

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 24, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>LONDON'S CHILD &amp; YOUTH AGENDA: 2017-2021</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services, the following actions be taken with respect to London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021:

- a) London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021 (Appendix A) attached **BE ENDORSED**;
- b) Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to proceed with the implementation of London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021: it being noted that funding to support London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017- 2021 is included in the Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services approved budget for 2016-2019 and will be confirmed annually through the budget update process.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Planning and Transfer Payment Agreement (January 24, 2017);
- London's Child and Youth Network Family-Centred Service System Impact Assessment (December 15, 2015);
- London's Child and Youth Network 2014 Progress Report and Child and Youth Network Impact Assessment Update (February 18, 2015);
- Child and Youth Agenda II (November 12, 2012);
- The Child and Youth Agenda Year Two Implementation (February 15, 2011);
- The Child and Youth Agenda Year One Implementation (January 25, 2010);
- Provincial Announcement Regarding Full-Day Learning for Four- and Five- Year Olds in Ontario (November 16, 2009);
- Dr. Pascal's Report - Implementing Early Learning in Ontario (July 20, 2009);
- Update on Best Start Funding (April 27, 2009);
- Child and Youth Agenda (October 6, 2008);
- Best Start Phase 2 Plan for System Integration and 2007-2008 Child Care Service Plan (July 9, 2007);
- Best Start implementation Plan Update (Oct 16, 2006);
- Best Start Implementation Plan (May 8, 2006);
- Best Start Plan Update (October 17, 2005); and
- Best Start Plan (August 22, 2005).

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to: provide an overview of London's Child and Youth Network (CYN); and, to present for consideration and endorsement *London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021*.

*London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021* supports the City of London's Strategic Plan by:

- Eliminating barriers for individuals facing poverty, mental health and addictions and help them find pathways to be successful (Caring and compassionate services; Strengthening our Community); and,
- Supporting the health and well-being of all children, youth, and families in London (Healthy, safe, and accessible city; Strengthening our Community).

## Background

As a community, we want our children and youth to be safe, to have supportive relationships, and to reach their potential in school and in life; today's children will be our entrepreneurs, professionals, tradespeople, civic leaders, citizens and parents of tomorrow. Our future health and prosperity depends on our ability to support children, youth and families today. Yet, in 2008 the CYN learned that too many of London's children and youth were being left behind:

- 1 in 5 children were living in poverty;
- More than 1 in 4 were not ready to learn in grade 1;
- More than 1 in 5 did not graduate from high school; and,
- 1 in 4 were overweight or obese.

Through engagement with London families, we also learned that while individual programs and services are impactful, collectively, our service system can be difficult for families to access and navigate.

These facts compelled our community to action. If we wanted the best for our children, youth, and families – if we truly wanted to make London a great place to raise a family – we knew we needed to do more, and we knew we needed to work together to make it happen. Driven by this belief, organizations and individuals from all sectors came together to establish London's CYN and its collective vision for change:

*“Happy, healthy children and youth today; caring, creative, responsible adults tomorrow”*

CYN partners have rallied around our four priorities of: Ending Poverty, Healthy Eating & Healthy Physical Activity (HEHPA), Making Literacy a Way of Life, and Creating a Family-Centred Service System (FCSS) to turn this vision into action. Through collaborative approaches to planning, implementation, and investment of resources, CYN partners have transformed the way we work to make lives better for London families. The work of CYN partners is supported by The City of London, along with other local organizations, in a “backbone” role that provides strategic, administrative, coordination, implementation, and communication support.

## Impact

CYN partners came together to improve outcomes for London's children, youth, and families. Through the collective work of CYN partners, we know we are making a difference. In 2015, the CYN retained a third-party organization to conduct a comprehensive impact assessment to better understand the impact of our work on London families. How has life changed for families? How have organizations within the service system changed their approach to working with each other and with families? What have we learned, and how can we deepen our impact?

Through comprehensive evaluation, we learned our work is positively improving outcomes for the children, youth, and families that are participating in our projects and initiatives. The following is a short summary of some of our impact:

- 90% of families in Family Centre neighbourhoods said services were easy to access, compared to 59% in non-Family Centre neighbourhoods;
- After neighbourhood-level interventions focused on healthy behaviours took place in the Westminster neighbourhood, there was a 21% decrease in the number of individuals who spent at least an hour watching television;
- Supported by over 100 elementary schools, more than half of the entire grade 5 student population in London annually registers for the Act-i-Pass program, connecting young people to free recreation opportunities;
- 95% of Harvest Bucks recipients intend to buy vegetables and fruits at a farmers' market in the future, increasing access to healthy food and building healthy habits;
- Participants in the Food Families programs saved an average of \$127 per month on their grocery bill, increasing their buying power;

- 72% of businesses launched by London entrepreneurs with the support of the Impact Loan program continue to operate. The Impact Loan program helped 14 (of 25) participants get off social assistance; and,
- London's Baby's Book Bag initiative has helped 79% of recipients read more to their baby, supporting positive brain development in the critical early years.

By providing a mechanism for increased communication, cooperation, and learning, the CYN has changed the way organizations work and changed the way families are served in London. The CYN has been recognized by the Province as a service integration leader and CYN partners are often asked to speak about the CYN's collective work to other communities in Ontario.

While the CYN's ability to positively improve outcomes for individuals and families has greatly improved, the assessment showed that our impact has not yet been felt across the entire community. The majority of our initiatives have been pilot projects aimed at targeting specific population groups or neighbourhoods to test new approaches and to acquire new learnings on how to best improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. This has resulted in high impact on outcomes on a small scale. The CYN's major learning from the impact assessment is that *the time is right to action these successful, evidence-driven initiatives and approaches on a larger scale so to increase and deepen our impact across the community.*

A summary of the CYN impact assessment can be found at [www.londoncyn.ca](http://www.londoncyn.ca).

### **London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021**

*"This agenda is our (re)commitment to London families. It is because of London families, and it is for London families, that we do this work."*

~ London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021, page 115

The *Child & Youth Agenda: 2017-2021* (CYA) is London's third collaboratively developed plan for change. It is the result of over a year of large-scale, evidence-driven, collaborative planning guided by the findings of the 2015 impact assessment. The outcomes, strategies, and initiatives developed by CYN partners are meant to drive transformative outcome change for London families.

CYN partners have committed to implementing 47 initiatives across the four priority areas. These initiatives were developed based on the best information and knowledge available. As knowledge changes over time, the CYN is committed to adapting, capturing, and engaging in emergent opportunities. The following provides a high-level overview of key strategies and initiatives that demonstrate the CYN's approach across each priority area:

- Ending Poverty
  - o Strategy 1: Reducing the Impact of Poverty
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: scaling up Food Families and Harvest Bucks
  - o Strategy 2: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: supporting at-risk and school-aged youth, and developing a community-wide, coordinated model to increase secondary school graduation rates
  - o Strategy 3: Changing Mindsets
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: community workshops and training
  - o Strategy 4: System Change
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: supporting individuals with lived experience to lead/participate in community decision making, and participating in Vibrant Communities
- Making Literacy a Way of Life
  - o Strategy 1: Promote literacy from birth
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: scaling up Baby's Book Bag, and increasing healthcare provider engagement in community initiatives
  - o Strategy 2: Improve literacy in the school age years
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: developing a literacy-focused wraparound project
  - o Strategy 3: Improve youth literacy
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: Youth Project Design which involves youth in developing ongoing initiatives to support secondary school graduate

- Strategy 4: Engage parents and caregivers in awareness and promotion of literacy
  - Key 2017 initiatives include: building literacy-rich environments and integrating literacy tools and resource into community spaces
- Strategy 5: Support community partners with professional learning practices
  - Key 2017 initiatives include: community workshops and training, and aligning with existing partnerships to increase impact
- Healthy Eating and Healthy Physical Activity
  - Strategy 1: Support (local) policy development/advocacy projects related to HEHPA outcomes
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: identifying and advocating for policy improvements within local organizations and in other jurisdictions
  - Strategy 2: Increase education and awareness opportunities throughout the community
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: supporting the Middlesex-London *in motion™* social marketing strategy, and developing a Community Food Challenge
  - Strategy 3: Support improvements to the built environment impacting HEHPA desired outcomes
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: supporting and scaling up built environment changes that facilitate better healthy eating and physical activity outcomes
  - Strategy 4: Support existing collaborative programs to enhance impact
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: scaling up the impact of Active and Safe Routes to School and the Grade 5 Act-i-Pass program
  - Strategy 5: Create, distribute and promote tools and resources
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: creating, adapting, translating, and disseminating tools and resources
  - Strategy 6: Create healthy, active neighbourhoods
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: scaling up the work of neighbourhood-level, resident driven working groups in priority neighbourhoods
  - Strategy 7: Support and promote local research to increase the evidence foundations of local initiatives
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: supporting and evaluating local community-based initiatives that demonstrate promising practices
  - Strategy 8: Continuous evolution of the HEHPA plan to reflect emerging issues and promising practices
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: researching and reflecting on current HEHPA initiatives to course-correct priority plans as needed
- Family-Centred Service System
  - Strategy 1: Develop a network of Family Centres to provide identifiable, accessible, family-friendly access points to the service system
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: building more Family Centres, and training more Community Connectors to connect families into the service system
  - Strategy 2: Move beyond collaboration, coordination, and co-location to an integrated, family-centred model of service integration
    - Key 2017 initiatives include: building capacity in the service system, and measurement and evaluation

The entire CYA, inclusive of 98 letters of endorsement from local organizations, is available online at [www.londoncyn.ca](http://www.londoncyn.ca). To review the CYA, please see Appendix A.

<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>
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The CYN aims to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families by ending poverty, improving literacy, improving healthy eating and healthy physical activity, and creating a family-centred service system. This work is supported through \$1.1 million annual funding approved in the City of London's 2016-2019 multi-year budget.

The CYN has been successful in leveraging this investment through additional direct and in-kind contributions from CYN partners and other external stakeholders, such as the Province of Ontario and philanthropic foundations. Recent examples include:

- In 2016, the provincial government invested \$2.9 million in capital funding to support the construction of three new Family Centres in London; additionally, the Cowan Foundation donated \$25,000 to support Family Centre Westminster;
- Since 2015, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Youth CI (supported by the Laidlaw Foundation and J.W. McConnell Family Foundation) have collectively invested \$78,500 to support the CYN's youth-based initiatives; and,
- In 2014, the provincial government awarded \$1.125 million over 3 years to the City of London, on behalf of the CYN, to implement the Healthy Kids Community Challenge.

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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London's CYN exists to make life better for London's children, youth, and families. The 2015 impact assessment demonstrated real, positive impact for London's families; it also compelled CYN partners to push further – to develop a stronger, smarter, bolder plan that takes the best of what we've done and scales it up to create transformative impacts across the community.

The organizations and individuals that comprise the CYN are committed to this change and have articulated these commitments in *London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021*. The plan aims to create action that *deepens our collective impact* by further aligning our efforts around one shared vision for London: *"happy, healthy children and youth today; caring, creative, responsible adults tomorrow."*

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>
<b>JOSH ARCHER MANAGER I, POLICY AND STRATEGIC ISSUES, CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	<b>TREVOR FOWLER MANAGER III, CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>	

C. Kyle Murray, Senior Financial Business Administrator

**APPENDIX A- London's Child and Youth Agenda: 2017-2021**