

Municipality of Lakeshore – Report to Council

Community Health and Safety

Recreation



To: Mayor & Members of Council
From: Frank Jeney, Corporate Leader - Community Health and Safety Services
Date: May 9, 2024
Subject: Children's Services Agreement with City of Windsor.docx

Recommendation

Direct the Clerk to read By-law 68-2024, being a by-law to authorize an agreement with the Corporation of the City of Windsor for the purpose of the provision of childcare services, as presented at the June 18, 2024 Council meeting.

Strategic Objectives

3c) Modernizing and Enhancing Municipal Functions - Continue investment in modernized services, including the integration of current best practices and automation, by engaging in service transformation and process mapping

Background

The Municipality of Lakeshore's Recreation Division is committed to providing the highest quality leadership, aquatics, sport and recreation programs for children and youth that promote growth and foster development. Lakeshore programs are purposefully designed to be age appropriate, safe, and fun for all registered. Lakeshore camps and programs are High Five certified, utilizing the High Five principles for healthy child development to ensure activities are of the highest quality. All counsellors are First Aid/CPR C certified and High Five trained. Lakeshore Recreation maintains proper participant/camper to counsellor ratios at all times.

Lakeshore Day Camp and Summer Camp programs and activities include physical activity, outdoor play, ice skating, swimming, crafts, cooking, science experiments, field trips, and leadership. Our programs are age-specific and aid in promoting creativity, teamwork, and friendship.

The main goal for the Children's Services agreement is to stabilize the participation for children with additional needs, allowing these children to stay within Lakeshore camps and programs, rather than relocate to where funding is available.

The Corporation of the City of Windsor has long standing children's services agreements with many municipalities across Windsor-Essex County. Municipalities individually have the discretion to develop policies and procedures for the implementation and support for access to children's services. Lakeshore has a strong recreation day camp and summer camp model, that can easily support the addition of in-house childcare services.

The purpose of the Children's Services Agreement is to improve access for Lakeshore families to subsidized childcare services. Currently, families requiring additional services when having their child in Lakeshore Recreation day camps or summer camps, must connect directly with service providers. This agreement would allow Lakeshore staff to be trained and made available for Lakeshore residents at registration.

The City of Windsor is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for Children's Services in Windsor and Essex County. CMSM's are the designated child care and early years' service system managers responsible for planning and managing licensed child care services and EarlyON Child and Family Centres in their communities, ensuring an increasingly integrated, high quality child care and early years system that is governed and funded by the Ministry of Education.

Comments

Access to the subsidy will be streamlined through the regular registrations process in Lakeshore. Administration in Lakeshore sends applications to the CMSM for approval of the childcare subsidy and the CMSM reimburses Lakeshore for the child care program. Lakeshore administration also confirms the childcare subsidy start date and makes the subsidized payment directly to the program on behalf of the child.

Those that will take part in this program will have the cost share fees added during the registration process, to help streamline access to specialized staff during their program.

Other Alternatives Considered

Administration also investigated entering into individual agreements directly with service providers. This process was found to be less efficient for families, as the wait times for services, as well as the coordination of schedules can become complex and timely. Having an overarching agreement allows this service to be available utilizing Lakeshore Recreation Program Staff, and as applications for this service increase, Lakeshore Recreation can increase staffing more seamlessly to accommodate if demand grows.

Others Consulted

Corporation of the City of Windsor, Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for Children's Services.

Financial Impacts

The maximum per diem rate available under the Authorized Recreation funding stream is forty-three dollars (\$43.00) for JK/SK Full-Day programs and School Age Full-Day programs.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Children's Services Agreement with City of Windsor.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 3, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Prepared by Frank Jeney

Approved by the Corporate Leadership Team