



Date: February 26, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: CHILD CARE PROTOCOL

RECOMMENDATION

- i) THAT the Board approve and adopt the attached Protocol, (APPENDIX I) and instruct staff to work with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board to carry out the actions set out in the protocol;*
- ii) THAT the Board appoint one Park Board Commissioner to the Joint Council on Child Care;*
- iii) THAT the Board advise the operators of all childcare services located on parks and in community centres, about the Child Care Protocol.*

POLICY

The Board approved Guidelines and Procedures for Daycare on Park Space in June, 1992 for the use of parks for daycare purposes.

BACKGROUND

The Board approved a series of motions at its meeting of Monday, June 23, 2003, which read:

WHEREAS accessible, affordable and quality childcare is essential to the health and well-being of the City of Vancouver's children and families;

AND WHEREAS child development and childcare play a crucial role in the economic stability of our City;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that all levels of government, including those at the local level, and the private sector take an active partnership in ensuring successful child development opportunities;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver has been a leader at the municipal level on the issue of childcare;

AND WHEREAS many partners of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, such as community centre associations, provide childcare;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Park Board commit to working in collaboration with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board on childcare services in the city;

AND IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Park Board participate in a policy forum, organized by City staff for City, Park Board and School Board elected representatives and staff to develop a process to achieve these ends.

Similar motions were approved by the City and by the School Board at that time, and Council pledged to, “collaborate with the Park Board and the School Board to maintain and expand childcare services in the city”. The policy forum of staff and elected representatives was held on January 16th, 2004, to discuss and develop the protocol.

DISCUSSION

A total of 5 daycares are situated on parkland in Vancouver, housing 6 licensed programs. In addition 28 other licensed preschool, kindercare and school age programs operate out of 16 Park Board community centres. Appendix II details the programs, sites and operators involved in the administration of these 34 licensed programs.

Child Care Protocol

The purpose of this protocol is to set out a framework for the City of Vancouver, the School Board and Park Board to work toward building a comprehensive range of childhood education and care services.

It should be understood that child care and education are inseparable concepts and are supported by an integrated and coherent approach to policy and practice. Childhood education and child care are located in settings where both learning and care occur and include affordable, quality, licensed child care services for children from birth to 12 years. In Vancouver, child care is seen as a cornerstone of childhood development and therefore is the focus of this protocol.

The Park Board, City and School Board do not directly operate child care. However, they can and do make a significant contribution to the availability and viability of child care services in Vancouver. While recognizing that child care is delivered by organizations and individuals in the community, non-profit and private sectors, local government has a range of tools and resources available to support the development and delivery of non-profit child care on or in public facilities or lands and through the redevelopment process.

Objectives

The City, Park Board and School Board commit to advancing the following objectives to achieve a child care system that reflects the above principles:

- i) stabilize and increase the viability of existing services so that there is no loss of licensed group child care spaces as a result of issues within the control of local governments.
- ii) plan for and develop child care on City/Park/School land and promote joint use of space for all types of child care in child development hubs.
- iii) equalize access across the city to a full continuum of care.
- iv) increase licensed child care spaces in the city by 5% in the next two years, while recognizing the essential role of senior government has in terms of operating funding and support.
- v) advocate for a new partnership with the federal, provincial, regional and aboriginal governments to build a publicly funded national child care/child development system.
- vi) increase public awareness of the benefits of child care and early childhood development on society.

The Childcare Protocol is attached as Appendix I.

The full Child Care Protocol Report to be considered by Vancouver City Council at its meeting of March 9th, 2004 is attached as APPENDIX III, which includes the establishment of a Joint Council on Childcare, its composition and mandate, and policy lessons from the Organization for Economic and Co-operative Development (OECD).

CONCLUSION

The Park Board participates in the provision of licensed childcare programs on parks and in most community centres primarily through the provision of public land and facilities. The Board's licensees and partners operate childcare programs directly and Park Board staff provide support and assistance to operators in the provision of childcare services and in bridging to other children's recreation activities.

The Child Care Protocol provides guidance and direction towards the goal of improved policy coordination and integration. The Joint Council on Child Care will develop and implement strategies to assist in the maintenance and expansion of licensed public child care in Vancouver.

Prepared by

Vancouver East District

APPENDIX I - Child Care Protocol

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PRINCIPLES

The City, School Board and Park Board, by approving this protocol recognize the need to take action and actively promote a publicly funded system of quality licensed child care services which is integral to:

- building healthy neighbourhoods and communities;
- supporting families in their parenting role;
- providing quality early learning and school readiness opportunities;
- promoting equitable opportunities for women in society;
- supporting labour force participation for a strong economy;
- reducing poverty and isolation.

Five key principles establish guide posts by which local government will maintain and expand child care services in the City of Vancouver.

Comprehensive

A comprehensive range of services includes quality, licensed or regulated full and part time programs for children from birth to 12 years in child care centres, family and in-home settings. A continuum of child care programs or options should be available within every neighbourhood in the city, along with information services that support families and caregivers.

Quality

Quality child care is essential for optimal childhood development. Research indicates that quality is supported by government regulations and standards, non-profit auspice, training of staff, optimal physical environments, staff satisfaction and low staff turnover, positive adult/child interactions, developmentally appropriate curriculum and stable/adequate funding.

Accessibility

Accessibility includes a comprehensive range of child care choices that meet the needs and are inclusive of all children, are culturally appropriate and are located in proximity to the family's home or place of work.

Affordability

Affordable child care has a stable, public and accountable funding base and is accessible to all families, regardless of income or employment status.

Coordination and Collaboration

Coordination and collaboration across the City and the two Boards in capital allocation, land use regulation and availability, operations, infrastructure funding, sharing of information and in kind supports is essential to building a high quality, affordable and accessible child care system.

OBJECTIVES

The City, Park Board and School Board commit to advancing the following objectives to achieve a child care system that reflects the above principles:

- i) stabilize and increase the viability of existing services so that there is no loss of licensed group child care spaces as a result of issues within the control of local governments.
- ii) plan for and develop child care on City/Park/School land and promote joint use of space for all types of child care in child development hubs.
- iii) equalize access across the city to a full continuum of care.
- iv) increase licensed child care spaces in the city by 5% in the next two years, while recognizing the essential role of senior government has in terms of operating funding and support.
- v) advocate for a new partnership with the federal, provincial, regional and aboriginal governments to build a publicly funded national child care/child development system.
- vi) increase public awareness of the benefits of child care and early childhood development on society.

ACTIONS/DELIVERABLES

The following actions will be undertaken by the City, School Board and Park Board to facilitate the above objectives:

- i) Approve this joint protocol by February 29, 2004.
- ii) Establish a Joint Council on Child Care by March 31, 2004 as follows:

Initial Composition

As a starting point, the Council's membership will include: one elected official from each of the City, Park Board and School Board; the City Child Development Coordinator and one staff member with knowledge of issues related to children and their caregivers from the two Boards; the Child and Youth Advocate; and, three community members from the city-wide networking committee and UBC H.E.L.P.

Initial Mandate

The Council will provide leadership in seeking resources, planning, development, coordination, problem solving and monitoring of child care/child development. The primary focus of the Council will be on child care in publicly owned facilities or those non-profit facilities located on public land. However, consideration will be given to policies and practices that support the broader child care system (i.e. licensed family child care). Draft terms of reference for the Council will be developed.

Initial Workplan

The Joint Council will begin work on the following activities and will report to the City and the two Boards on their progress as required and no later than December 2004:

- review existing policies and practices and bring forward new policies and practices which either facilitate child care services or eliminate barriers to developing and sustaining child care services.
- develop coordinated planning and delivery standards and practices for child care across local governments (e.g., facility standards, costs, operating agreements, maintenance).
- identify opportunities and integrate child care in future development and into the capital and operating budget cycles to facilitate equitable child development hubs based on current planning, demographic data and research.
- review operating, capital and in-kind support from the City, School Board and Park Board to child care to achieve efficiencies and reduce or subsidize child care operating costs.

- review potential implications of realigning existing resources within and between the City, School Board and Park Board to maximize effectiveness. (i.e. staff roles and responsibilities, financial analysis to achieve objectives).
- review implications of an enhanced city wide administrative structure for the management and delivery of child care in City, Park and School owned facilities.
- pursue a flexible child care pilot project in partnership with other levels of government and the community to provide part time, extended hours and emergency care.
- pursue a centralized child care wait list pilot project in partnership with other levels of government and the community.
- establish a relationship and mechanism to dialogue with municipalities across the country, commencing with a presentation to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities at the first available opportunity in Spring 2004.
- report out to the public on an annual basis the activities of the organizational structure in achieving these objectives.

APPENDIX II - Childcare Programs

The current inventory of childcare programs on parks and in Park Board buildings include:

Program Name	Location	Operator	Type of Care
on Parkland:			
Champlain Child Centre	Champlain Heights Park	Developmental Disabilities Ass'n	3-5 Daycare
Kitsilano Area Childcare	6 th & Maple Parksite	Kitsilano Area Childcare Society	3-5 Daycare
Harbourview Daycare	Burrard View Park	Kiwassa/Hastings Townsite Childcare	3-5 Daycare
Nanook Daycare	South China Creek Park	YMCA Daycares	3-5 Daycare
Pooh Corner Daycare	Stanley Park	Pooh Corner Daycare Society	Infant-Toddler & 3-5 Daycare
in Centres operated by 3 rd parties:			
Dunbar Memorial Parent Participation Preschool	Dunbar Community Centre	Dunbar Memorial Parent Participation Preschool Society	Preschool
Kerrisdale Playgroup	Kerrisdale Community Ctr	Kerrisdale Playgroup Society	Preschool
Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre Daycare	Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre	Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre Daycare Society	3-5 Daycare
in Centres operated by community associations*:			
Champlain Heights, Douglas Park, False Creek, Hastings, Kensington, Killarney, Kitsilano, Marpole-Oakridge, Mount Pleasant, Ray Cam, Renfrew, Riley Park, Strathcona, Sunset, Thunderbird, Trout Lake, West End			16 Preschool, 3 Kindercare, 6 School Age Care Programs

* **NOTE:** Does not include programs operated by community centre associations in schools or on Vancouver School Board land