

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017
FROM:	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 17-47 “EARLY YEARS PROGRAMMING—PARENT AND FAMILY LITERACY CENTRES AND LAMBETH EARLY YEARS PLAYGROUP”

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, with the concurrence of the Director of Financial Services, the following actions be taken with respect to request for proposal 17-47:

- (a) The submission by Childreach Centre, 265 Maitland Street, London, Ontario, N6B 2Y3, to operate three (3) Parent and Family Literacy Centres and one (1) playgroup in the Lambeth Planning District for funding of \$132,300 annually for one year with the possibility of extension (one year) **BE ACCEPTED** as an irregular result in accordance with Section 8.10 (b) of the City of London’s Procurement of Goods and Services Policy; it being noted that the proposal submitted by Childreach Centre was the only submission and meets all the City’s requirements;
- (b) Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all administrative acts which are necessary in relation to this project;
- (c) The approval given herein **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into an Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Funding Agreement with Childreach Centre, approved by by-law; and,
- (d) The funding approval noted in a) above is **SUBJECT TO** the ongoing availability of funding under the Provincial Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres program, or the identification of other available funding sources.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Child Care Information Update and London-Middlesex Child Care and Early Years Service Plan—July 18, 2017
- London’s Child & Youth Agenda: 2017-2021—May 24, 2017
- Journey Together Early Years Transfer Payment Agreement—February 22, 2017
- Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Planning and Transfer Payment Agreement—January 24, 2017
- Neighbourhood Family Centre London District Catholic School Board St .Francis Catholic Elementary School—March 16, 2016
- Neighbourhood Family Centre: Thames Valley District School Board: Northwest London New Public School—February 17, 2016
- Neighbourhood Family Centre: Thames Valley District School Board: Northeast London New Public School—February 17, 2016
- Child & Youth Network: Family-Centred Service System Impact Assessment—Dec. 15, 2015
- Child Care Information Update and 2015 Child Care Service Plan—April 21, 2015
- Child Care Funding Formula Update—April 8, 2013 (Established Child Care and Early Years Childhood Development Reserve Fund)
- Child and Youth Agenda II--“The Best for Our Children, Youth and Families II – The Next Three Years of London’s Child and Youth Agenda to 2015”—November 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 Charles Pascal Report: With our Best Future in Mind, 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 & Child Care Service Plan—July 9, 2007
- Best Start implementation Plan Update— August, 22, 2005; October 17, 2005; May 8, 2006; and, October 16, 2006

BACKGROUND

In February 2016, the Premier of Ontario announced the integration of four Ministry of Education funded early year's programs—Ontario Early Years Centres, Parent and Family Literacy Centres (PFLCs), Child Care Resource Centres, and Better Beginnings Better Futures—into one program: Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre (herein referred to as OEYCFC).

Beginning January 1, 2018, the City of London, as the Service System Manager (pursuant to the *Child Care and Early Years, 2014*), will be responsible for the local oversight of, and administration of Provincial funds for, the OEYCFC program as part of its responsibility for the service system management of child care and early years. Throughout 2017, the Service System Manager has been planning for this transformational shift to take place with the support of local community partners. In an effort to decrease immediate service disruption to families, while planning for 2019 and beyond, the current early years system will be maintained where possible in 2018.

To maintain current levels of service in our community in 2018, the operation of three English-language PFLCs and a playgroup in the Lambeth Planning District will be provided by a new operator.

The three English-language PFLCs in London are currently managed by the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB). While the TVDSB will no longer receive funding for this program, they have agreed to continue to provide the current space for the PFLCs in 2018. However, the TVDSB will not provide the staffing. The PFLCs operate throughout the school year and are located in Ealing Public School, Knollwood Public School, and C.C. Carrothers Public School.

PFLCs are free, school-based programs for parents and caregivers with children from birth to age six. They are play-based programs designed to support a child's early learning and development and are aligned with the Kindergarten program. They offer a safe, nurturing, and stimulating program where children can play and parents can connect. These centres provide opportunities for:

- Developing social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and language skills;
- Building positive connections with local schools;
- Participating in family literacy programs that helps children develop and build essential literacy and numeracy skills; and,
- Discussing parenting concerns.

The Lambeth playgroup is a program that provides parents, caregivers, and children an opportunity to participate in interactive early learning activities. The Lambeth playgroup is currently managed by OEYC Community Living Elgin Lambeth, and operates throughout the school year out of the city-owned Lambeth Community Centre.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the City of London enter into an OEYCFC Funding Agreement with Childreach Centre to fund the operation of three Parent and Family Literacy Centre (PFLC) locations and one playgroup in the Lambeth planning district for a one year period with a possibility of extension (one-year) commencing January 1, 2018.

Request for Proposal Process

A Request for Proposal was issued on September 18, 2017 through Purchasing and Supply, Finance and Corporate Services to seek an organization to operate the PFLCs and the Lambeth playgroup. Promotion of the Proposal included the general advertising practices of Purchasing and Supply, and distribution to members of London's Family-Centred Service System Priority table of London's Child and Youth Network.

One (1) bid was received by the deadline of October 5, 2017 in response to the Request for Proposal. The submission was reviewed and evaluated by staff from Purchasing and Supply, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, Thames Valley District School Board, and the United Way of London & Middlesex and was determined to be in compliance with the specifications, terms and conditions outlined in RFP 17-47. In accordance with Section 19.4(c) of the Procurement of Goods and Service Policy, Civic Administration is recommending to award the contract under Section 8.10 (b) as an irregular result.

Civic Administration recommends that:

1. The City of London enter into an OEYCFC Funding Agreement, approved by Council, with Childreach Centre to fund the operation of the three Parent and Family Literacy Centre (PFLC) locations and the one playgroup in the Lambeth Planning District for a one year period with a possibility of extension (one year) commencing January 1, 2018; and,
2. The Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services execute the standard form OEYCFC Funding Agreement if it is approved by Council.

NEXT STEPS

In 2019, it is anticipated that the current early years system will undergo significant changes to align with London's larger Family-Centred Service System (FCSS) model. The FCSS vision is aligned with the Ministry of Education's vision to support Ontario's children and families through a system of responsive, high-quality, accessible and increasingly integrated early year's programs and services – a system that contributes to healthy child development today and a stronger future tomorrow.

Plans for the early years system will be articulated in a London-Middlesex Child Care and Early Years System Plan that will be brought forward to Council in late summer of 2018.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funding for the operation of the three Parent and Family Literacy Centre (PFLC) locations and one playgroup in the Lambeth Planning District totals \$132,300 for 2018. This expenditure is to be 100% funded from the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres program funding received from the Province of Ontario starting in January 2018. Future funding is subject to the availability of funding through the provincial OEYCFC program, or through the identification of an alternative funding source.

CONCLUSION

Beginning January 1, 2018, the City of London, as the Service System Manager will be responsible for the local oversight of, and administration of Provincial funds for, the OEYCFC program as part of its responsibility for the service system management of child care and early years. Maintaining current services for one year will minimize disruption for families and help to keep stability within the early years system while collaborative, community-based planning continues to support the creation of a mandated Council-approved Child Care and Early Years Service Plan. Awarding this RFP will maintain existing services for London's residents in three Parent and Family Literacy Centre locations and one playgroup in the Lambeth neighbourhood.

The Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres program includes a variety of elements, inclusive of Parent and Family Literacy Centres and playgroups, that together create a comprehensive, collaborative, and integrated approach to providing family-centred early years services to residents in our community.

PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
JOSH ARCHER MANAGER, POLICY & STRATEGIC ISSUES, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES	CHERYL SMITH MANAGER, NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGIC INITIATIVES & FUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES
RECOMMENDED BY:	CONCURRED BY:
LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES	IAN COLLINS DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES FINANCIAL SERVICES

- C. John Freeman, Manager, Purchasing and Supply
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