis Family Connections is for Métis families with children birth to 8 years. Métis Family Connections is focused on helping families build a network of support that provides children with opportunities for early learning and childhood development.

The City of Surrey and its community partners are committed to providing child care and other services to underserved populations. The City has applied in Fall 2021 to the Province of BC New Spaces Fund for several sites to expand child care. The focus is on neighbourhoods with the highest need, and services for vulnerable populations. Partnerships are being forged with non-profit operators who will provide wrap around supports to vulnerable children and families with a focus on children who have extra support needs, Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) children and families, and low-income families. The funding from the Government of BC, in collaboration with the City of Surrey contributing facility space, has the potential to rapidly expand child care services to vulnerable populations by hundreds of spaces.

²⁸ Appendix 1 - Resources for Under-served Populations in Surrey

In the summer and fall of 2021, the City of Surrey worked on Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI) processes to select non-profit operators with an expertise in providing services to vulnerable populations. The City of Surrey has developed an internal team with staff from Community Recreation Services, Planning and Development, Corporate Services, Investment and Intergovernmental Relations, City Managers Office, Engineering, and Finance to collaboratively work on increasing child care in Surrey.

As noted, a new Child Care Policy is also being developed in fall 2021 for Surrey, and components of this plan will speak to supporting vulnerable populations.

The City of Surrey and the SCCTF have identified several areas of focus related to improving services to vulnerable populations that are listed in the Strategic Directions and Actions, and these will be worked on collaboratively by the membership of the SCCTF.

The City of Surrey and the SCCTF have identified, and are actively and immediately, working on building new child care spaces. A complete list of current sites and timelines can be seen in Appendix 6. The City of Surrey, as well as many of the non-profit operators that are part of the SCCTF, will be applying for the Fall 2021 intake of the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund. All applications that the City of Surrey and members of the SCCTF submit will include a focus on supporting underserved populations. Many of the sites will hold spaces for underserved populations, Indigenous children (First Nations, Métis and Inuit).



A new Child Care Policy is being developed in for Surrey, and components of this plan will speak to supporting vulnerable populations.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Voices of Child Care Providers in Surrey

For-profit child care provides the bulk of licensed options in Surrey. These take the form of large centre-based daycares, home based programs, Montessori programs and pre-school programs. These centres are not focused on the currently identified underserved populations in Surrey but instead are focused on the public at large. Several large for-profit providers have subsidy programs that assist with the cost for low-income families, and most licensed providers allow applications to the provincial government subsidy programs. Some programs fully integrate children with special needs; however, many commercial centres are unwilling or unable to accept children with special needs. As mentioned, only 9% of child care providers in Surrey are operated by non-profit organizations. Non-profit organizations provide essential wrap-around support for families and often have specific programs that assist vulnerable populations.

Written by R. Hubbard, Director, Youth & Family Programs,
Alexandra Neighbourhood House

Over the past few years, as child care has become an increasing priority for Federal, Provincial, and municipal governments, local non-profit (NP) agencies in Surrey have continued to look for ways to support families around their child care needs. The City of Surrey and Surrey school district have prioritized their support for non-profit agencies to provide child care services versus supporting commercial for-profit operators. This is a significant shift in trying to address the disparity between the high number of commercial for-profit operators and the local NP operators in Surrey. NP operators can provide more comprehensive supports to the community with additional social structure and wrap around supports for families. This support from the public partners assists in building the capacity of NP agencies to support the growing community.

While NP agencies are willing to step up and provide care to the growing community, a key challenge has been locating sufficient space to provide quality programs, which includes both quality indoor and outdoor space. Currently, NP's do this additional work "off the side of their desks" in a real estate market that is operating at a rapid pace and peak capacity. The City of Surrey and the Surrey School District have done inventory reviews, however, due to the growth of the community, they are also extremely limited in community space that might be available to NP operators.

Once space has been identified by public partners, the next step is to choose an operator that could provide the service. At this time there is no formal process from either the city or school district to determine who can access the available space. Over the years the NP operators working in Surrey have acknowledged that there is a lot of work that needs to be done to support the growing community and we have worked closely to identify which agency might be best suited to provide which service and in which area of Surrey it is most needed. Having open conversations between the city, school district and NP partners to determine which agency may be the best fit for the location and programs, would be of benefit to everyone. If these conversations are not had, then a detailed RFP process should be determined so that agencies are able to work with one another to meet the needs of the community. With such a significant need for child care in Surrey, it will take multiple agencies to meet the growing community need.

While the city and school district have been reviewing processes and policies that may hinder or delay the opening of child care programs, it will be essential to have a plan that is specific to the creation of new spaces that can be worked on collaboratively by all partners. The plan should include strategies for the identification of potential child care space, identification of NP agencies that are able to provide quality child care programs for children 0-12yrs, and additional strategies that would address the need for quality Early Childhood Educators to staff the centres.

At this time, NP agencies would also benefit from ongoing advocacy from public partners to the provincial and federal governments around the significant child care needs of Surrey families, especially when these governments have a strong desire to see universal child care as a focus to supporting families. Advocacy should be focused on additional funding for public post-secondary institutions who will take on the work of providing additional Early Childhood Education programs that are offered in Surrey, and funding for NP operators to plan and establish new child care spaces versus commercial for-profit operators. In working together, both public and NP partners may also benefit from a joint marketing strategy as "Live in Surrey, Learn in Surrey and Work in Surrey" which would focus child care programs to local neighbourhoods where the residents live, learn and work. Without these supports, Surrey will continue to be challenged to offer quality child care programs in their growing community.

Here is an overview of the number of child care providers in Surrey, as of December 2020.

Type of Child Care Provider	Total Number of Providers	Percentage of Providers
For-Profit	407	86%
Non-Profit	42	9%
Public Sector	26	5%
Total	475	

Research shows that children and families benefit from wrap-around support, and this type of support is available through the non-profit sector. We are concerned about upcoming need for wrap-around support and our Surrey non-profit capacity to meet these needs, from the early years on. Operating non-profit child care centers is increasingly difficult due to staff and other costs, and the difficulty will contribute to a growing gap of care available by the non-profit sector, decrease choices available to families, and reduce governments' capacity to invest in a public and sustainable infrastructure.

Child Care Operator Engagement

In spring 2021, the City contracted CO:LAB Planning & Design to conduct a planning, policy and regulation review of the existing barriers to the creation of new child care facilities in Surrey. As part of this review, a series of stakeholder engagement sessions were held in May and June 2021. Interviews were conducted with City of Surrey staff from Building, Area Planning, Trees and Landscaping, Transportation Engineering and Parks, Recreation and Culture. An interview was also conducted with the co-chairs of the SCCTF. Additionally, interviews were conducted with external stakeholders, including Options Child Care Resource and Referral, and Fraser Health Child Care Licensing. Two separate focus groups were also held in June: one for private child care operators and one for non-profit child care operators. Questions in these focus groups were centered around physical space requirements (commercial vs in-home space), parking, outdoor play space, the application process and grants and funding.

PLANS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, the SCCTF engaged SPARC BC to develop a community engagement outline. A snapshot of the outline shows some of the actions that will be completed in the coming years to engage parents, operators, and other stakeholders across Surrey.

Group for Engagement	Expected Outcomes and Evidence of Completion	Activities/Actions
Engagement with Child Care Practitioners (front-line service providers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE staff • Family Child Care Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what they see as priority needs for child care, what is working well, what is not working, what are the challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out a child care provider focused Online Survey through CCRR, Licensing, Child Care Task Force Members
Engagement with non-profit agencies and public support services Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Settlement /Immigration agencies • CCR& R, Options, YMCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what they see as priority needs for child care, what is working well, what is not working, what are the challenges • Explore how they see their role in child care now and in the future • Explore partnership opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out an Online Survey • Consider one focus group for this sector to gain a deeper understanding of priorities and opportunities
Engagement with Child Care Operators, Owners, Managers, Licensees (not front-line staff, or those working directly with children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what they see as priority needs for child care, what is working well, what is not working, what are the challenges • Explore any plans for expansion • Seek input into priorities for the child care plan • Seek input into priorities for the child care plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out an Online Survey • Discuss having a focus group or doing one on one interviews to allow for conversations
Engagement with Parents/ Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what they see as priority needs for child care, what is working well, what is not working, what are the challenges • Explore any plans for expansion • Seek input into priorities for the child care plan • Understand their needs for child care, what is working well, what is not working, what are the challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out an Online Survey • In person at drop in /existing programs asking 2-3 key questions

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.	Short	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. A full summary of child care fees in Surrey for 2021 can be read in Appendix 2, Fee Survey 2021. 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.

³² Appendix 2 Fee Survey 2021

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., prototype sites, 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 Indigenous 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 Indigenous 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

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.

By 2022, we want to see an investment that, at minimum, meets the Canadian Average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children ages 0-12 years old for every Town Centre in Surrey.

Space Creation Targets

As mentioned throughout the report, according to the data gathered in 2020, the access rate for licensed child care spaces in Surrey is 14.9 spaces per 100 children ages 0-12 years old. The SCCTF and the City of Surrey has set reasonable and aspirational goals for the next 3-5 years.

By 2022, we want to see an investment that, at minimum, meets that Canadian Average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children ages 0-12 years old for every Town Centre in Surrey.

By 2024, we want to see every Town Centre, at minimum is 40 spaces per 100 children, including the relative growth rates for each neighbourhood.

To summarize, there are 12,540 new child care spaces needed by 2022, an additional 13,250 new child care spaces by 2024, and a further 28,570 new child care spaces by 2026 to meet targets for all ages and town centres in Surrey.

³³ Child Care Options CCRR. Services for Children with Special Needs. (2021).

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.

³⁴ Surrey'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 2021 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 14.9 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.

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.

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 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.

REFERENCES

BC Vital Statistics Agency Births by Local Health Area Based on Residential Address of the Mother British Columbia (2020).

Retrieved from <https://efaidnbmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww2.gov.bc.ca%2Fassets%2Fgov%2Fbirth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce%2Fstatistics-reports%2Fbirth-reports%2Fbirths-by-lha-2020.pdf>

Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University (2007). A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy: Using Evidence to Improve Outcomes in Learning, Behavior, and Health for Vulnerable Children.

Retrieved from <http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu>

Child Care Canada at Childcare Resource and Research Unit University of Toronto (2007). What Does Research Tell us About Quality in Child Care?

Retrieved from <https://childcarecanada.org/sites/default/files/fs2.pdf>

Disability Credit Canada (2019). Disability in Canada: A Complete Profile.

Retrieved from <https://disabilitycreditcanada.com/infographic/complete-profile-disabilities-canada/>

EDI BC (2019). Interactive map, 2017-2018.

Retrieved from <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/interactive-map/>

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

Retrieved from <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/edi/sd/36/>

HELP Data Library (2018). Census profile, 2016 census.

Retrieved from <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/data/>

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

Retrieved from <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/child-care-deserts-canada>

MDI BC (2018). Surrey Community Report, 2018.

Retrieved from <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps mdi/nh/sd36/>

Options CCRR. Services for Children with Special Needs.

Retrieved from <https://www.options.bc.ca/program/services-children-special-needs-11>

Statistics Canada. (2016). Children Aged 0 to 12 in Census Families in Private Households by Age groups (17) for British Columbia, the City of Surrey and its Communities, 2016 Census,

100% data [data table]

Surrey Community Demographic Profiles (2016).

Retrieved from <https://www.surrey.ca/business-economic-development/1417.aspx>

Surrey Excels (2021).

Retrieved from <https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/jobs-careeremployee-onboarding/surrey-excels>

Surrey Population Projections and Estimates (2019)

Retrieved from <https://www.surrey.ca/business-economic-development/1418.aspx>

Surrey's Sustainability Charter (2016).

Retrieved from <https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/sustainability-energy-services/sustainability-charter>

Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee (2016). Profile of the Indigenous Population in Surrey.

Retrieved from <https://www.surrey.ca/files/SurreyIndigenousCommunityProfileMay2019.pdf>

UN Women (2021). Beyond COVID-19 A Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice.

Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/feminist-plan-for-sustainability-and-social-justice>

Province of British Columbia (2016).

Request for Proposals: Pediatric Therapy Recruitment Strategy, Ministry of Children and Family Development RFP Number: XCN2017-003RFP, p.8; BC Stats

Province of British Columbia (2021). Universal Child Care Prototype Sites.

Retrieved from <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/universal-child-care-prototype-sites>

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

Resources for Under-served Populations in Surrey

Appendix 2

Fee Survey

Appendix 3

Sites Identified for the Development of Child Care

Appendix 4

Child Population and Child Care Spaces Overview



APPENDIX 4

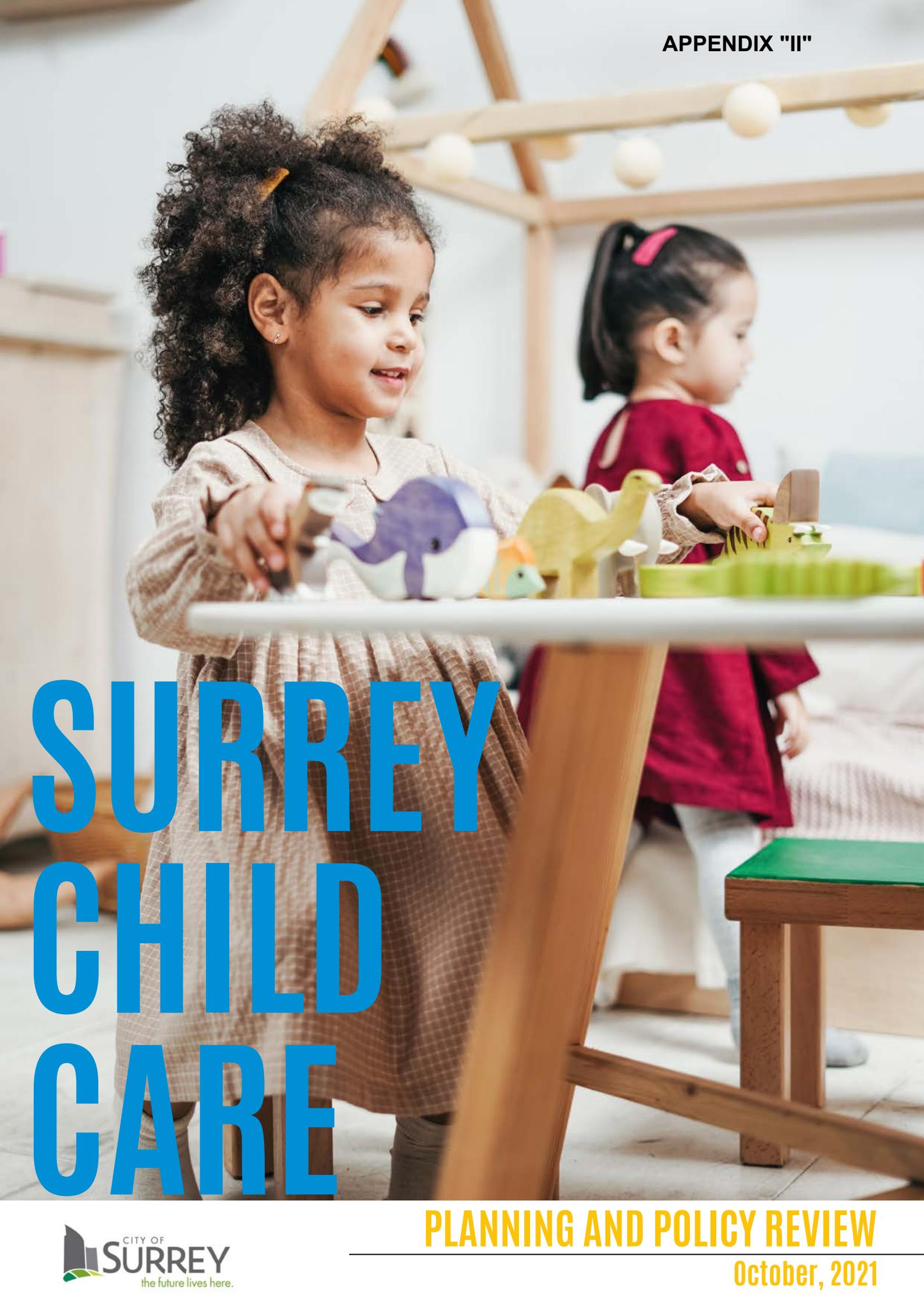
	Guildford	Newton	Cloverdale	Whalley	South Surrey	Fleetwood	Total
Population 0 - 36 Months	1685	5405	2680	3255	1955	1745	16725
Spaces	86	326	280	180	425	150	1447
# of Programs	5	19	12	15	14	7	72
Preschool Program 2-5							
Spaces	304	563	203	157	341	418	1986
# of Programs	21	33	10	8	17	17	106
Population 6-12 years							
Spaces	5015	3605	6385	7975	5825	5430	34235
# of Programs	271	497	470	277	496	368	2379
Multi Age Centres							
Spaces	136	408	199	86	39	203	1071
# of Programs	16	47	25	11	5	26	130

	Guildford	Newton	Cloverdale	Whalley	South Surrey	Fleetwood	Total
In Home Multi Age							
Spaces	120	86	72	86	48	79	491
# of Programs	16	11	9	11	6	10	63
Licensed Family							
Spaces	91	110	96	48	90	77	512
# of Programs	13	16	14	6	12	11	72
Register Licence Not Required							
Spaces	24	64	26	10	2	8	134
# of Programs	12	32	13	5	1	4	67
Total Number of Children	8605	24840	11915	14580	9985	9145	69060
Total Number of Spaces	1032	2762	1888	1215	2325	1634	11301
Space Deficit	7573	22078	10027	13365	7660	7511	57759
Spaces per 100 Children	11.9	11.1	15.8	8.3	23.2	17.8	16.3

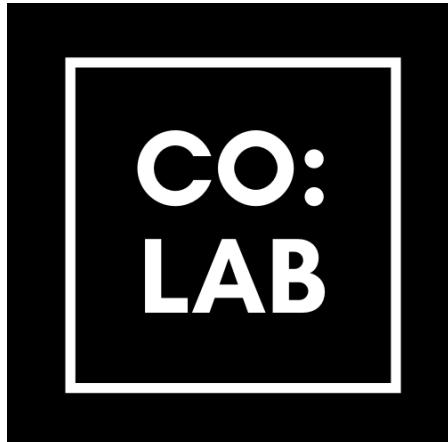


SURREY COMMUNITY **CHILD CARE** ACTION PLAN

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

A young girl with curly hair is playing with wooden animals on a shelf. She is holding a purple whale and a yellow bird. Another child is visible in the background.

SURREY CHILD CARE



Prepared by
CO:LAB Planning & Design
for the
City of Surrey

OCTOBER, 2021

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	01
Introduction	02
About Child Care	03
Engagement Summary: Key Themes	04
1.0 Background	04
2.0 Lack of Clear and Accessible Information	05,06
3.0 Need for Coordinated Internal Reviews	07
4.0 Suitable Commercial Child Care Space	08
5.0 Need for Purpose-Built Child Care Space	09
6.0 Residential Child Care Space Challenges	10
7.0 Zoning By-law Barriers	11,12
8.0 Outdated Child Care Guidelines	13
9.0 Barriers for Child Care Operators	14
Key Recommendations	15
1.0 Information and Resources	16
2.0 Internal Review Process	16
3.0 Zoning By-law (Use)	17
4.0 Zoning By-law (Parking)	18
5.0 Zoning By-law (Outdoor Space)	18
6.0 Child Care Guidelines	19
7.0 Data Collection and Tracking	20
8.0 Securing Purpose-Built Child Care Space	21,22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Spring of 2021, the City of Surrey contracted CO:LAB Planning & Design to conduct a planning policy and regulation review. The purpose of the review was to identify existing barriers to the creation of new child care facilities in Surrey from a planning policy and regulation perspective and to recommend updates to the City's planning policies, regulations and processes with the goal of facilitating the provision of child care facilities in Surrey.

Consultations were conducted with key stakeholders including: City of Surrey staff; Surrey Child Care Task Force; Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program; Fraser Health Licensing; and private and non-profit child care operators. Key themes or issues that were identified through the engagement process included:

- A lack of clear and accessible information about the City's requirements from a development application perspective;
- The need for a coordinated internal review process that would involve City staff from multiple areas as well as an improved internal tracking system of projects;
- The challenges associated with commercial and residential child care spaces and the need for more purpose-built child care spaces; and
- Barriers created by certain parts of the City of Surrey's Zoning By-law and outdated child care guidelines.

This report provides eight recommendations to facilitate the creation of new child care spaces in Surrey by:

- Building capacity between child care operators and the City of Surrey;
- Amending existing City policies and regulations; and
- Developing a new child care policy for the City of Surrey

These recommendations will help to facilitate new child care facilities in Surrey.

INTRODUCTION

In order to better meet the child care needs of families, in 2018 the Province of British Columbia introduced expanded investment in the child care sector totalling \$1 billion over three years. This included \$237 million to improve access to child care, including funding the creation of 22,000 new licensed child care spaces.

To ensure that this investment would create child care spaces in areas with the greatest need, the Province provided the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) with funds to administer a Community Child Care Planning Program. The Program provides local governments with grants to prepare a local child care space creation action plan. One required component of the plan is a “plan, bylaw and policy review”. This report represents this component of Surrey’s Child Care Action Plan.



ABOUT CHILD CARE

Local governments play an important role in facilitating child care facilities through land use planning, policies and regulations. In addition, municipalities have a responsibility to ensure that child care facilities comply with the BC Building Code and the BC Fire Code.

Fraser Health licenses child care facilities in accordance with the Provincial Community Care and Assisted Living Act.

In addition to child care facilities that are located in schools and other public buildings, child care facilities in Surrey are often located in residential settings, such as single family homes; and in commercial settings, in either purpose-built or retrofitted commercial spaces.

Child care operators in Surrey are either private (for-profit) or non-profit charitable organizations.



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

1.0 BACKGROUND

As part of the “plan, bylaw and policy review” component of Surrey’s Child Care Action Plan, a series of stakeholder engagement sessions were held in May and June, 2021.

Interviews were conducted with **City of Surrey Staff** from Building, Area Planning, Trees and Landscaping, Transportation Engineering, Fire Services and Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Additionally, interviews were conducted with external stakeholders, including **Child Care Options Resource & Referral Program**, **Fraser Health Child Care Licensing** and the Co-Chairs of the **Surrey Child Care Task Force**.

Two separate focus groups were held with child care providers: one for **private child care operators** and one for **non-profit child care operators**. Questions in these focus groups were centred around physical space requirements (commercial vs in-home space), parking, outdoor play space, the application process and grants and funding.

The following is a summary of the key themes that emerged through the stakeholder engagement.



2.0 LACK OF CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

The main issue identified by **City of Surrey staff** is that applicants are not aware of the City's requirements from a development application perspective. Most child care operators, especially smaller operators, are not developers and are therefore unfamiliar with the development application process. Many child care operators do not speak English as their first language. The information that the City provides to help guide child care operators is not accessible because it is not easy to find, it is sometimes not written in plain language and it is often only available in English.

The BC Building Code and BC Fire Code are difficult for many operators to understand and, as a result, applications are often incomplete or lacking the details required for approval. Fire Services indicated that information and resources for operators should be updated to clearly indicate that smoke alarms and/or smoke detectors are required in all group care settings in which napping may occur, notwithstanding whether a nap area is required by the care program type.

City staff agreed that the information the City provides to the public and to operators could be improved in terms of content, clarity, and accessibility.

The application review process would be faster and more efficient if applicants were prepared to navigate the City's requirements and understood what would be required from a BC Building Code perspective for their particular application.

The Co-Chairs of the **Surrey Child Care Task Force** agreed that there is a gap in understanding between the City and child care operators which acts as a significant barrier to the creation of new child care spaces. Building capacity between child care operators and the City of Surrey would have a positive impact on both parties and would help to improve the outcomes of child care applications.

Interviews with **Fraser Health** and **Child Care Options Resource & Referral Program** highlighted the gap in information between the City of Surrey and operators. While both organizations attempt to provide as much information as possible to operators before they make their applications to the City, the information that these organizations have about City processes and provide is lacking and sometimes outdated.

Private and non-profit child care operators agreed that having clear, easily accessible information available online about the City's process and requirements for child care facilities would help operators be better prepared for the application process. Many operators indicated that checklists for commonly inspected items would be helpful.



3.0 NEED FOR COORDINATED INTERNAL REVIEWS

While there are dedicated Area Planners and Building Plan Checkers who handle applications for child care facilities, **City of Surrey staff** felt that the internal review process could be improved through a coordinated group review process including staff from Area Planning, Building, Transportation Engineering and Trees and Landscaping. As well, an improved means of tracking internal referrals to these groups would likely result in shorter application review timelines.

Fraser Health and Child Care Options Resource & Referral Program indicated that if there were a dedicated review group at the City that included staff from all the application review areas, operators would be better prepared for both the City's process and requirements, which would expedite the review process.



Both **private and non-profit child care operators** believe it would be helpful to have a dedicated group at the City with whom they could meet to review the requirements related to a particular site. If operators could meet with staff before securing a space or submitting a grant application, outcomes would likely be improved, and approval timelines would likely be shortened.

City staff indicated that it can be difficult to track projects through the review process in AMANDA*, especially if the project does not require Council approval. Staff felt that there should be some mechanism in AMANDA* to track **all** child care projects, whether or not they require Council approval. Increased project tracking would improve review timelines as well as provide staff with the ability to look up all child care projects in Surrey for the purpose of data collection.

**AMANDA is software used internally by the City of Surrey to manage the processing of business licensing, permits, and development applications.*



4.0 SUITABLE COMMERCIAL CHILD CARE SPACE

Commercial spaces are preferred over in-home spaces by **non-profit child care operators** and many **private child care operators**. Commercial space allows for a larger number of children which helps make these facilities financially viable providing economies of scale as well as a range of groups/ages needed to balance out the ratios of staff to children in care. The biggest challenge to finding a suitable commercial space for a child care facility is finding a location with sufficient and suitable outdoor space.

Non-profit operators are largely uninterested in locating in commercial spaces that are not purpose-built for child care as these spaces often have inadequate outdoor space and insufficient natural light.



Many **private child care operators** have and plan to continue to retrofit commercial spaces that are not designed for child care. However, they find it challenging to create suitable outdoor space as this often comes at the expense of parking spaces, such as when converting parking spaces into an outdoor play space.



The biggest challenge to finding a suitable commercial space for a child care facility is finding a location with sufficient outdoor space.

5.0 NEED FOR PURPOSE-BUILT CHILD CARE SPACE

Both **private and non-profit operators** believe that increasing the number of purpose-built child care spaces would benefit families in Surrey because these spaces are thoughtfully designed for child care. The availability of these types of spaces would alleviate the need for private operators to retrofit child care facilities into less-than-ideal locations such as strip malls and other commercial spaces where it is challenging to create suitable outdoor play spaces.

Private child care operators who wish to open new child care spaces in purpose-built space find it difficult to know where such spaces are being proposed through development applications.

It would be helpful to have a list or map that shows proposed purpose-built child care facilities that are under application in Surrey.

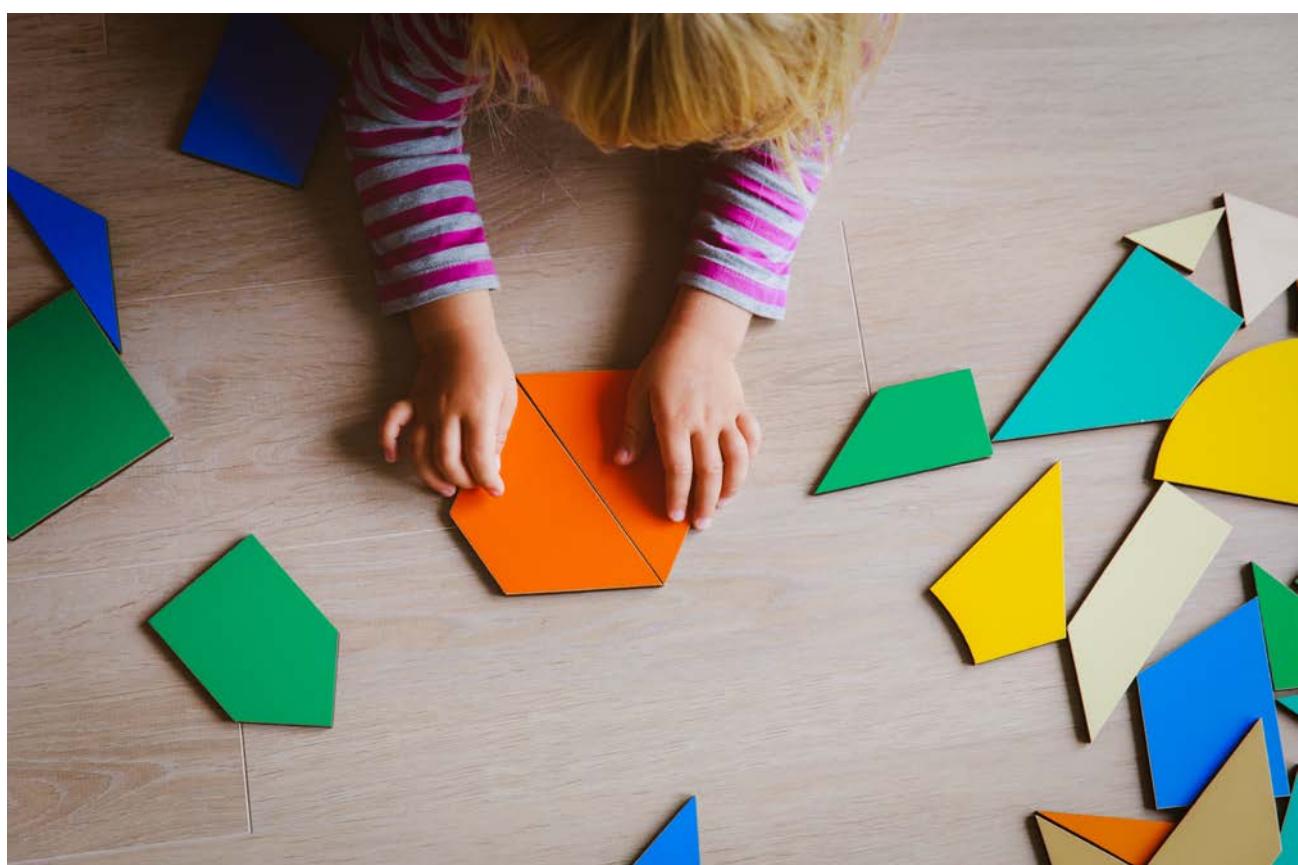
Non-profit child care operators require government investment. They are not able to lease space at market rates due to the high cost to rent relative to the fees that non-profit operators charge and the staffing costs they incur. As a result, unless these facilities are built as part of a publicly-owned building or secured by the City through development and then turned over to the non-profit operators at no charge, purpose-built child care spaces are likely to only be utilized by private operators.



6.0 RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SPACE CHALLENGES

Residential or in-home child care centres are preferred by many **private operators**. While many operators run small centres with up to 8 children, other private operators run larger centres in single family houses with up to 25 children. In-home child care centres are preferred by many **private operators** due to their ideal location in the community and appropriate outdoor play space.

Non-profit child care facilities generally require a minimum of 40-50 children to make a centre financially viable. As a result, residential spaces are challenging for **non-profit operators** to utilize.



In-home child care spaces are challenging for non-profit operators to utilize.



7.0 ZONING BY-LAW BARRIERS

Private and non-profit child care operators noted a few sections of the City's Zoning By-law that act as barriers to the creation of new child care spaces.

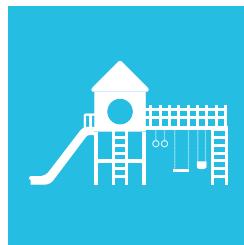


CHILD CARE ZONE (CCR)

The City's Zoning By-law (Part 43(B), Child Care Zone (CCR)) permits child care centres with up to 25 children in a single family house as long as someone also lives on the property. The child care use cannot be the only use on the lot.

Both **private and non-profit child care operators** agreed that the City's requirement that a child care centre licensed to accommodate a maximum of 25 children requires that a person also live on the property is a barrier and that CCR-Zoned child care centres should be permitted without the need for someone to also live in the house.

Some **private operators** felt that it would be easier to create child care spaces in homes if the maximum number of children was increased beyond the current 25 permitted in the CCR Zone.



OUTDOOR SPACE

Surrey's Zoning By-law requires that child care centres must have direct access to an open space and play area within the lot.

One **private child care operator** indicated that the City's requirement that a child care centre must have direct access to an open space and play area within the lot is a barrier, and that the City should allow for more creative outdoor play area locations, such as on the roofs of buildings or at nearby parks in certain cases.



PARKING

Private and non-profit child care operators agree that the City's parking requirements present a barrier to the creation of new child care facilities. The perspective of child care operators is that the amount of parking required is excessive, especially for commercial spaces where there are alternate hours of use for child care drop-off and pick-up relative to other uses in the commercial area (i.e drop-off and pick-up times are different than busy shopping times).

In 2016, the City of Surrey undertook a non-residential parking rates update. This update did not include the child care use. Child care parking rates were subsequently updated slightly, although a comprehensive study was not undertaken to determine the most reasonable parking numbers. Staff from Transportation Engineering indicated that a current update to child care parking rates, including a comprehensive parking study, should be undertaken and should also consider stroller and cargo bike parking.



8.0 OUTDATED CHILD CARE GUIDELINES

The City's Guidelines for the Location and Siting of Child Care Centres, prepared in 1990, is outdated. Section 7 in particular, which outlines the need to *avoid an undue concentration of centres*, acts as a barrier to the creation of new child care facilities.



9.0 BARRIERS FOR CHILD CARE OPERATORS

Private child care operators face several barriers in creating new child care spaces. Some of these barriers are due to the City's planning policy and regulations, some are related to the City's internal review process for child care applications, and some are related to a lack of appropriate and accessible City information of the various City requirements and processes for operators.

While non-profit child care operators also experience the barriers outlined above, the single biggest challenge for non-profit child care operators is securing affordable space. Quality non-profit child care requires government investment both for its operation (to keep fees affordable) as well as to secure the physical space at little to no cost.

The non-profit child care model is hinged on the availability of space at little to no cost. This space can be provided in public buildings or on public land or secured by municipalities through new development and then turned over to operators at little to no cost.



Planning & Policy Recommendations

Through the stakeholder engagement, a number of planning and policy barriers were identified that impact the creation of new child care spaces in Surrey. Barriers to the creation of new child care spaces in Surrey can be addressed in the following ways:

01 ————— BUILDING CAPACITY BETWEEN CHILD CARE OPERATORS AND THE CITY OF SURREY

- **PROCESS:** Proposing modifications to the City's internal and external processes for building permits, rezoning applications, and development permits.
- **INFORMATION:** Increasing the access to and the quality of information about the City's process and requirements for operators to simplify and expedite the layered child care licensing processes.

02 ————— AMENDING EXISTING CITY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

03 ————— DEVELOPING A NEW CHILD CARE POLICY FOR THE CITY OF SURREY



The following is a list of specific recommendations to address existing barriers to creating new licensed child care facilities in Surrey.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Barrier

Child care operators are typically unfamiliar with the array of regulatory approval processes required to open new facilities.

Recommendation

Update the City of Surrey's information and resources online and in the form of pamphlets to include current and easy to understand information for child care operators.

Rationale

Increasing the quality of and access to information about the City's requirements and process will ensure that child care operators, as development applicants, are better prepared to navigate the process, resulting in applications that are easier to review with faster approval timelines.

INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS

Barrier

While there are dedicated Area Planners and Building Plan Checkers who handle applications for child care facilities, there is no coordinated group review process at the City. As a result, child care operators are often ill prepared for both the City's process and requirements, which can result in unnecessary delays.

Recommendation

Explore the feasibility of creating a Coordinated Child Care Review Group for child care inquiries and applications. Encourage child care operators to meet with the review group prior to securing or submitting a grant application in order to clarify requirements.

Set up an application tracking system in AMANDA* for Tenant Improvement and Minor Development Permit Amendment child care applications.

**AMANDA is software used internally by the City of Surrey to manage the processing of business licensing, permits, and development applications.*

Rationale

Child care operators can meet with this Coordinated Child Care Review Group prior to leasing a space or submitting a grant application to clarify requirements and streamline approvals.

Barrier

Part 4(B).9, General Provisions in Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No. 12000, permits child care centres with up to 8 children in residential Zones as an accessory use to a residential use.

Part 43(B), Child Care Zone (CCR) in Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No. 12000, permits child care centres with up to 25 children in residential zones as long as they do not constitute a singular use on the lot.

Recommendation

Undertake further consultation and research to determine if the requirement that when a child care facility is in a single family house, that someone must live in the home in which the child care centre is located.

Rationale

The requirement that someone must live in the home in which the child care centre is located could be a barrier to the creation of new residential child care centres. There are other municipalities in the region that also have this requirement. Further work would be required to determine if this requirement serves as a major barrier in the provision of child care centres in single family houses and if so, would the removal of this requirement negatively affect residential neighbourhoods.

4

ZONING BY-LAW (PARKING)

Barrier

Table C.1 in Part 5, Off-Street Parking and Loading/Unloading in Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No. 12000, requires 0.70 parking spaces per employee plus 0.15 parking spaces per licensed child for drop off, or 2 parking spaces, whichever is greater.

Recommendations

Undertake a review of child care parking rates, including a comprehensive parking study which also considers stroller and cargo bike parking.

Consider the alternate hours of use provision in the Zoning By-law.

Amend Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No. 12000 to reflect revised parking rates, if applicable.

Rationale

Decreased parking rates will facilitate the creation of new child care facilities, especially in existing commercial areas where parking and outdoor space often compete with one another for space on tight site plans.

5

ZONING BY-LAW (OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE)

Barrier

Surrey's Zoning By-law requires that child care centres must have direct access to an open space and play area within the lot.

Recommendations

Amend **Section J in Parts 20-29, 31, 32, 35-39, 43 and 45-48A and Section B of Part 44** of Surrey Zoning By-law 1993, No. 12000 to remove the word 'direct' from the requirement for access to an open space and play area within the lot.

Rationale

Fraser Health regulates outdoor space requirements in accordance with the Community Care and Assisted Living Act. There are instances where direct access to an open space and play area within the lot is not feasible. Removing the requirement for the access to be "direct" will allow for more flexibility in provision of outdoor play space on a lot and allow for solutions that could be considered on a case by case basis.

Barrier

The City's *Guidelines for the Location and Siting of Child Care Centres* (1990) is outdated and Section 7 (avoid an undue concentration of centres) is a barrier to the creation of new child care facilities.

Recommendation

Create a new child care policy that reflects current realities and promotes the creation of new child care facilities in Surrey. Replace the existing Child Care Guidelines with the new policy.

Rationale

Planners can reference an up-to-date policy that encourages and promotes new child care facilities in reports to Council.

An updated policy will provide clear direction for child care operators and City staff.

DATA COLLECTION AND TRACKING

Barrier

Child care applications that do not require Council approval are difficult to track between review groups within the City, which can result in longer review timelines.

Child care operators are unable to access information about where new purpose-built child care spaces are proposed as part of new developments. This information is not available on COSMOS**.

Recommendation

Add a mechanism in AMANDA* to track all child care projects, whether or not they require Council approval, such as a checkbox or drop down menu indicating the project includes a child care use.

Set up an application tracking system in AMANDA for Tenant Improvement and Minor Development Permit Amendment child care applications.

Add a publicly accessible layer to COSMOS that shows development applications where child care spaces are proposed.

Rationale

Project tracking improves review timelines and provides staff with the ability to look up all child care projects in Surrey for the purpose of data collection.

Deadlines and priorities can be set by each review group. This will help to prevent reviews that do not require Council approval from falling through the cracks.

In combination with the recommendation to track child care applications in AMANDA*, a publicly-accessible layer in COSMOS* that shows where child care spaces are proposed would assist child care operators in making contact with developers to negotiate leases at the earliest stage of a project.

*AMANDA is software used internally by the City of Surrey to manage the processing of business licensing, permits, and development applications.

**COSMOS is the City's online mapping system.

SECURING PURPOSE-BUILT CHILD CARE FACILITIES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT

Barrier

Surrey has an established density bonus program which uses Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) provided by developers to fund various community facilities and services.

Bonus densities above those identified in the Official Community Plan (OCP) may be granted subject to the provision of sufficient community amenities (i.e. extra units or stories may be permitted if appropriate community amenities are provided). The conveyance of space to the City for the provision of non-profit child care space is not clearly articulated in the density bonus policy.

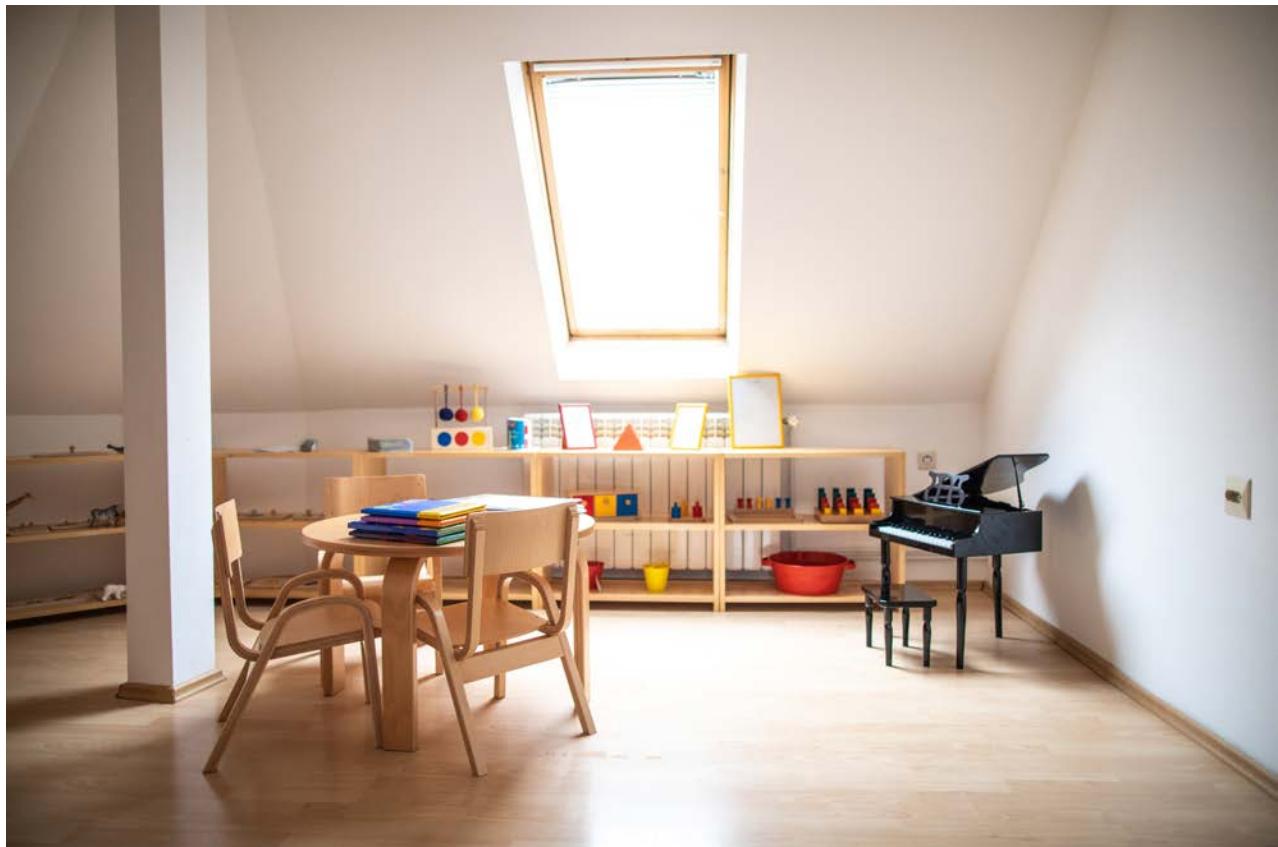
Recommendation

To facilitate non-profit child care:

- Explore the feasibility of creating a universal CAC to fund non-profit child care facilities, similar to the Affordable Housing and Public Art CACs.
- Consider the conveyance of non-profit child care space to the City, in exchange for additional density.
- Explore the concept of allowing the floor area of a building that comprises a purpose-built, non-profit child care facility to be excluded from the calculation of Floor Area Ratio. Ensure the perpetuity of the child care use through a Restrictive Covenant.
- Consider the development a CAC credit for the portion of a development's floor area that comprises a purpose-built, non-profit child care space, secured through a Restrictive Covenant or conveyed. For example, a 4,000 sq. ft. non-profit child care facility would provide an equal credit that could be applied to residential density.
- Explore new OCP or secondary policy that would require large scale comprehensive developments to provide purpose-built child care space as part of development. Examine potential threshold residential unit numbers that would trigger the policy.

Rationale

Increasing the number of purpose-built child care spaces would benefit families in Surrey. Surrey is especially lacking in the number of non-profit child care centres as compared to other municipalities in the region. Purpose-built child care spaces are desired by many child care operators. However, unless these facilities are secured by the City through development and then turned over to the non-profit operators at no or low cost, purpose-built child care spaces are likely to only be utilized by private operators.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY OF SURREY'S CHILD & YOUTH FRIENDLY CITY STRATEGY:

<https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/social-planning/child-youth-friendly-city-strategy>





CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R030

COUNCIL DATE: February 11, 2019

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 7, 2019**
 FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **8000-30**
 SUBJECT: **Update on the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force and Applications for two Union of BC Municipalities Grants**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse a Union of BC Municipalities grant application submitted to the Community Child Care Planning Program for a grant of up to \$25,000 to develop a child care space action plan in collaboration with the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (the “Task Force”) and the Centre for Child Development; and
3. Endorse a Union of BC Municipalities grant application submitted to the Community Space Creation Program for a grant of up to \$1 million dollars to establish a purpose-built modular building for childcare ages 0-5 at the Don Christian Community Centre.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Task Force and to receive Council’s endorsement of two Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”) grant applications submitted.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2015, Council received a presentation from the Surrey Working Group on non-profit child care that discussed its vision of establishing a Task Force.

Subsequent to this presentation, Council received a request from City staff to recommend a City staff member co-chair the Task Force (report attached as Appendix “I”). Daljit Gill-Badesha, Manager of Healthy Communities in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department was assigned to this role; Ms. Gill-Badesha is also a member of the Provincial Child Care Council to Minister Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. The other co-chair is Gerard Bremault, CEO of the Centre for Child Development. The assignment of the two co-chairs formalized the establishment of the Task Force in 2016 by the Surrey Working Group on non-profit child care.

At the Regular Council Meeting on April 23, 2018 through Corporate Report R079; 2018, (report attached as Appendix “II”), staff provided an update on the Task Force and discussed Surrey’s alignment with the Provincial Government and its goals of establishing a universal child care system in BC. The Surrey Child Care Report (the “Report”) attached to this Corporate Report is a foundational research document for further partnership development locally and with other levels of Government. The Report provides the direction on community needs and next steps for action.

DISCUSSION

The main focus of the Task Force is to collaboratively develop a Surrey Child Care Action Plan that will enhance, expand and support comprehensive child care services.

The Task Force has previously identified the following challenges Surrey faces in its attempts to develop a universal child care system:

- Lack of affordable child care;
- Insufficient child care spaces to meet existing needs and future growth;
- Limited out of school care or in proximity to schools;
- Severe shortage of Early Childhood Educators;
- Quality concerns of Early Childhood Education (ECE) training programs;
- Limited local opportunities to receive ECE training programs;
- Limited space for children with financial or accessibility challenges;
- Limited capacity of local systems to support a child care system;
- Gaps in support programs;
- Historical, lack of senior government investment in a comprehensive child care system; and
- Limited capacity for not for profit organizations to deliver child care services.

The Task Force continues to address these challenges and will use this information to align Surrey’s efforts with the Government of British Columbia’s Plan entitled, “Child Care B.C. Caring for Kids, Lifting Up Families – The Path to Universal Child Care.” The Task Force recommendations have been provided to the Government of British Columbia. To support the work of the Task Force, the City has applied for two UBCM grants under the programs of Community Child Care Planning and Community Space Creation.

Community Child Care Planning Program

The Community Child Care Planning Program will provide funding for local governments to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan. If successful, the City will utilize the grant to hire a part-time consultant to develop a community child care space action plan. The Child Development Centre will provide in-kind matching support to the project.

Community Space Creation Program

The Community Child Care Space Creation Program will provide funding to local governments to create new licensed child care spaces within their own facilities for children aged 0-5, with a focus on spaces for infants and toddlers. Don Christian Recreation Centre located at 6220 – 184 Street (map attached as Appendix “III”) in the Cloverdale community, has been selected as the preferred location because of the continued high growth of families with young children and the growing demand for experienced licensed preschool and school-aged care programs in the area.

Currently, the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department provides licensed preschool and before/after child care at the Don Christian Recreation. The Recreation Centre is located within proximity to Don Christian Elementary School. If funding is received, it will be used to establish a purpose-built modular building and expanding the programming by 16 new licensed child care spaces for children ages 0-5. The projected budget costs are as follows:

• Modular unit (shell) sized 24 x 60 ft. (7.3152m x 18.288m):	\$450,000
• Interior renovation:	\$100,000
• Site preparation & delivery:	\$100,000
• Permitting & soft cost (Architect and other consultants):	\$75,000
• Utility connection (gas, sewer, water & hydro):	\$100,000
• Indoor/outdoor equipment:	<u>\$175,000</u>
Total:	\$1,000,000

Should the City be successful in receiving this funding, a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) process will be undertaken to secure a not-for-profit child care operator.

A resolution of support by Council is a requirement to receive UBCM funding. Typically, UBCM funding applications require proof of Council approval in advance of application; in order to expedite access to this funding, UBCM has allowed municipalities to apply and subsequently receive and provide Council’s endorsement post application. Therefore, applications to both of the programs have been submitted.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the Task Force supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- Age-Friendly Community- DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local child care;
- Age Friendly Community – SD 14: Ensure sufficient high quality child care spaces are available in the City;
- Learning – DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families; and
- Health Services and programs- SD5: Support access to high-quality child care services and facilities.

CONCLUSION

Recent new investments from the Federal and Provincial Governments provide a window of opportunity to apply for funding for the Surrey community to access child care planning and capital grants through Provincial initiatives. The Task Force's readiness and involvement has been critical in seizing these opportunities and has provided further alignment with the Province's interest in Surrey and to implement a universal child care system in BC. It is recommended that Council continue to endorse the community efforts for child care by supporting both applications to the Community Child Care Planning Program Community Space Creation Program to expand quality child care opportunities in Surrey.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I": Corporate Report R226; 2015

Appendix "II": Corporate Report R079; 2018

Appendix "III" Don Christian Recreation Centre Location Map

j:\wpcentre\corprpts\2018\childcare task force update.docx
SR 2/7/19 3:20 PM

NO: R226

COUNCIL DATE: November 16, 2015

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor and Council** DATE: **November 12, 2015**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **0360-20**
SUBJECT: **Child Care Task Force Co-Chair**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Support one City of Surrey staff participating as Co Chair of the Surrey Child Care Task Force as generally described in this report; and
3. Forward a copy of this report to the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee and the Social Policy Committee for their information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the City to Co-Chair a Child Care Task Force and collaboratively develop a Child Care Action Plan for Surrey.

BACKGROUND

A delegation with representatives from Options Community Services, YMCA, and Alexandra Neighbourhood House appeared at the May 25, 2015 Council-in-Committee meeting requesting the City Co-Chair a Child Care Task Force and collaboratively develop a Child Care Action Plan for Surrey. The community partners expressed the importance of the City's role in developing the Action Plan and acquiring child care spots for children in Surrey.

There has been a major shift in demographics from over 60% of families having one stay at home parent in 1976 to 73% of families having both parents in the workforce in 2012. In the past decade, the need for two incomes has become critical to satisfy the economic needs of many families. Average family incomes have flat-lined, but family expenses have increased; child care fees have become the second largest expense in a family's budget.

Research shows that there are only 12.4 spaces for every 100 children in Surrey aged 0-12 years with a particular deficit in after-school care and care for toddlers less than 3 years old. To complicate matters, very few facilities are serving more than 1 age group causing parents to have to pick up their children at different locations. In an effort to bridge the 0-6 child care gap, Surrey has introduced extended preschool hours to assist parents in the workforce and 8 MYzone

program locations (Middle Years afterschool program) that support children during the critical afterschool hours.

Parents have reported missing and being stressed at work or leaving the workforce due to child care concerns. Low-income families on child care subsidy and children who require extra support are often turned away. Some children are missing school to care for younger siblings and there are reports of children in self-care after school. Grandparents are often expected to provide child care for their grandchildren.

DISCUSSION

High quality, comprehensive child care is a key integrative resource in the community with many benefits:

- Supports the health, safety, wellbeing, learning and long-term success of young children;
- Early intervention strategies for children requiring extra supports and stability for children in fragile families or high risk situations;
- Easy referral of families to other community resources;
- Mothers' participation in the paid labour force;
- Employee recruitment, retention and productivity;
- Employment opportunities, business sustainability and positive economic development;
- Poverty reduction; and
- Positive community connectivity and citizen engagement.

The Province, through the Office for the Early Years has recognized child care as integral part of their Early Years strategy. A current provincial review of local ECD planning has highlighted the need for local child care plans that respond to the local context and needs of individual communities.

Surrey needs a collaborative Child Care Action Plan that focuses on a comprehensive child care approach that draws upon the skills of local public, private and community agencies, and is supported by adequate provincial funding. Our goal is to have enough quality and affordable options for childcare in Surrey, including before and after-school care in public amenities such as the City facilities and in schools.

The City has valuable expertise in land-use, community amenity planning and community consultation as well as the City's own experience in child care partnership projects with OPTIONS, Alexander House and the YMCA. Also, Surrey has access to the expertise and experience of other municipal governments and has existing strong connections with the business and development community.

The City as Co-Chair, would garner interest at the provincial level, as the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is interested in having municipalities participate in the childcare discussion. Co-Chairing the Task Force ensures Surrey is ready to take advantage of child care funding opportunities and will be a key champion for the community with senior levels of government. Co-Chairing the Task Force will allow the City to play an influential role in shaping the recommendations and will bring credibility, profile and accountability to the process.

Daljit Gill-Badesha, Section Manager Newton Community in the Community and Recreation Services Division is the staff designated to Co-Chair the Task Force on behalf of the City should Council adopt the recommendations of this report. Ms. Gill-Badesha also sits on the Provincial Child Care Council Advisory Committee for Minister Cadieux. The Task Force will be comprised of representatives from the non-profit sector, Surrey School District, other levels of government and private child care operators.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Co-Chairing the Child Care Task Force will assist in achieving the following Socio-Cultural Pillar action items in the City's Sustainability Charter:

SC5: Improve the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents

- Supporting children in the early years and during critical after school hours by making services more accessible to Surrey residents.

SC12: Adapting to Demographic Change

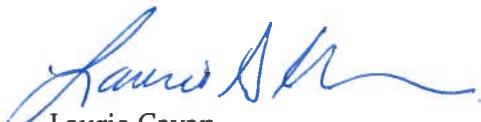
- 73% of families have both parents in the workforce and Surrey needs to adapt services to accommodate this demographic change.

SC17: Crime Reduction Strategies

- Research shows that investing in the early years has the greatest collective impact on improving social outcomes for children and the residents of Surrey.

CONCLUSION

This collaborative approach will allow us to create long lasting change in child care for Surrey residents. Surrey Co-Chairing the Task Force will demonstrate strong commitment to children and families and supports other City initiatives such as the Child and Youth Friendly Strategy and as a family friendly employer.



Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation & Culture



CITY MANAGER'S
DEPARTMENT
CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R079

COUNCIL DATE: April 23, 2018

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 19, 2018**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **8000-30**
SUBJECT: **Surrey Community Child Care Task Force Update**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this Report for information; and
2. Continue to endorse the City's participation on the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (the "Task Force").

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a copy of the Surrey Child Care Report as generally discussed within this report and to discuss Surrey's alignment with the Provincial Government in its goals of establishing a universal child care system in BC.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2015, Council received a presentation from the Surrey Working Group on Non-profit Child Care that discussed its vision of establishing a Task Force.

Subsequent to this presentation, Council received a request from City staff to endorse recommending a City staff member to co-chair the Task Force (report attached as Appendix "I"). Daljit Gill-Badesha, Manager of Healthy Communities and Partnerships in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department was assigned to this role; Daljit is also a member of the Provincial Child Care Council to Minister Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. The other co-chair is Gerard Bremault, CEO of the Centre for Child Development. The assignment of the two co-chairs formalized the establishment of the Task Force in 2016 by the Surrey Working Group on Non-profit Child Care.

DISCUSSION

The main focus of the Task Force is to collaboratively develop a Surrey Child Care Action Plan that will enhance, expand and support comprehensive child care services. Since 2016, the Task Force had been working with community partners to develop an extensive report titled the "Surrey Child Care Report," (the "Report") ; a copy is attached as Appendix "II". This Report will guide Surrey's next steps on developing a Surrey Child Care Action Plan.

The Report contains current research, qualitative data and is built on prior efforts, taking the exploration of identified issues and observed opportunities for further action.

Throughout the report development process, the Task Force identified the following challenges Surrey faces in its attempts to develop a universal childcare system:

- Lack of affordable child care;
- Insufficient child care spaces to meet existing needs and future growth;
- Limited out of school care or in proximity to schools;
- Severe shortage of early childhood educators;
- Quality concerns of Early Childhood Education (ECE) training programs
- Limited local opportunities to receive ECE training programs;
- Limited space for children with financial or accessibility challenges;
- Limited capacity of local systems to support a child care system;
- Gaps in support programs;
- Historical, lack of senior government investment in a comprehensive child care system; and
- Limited capacity for not for profits to deliver child care services.

The Task Force continues to address these challenges and will use this information to align Surrey's efforts with the Government of British Columbia's Plan titled, "Child Care B.C. Caring for Kids, Lifting up Families – The Path to Universal Child Care."

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the Task Force supports the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education and Culture, and Health and Wellness. Specifically the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes (DO) and Strategic Direction's (SD):

- Age-Friendly Community- DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local childcare;
- Age Friendly Community – SD 14: Ensure sufficient high quality child care spaces are available in the City;
- Learning – DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families; and
- Health Services and programs- SD5: Support access to high-quality childcare services and facilities.

CONCLUSION

Recent changes in Federal and Provincial Governments provide a window of opportunity for Surrey to align its efforts with the Province. The Task Force's readiness and involvement has been critical in seizing these opportunities and has provided further alignment with the Province's keen interest in Surrey and to implement a universal child care system in BC. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council continue to endorse the City's participation on the Task Force.



Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" - Corporate Report R226; 2015
Appendix "II" - Surrey Child Care Report – Surrey Community Child Care Task Force
(appendices available upon request)

j:\wpcentre\corprpts\2018\childcare task force update.docx
SR 4/19/18 4:58 PM



CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R033

COUNCIL DATE: February 24, 2020

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: February 11, 2020
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture FILE: 8000-30
SUBJECT: Application for a Union of BC Municipalities Community Childcare Planning Grant

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Authorize staff to submit an application to the Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM") Community Child Care Planning Program for a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to support space creation community actions in collaboration with the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (the "Task Force") and the Centre for Child Development.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support for the City applying for a grant under the UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program to support space creation community actions in collaboration with the Task Force and the Centre for Child Development.

BACKGROUND

The UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program is provincially funded and is intended to assist local governments to engage in childcare planning activities in order to develop a community childcare space creation action plan. In order to better meet the childcare needs of families, under Budget 2018, the Province announced expanded investment in the childcare sector totalling \$1 billion over three years. This includes \$237 million to improve access to childcare, including funding the creation of 22,000 new licensed childcare spaces.

On February 11, 2019, Council endorsed a UBCM grant application to develop a childcare space action plan in collaboration with the Task Force and the Centre for Child Development (Corporate Report R030; 2019 attached as Appendix "I"). The City was successful in receiving the \$25,000 grant, and has since conducted the following actions in 2019-2020:

- Task Force workplan created;
- Data inventory and map of licensed childcare spaces in Surrey;
- Space Prioritization Calculator (draft) that can be used to assess and prioritize potential licensed childcare sites; and

- Preliminary review of practices and policy improvements that can expedite the development of licensed childcare in Surrey.

DISCUSSION

The main focus of the Task Force is to collaboratively develop a Surrey childcare action plan that will enhance, expand and support comprehensive childcare services.

The Task Force has previously identified the following challenges Surrey faces in its attempts to develop a universal childcare system:

- Lack of affordable childcare;
- Insufficient childcare spaces to meet existing needs and future growth;
- Limited out of school care or in proximity to schools;
- Severe shortage of Early Childhood Educators;
- Quality concerns of Early Childhood Education (ECE) training programs;
- Limited local opportunities to receive ECE training programs;
- Limited space for children with financial or accessibility challenges;
- Limited capacity of local systems to support a childcare system;
- Gaps in support programs;
- Historical, lack of senior government investment in a comprehensive childcare system; and
- Limited capacity for not for profit organizations to deliver childcare services.

The Task Force continues to address these challenges and this grant will allow the Task Force to continue its work. The Task Force recommendations have been provided to the Province and a representative from the Province is a member of the Task Force who works collaboratively with Task Force to address the needs in Surrey.

Community Child Care Planning Program

The Community Child Care Planning Program will provide funding for local governments to engage in childcare planning activities in order to develop a community childcare space creation action plan. Additionally, the Child Development Centre and Options Community Services will each provide in-kind support of \$5,000 to the project subject to the successful receipt of grant funding. If successful, the City will utilize the grant to hire a part-time consultant to work with the Task Force to continue its work. The total project budget is \$35,000.

The project goals for 2020-2021 are as follows:

- 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);
- Provide this multi-variate data set and map to the Province to support applications from local organizations seeking capital funding;
- Distribute the Space Prioritization Calculator Tool, in addition to existing tools from CCRR Licensing Branch (Fraser Health), and the City to potential proponents considering the development of licensed childcare facilities;

- Support the recruitment and retention of ECE and applicable staff for licensed childcare programs;
- Develop a community engagement plan and carry out surveys, focus groups, and seek other sources of information that will inform this plan; and
- Leverage knowledge at the Task Force to inform further long-range planning by all members of the Task Force.

The identified activities are feasible with acquisition of the grant and continued significant in-kind contribution by all members of the Task Force.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the Task Force supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes ("DO") and Strategic Directions ("SD"):

- Age-Friendly Community- DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local childcare;
- Age Friendly Community – SD 14: Ensure sufficient high-quality childcare spaces are available in the City;
- Learning – DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families; and
- Health Services and programs- SD5: Support access to high-quality childcare services and facilities.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council authorize the submission of an application to the UBCM's 2020 Community Child Care Planning Program for a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to support space creation community actions to expand quality childcare opportunities in Surrey.



Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" - Corporate Report R030; 2019



CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R030

COUNCIL DATE:

February 11, 2019

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 7, 2019**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **8000-30**
SUBJECT: **Update on the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force and Applications for two Union of BC Municipalities Grants**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse a Union of BC Municipalities grant application submitted to the Community Child Care Planning Program for a grant of up to \$25,000 to develop a child care space action plan in collaboration with the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (the “Task Force”) and the Centre for Child Development; and
3. Endorse a Union of BC Municipalities grant application submitted to the Community Space Creation Program for a grant of up to \$1 million dollars to establish a purpose-built modular building for childcare ages 0-5 at the Don Christian Community Centre.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Task Force and to receive Council's endorsement of two Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”) grant applications submitted.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2015, Council received a presentation from the Surrey Working Group on non-profit child care that discussed its vision of establishing a Task Force.

Subsequent to this presentation, Council received a request from City staff to recommend a City staff member co-chair the Task Force (report attached as Appendix “I”). Daljit Gill-Badesha, Manager of Healthy Communities in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department was assigned to this role; Ms. Gill-Badesha is also a member of the Provincial Child Care Council to Minister Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. The other co-chair is Gerard Bremault, CEO of the Centre for Child Development. The assignment of the two co-chairs formalized the establishment of the Task Force in 2016 by the Surrey Working Group on non-profit child care.

At the Regular Council Meeting on April 23, 2018 through Corporate Report R079; 2018, (report attached as Appendix "II"), staff provided an update on the Task Force and discussed Surrey's alignment with the Provincial Government and its goals of establishing a universal child care system in BC. The Surrey Child Care Report (the "Report") attached to this Corporate Report is a foundational research document for further partnership development locally and with other levels of Government. The Report provides the direction on community needs and next steps for action.

DISCUSSION

The main focus of the Task Force is to collaboratively develop a Surrey Child Care Action Plan that will enhance, expand and support comprehensive child care services.

The Task Force has previously identified the following challenges Surrey faces in its attempts to develop a universal child care system:

- Lack of affordable child care;
- Insufficient child care spaces to meet existing needs and future growth;
- Limited out of school care or in proximity to schools;
- Severe shortage of Early Childhood Educators;
- Quality concerns of Early Childhood Education (ECE) training programs;
- Limited local opportunities to receive ECE training programs;
- Limited space for children with financial or accessibility challenges;
- Limited capacity of local systems to support a child care system;
- Gaps in support programs;
- Historical, lack of senior government investment in a comprehensive child care system; and
- Limited capacity for not for profit organizations to deliver child care services.

The Task Force continues to address these challenges and will use this information to align Surrey's efforts with the Government of British Columbia's Plan entitled, "Child Care B.C. Caring for Kids, Lifting Up Families – The Path to Universal Child Care." The Task Force recommendations have been provided to the Government of British Columbia. To support the work of the Task Force, the City has applied for two UBCM grants under the programs of Community Child Care Planning and Community Space Creation.

Community Child Care Planning Program

The Community Child Care Planning Program will provide funding for local governments to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan. If successful, the City will utilize the grant to hire a part-time consultant to develop a community child care space action plan. The Child Development Centre will provide in-kind matching support to the project.

Community Space Creation Program

The Community Child Care Space Creation Program will provide funding to local governments to create new licensed child care spaces within their own facilities for children aged 0-5, with a focus on spaces for infants and toddlers. Don Christian Recreation Centre located at 6220 – 184 Street (map attached as Appendix "III") in the Cloverdale community, has been selected as the preferred location because of the continued high growth of families with young children and the growing demand for experienced licensed preschool and school-aged care programs in the area.

Currently, the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department provides licensed preschool and before/after child care at the Don Christian Recreation. The Recreation Centre is located within proximity to Don Christian Elementary School. If funding is received, it will be used to establish a purpose-built modular building and expanding the programming by 16 new licensed child care spaces for children ages 0-5. The projected budget costs are as follows:

• Modular unit (shell) sized 24 x 60 ft. (7.3152m x 18.288m):	\$450,000
• Interior renovation:	\$100,000
• Site preparation & delivery:	\$100,000
• Permitting & soft cost (Architect and other consultants):	\$75,000
• Utility connection (gas, sewer, water & hydro):	\$100,000
• Indoor/outdoor equipment:	<u>\$175,000</u>
Total:	\$1,000,000

Should the City be successful in receiving this funding, a Request for Proposal ("RFP") process will be undertaken to secure a not-for-profit child care operator.

A resolution of support by Council is a requirement to receive UBCM funding. Typically, UBCM funding applications require proof of Council approval in advance of application; in order to expedite access to this funding, UBCM has allowed municipalities to apply and subsequently receive and provide Council's endorsement post application. Therefore, applications to both of the programs have been submitted.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the Task Force supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes ("DO") and Strategic Directions ("SD"):

- Age-Friendly Community- DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local child care;
- Age Friendly Community – SD 14: Ensure sufficient high quality child care spaces are available in the City;
- Learning – DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families; and
- Health Services and programs- SD5: Support access to high-quality child care services and facilities.

CONCLUSION

Recent new investments from the Federal and Provincial Governments provide a window of opportunity to apply for funding for the Surrey community to access child care planning and capital grants through Provincial initiatives. The Task Force's readiness and involvement has been critical in seizing these opportunities and has provided further alignment with the Province's interest in Surrey and to implement a universal child care system in BC. It is recommended that Council continue to endorse the community efforts for child care by supporting both applications to the Community Child Care Planning Program Community Space Creation Program to expand quality child care opportunities in Surrey.



Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I": Corporate Report R226; 2015

Appendix "II": Corporate Report R079; 2018

Appendix "III" Don Christian Recreation Centre Location Map

(appendices available upon request)

j:\wpcentre\corprpts\2018\childcare task force update.docx
SR 2/7/19 3:19 PM



APPENDIX "V" CITY MANAGER'S DEPARTMENT

CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R212

COUNCIL DATE: November 8, 2021

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE:** November 1, 2021

FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture **FILE:** 0450-01

SUBJECT: New Partnering Agreement and License and Operating Agreement for
Childcare at the Kensington Prairie Community Centre (16824 - 32 Avenue)

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
 2. Endorse a Child Care BC New Spaces Fund grant application to develop space at the Kensington Prairie Community Centre for 50 new childcare spaces in Surrey;
 3. Approve the execution by the General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture of a new Partnering Agreement between the City and the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC, subject to compliance with the public notice provisions of the *Community Charter SBC 2003*, C.26 as approved by the City Solicitor, as generally described in this report; and
 4. Approve the execution by the General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture of a new License and Operating Agreement for a 10-year term between the City and the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC, subject to execution of the Partnering Agreement, compliance with the public notice provisions of the *Community Charter SBC 2003*, C.26 and satisfaction of the conditions precedent, all as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval to submit a grant application to develop space for 50 new childcare spaces and enter into a new Partnering Agreement and a License and Operating Agreement with the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC doing business as Alexandra Neighbourhood House ("ANH") to expand current operations of childcare services at the Kensington Prairie Community Centre ("KPCC") that includes the 50 new spaces.

BACKGROUND

Current Licence and Operating Agreement

ANH is a non-profit community services agency in Surrey and has been operating childcare at KPCC since 2010. The existing Licence and Operating Agreement between the City and ANH expires in December 2022. The current program provides 58 licensed childcare spaces and includes 12 infant and toddler spaces, 8 multi-age spaces, 18 pre-kindergarten age spaces and 20 school age spaces. The KPCC program is also one of the Province's Universal Child Care Prototype sites that utilizes a \$10-a-day fee. This program ensures that no family is paying more than \$200 per month for full day quality childcare and depending on income levels, may even be fully subsidized. The City would negotiate with the Province to ensure that the subsidy for the existing Prototype would be extended to the new childcare spaces as part of the expansion requirements.

The City and ANH are seeking to expand the existing childcare program at KPCC to offer an additional 50 licensed spaces for a total of 108 spaces. The expansion requires a new Licence and Operating Agreement with ANH.

Property Description

The KPCC is located at the southeast corner of 168 Street and 32 Avenue in the North Grandview NCP area. The property includes three wood frame school buildings (main schoolhouse, annex building and gymnasium) and a playground situated on a 2.8-acre site. The main schoolhouse is included on Surrey's Heritage Register and is protected by a Heritage Designation Bylaw. The original schoolhouse was constructed in 1914 and all buildings were extensively renovated in 2009 and converted into a preschool/childcare centre.

DISCUSSION

Across the province, there is a significant shortage of licensed childcare spaces. To help fill this shortage, the Province's Ministry of Children and Family Development established the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to assist local governments in creating new, licensed childcare spaces within existing sites or in facilities under long-term user agreements with the local government.

The Province of BC has announced it is prioritizing projects that build spaces that serve infants and toddlers, offer care outside of regular business hours, are operated by a public body or non-profit organization, and benefit underserved populations, including children requiring extra supports, lower income families, single family parents, minority language families and recent immigrant and refugee families. The prioritization of partnerships between local government and non-profit sectors provides opportunities to create the most accessible and sustainable childcare while ensuring wrap-around service to families.

In addition to the childcare program operated by ANH, the City delivers 8 licensed preschool programs at KPCC that range from 2.5 – 5 hours per day. Many parents utilize these programs to supplement other part-time childcare arrangements due to the lack of full-time options available. A conversion to full day childcare would offer more than 1,500 hours of care per year, maximizing the usage at this site. Part-time preschool offerings would remain available at Redwood Park Nature Preschool and South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre.

The community demand for licensed care has grown since 2010 when KPCC opened and the conversion of part-time preschool to full-time childcare supports the maximum use of space while meeting the greatest needs of working families. The proposed expanded services at KPCC will ensure that all families have access to wrap around services prior to kindergarten including extra physical and behavioural supports, parent education, subsidy supports and flexible and affordable childcare options.

The Partnering Agreement

The Partnering Agreement authorizes the City to provide assistance to ANH provided that notice is given (both in accordance with section 24 and 94 of the Community Charter respectively). The proposed Partnering Agreement with ANHBC includes the following potential types of assistance:

- a) A contribution by the City of the childcare and adjacent outdoor activity area for use by ANH throughout the 10-year term for a nominal rate (\$1.00 annually);
- b) A contribution by the City of furnishings and equipment related to the childcare and outdoor activity area;
- c) Maintenance by the City of janitorial services specific to childcare, based on proportionate use;
- d) Maintenance by the City of the parking areas, pedestrian pathways, and landscaping at KPCC, based on proportionate use; and

If the Partnering Agreement is approved by Council, public notice of the City's intention to provide assistance under the Partnering Agreement (and of a proposed property disposition) must be provided in accordance with sections 24 and 26 of the Community Charter.

The License and Operating Agreement

The Provincial child-care capital funding grant program requires organizations to enter into a minimum of a 10 to 15-year commitment. To meet eligibility, the City and ANH have agreed to terminate the existing operating agreement (set to expire at the end of 2022) and enter into a new 10-year Operating Agreement. The License and Operating Agreement will include all of the buildings within KPCC (15,055 ft²) and an outdoor activity area. The License and Operating Agreement outlines the terms and conditions associated with the use of KPCC for a nominal rate (\$1.00 annually) and will ensure that the childcare facility continues to be operated in a manner that is acceptable to the City. The City would maintain program space for weekend and evening use where appropriate.

The estimated value being contributed by the City for this License and Operating Agreement was calculated by examining comparable rents in the Surrey area resulting in a base building rate of \$22 per ft.² (15,055 ft.² x \$22.00/ft.² = \$331,210/annum). This annual rent for 10-years, discounted at two percent (2%), equates to a total value of \$ 3,185,000, which is the estimated total value being contributed by the City to this project.

The License and Operating Agreement is for a term of 10-years and is subject to the following conditions precedents:

1. City Solicitor approval; and
2. Compliance with the notice provisions of the *Community Charter, SBC 2003, c. 26*

Legal Services Review

This report has been reviewed by Legal Services and they have no concerns.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Partnering Agreement and License and Operating Agreement will support the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, the Partnering and Operating Agreements relate to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Health and Wellness, Infrastructure, Education and Culture, and Inclusion. Specifically, this project supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO") and Strategic Directions (SD"):

- Health and Wellness – Health Services and Programs – SD5: Support access to high-quality childcare services and facilities;
- Health and Wellness – Wellness and Recreation – SD7: Actively support capacity-building in neighbourhoods and communities to encourage connections;
- Infrastructure – All Infrastructure – DO2: Infrastructure systems provide safe, reliable affordable services;
- Education and Culture - Learning DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families; and
- Inclusion - Age Friendly Community DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local childcare.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council endorse the City's Child Care BC New Spaces Fund grant application to develop space at the Kensington Prairie Community Centre for 50 new childcare spaces in Surrey and approve the recommended Agreements to allow ANH to operate and expand its licensed childcare program at KPCC as generally described in this report.



Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture



APPENDIX "VI" CITY MANAGER'S DEPARTMENT

CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R215

COUNCIL DATE: November 8, 2021

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE:** November 4, 2021
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture **FILE:** 0450-01
SUBJECT: Child Care BC New Spaces Fund Grant Application for Four Proposed
Childcare Operations

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
 2. Endorse four Child Care BC New Spaces Fund grant applications to develop space at the following four sites for full-time licensed childcare in Surrey (Don Christian Recreation Centre, Elgin Centre, New Newton Recreation Centre and Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex); and
 3. Authorize staff to initiate a procurement process to identify potential proponents for the operation of full-time licensed childcare programs at the above noted sites as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval to submit four grant applications to develop and convert program spaces including 117 new spaces located at Don Christian Recreation Centre, Elgin Centre, the new Newton Recreation Centre, and Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex (the "Sites"), and to authorize staff to initiate a procurement process to identify potential proponents to operate full-time licensed childcare programs at these Sites, subject to confirmed funding by the Province.

BACKGROUND

Across the province, there is a significant shortage of licensed childcare spaces. To help fill this shortage, the Province's Ministry of Children and Family Development established the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to assist local governments in creating new, licensed childcare spaces within existing sites or in facilities under long-term user agreements with the local government.

DISCUSSION

The Province of BC has announced it is prioritizing projects that build spaces that serve infants and toddlers, offer care outside of regular business hours, are operated by a public body or non-profit organization, and benefit underserved populations, including children requiring extra supports, lower income families, single family parents, minority language families and recent immigrant and refugee families. The prioritization of partnerships between local government and non-profit sectors provides opportunities to create the most accessible and sustainable childcare while ensuring wrap-around service to families.

Property Descriptions

The four sites were chosen based on their accessibility features, operational feasibility, and geographic distribution across the city. 2019 stats show that Surrey has 11,301 licensed childcare spaces with 475 operators (map attached as Appendix "I") . All proposed sites have access to adequate greenspace and are accessible by transit and/or major roadways. There is an identified need for childcare in each area, and the demographics that will be served include vulnerable populations. With Surrey's 14.9 licensed childcare spaces per 100 children, the City has a gap of over 20,000 new spaces to meet the Canadian National Average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children. The following table reflects the increase in new licensed childcare spaces proposed for each site. The 16 current spaces will be converted from part-time to full-time.

Location	Current Licensed Part-Time Spaces	New Spaces Created	Total Licensed Full-Time Spaces
Don Christian Modular 6220 184 Street	0	20	20
Elgin Centre 3530 144 Street	16	4	20
New Newton Recreation Centre 6965 King George Boulevard	0	57	57
Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex 16555 Fraser Highway	0	20	20
Total	16	101	117

Don Christian Recreation Centre

Don Christian Recreation Centre is located at 6220 184 Street within the Don Christian Park. The construction of a modular facility for the use of childcare was recently added to the site in May 2021 and Alexandra Neighbourhood House was awarded the contract to operate the site in July 2021. This proposal is to add a second modular facility in close proximity to the recently constructed modular to optimize programming and operational efficiencies. The modular facility would accommodate 20 new licensed full-time childcare spaces.

Elgin Centre

Elgin Centre, located at 3530 144 Street, is a City-owned heritage building sited upon a ±1-acre parcel fronting 144 Street in South Surrey. Elgin Centre currently operates an extended hour preschool program Monday to Friday. The transition to full-day childcare at Elgin would be scheduled for Fall 2022, limiting any disruptions to current offerings. Preschool programs would continue to be available to families at alternate locations across the City for the 2022/23 season. The transition of this program to full-time childcare would include upgrades to the interior of the space to improve storage and allow napping space. The transition would accommodate 20 new licensed full-time spaces.

New Newton Recreation Centre

The new Newton Recreation Centre will be located at 6965 King George Boulevard. The childcare would be designed within the planned community recreation centre that will be situated upon a ±7.24-acre land assembly recently acquired by the City. The provincial funding would contribute to approximately 3,400 ft² of additional space to this site and would accommodate 57 new licensed full-time spaces.

Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex

The Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex is located at 16555 Fraser Highway. The proposed plan for this site would include retrofitting multi-purpose room 3 to accommodate 20 new licensed full-time childcare spaces optimizing use of the current space. The project would also include the addition of a new secured outdoor nature play area.

Funding

The Sites identified in this report will provide 117 new fully-licensed childcare spaces. The total project cost that will be applied for under the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund is approximately \$5,000,000. The grant application deadline is November 16, 2021. The creation of these childcare spaces will be conditional on securing Provincial funding. All expansion costs will be covered under the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund. Operating costs will be identified through a later procurement stage for selecting of non-profit operators as per the funding requirements.

Legal Services Review

This report has been reviewed by Legal Services and they have no concerns.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of expanding childcare for the Sites supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- Health and Wellness – Health Services and Programs – SD5: Support access to high-quality childcare services and facilities.
- Health and Wellness – Wellness and Recreation – SD7: Actively support capacity-building in neighbourhoods and communities to encourage connections.

- Inclusion - Age Friendly Community - SD14: Ensure sufficient high-quality child-care spaces are available in the City
- Infrastructure – All Infrastructure – DO2: Infrastructure systems provide safe, reliable affordable services.
- Education and Culture - Learning DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families.
- Inclusion - Age Friendly Community DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local childcare.

CONCLUSION

The greatest gap for early learning and care is in access to quality, affordable, full-day childcare. Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council endorse the City's Child Care BC New Spaces Fund grant applications to develop 117 new full-time childcare spaces in Surrey and authorize staff to initiate a procurement process to secure operators for these spaces.



Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I": Full-Time Licensed Child Care Sites in Surrey

<https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcadministration/corporate reports regular/2021/draft cr child care rfeoi sites - draft.docxSR 11/4/21 3:28 PM>