

A photograph of a child from behind, wearing a red jacket and blue jeans, jumping in a puddle on a gravel path. Water is splashing around the child's feet. The background shows green grass and a wooden log.

COUNTY OF HURON SOCIAL & PROPERTY SERVICES

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS
COMMUNITY PLAN
2019

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Government
of Canada

LETTER FROM HURON COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

As the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM), the County of Huron Children's Services has a mandate and directive from the Province to engage in system wide planning for licensed early learning and child care services.

This plan discusses our current services and challenges in Huron County, which is based on input and feedback from parents, service providers and child care operators.

We would like to make mention that some Provincial and legislative changes may result in modifications being required for the plan. We want to assure you that with any modifications made, we will continue to keep the best interest of the children in mind in all of our decision making.

Thank you to all of the educators who have committed to providing high quality care for the children in Huron County, you play a significant role in so many lives and your work is appreciated.

This Child Care and Early Years Community Plan (service system plan) has benefited greatly from the contributions of many. Thank you to those who provided assistance in gathering, presenting and interpreting much of the demographic information.

Special thanks are also extended to the members of Kids First who willingly contributed data and service statistics to the Environmental Scan. Particular gratitude is extended to the Kids First Huron Service Integration Committee who served as the sounding board for the planning process and who will no doubt continue to partner in implementing the Community Plan. We will continue to make working in collaboration with our community partners a priority.

To all of the parents, grandparents and caregivers who completed the Parent Engagement Survey, thank you for so willingly sharing your thoughts and experiences. Lastly, and definitely not least, the voices of children enrolled in before and after school programs will be put to good use in the months to come.

We are pleased to share our new Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Service Plan with you. This plan will guide our work for the next four years.

Huron County Children's Services

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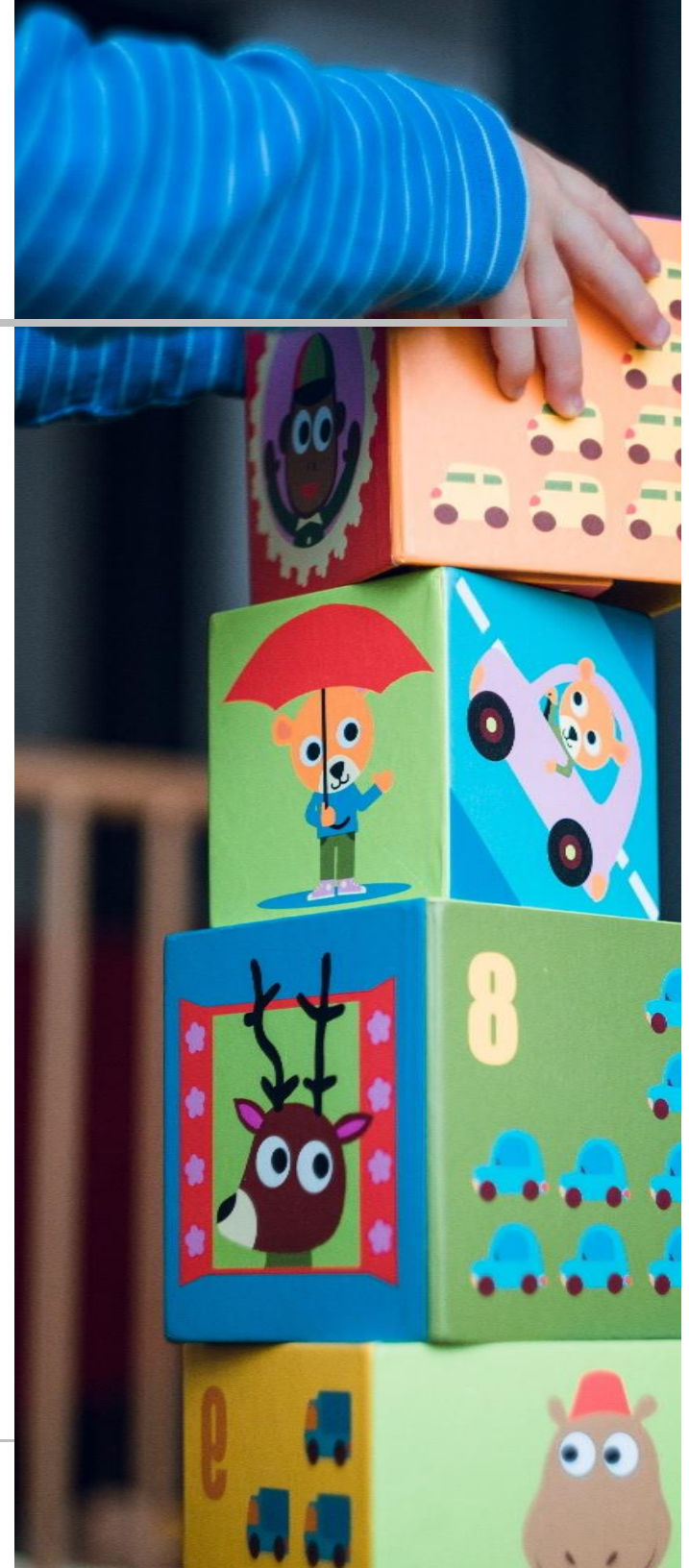
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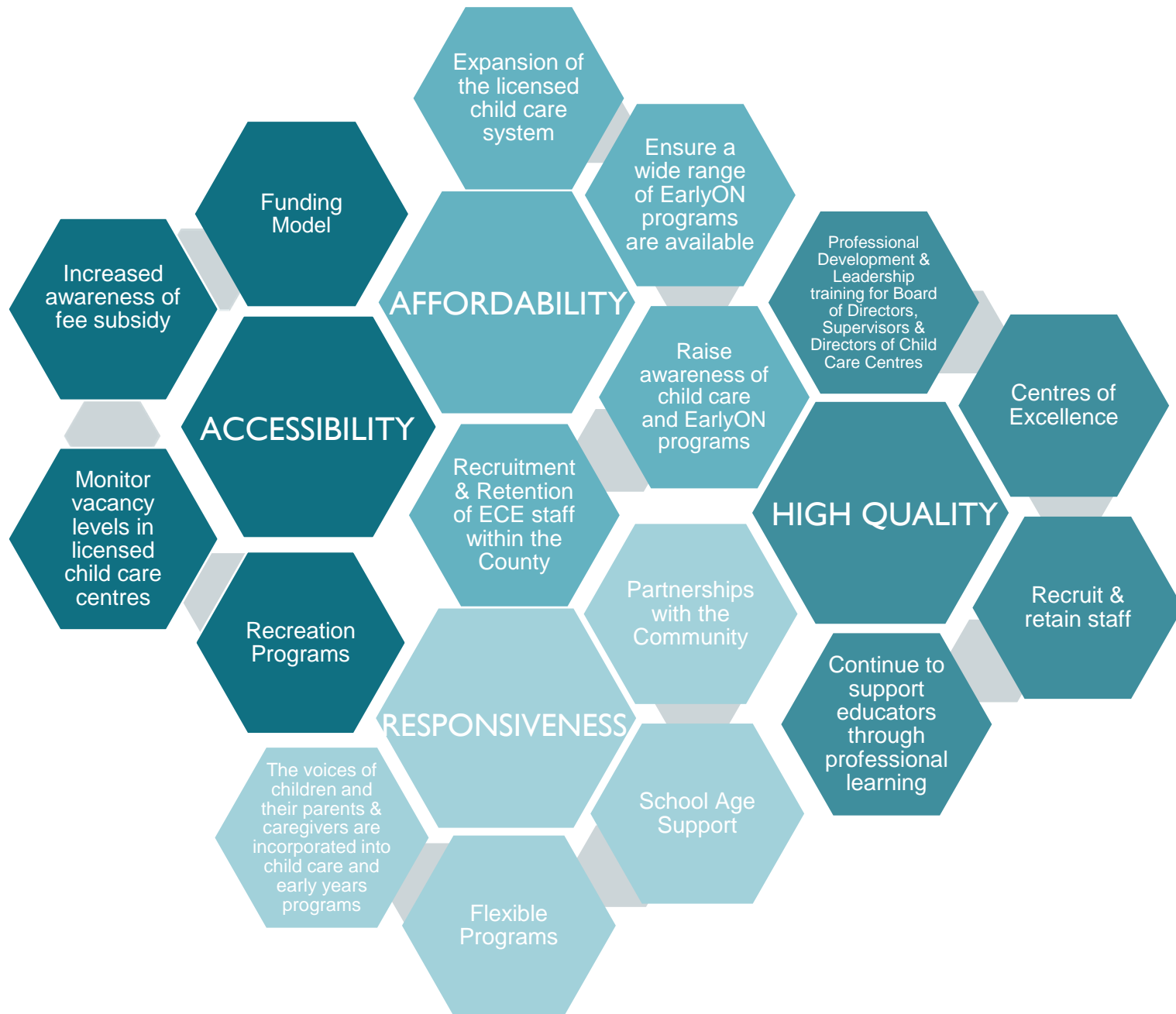
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Huron County's consultation is an on-going process in collaboration with representatives from both local school boards, health unit staff, child care providers, and many various child service providers in the region. Several times a year, the CMSM hosts meetings to provide updates on provincial and municipal policy and funding; to share statistics and service plan implementation progress; and to solicit input and feedback on emerging issues in the sector. CMSM representatives actively participate in multiple community-based committees and initiatives, and the CMSM pro-actively strives to be accessible and responsive to the child care community's feedback.

The 2019-2023 Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan incorporates the priorities of the Ministry of Education and the unique needs of the residents of the nine municipalities within the County of Huron based on the information gathered through the consultation process.

Based on the Provincial priority to increase availability of licensed spaces, Huron County will make expansion a priority while recognizing the importance of all four components in the Provincial vision.

The four components of Ontario's vision include [Accessibility](#), [Responsiveness](#), [Affordability](#), and [High-Quality](#). Huron County's Children's Services division has established four strategic priorities in each area. Over the next five years we will work to achieve a more affordable, responsive, accessible and high-quality child care system in Huron County.



1. INTRODUCTION

The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) requires that each service system manager establishes and implements a child care and early years program and service system plan (service system plan) for their service area that address matters of provincial interest under the Act.¹

As the designated service system manager², Huron County Children's Services is responsible for planning and managing licensed child care services and early years programs in the County of Huron. Local service planning and management takes place in accordance with current legislation, regulations and policies/directives. The service system plan has been developed with the Ministry of Education's June 2017 Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework in mind. This document speaks to the continued development of an accessible, affordable and high quality early years and child care system that is responsive to the needs of children and families.

The strong partnerships and collaboration that exists between Huron County Children's Services and local school boards, child care and early years providers, and other early years partners is evident throughout this Plan. These partners, as well as children and their parents, have contributed to the development of this Plan and will unquestionably contribute to its implementation as well.

This Service System Plan will outline the actions to be taken for the period 2019-2023. The Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and will be adjusted as necessary to reflect current local, provincial and federal policies and priorities.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Huron County's 2017 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Needs Assessment and Initial Plan contained a very detailed assessment of local needs gleaned from a variety of sources including 2011 Census data and secondary sources such as the Community Needs Assessment prepared by the Healthy Kids Community Challenge as well as data provided by the Huron County Health Unit. The Environmental Scan that follows updates, where possible, the information that was previously gathered. New data sources have also been included to augment the inventory of all relevant early years programs.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics related to the Huron County population, the cultural fabric, children with special needs, socio-economic data, and other information relevant to local service planning for child care and early years programs are presented in this section.

This information illustrates that while the child population is expected to decline in the coming years, the demand for services that support children with special needs continues to grow both in number and in complexity. The Census data also indicates that less than three percent of the population reported an Aboriginal heritage, identified French as their mother tongue, or stated that they spoke neither English nor French.



POPULATION

The 59,297 residents of Huron County make their home within a predominantly rural agricultural area comprised of many small villages and towns. The total population has been stable in the past decade decreasing 0.4% from 2006 to 2011, and increasing 0.3% from 2011 to 2016. By comparison, the population of Ontario increased by 5.7% from 2006 to 2011 and experienced a further increase of 4.6% from 2011 to 2016.

The Table that follows contains information on the total population by municipality in 2011 and 2016 as well as the child population by municipality for these same years. While ACW, Central Huron and Huron East have all experienced a slight decrease in child population, the remaining six municipalities saw very minor increases. The Table also shows that Huron East and South Huron are home to the largest number of children in all three age categories.

Table 1: Total population and child population by municipality

<i>Municipality</i>	2016 population	2011 population	% change	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years
<i>Ashfield-Colborne- Wawanosh</i>	5,422	5,582	-2.9%	355	270	300
<i>Bluewater</i>	7,136	7,044	1.3%	330	335	320
<i>Central Huron</i>	7,576	7,586	-0.1%	380	425	390
<i>Goderich</i>	7,628	7,526	1.4%	350	350	350
<i>Howick</i>	3,873	3,856	0.4	340	340	320
<i>Huron East</i>	9,138	9,264	-1.4%	550	535	555
<i>Morris-Turnberry</i>	3,496	3,413	2.4%	265	255	250
<i>North Huron</i>	4,932	4,884	1.0%	305	295	290
<i>South Huron</i>	10,096	9,945	1.5%	515	520	500
<i>Huron County</i>	59,297	59,100	0.3%	3,390	3,325	3,275

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

According to Census data, the population of children aged 0-14 in Huron County has decreased in recent years from 11,015 in 2006, to 10,085 in 2011 to 9,990 in 2016. Table 2 illustrates that the population of children 0-14 is projected to remain fairly constant over the coming five years.

Table 2: Projected child population

Age Range	2016 Actual	2019 Projection	2021 Projection	2023 Projection
0-4 years	3,390	3,472	3,338	3,242
5-9 years	3,325	3,312	3,460	3,549
10-14 years	3,275	3,419	3,392	3,357
Total 0-14 years	9,990	10,203	10,190	10,148

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

CULTURAL FABRIC

An examination of Census statistics related to Aboriginal identity and ancestry, mother tongue and languages spoken at home, leads one to the conclusion that the population of Huron County is very homogeneous as compared to many of Ontario's urban centres.

ABORIGINAL IDENTITY AND ANCESTRY

In the 2016 Census, 810 individuals (of all ages) residing in Huron County reported Aboriginal identity equating to 1.4% of the total population. The Census defines 'Aboriginal' as First Nation, Métis, Inuit and/or Indigenous. Table 3 reveals the municipality of residence of these 810 individuals.

Table 3: Municipality of residence of those reporting Aboriginal identity



Municipality	Number of people (all ages)
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh	35
Bluewater	80
Central Huron	110
Goderich	95
Howick	70
Huron East	100
Morris-Turnberry	35
North Huron	75
South Huron	200

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Note: Lower tier municipal totals do not equal 810 due to Statistics Canada number rounding practices.

As can be seen from Table 3, most of the individuals who reported Aboriginal identity reside in South Huron, Central Huron and Huron East in 2016. It is likely that the majority of children aged 0-12 years who self-identify as Aboriginal are also clustered in these municipalities.

It should also be noted that 1,270 people (all ages) reported they had both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ancestries. In other words, 1,270 individuals indicated that a relative more distant than a grandparent, was First Nation, Métis or Inuit.

There are no reserves in Huron County and service providers are not aware of any formal or informal network of families with Aboriginal identity within Huron County.

FRANCOPHONES

According to the 2016 Census, 0.6% of Huron County's population (or 370 individuals) stated that their mother tongue was French. While Huron County is in the catchment area of Conseil scolaire catholique Providence and Conseil scolaire Viamonde neither of the boards has a school in the area given the small population of Francophone residents. Both the Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board do offer French immersion at their respective elementary schools in Stratford and Goderich.

OTHER CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS

The 2016 Census states that 435 people (of all ages) residing in Huron County reported they did not speak English or French representing 0.74% of the County's total population.

No one in Huron County reported the language spoken most often at home was one of the Aboriginal languages while 2,320 residents reported the language spoken most often at home was a non-Aboriginal, non-official language. The most common of these languages was German (1,750 people or 3% of the total population), Dutch (185 people or 0.3% of the total population) and Spanish (80 people or 0.1% of the total population).

Pennsylvania Dutch and Low German are spoken by the old order Anabaptist communities in Huron County. The children in these families tend to request services rather than having them offered based on an identified need. Services are delivered slightly differently as a result of the dynamics of the community and each community has its own private schools. The communities that do speak Pennsylvania Dutch ensure all members become fluent in English during their eight years in school.

Another source of information that speaks to the cultural fabric of the County comes from the Healthy Babies Healthy Children screens conducted between 2006 and 2018. Screens are completed for about 80% of the mothers living in Huron County and are completed

each time a mother gives birth e.g., if a mother gives birth twice (two pregnancies), there will be two screens. The comments that follow therefore count births, not unique families.

In the last twelve years, 69 screens (0.73%) indicated a preferred language of service other than English. Most of the screens (43) indicated the preferred language of service was German or Low German. Those families were located in North Huron, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, Morris-Turnberry, and Howick. The remaining 26 screens indicated the preferred language of service was Spanish, Arabic, French, Gujarati, Tagalog, Ukrainian, or Undetermined. The Arabic families were in South Huron, the French families were in Goderich, and the remaining families were scattered throughout Huron County.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Several programs situated in Huron (or Perth) County provide specialized services to children with special needs – Growing Together Early Learning Resource program, smallTALK Preschool Speech Language Program, Community Support for Families, and the Huron-Perth Centre. In addition, London-based service providers include Huron County in their catchment area when it comes to the delivery of infant development services, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and coordinated service planning for children requiring this type of support. Where possible, these services are provided in Huron County to make them more accessible to families.

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCING

Special needs resourcing services are provided by the Growing Together Early Learning Resource program managed and delivered by the County of Huron.

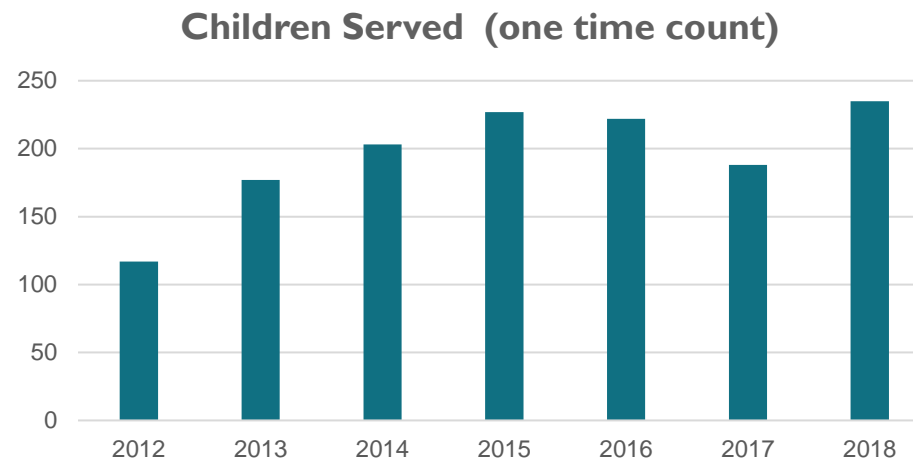
The Program supports the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care settings and approved recreation programs at no additional cost to the parent. Children are eligible for the program if they are 0-6 years of age with concerns in one or more of the following areas of development – physical, social, emotional, communication or cognitive development. Children aged 6-12 years are eligible if they are registered in a licensed child care program (including before and/or after school programs or approved recreation programs).

Resource Consultants support children in multiple locations and also provide professional learning experiences for individuals working with children with special needs. These supports may include providing child care staff with program adaptation strategies and professional development, supporting the development of Individualized Support Plans, conducting developmental screens, providing referrals to community agencies, providing information and resources for parents, and obtaining special equipment as required.³

³Ontario Child Care and Family Support Program Service Management and Funding Guideline, September 2018.

The number of children served by the Growing Together Early Learning Resource program has increased steadily in the past several years as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Children served by the Growing Together Early Learning Resource program



Source: County of Huron Social and Property Services, February 2019

Table 4 shows that the majority of the children receiving service through the Growing Together Early Learning Resource Program are toddlers or preschoolers. The number of infants on the caseload is low as the majority of children under two years of age who require specialized services receive them through the Home Visiting Program for Infants (HVPI) operated by Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI). As a case in point, the HVPI reported that it served 51 children from Huron County from April 2016 until March 2019.

Table 4: Average monthly number of children served – Growing Together Early Learning Resource program

Age Group	2016	2017	2018
Infant	4	5	7
Toddler	29	19	22
Preschool	77	80	83
JK/SK	8	6	7
School Age	9	8	8
Recreation program	2	1	1

Source: County of Huron Social & Property Services, February 2019

PRESCHOOL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

smallTALK is the Preschool Speech Language program serving families in Huron (and Perth) County. The program is designed to identify children who are at risk for or who have delays in communication development, and provide early intervention to ensure that they arrive at school as ready to learn as possible. smallTALK focuses on prevention, early identification of communication delays, and broadening the range of evidence-based interventions provided by Speech Language Pathologists and Communicative Disorders Assistants.

smallTALK reports that for the year 2016/17, 217 Huron County children aged 0-4 were referred for communication support, representing 6.6% of all children of the same age. This percentage decreased to 6.0% of the 0-4 population in 2017/18. These figures are slightly less than figures for the previous three years.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Operated by Community Living – Central Huron, Community Support for Families provides the following services that are comprehensive, flexible and promote an inclusive philosophy:

- Completion of application forms of the provincial Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities benefit and Special Services at Home benefit;
- Assistance with referrals to other appropriate resources, services and programs;
- Development of creative solutions using unpaid and paid supports;
- Sources resources and training opportunities for families/caregivers and workers; and
- Case management as appropriate and as requested by the family/caregiver.

Table 5 shows that the majority of the February 2019 caseload consists of school-aged children. Community Support for Families reports that the overall caseload size does fluctuate somewhat as families move in and out of Huron County or as a family's income level changes.

Area	Preschool	4-8 years	9-12 years	Total
Clinton and Area	1	2	8	11
Goderich	1	7	15	23
Seaforth	0	2	7	9
Wingham	2	4	4	10
North Huron – other	1	6	6	13
Exeter	1	4	3	8
South Huron – other	1	7	0	8
TOTAL	7	32	43	82

Source: Community Support for Families, February 2019

The program also stated that in 2017 it experienced a decrease in number of referrals but in 2018 referrals increased for children of all ages, particularly for children diagnosed with autism and mental health issues who have three areas of functional loss. The program is also starting to receive referrals from children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Another trend that is being noticed is the number of children in younger grades being sent home from school as a result of behavior's associated with these diagnoses.



CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH

The Huron-Perth Centre is the lead agency for child and youth mental health for Huron County and Perth County. In 2016/17 the agency served 87 children from Huron County between the ages of 0 and five years. The same number of children, five years of age and under, were served in 2017/18.

In comparison, 340 Huron County children aged six to ten years received service in 2016/17, increasing slightly to 348 children in 2017/18.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY

London-based Thames Valley Children’s Centre provides occupational and physiotherapy for children residing in Huron County who are in need of such services. The number of children served as well as the corresponding number of visits follows. In some instances the visits may have occurred outside of Huron County such as when a child has attended the London site for a clinic appointment or for a seating and mobility appointment.

Age 0 to 3:	Age 4 to 12
2016/17 OT/PT Huron County clients served = 20	2016/17 OT/PT Huron County clients served = 81
2016/17 OT/PT Huron County client visits = 247	2016/17 OT/PT Huron County client visits = 936
2017/18 OT/PT Huron County clients served = 42	2017/18 OT/PT Huron County clients served = 59
2017/18 OT/PT Huron County client visits = 381	2017/18 OT/PT Huron County client visits = 789

COORDINATED SERVICE PLANNING

One of the key functions performed by the London-based Community Services Coordination Network is the coordination of access to various services and supports for children and adolescents with complex needs who may require a response from more than one service provider. For the period April 2018 to December 31, 2018, nine Huron County children were provided with coordinated service planning under the provincial Special Needs Strategy – six children ages 4-9 years and three children ages 9-12 years.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

As a means of informing local service planning decisions, three examples of socio-economic indicators have been included – those that provide insight into families experiencing low income, children and families facing challenging life circumstances, and the Ontario Marginalization Index.

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING LOW INCOME

This section of the Plan presents indicators from several local sources that are thought to have a bearing on social vulnerability – the after tax low income measure (LIM-AT), Ontario Works caseload figures, food bank usage, the cost of a Nutritious Food Basket, the number of families and children who access the Huron County Christmas Bureau, and families accessing the Y's Recreation, Arts and Sports program.

The figures in Table 6 show that Howick, ACW, and Morris-Turnberry have the greatest percentage of youth 17 years of age and under living in households that are below the LIM-AT. These three municipalities are home however to many Old Order Mennonite and Old Order Amish communities. While the Old Order communities do pay taxes, the LIM-AT is not considered an accurate measure of 'material deprivation' for those families.

Table 6: Number and percentage of youth 0-17 years in households below the 2015 after tax low income measure (LIM-AT)

	Number of youth 0-17 years below LIM-AT	Total youth 0-17 years	Percentage youth 0-17 years in households below LIM-AT in 2015
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh	325	1,110	29.3%
Bluewater	105	1,215	8.6%
Central Huron	210	1,470	14.3%
Goderich	255	1,290	19.8%
Howick	355	1,165	30.5%
Huron East	305	2,020	15.1%
Morris-Turnberry	230	915	25.1%
North Huron	180	1,085	16.6%
South Huron	300	1,805	16.6%
TOTAL	2,250	12,075	18.6%

Source: Huron County Health Unit

The number of children whose parent(s) is in receipt of Ontario Works is also an indicator of children experiencing low income. An analysis of the December 2018 caseload revealed that there were 119 children aged 0-3.11 years and 37 children aged 4-12 years who were Ontario Works beneficiaries. These figures have decreased from December 2016 when there were a total of 258 children 0-12 whose parent(s) was receiving Ontario Works.

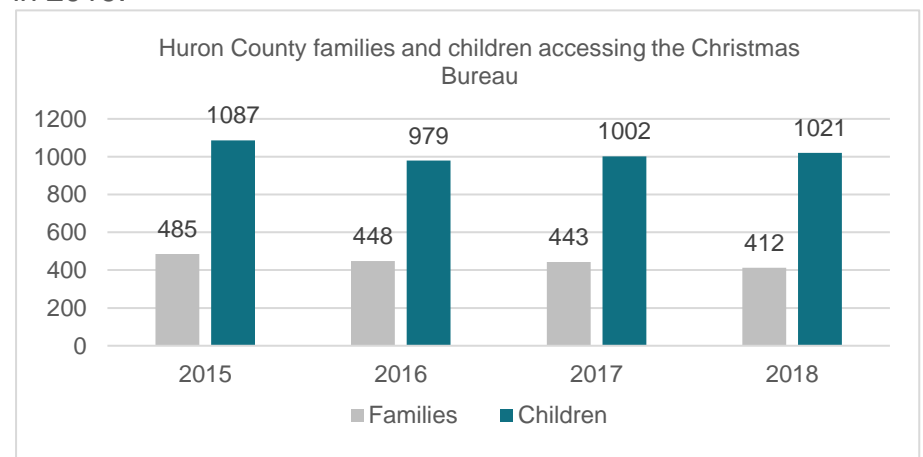
Food bank usage is often considered an indicator of poverty. The Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre⁴ reported that during 2018, there were 17,626 food bank visits with 31% of these visits involving children.

The Food Bank conducted a Food Tracking Survey⁵ between June and October 2018 which provided more detailed information. Of the 194 survey respondents, 15% characterized themselves as a family with one adult and children while 19% were described as a family of two or more adults with children. Eighty-six percent of these respondents said that in the past year they had at some point relied on only a few kinds of low cost foods to feed their children because they were running out of money to buy food. Only 10% of families with children said that this situation had never occurred in the past year.

The Food Bank has also noted that there are a lack of food banks and aid agencies in Ashfield, Wawanosh, Howick, Morris and Grey Census Subdivisions. Further, the northeast and northwest corners of the County lack grocery stores.

The Nutritious Food Basket estimates the cost of one month's worth of groceries for a hypothetical family of four consisting of a child, teenager, mother and father. The foods included in the calculation do not include pre-packaged foods. The Huron County Health Unit has calculated the 2016 monthly cost to be \$944, in 2017 it was \$916, and in 2018 it was \$907. Despite these decreases in recent years, the Health Unit predicts the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket will rise in 2019.

The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society operates the Huron County Christmas Bureau which provides Christmas assistance to custodial parents and their children 18 years of age and younger. To be eligible for this assistance, families need only say they are 'in need'. Perhaps surprisingly, the figures in Figure 2 reveal that the number of families and children that accessed the service in recent years has not changed significantly.



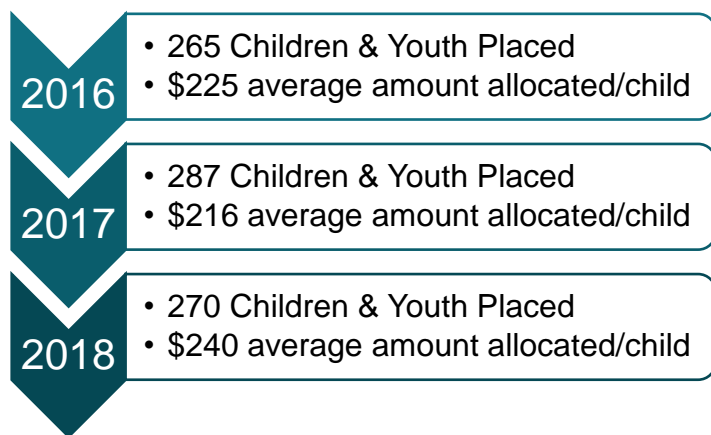
Source: Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society, January 2019

⁴Established in 2008, the Food Bank delivers food to ten food banks in seven communities and to fifteen aid agencies that provide service across Huron County. The fact that there are 23 food aid agencies in Huron County means that not all of them receive food from the Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre.

⁵St. Vincent de Paul did not participate in the Food Tracking Survey.

Lastly, through its Recreation, Arts and Sport program (RASP), the YMCAs across Southwestern Ontario provide opportunities for children and youth to participate in activities regardless of their financial circumstances. Financial funding of up to \$500 annually per child is available to help families with an income under \$45,000 address registration fees, equipment and supply needs, and safe transportation. The YMCA has accumulated 86 program partners that offer diverse programs and services such as day or residential camp, hockey, swimming, horseback riding, music, dance, etc.

Figure 3: Recreation, Arts and Sport program service levels



Source: YMCA's across Southwestern Ontario, February 2019

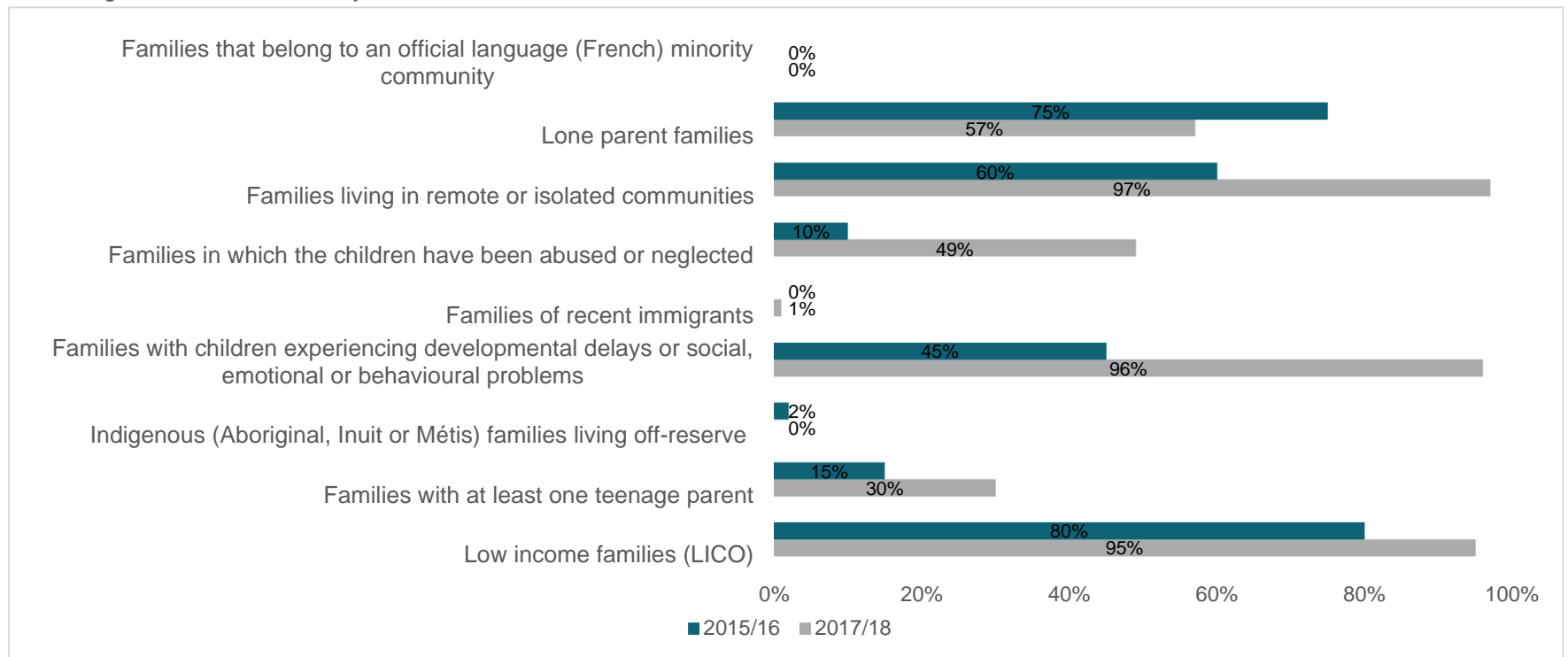
Participants living in Goderich, North Huron and South Huron continue to be the largest users of the program. The YMCA has indicated however that it continues to see more participants from “outreaching communities” access RASP funding. This may be due in part that while programs may be limited in these areas, registrants often access what is close and easily available due to location or year round access.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FACING CHALLENGING LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES

The Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) is a federally funded community-based children's program that promotes the healthy child development of young children aged 0-6 years. Rural Response for Healthy Children is Huron County's CAPC program. Positive parenting programs, personal safety and social skills for children are the foundation of Rural Response's services and resources. The organization also seeks to promote the creation of partnerships within Huron County and to strengthen community capacity to increase support for vulnerable children and their families.

In 2017/2018, Rural Response for Healthy Children served 1,957 families.⁶ In particular, 40 adults received one-to-one support, 147 individuals attended a parent group, and 1,614 children received education. Figure 4 shows the percentage of families that were affected by each of the stated 'conditions of risk'. Families facing multiple conditions of risk were counted in all applicable categories.

Figure 4: Percentage of families affected by conditions of risk



Source: Rural Response for Healthy Children, February 2019

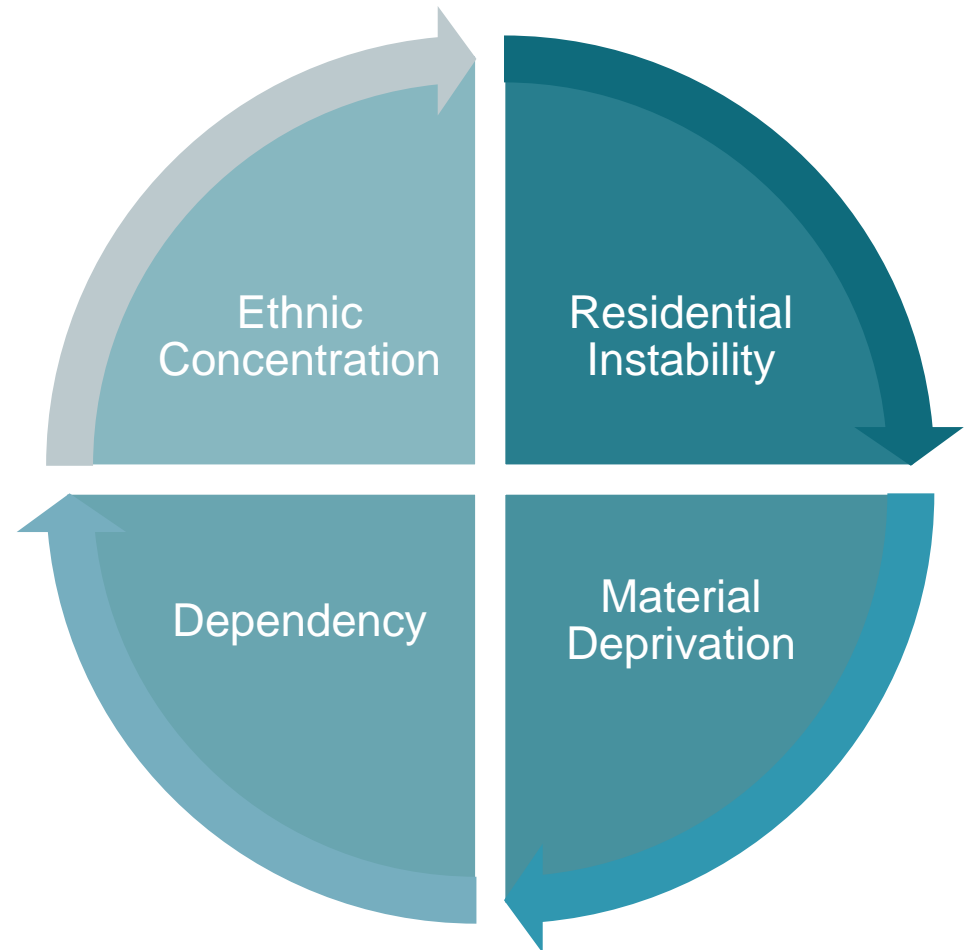
⁶A family is a participating family if one or more than one of its members has received a program, activity or service. A family is counted once even if family members participated in more than one activity.

ONTARIO MARGINALIZATION INDEX

The Ontario Marginalization Index combines data on four dimensions (residential instability, material deprivation, dependency and ethnic concentration) to assign an index score to each dissemination area⁷ – an area smaller than Huron County's lower tier municipalities. The 2016 Index was created using 18 census indicators which are listed in Appendix C.

If one were to view the resultant Ontario Marginalization Index map, parts of Huron County will be coloured in different shades of green indicating various degrees of marginalization. Given the small size of the dissemination areas, nothing is to be directly gained by including the map or by listing the hamlets or geographies most impacted. Should the reader wish to view the map, they are urged to contact Huron County Social and Property Services.

The Index has been demonstrated to be associated with health outcomes including: hypertension, depression, youth smoking, alcohol consumption, injuries, body mass index, and infant birth weight.



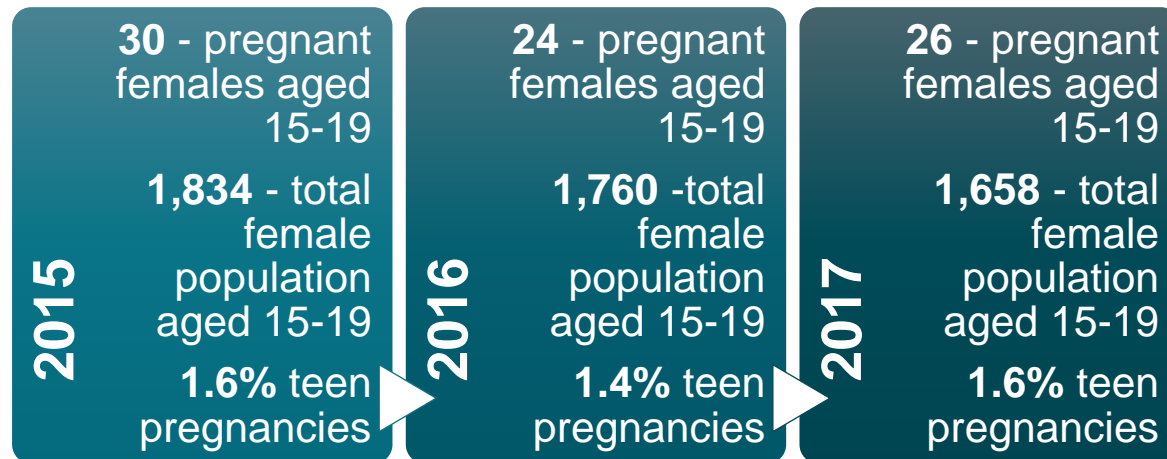
OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

There are several other information sources that are relevant to local service planning for child care and early years programs. These include fertility and birth weight information, Healthy Toddler Visit data, Calling All Three Years Olds (CATYO), the Early Development Instrument (EDI), and Education Quality (EQAO).

FERTILITY AND BIRTH WEIGHT

The figures related to teen pregnancy, as contained in Table 10 include still and live births that occurred both in Huron County and outside of Huron County e.g., Stratford, London. The Huron County Health Unit has indicated that there has been no significant increase or decrease to the County's teen pregnancy rate over time. The Health Unit further stated that Huron County had a significantly lower percent of teen pregnancies than Ontario in 2014. Percentages are similar in all other years.

Figure 5: Teen pregnancy



Data Sources:

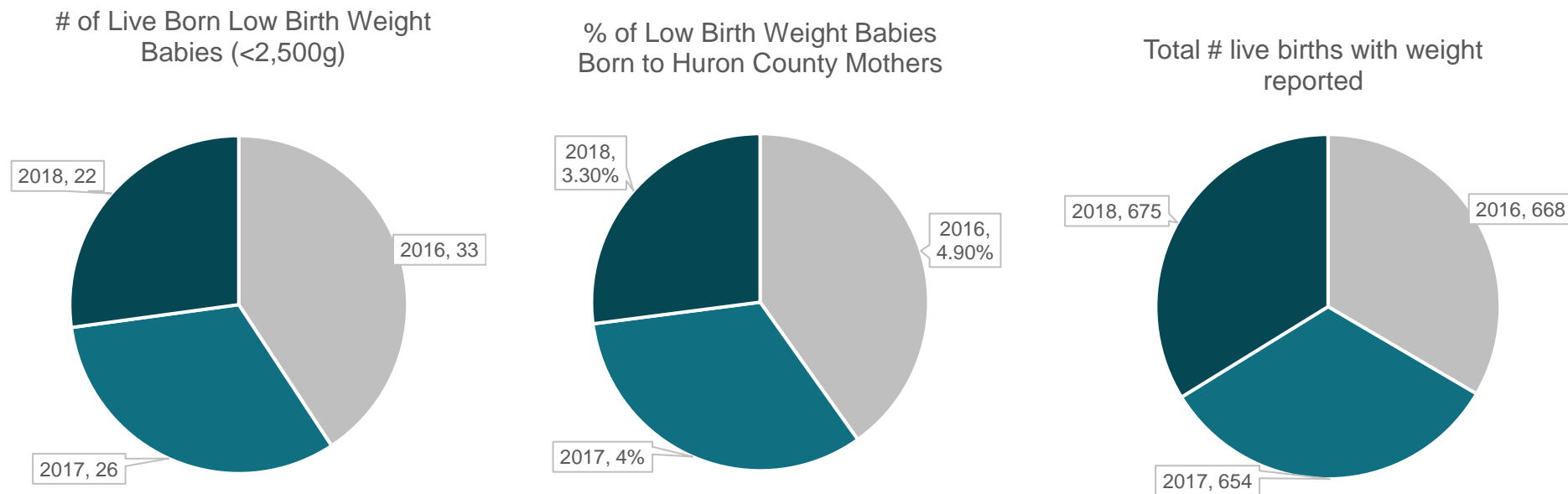
- (1) BORN custom report in analytic report tool, Teen births – still and live
- (2) IntelliHEALTH, Teen pregnancies in Ontario – Therapeutic Abortions
- (3) IntelliHEALTH standard reports, (A) Population estimates PHU Municipality v2 (B) Population projections by county

Caveats and limitations

- (1) Births attended by an unlicensed health care practitioner i.e., a lay midwife may be excluded.
There is also a data entry lag so data extracted on a different date may show different totals.
- (2) Therapeutic abortions done in a private clinic, doctor's office, or out of the province or country will be missed.
- (3) Population estimates and projections are based on population models using Census data and vital statistics.

Figure 6 contains recent low birth weight figures for infants born to Huron County mothers. The figures in the Table take into account both singleton and multiple births. If one were to examine historical low birth weight figures, it would be evident that there has been no significant increase or decrease in low birth weight babies in Huron County over time. Lastly, the Health Unit reports that Huron County had a significantly lower percent of low birth weight babies than Ontario in 2015 and 2017 while the percentages are similar for all other years.

Figure 6: Low birth weight of Huron County babies



Data Source: BORN custom report in analytic report tool, Birth weight low and group by year extracted January 30, 2019

Caveats and limitations

- (1) Births attended by an unlicensed health care practitioner i.e., a lay midwife will be excluded
- (2) Birth weight data missing for about 0.1% of births. Births with missing data are excluded from the total number of live births.
- (3) There is a data entry lag in the BORN system so data extracted on a different date may show different



totals.

HEALTHY TODDLER VISIT – 18 MONTH ENHANCED WELL BABY VISIT

The Healthy Toddler Visit is Huron County's version of the 18 month enhanced well baby visit. The Healthy Toddler Visit began as a pilot project in January 2009 and since that time, has grown to become the 'standard of practice' for five of the Family Health Teams in the County.

Generally speaking, when parents arrive for their scheduled appointment, they are asked to complete the Nipissing District Developmental Screen™ (NDDS). A Health Care Provider reviews the Nipissing with the parent and completes the Rourke Baby Record. At some of the visits the parents also complete the 18 month NutriSTEP⁸. The Health Care Provider may also complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional™ and/or the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) should the NDDS raise cause for concern.

In the event that any of these screens yield a 'positive' result, the Health Care Provider (with the signed consent of the parent) will identify the appropriate referrals. There may also be instances where, despite the lack of a positive screen, the clinical judgement of the Health Care Provider results in the need for a referral to a 'specialized' service such as smallTALK, Growing Together, Developmental Resources for Infants (DRI)⁹, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, audiologists, dieticians or pediatricians.

With parental consent the Health Care Provider also administers all necessary immunizations. A discussion on healthy child development also occurs which can be supplemented by brochures, pamphlets and fact sheets on a variety of topics. At the conclusion of the visit, parents are provided with a Parent Resource Package which contains a storybook as well as an information booklet titled Your Guide to A Healthy Toddler.

Figure 7 contains the number of Healthy Toddler Visits that occurred as well as the number of referrals that resulted. Appendix D contains the number of visits and referrals by Family Health Team for these same three years.

Figure 7: Healthy Toddler Visits and referrals



⁸The NutriSTEP® program was designed to help parents and health care professionals differentiate between young children who are at nutrition risk and those who are not.

⁹DRI is a combination of resources from four different organizations working together to provide easy-to-access, family-centred services – CPRI's Home Visiting Program for Infants, Thames Valley Children's Centre, Children's Hospital and the Developmental Follow-up Clinic at Children's Hospital. DRI offers information, intake and service coordination for children 2 years and under with developmental concerns.

Source: Huron County Social and Property Services, March 2019

CALLING ALL THREE YEAR OLDS (CATYO) KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Each November service providers from Huron County (and Perth County) collaborate with the Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board to hold CATYO Kindergarten Registration sessions. CATYO also serves as an opportunity for all three year old children in both Counties to participate in an age-appropriate developmental checklist prior to school entry the following September. CATYO therefore offers another opportunity to identify developmental concerns that may not already have been identified thereby allowing children to enter school at their optimal level of development and learning.

In 2016, 487 children from Huron County attended CATYO – 87% of the birth cohort eligible to attend junior kindergarten. Of those, 70 children who screened 'positive' using the Nipissing District Developmental Screen™ (NDDS), 48 children were referred to smallTALK for speech and language concerns, 18 were referred to the Growing Together program and six to the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.

In 2016, the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional™ (ASQ:SE-2) was offered to parents for completion prior to CATYO. If a child's score was 75 or greater, a conversation with the parents regarding their child's socio-emotional development occurred and a referral to a recommended service was offered.

In 2017, 486 Huron County children attended CATYO with 17% (84) of children screening 'positive' on the NDDS. Eight percent (34) of all children who attended CATYO scored 75 or greater on the ASQ:SE-2. Conversations with parents resulted in 12% (59) of all children who attended CATYO being referred to one or more programs. smallTALK received 38 referrals, the Growing Together program received 20 referrals and the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program received six referrals. In addition to these referrals, another 35% (172) of children attending CATYO were already linked to one or more services.

In 2018 the Early Years Check-in, part of an Infant and Child Health Lab (INCH) pilot project, was used rather than the NDDS. As a result, once the 2018 CATYO data is available it will not be comparable to previous years.

Two trends that have become evident in the past several years are worthy of note. Firstly, the percentage of children (15%) identified with a 'positive' NDDS has remained fairly constant since at least 2013. Secondly, highlights of the data collected from the NutriSTEP screens, as described in the *November 2016-March 2017 Kindergarten Registration Summary Report* include:

- Overall, the eating and activity habits of the majority of preschoolers (88%) is generally good
- 50% of preschoolers eat less than the recommended intake of vegetables and fruit each day. Health Canada recommends that children 4-5 years old consume 5 servings of vegetables and fruit each day.
- 45% of children eat while watching TV. Eating together without distraction is an important social time and helps children focus on what they are eating.
- Each day, 68% of children have two or more hours of screen time (TV, computer, video games). The recommended screen time is one hour or less for children 2-4 years old.
- 26% of children eat fast food once or more a week. Foods available at fast food restaurants are usually less nutritious than foods prepared at home.

¹⁰These trends are derived from figures pertaining to all children who attend CATYO regardless of whether they live in Huron County or Perth County.

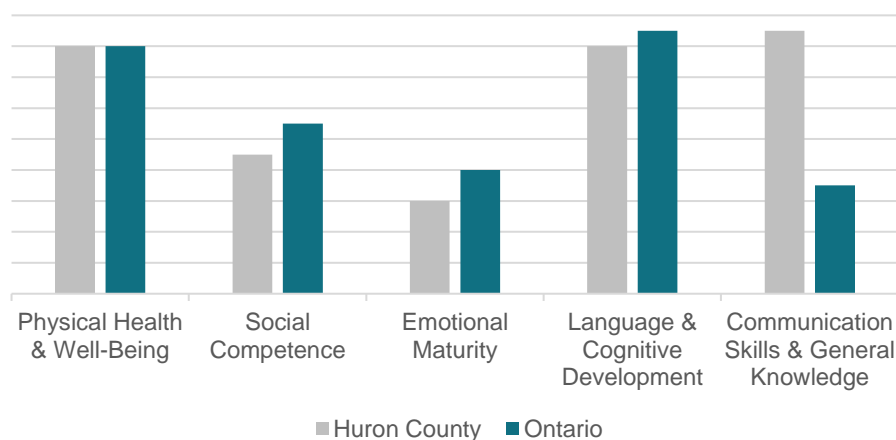
EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI)

The Early Development Instrument was designed to measure children's ability to meet age-appropriate expectations at school entry and developmental health. The EDI is comprised of five developmental domains that represent the critical components of child development – physical health & well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language & cognitive development, and communication & general knowledge¹¹. Senior kindergarten teachers complete the survey after several months of classroom interaction and base their answers on their knowledge and observation of each child.

Although the EDI is completed for individual children, it is not meant to be used as an individual diagnostic tool. Results are interpreted at the group level and are a measure of a community's ability to support early child development not a measure of a school's performance. As cited in the EDI Summary Report "EDI research across Canada shows vulnerability at school entry is associated with poorer scores on provincial standardized tests in Grades 3 and 4. Research also shows an association between vulnerability and the likelihood of having some form of special needs status by Grade 9."

Each of the five domains is scored on a scale of 1 to 10 with higher scores indicating greater developmental skills. Figure 8 shows the mean scores for children residing in Huron County as compared to Ontario as a whole for the 2014/15 school year. As can be seen, children in Huron County did fare slightly better than their provincial counterparts on communication skills & general knowledge.

Figure 8: EDI Cycle IV (2014/15 school year) mean scores



Source: EDI Summary Report: Huron school year 2014/15, Offord Centre

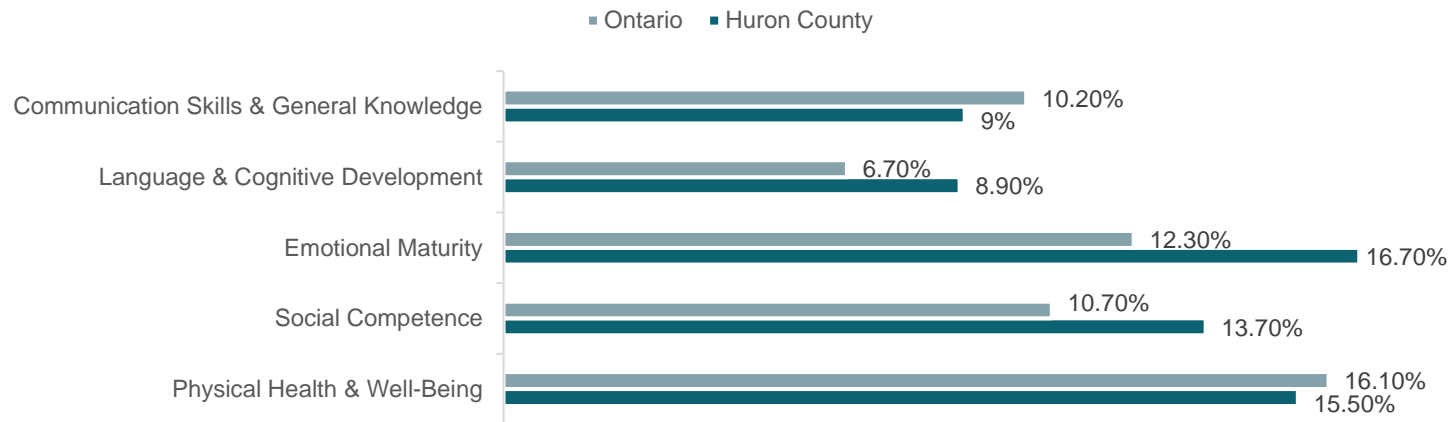
¹¹Appendix E describes each of the five EDI domains.

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Rates of vulnerability are also determined with 'vulnerability' describing children who score below the 10th percentile cut-off of the Ontario baseline population on any of the five domains. Higher vulnerability indicates that a greater percentage of children are struggling in comparison to the Ontario data. Cycle IV results show that 28.1% of Huron County children are vulnerable on at least one EDI domain as compared to 29.4% of Ontario's children. A higher percentage of Huron County children are vulnerable on at least two domains (17.7%) as compared to province-wide figures (14.4%). Figure 9 shows the percentage of children vulnerable by domain.

Figure 9: Percentage of children vulnerable by domain



Source: EDI Summary Report: Huron school year 2014/15, Offord Centre

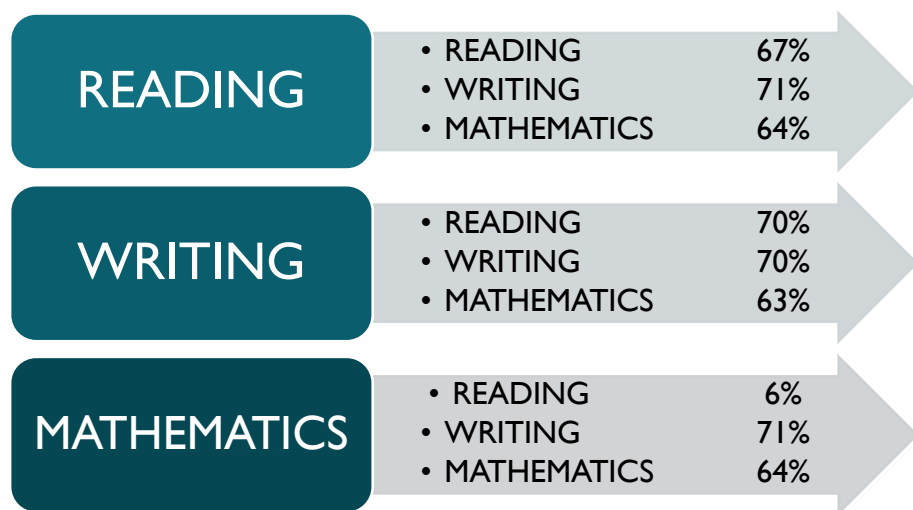


EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (EQAO)

The EQAO assesses how well Ontario's public education system is developing students' reading, writing and math skills. EQAO provides reliable and useful information that is used to help improve student achievement and ensure the accountability of school boards. The primary division (Grade 3) assessment tests the reading, writing and math skills that students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3. Students write this test during a two-week testing window in May/June each year.

Recent results for the Avon Maitland District School Board are contained in Figure 10 while Figure 11 shows the results for the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board.

Figure 10: Percentage of Avon Maitland District School Board Grade 3 students who were at or above the provincial standard

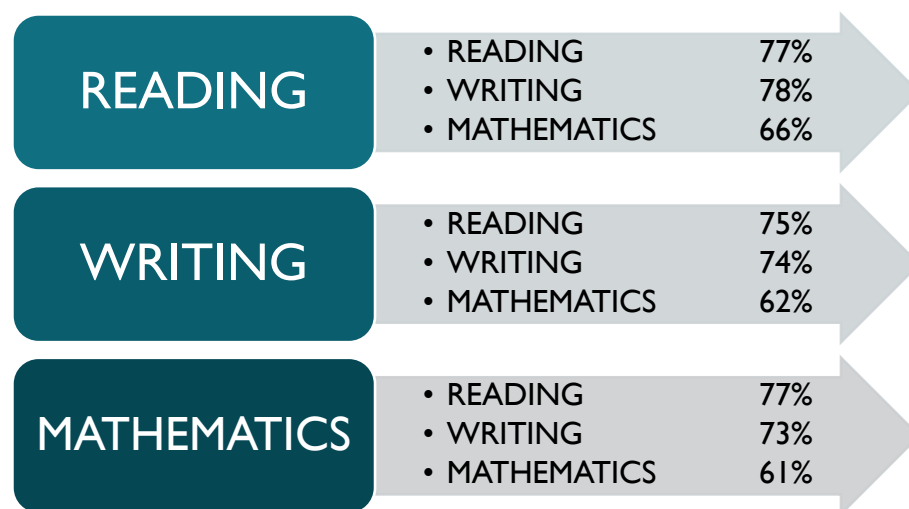


* Due to exceptional circumstances, 2015 assessment data were unavailable. Combined achievement results are based on available years' data.

Source:

https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=69&Lang=E

Figure 11: Percentage of Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board Grade 3 students who were at or above the provincial standard



Source:

https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=15&Lang=E

INVENTORY OF EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

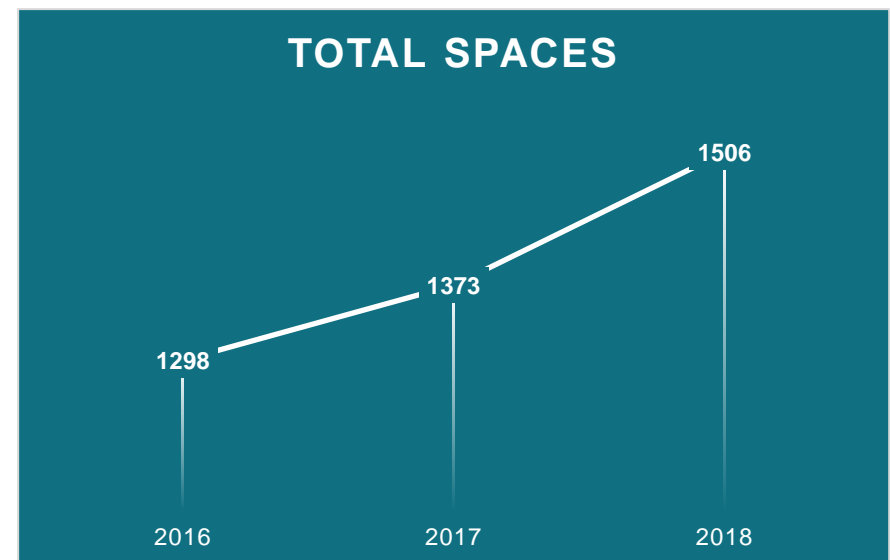
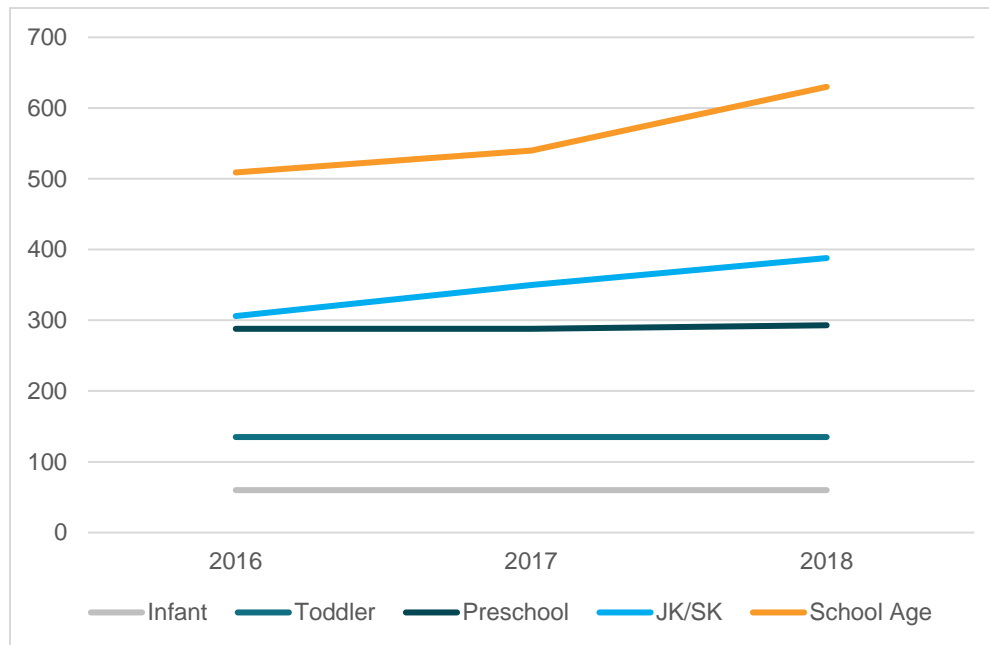
This section of the Plan contains information on licensed child care and EarlyON programs and services. In particular, information on program offerings, general locations of service, utilization and current and future demand is included. Comments are also provided on other programs in the community that serve children under 12 years of age and their parents and caregivers.

LICENSED CHILD CARE

As of January 2019, there are eight (8) licensed child care centres, one nursery school, one community home child care program, fourteen (14) before and after school programs, and five summer recreation programs in Huron County.

The number of licensed centre-based child care spaces in Huron County continues to increase year over year. As Figure 12 illustrates, most of the growth has occurred in spaces for preschool, kindergarten and school aged children. The 1,506 spaces available in 2018 represents a 78% increase over 2012 when 845 spaces were licensed. For the most part, programs are operating near or at capacity and have done so for many years.

Figure 12: Number of licensed centre-based child care spaces



Source: County of Huron Social & Property Services, February 2019

Note: Does not include summer recreation programs

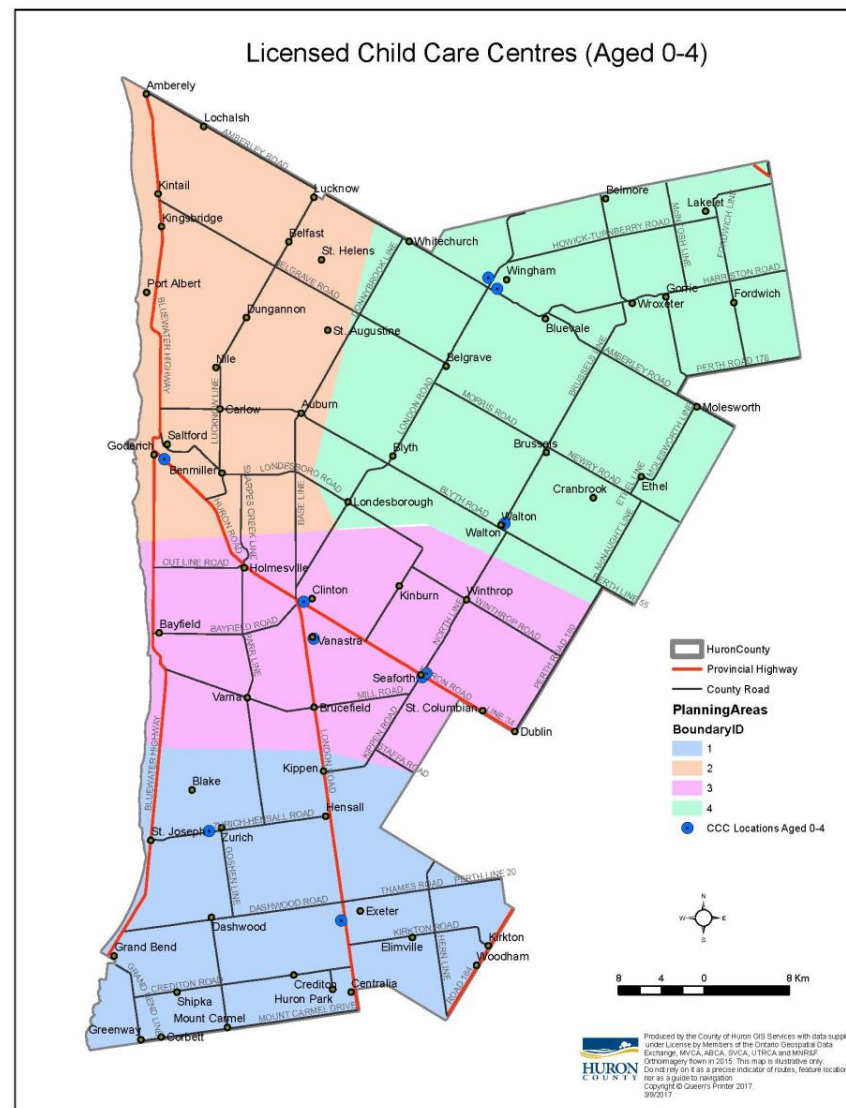
In addition to the licensed centre-based spaces, licensed home child care is available through the Huron Community Home Child Care program operated by the County of Huron. The program offers parents safe, quality, flexible child care in a small group family environment. Provider homes are approved by the County of Huron and families using this care can pay the full cost of care or can receive a full or partial fee subsidy. Many providers provide night and weekend care.



past several years. It should be noted that the number of children enrolled are 'agency placed children' only. In other words, should a provider under contract with the Huron Community Home Child Care Program opt to also take 'private' or full fee paying children, these children are not included in the figures in the Table.

Table 7: Licensed home based child care

	2016	2017	2018
Number of children enrolled throughout the year	126	130	125
Number of approved homes throughout the year	13	17	18





As a means of monitoring the demand for licensed child care, the County of Huron introduced OneHSN – a child care application and registry platform – in September 2017. Parents wishing to enroll their child in a licensed child care program complete a generic application utilizing OneHSN, applying to as many programs as they wish. Once a space becomes available at one of their preferred locations, the program will contact the parent

to discuss the necessary next steps. As of January 31, 2019 there were 525 'unique' children on the waitlist as detailed in Figure 13.

Figure 13: Age of Children on Wait List for Licensed Child Care (as of January 21, 2019)

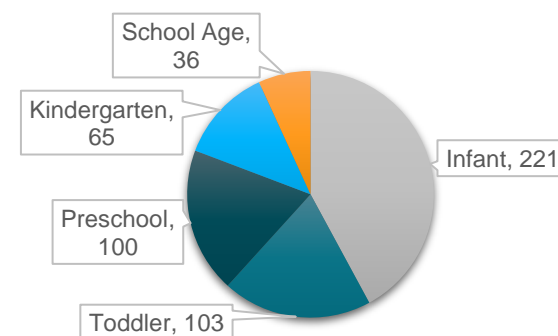
Several comments related to the wait list are noteworthy. Of the 525 children on the wait list, 38% (198 children) would accept a spot in the Huron Community Home Child Care Program. Further, approximately 40 of the infants waiting for a space have actually not been born yet. Lastly, almost half of the children have been waiting for a space for more than two months while the remaining 50% have applied for a space anywhere from one to thirteen or more months before they require care.

Generally speaking, the cost of licensed centre-based care tends to increase on an annual basis. Table 9 illustrates the range for the daily cost of licensed centre-based care in Huron County in 2017 and in 2019. Much of the variation in costs can be attributed to the fact that three of the eight child care centres are operated by lower tier municipalities (the remaining five centres are all non-profit).

Table 8: Cost of centre-based care

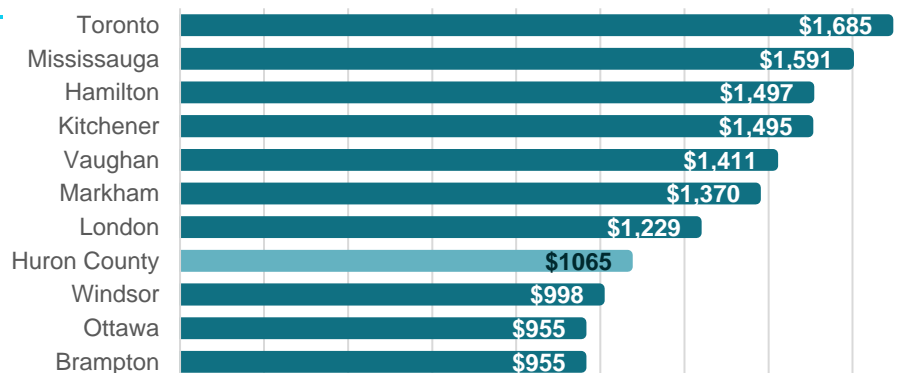
Age Category	As of January 2017		As of January 2019	
	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest
Infant full day	\$42.50	\$55.00	\$45.50	\$56.00
Toddler full day	\$31.50	\$50.00	\$34.00	\$52.10
Preschool full day	\$30.50	\$45.00	\$32.00	\$46.50
School age full day	\$22.50	\$42.40	\$24.00	\$42.40
School age before school	n/a	n/a	\$7.00	\$14.00
School age after school	n/a	n/a	\$9.00	\$14.20
School age before & after school	n/a	n/a	\$14.00	\$20.10

Source: County of Huron Social & Property Services, February 2019



Source: County of Huron Social and Property Services, February 2019

Median Monthly Infant Rates - 2018

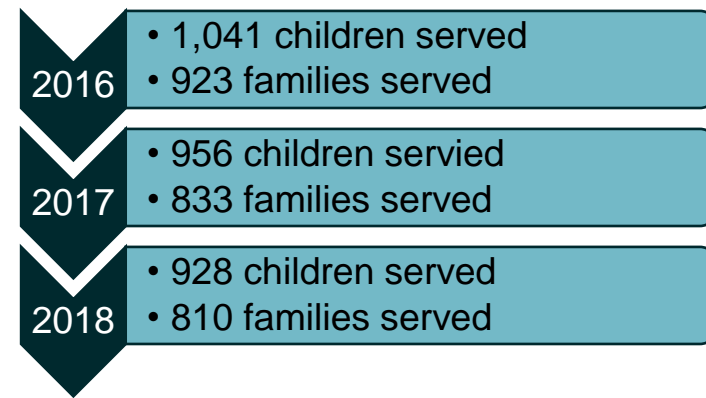


For many families, the cost of licensed child care can be prohibitive. The fee subsidy program administered by the County of Huron provides full and partial fee subsidies for those who qualify on the basis of a provincial income test. The number of families utilizing fee subsidy has more than doubled in the past ten years. Figure 14 contains a snapshot of the number of children and families served by the fee subsidy program in the past three years.

Figure 14: Children and families served by fee subsidy

Source: County of Huron Social & Property Services, February 2019

Note: One-time count – regardless of whether the fee subsidy file was closed and re-opened or whether the child/children used multiple child care sites



EARLYON CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES

Since the inception of Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC) in 2002, the County of Huron has been responsible for the management of the Centres. A 'hub model' of service delivery was put in place with larger sites in large towns being linked to mobile (outreach) sites in smaller centres. The OEYC main site in Clinton was operated by Huron County Social & Property Services while the satellite sites in Goderich, Seaforth and Wingham were operated via a Purchase of Service Agreement with the Town of Goderich, Seaforth Co-Operative Children's Centre, and the Township of North Huron, respectively.

Each of the main and satellite sites assumed responsibility for the operation of numerous mobile (outreach) sites to ensure that programs, services, information and resources were available to parents and caregivers within a small radius of any location within Huron County. OEYC mobile (outreach) sites continue to operate from locations that are comfortable and familiar to parents such as churches, libraries, child care centres, recreation facilities, municipal offices, museums and grocery stores.



In January 2018, Ontario Early Years Centres across the province were transformed into EarlyON Child and Family Centres. The mandatory core services of the EarlyON Centres consist of (i) engaging parents and caregivers, (ii) supporting early learning and development, and (iii) making connections for families. Appendix G contains a map identifying the current locations of the main, satellite and mobile (outreach) sites.

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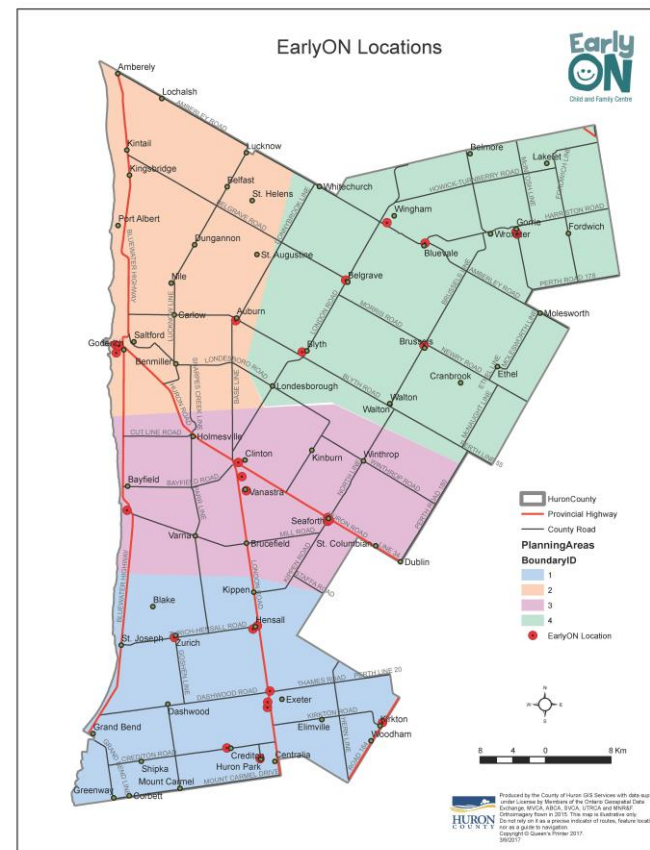
Table 22 contains recent service statistics for Huron County's EarlyON Child and Family Centres, noting that in 2016 and 2017 the Centres were operating as Ontario Early Years Centres.

Table 9: EarlyON service statistics

	2016	2017	2018
# of children served	1,487	1,209	1,424
# of child visits	13,642	12,874	15,408
# of parents/caregivers served	1,044	838	1,117
# of parent/caregiver visits	9,255	8,136	9,790
# of parents/caregivers in workshops	886	614	800

Source: County of Huron Social & Property Services, February 2019

In collaboration with several other agencies that offer early years programs, the EarlyON sites have developed a quarterly Quick Reference Guide of parent engagement sessions and support groups operating in the County. The Guide is posted on several websites and is also available in print form at numerous locations throughout the County including rural post offices, grocery stores, libraries, etc. Parent engagement sessions such as Stroller-cise, Mother Goose, Family Math, Lead me to Literacy, and Keen for Kindergarten are offered at several locations and times of the day to accommodate parents' schedules. The County also offers regular Facebook chats on topics such as how to talk to your child about healthy relationships, how to stay calm when things go wrong, and understanding behaviour using the Circle of Security model.



"I have been so encouraged going to these programs. They are a great place to vent about the joys and challenges of parenting."

EarlyON Participant

"We've had so much fun over the passed [sic] few months. Each program is well thought out for all ages. The coordinators really care about us and always make us feel welcome and safe." EarlyON Participant

"...Add in the health nurse visits, and different professionals from various fields of care, it is a great way to spend a couple of hours."

EarlyON Participant

OTHER PROGRAMS

Several other service providers offer early years programs within the scope of their respective mandates. For instance, Rural Response for Healthy Children offers a variety of parenting groups, parent and child groups, caregiver groups and other facilitated activities. The location and time when groups such as Dads & Kids at the Museum, Walk and Talk Group, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren are offered can be found on the agency's Parent & Child Activity Calendar.

Room2Grow Pregnancy and Parenting Support Centre also hosts regular parent support groups in Goderich, Clinton and Exeter.

In collaboration with Rural Response for Healthy Children, the Huron Respite Network offers Caregiver Mornings which provide those caring for a child with a disability or a mental health concern with an opportunity to share their voice in a safe, confidential environment and meet other parents who share similar experiences. Sibz Club offers brothers and sisters, age 7-12, of children who have a developmental or physical disability, autism or mental health concern, the chance to have fun together while receiving peer support, sharing their sibling relationships, and exploring the gifts and challenges of being a sibling to a brother or sister with disabilities.



In addition to offering the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, the Huron County Health Unit also provides parents and caregivers with clinics and information on healthy nutrition, infant feeding/breastfeeding support, preventative dental services for low income families, immunizations, sexual health and prenatal classes at its offices in Clinton and Wingham.

Huron County Cultural Services has responsibility for the County library system, the museum, and other cultural events and activities. The library offers several programs for children and youth at its various branches. Programs such as Play and Read, Storytime, Tales for Tots, Kidspace and Community Playground are listed on the library's website and in the Seasonal Library Guide. In many instances, programs are offered in collaboration with other agencies such as EarlyON and Rural Response for Healthy Children. The library also offers summer reading programs, instructional classes and access to online databases for children – PebbleGo and Tumblebooks.



The Library also has an International Language collection with French books being the largest in the collection. There are some other languages but the collection is small for Spanish, Dutch, Arabic and Russian juvenile books.

The museum also offers programming for children at various times throughout the year. For instance three sessions of day camp are advertised for the summer of 2019, as are various activities for March Break and PA Day camps. These activities include music, performance and visual arts, drop-in crafts, activities, exhibit hunts, board games and family movies. Dates and times are available on the Huron County Museum's website.

While this inventory and its various program descriptions is not meant to be comprehensive, it does provide the reader with a fairly detailed overview of what other programs and services are available in the County in addition to those mentioned in early sections of this Plan.

STRENGTHS OF THE CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS SYSTEM

Service providers were asked to identify the strengths of the local child care and early years system so that these attributes can be acknowledged and built upon. In no particular order these are as follows:

- Child care programs are responsive to parental needs
- A variety of programming throughout the County for families and service providers
- Ongoing advocacy for quality care
- Well administered fee subsidy program with no wait list
- Programs available through the EarlyON Centres
- Breastfeeding support
- Qualified, caring Early Childhood Educators and Administrators
- Quality education and learning
- The introduction of OneHSN
- Integration of the licensed child care sector
- Collaboration among community agencies to work on early identification and intervention
- The availability of local services to support children with special needs

SERVICE GAPS AND/OR DUPLICATION

The *County of Huron 2007-08 Community Plan* and the *County's 2017 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Needs Assessment and Initial Plan* identified several service gaps – many that remain. Progress has been made in lessening the impact of some of these gaps. Others remain and will continue to require the concerted effort of all community stakeholders if they are further reduced or eliminated.

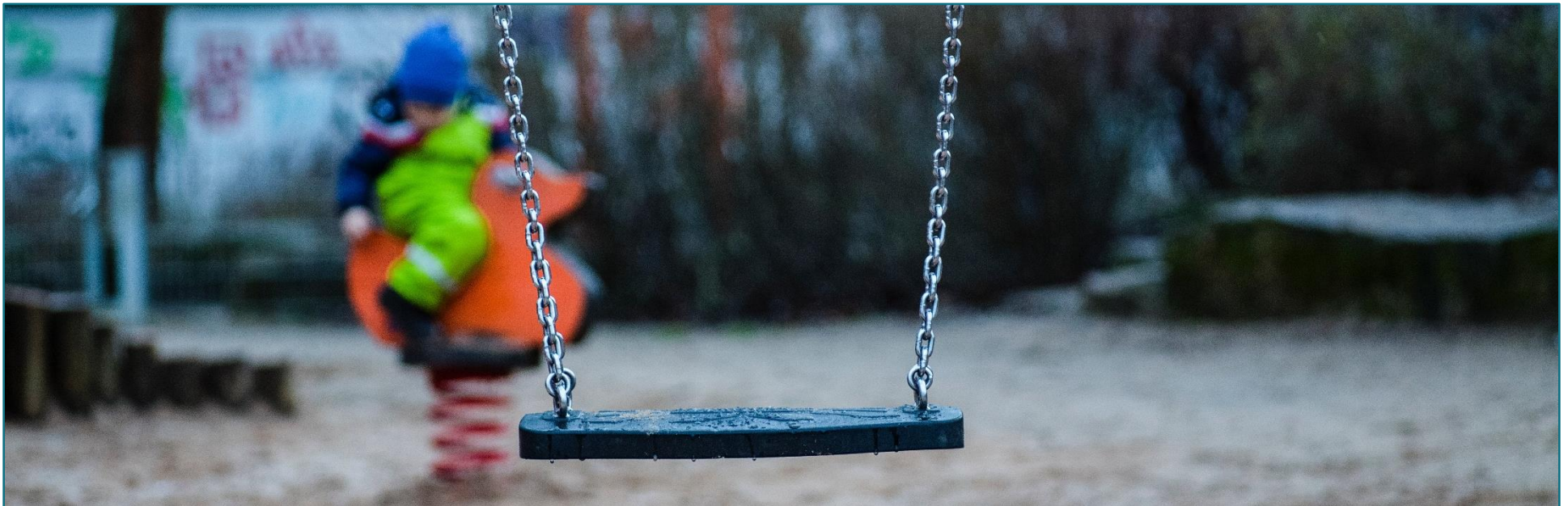
- **Transportation** – The vast rural geography of Huron County and its dispersed settlement patterns make transportation a barrier for many residents but perhaps more so for families with young children. The lack of public transportation within the County and to larger urban areas outside of the County further compounds the issue.
- **Accessibility** – The most frequently cited accessibility issues have historically been those related to the lack of emergency child care, the lack of flexible child care, and the hours of operation of programs and services.
- **Affordability** – The cost of licensed child care can be prohibitive for many parents, particularly if they are not eligible for fee subsidy or if fee subsidy is unavailable.
- **Lack of awareness of programs** – Parents continue to report that they are not aware of the programs and services that are available to them. This lack of awareness limits their ability to access the programs, services and resources that will support them in their parenting role and that will assist their children in being successful.
- **Engaging parents and children** – The needs and priorities of all parents must be made known, understood and acted upon if the local service system is to continue to be responsive. The voices of children accessing child care and early years programs must also be documented so that their strengths and interests can guide programming.
- **Recruitment and retention of staff** – The recruitment of staff, particularly Registered Early Childhood Educators, continues to prove challenging for service providers.

As part of the current engagement process, service providers were asked to identify the major gaps in service that exist for various age groups of children. The most frequently cited gap in prenatal services and services for children under the age of 18 months was the need for more licensed child care – centre and home based. The length of the wait list to access a space and the cost of care for infants were also cited as areas of concern.

Wait lists and insufficient child care spaces (both centre based and home based) were also identified as a service gap for children 18 months to junior kindergarten age. Service providers also mentioned the need for a program to help transition children to kindergarten (kindergarten readiness) and more evening and weekend care. One service provider expressed concern when parents decline services which are suggested as a result of the Healthy Toddler Visit. Often these children are re-identified at CATYO and as a result, start kindergarten lacking language or socio-emotional skills.

Service providers identified several service gaps for junior and senior kindergarten aged children. For instance, it was felt that all schools should have before and after school programs. A few service providers were of the opinion that there were insufficient options available for summer or evening care and that they would like to see other after school options beyond those which occur at elementary schools e.g., recreation programs. Another gap identified was the lack of a drop-in program for children who do not attend kindergarten or for those who are home-schooled. Several service providers spoke of gaps in service for kindergarten aged children with special needs. For instance, they mentioned there is not enough support for these children in the classroom and that rehabilitation services often cease once children start kindergarten. Lastly, some service providers mentioned the need for more integration and communication between before and after school programs and between “systems”.

The gaps identified for children aged six to twelve were very similar to those identified for kindergarten aged children – more before and after school programs, support in the classroom and in before and after school programs for children with special needs, and a lag in accessing rehabilitation services. To exemplify these points, one service provider made the following comment “...resource support & program assistant funding seem to be most in demand for this group and the most difficult to secure.” Lastly, it was felt that more recreation programs should be available and that they need to be affordable for families.



3. EARLY YEARS AND CHILD CARE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESSES

A multi-faceted planning process was used to inform the development of the service system plan. Throughout the process, the input of the local community planning table – Huron Service Integration Committee – has been sought. As the Plan is implemented, feedback will continue to be sought at regular intervals from the agencies, organizations and professionals who sit on the Committee (as well as others) to ensure the Plan is responsive to community needs, existing service capacity and individual community goals and priorities. Recommendations and decisions will also be shared with the Huron Service Integration Committee and others to ensure that they are implemented throughout the County.

County Council and its lower tier municipal members have and will be kept informed through deputations to Committees that report to County Council. The mandate of Huron County Social and Property Services encompasses Ontario Works, Children's Services and Community Housing. As such, numerous County staff have been engaged in several facets of the Plan's development. The County also has responsibility for cultural services (the public library system and museum) and for public health, so staff from these respective services have also been engaged in the planning process through contributing to the Environmental Scan and through the distribution and completion of surveys.

From a practical perspective, three surveys were developed to engage children attending before and/or after school programs, parents¹² and service providers. Given that planning has been done in collaboration with these key stakeholders, Huron County Children's Services is confident that its approach was transparent and inclusive and honours the strong relationships that exists with its many and varied community partners.

CHILDREN ATTENDING BEFORE AND/OR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Paper surveys were provided to each before and/or after school program in January 2019 asking that program staff facilitate the completion of the survey with the individual children in attendance at their program. Each participating program was provided with coloured Frisbees embossed with Huron County Child Care as a means of thanking the children for sharing their thoughts. A total of 158 surveys were completed from ten before and/or after school programs. Appendix H contains the results of the survey by site.

¹²The term 'parents' also refers to guardians and to those others who have primary caregiving responsibility for the child.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

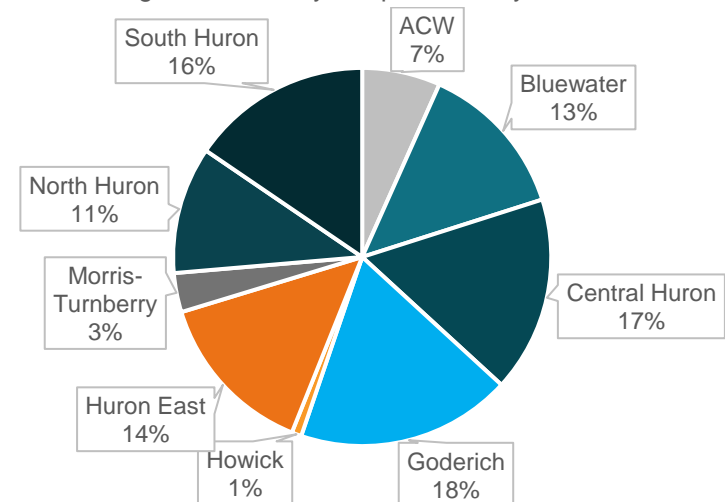
An online survey was posted on the Huron County Children's Services website on January 16, 2019 and remained active until February 25, 2019. Community partners were also asked to include the link to the Parent Engagement Survey on their website and social media sites. Business cards with the URL on them were also made available and distributed to child care centres, EarlyON sites, etc. All those who completed the survey had the opportunity to enter a draw for one of five \$50 gift certificates to a grocery store of their choice.

A total of 282 surveys were completed from parents residing throughout Huron County. Figure 15 illustrates the percentage of responses received by lower tier municipality. While the percentages are not reflective of the total population of each lower tier municipality, they are nonetheless informative.

The majority of respondents (54%) had a child(ren) under 3.11 years of age, while 26% had both preschool and school-aged children, and 20% had only children aged 4 to 12 years.

Two parents self-identified as Indigenous, Métis or Inuit, five identified themselves as French speaking, and two indicated they were newcomers to Canada. None of the parents who completed the survey identified themselves as Amish, Mennonite or Anabaptist.

Figure 15: Survey Respondents by Lower Tier Municipality



ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

Huron County Children's Services used the Kids First Huron-Perth¹³ network to inform and engage with service providers. In particular, members of the Huron Service Integration Committee, Huron County Child Care Directors, Huron County EarlyON staff, as well as other agencies who provide service to Huron County children and their families were sent the link to the Service Provider Survey. Thirty-six (34) responses were received.

¹³Kids First Huron-Perth is a consortium of 69 local agencies, organizations and professionals committed to providing an integrated system of prenatal, healthy child development, early identification and intervention, and early learning and care services for children under the age of six and their families.

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

Ontario's vision for the early years sees all children and families having access to a range of high quality, inclusive and affordable early years and child care programs and services that are child and family centred and contribute to children's learning, development, and well-being. Further, Ontario has identified the four components of a strong early years system to be accessibility, responsiveness, affordability and quality.

This section of the Plan reflects the results of the Environmental Scan and community engagement in its identification of the strategic priorities and intended outcomes associated with each of the four components of Ontario's vision. In the next section of the Plan, each of the outcomes will be accompanied by measurement indicators that will be used to assess and demonstrate the impact of local early years programs and services.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Community programs and service providers are increasingly aware of families' needs for child care and early years services within the community.

Only about one-third of parents were familiar with OneHSN. Of those parents who were aware of the platform, most found it easy to use and appreciated not having to go to multiple sites or centres to apply for child care. Some parents did state that they would appreciate knowing if a centre has received their application and many stated they found it stressful not knowing where they were situated on the wait list. Lastly, a few parents did say they would prefer to deal directly with the child care centres rather than having to use OneHSN.

As evidenced by Figure 13 the number of children waiting for a licensed centre or home based space is considerable and continues to grow. In particular, spaces are in short supply for infants (221 on the wait list), toddlers (103 on the wait list) and preschoolers (100 on the wait list).

Those service providers who gave their input via the survey recommended that increasing the number of licensed child care spaces should be viewed as the main priority in the coming five years.

- Programs address service gaps throughout the community to provide high impact child care and early years services that can be easily accessed by children and families.

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

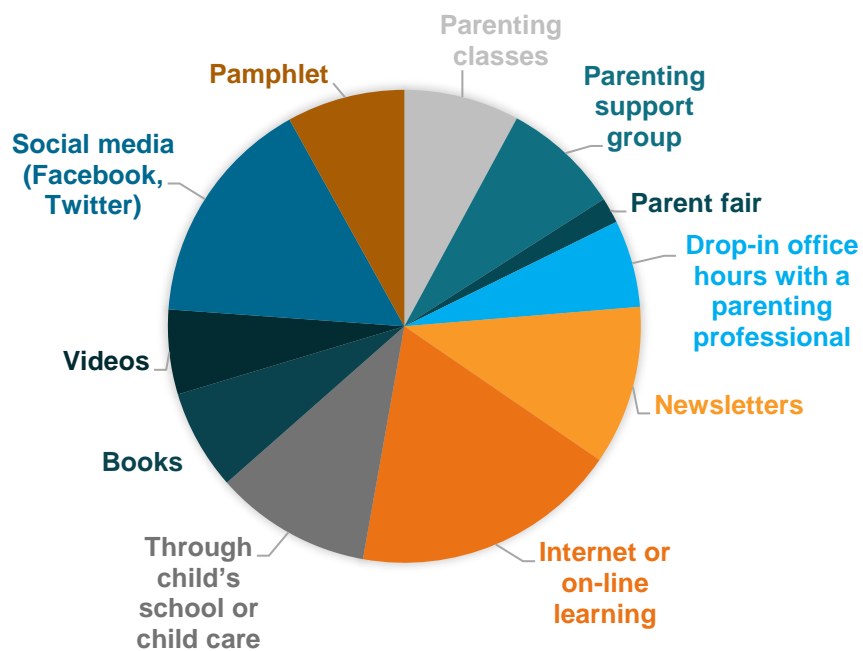
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Parents were asked what programs and services they and their children would like to attend as a means of identifying possible service gaps in the County as a whole or in specific municipalities. The most frequently cited program selected by parents of children of all ages were physical activities and recreation (e.g., sports, swimming). The second choice of parents of children aged 0 to 3.11 years was parent and child play groups (74%). Literacy and library programs and music programs both were selected by 49% of parents of young children.

Parents of children aged 4 to 12 years selected literacy and library programs as their second choice (76%) followed by music program (63%) and art programs (61%). Appendix H contains the answers to these questions by age of the child and by lower-tier municipality.

Parents were also asked how they would like to receive information about various parenting topics. Service providers can use this information to target their communication to parents thus increasing access to programs and services. The results, contained in Figure 16 are consistent with those received in the 2016 Positive Parenting Survey conducted by the Huron County Health Unit and reported in the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre EYC Needs Assessment and Initial Plan.

Figure 16: How parents like to receive information about parenting topics



Given the responses to the 2016 Positive Parenting Survey, Huron County Children's Services has created Facebook and Instagram accounts to highlight the programs and services offered at Huron EarlyON Child and Family Centres. These accounts serve as a communication tool to provide parents and caregivers with information on how to promote physical and intellectual growth, encourage curiosity, and offer a play-based learning environment. Postings include pictures and graphic updates on programs and special events as a means of encouraging participation.

The Facebook account continues to be popular and as of January 2019 has 1,824 followers while the Instagram account had 44 followers two weeks after it was created (on January 1, 2019). The majority of those who accessed the Facebook page were between 25 and 34 years of age with Saturday being the busiest day and between 8:00 pm and 9:00 pm being the busiest time of the day. On average, 58% of those who accessed the Facebook account were female with 42% being male.

Another example of how parent's preferences for receiving information has been utilized is the CALMM parenting campaign (Calm, Aware, Loving, Moment-to-Moment for me and my child). Developed in collaboration with the Health Units in Huron County and Perth County and early years professionals across both Counties, this video-based campaign has met with much success. The campaign is comprised of nine short videos featuring local families from Huron and Perth addressing parenting issues related to sleep, relationships, food, and play (physical activity), with messages based on the Circle of Security® program.

The videos were launched on Family Day (February 18) and will be shared online through social media until June 2019. Posters and bookmarks promoting the videos are also being distributed to physician's offices and other locations around the community.

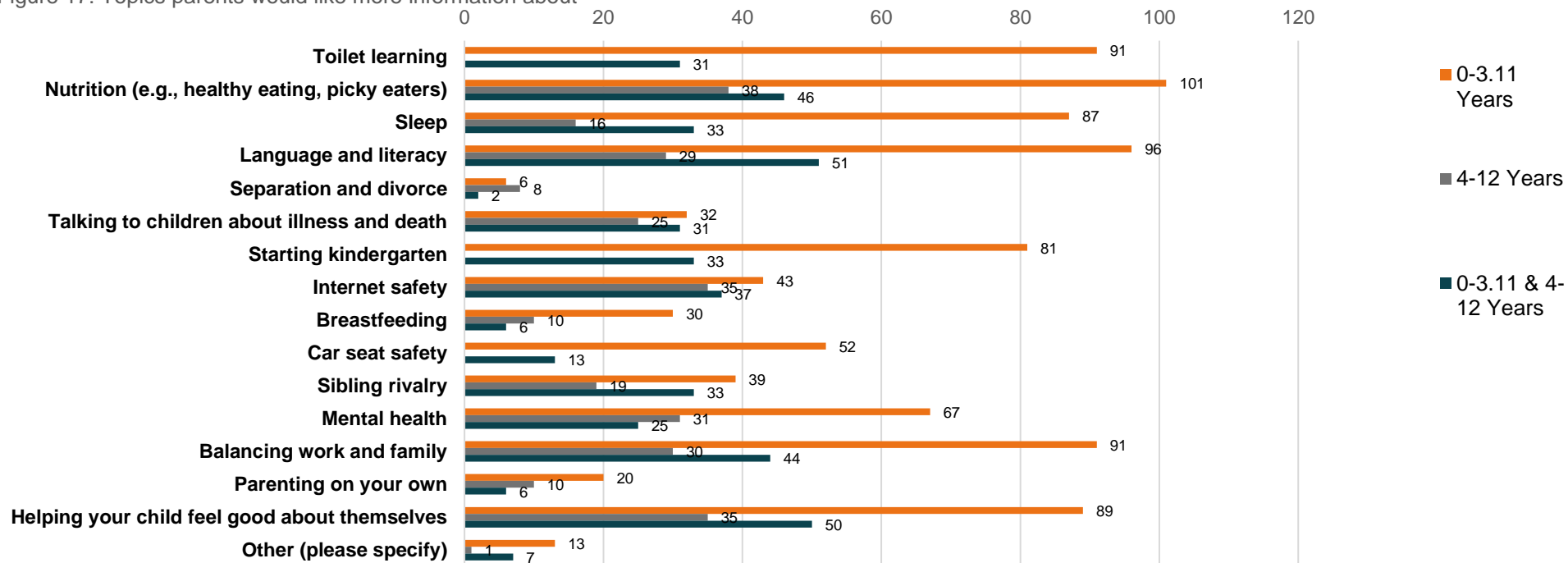
The Parent Engagement Survey also asked parents what topics they would like more information about. As can be seen from Figure 4, the most frequently cited response (75%) from parents of children 0-3.11 years was nutrition (e.g., healthy eating, picky eaters). Both toilet learning (68%) and balancing work and family (68%) were chosen second followed by language and literacy (72%) and helping your child feel good about themselves (66%). Starting kindergarten was selected by 60% of parents with preschool children.



Figure 17 also shows that 93% of parents with a child aged 4 to 12 years selected nutrition as the topic they would like more information about. This was followed by Internet safety (85%) and helping your child feel good about themselves (85%), mental health (76%), balancing work and family (73%), and language and literacy (72%).

Appendix H contains the responses from parents by age of the child and by lower-tier municipality.

Figure 17: Topics parents would like more information about



- Municipal by-laws are addressed and examined in cases where they may limit access to early years and child care services.

There do not appear to be any by-laws in place in the lower-tier municipalities that limit access to child care and early years programs and services.

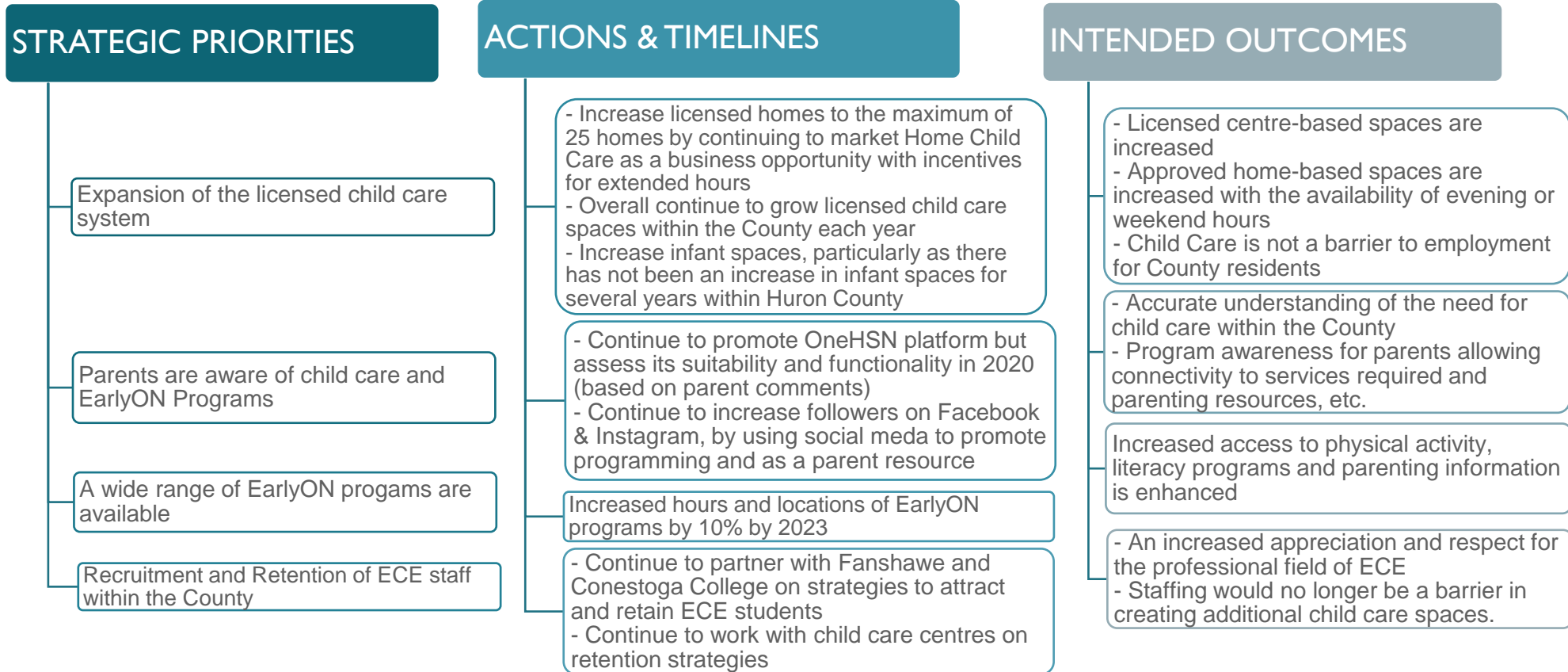
- Programming is provided for children with special needs and/or other vulnerable communities, is culturally responsive to the needs of newcomer communities, is delivered by First Nation, Métis, Inuit, urban Indigenous, Francophone partners and other populations within the community.



As mentioned previously there are no First Nation, Metis, Inuit, urban Indigenous, or Francophone service providers in Huron County. Huron County Children's Services has engaged several other community partners including the local school boards, the health unit, cultural services and the Children's Aid Society to develop an Indigenous working group. This group works to share local events and raise awareness of Indigenous priorities. Children's Services has also made it a practice to read a land acknowledgement prior to any public meetings or trainings that we host. Along with Kids First, Huron County Children's Services hired an Indigenous storyteller to author and illustrate the Story of Three Sisters. Children's Services has published this book and has assigned an ISBN number which allows it to be borrowed from the local libraries. Children's Services also purchased many copies to ensure that this Indigenous story was available in all schools, libraries and child care centres in the County. It will be a priority to re-publish and print additional copies of the book to continue to raise awareness of Indigenous heritage.

Where necessary, child care and early years programs will continue to use the expertise of the Multicultural Association of Perth-Huron, the Centre for Employment and Learning, the YMCA's Newcomer Settlement Advisor, and London-based service providers to assist in

ensuring that programs and services are responsive to the needs of newcomer families. As one example of the actions that have been taken to date, the Huron Service Integration Committee has developed and recently updated a Diversity and Inclusion Resource Guide in collaboration with the Huron County Local Immigration Partnership Council. The Council brings together service providers and community stakeholders who work with immigrants and refugees, professionally or in a voluntary capacity. Their focus is on advocacy and service coordination to meet the needs of newcomers in Huron County. They engage in addressing service gaps, research, community planning, access to services, social integration, and public awareness/outreach in regards to the needs of local newcomers.



RESPONSIVENESS

- Programs and services reflect diverse needs of children and families in the community, and provide families with more choice and flexibility for their child care options.

Huron County's 2017 *Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Needs Assessment and Initial Plan* indicated that a concerted effort would be undertaken to actively solicit the voices of children. As a means of doing this, a Working Group comprised of several Kids First partner agencies has been meeting since January 2018 to develop a Charter of Rights of Children and Youth. Led by Huron County Children's Services, the Working Group has been researching best practices, speaking with experts and has crafted approaches that will be taken to garner the input of children and youth. As a result of these discussions, eight Champions from the Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board will engage school-aged children and youth. At the same time, approximately 80 children under the age of four will be engaged at child care centres and EarlyON Child and Family Centres in both Huron and Perth County. It is anticipated that the Charter will be in place by Fall 2019.

In order to provide families with more choice and flexibility for their child care options, more licensed centre and home based spaces are required. The County has taken full advantage of expansion dollars that have been made available in recent years. For further expansion to occur not only are capital dollars required, but operating dollars are also necessary if the spaces are to be sustained. Huron County Children's Services and its community partners also continue their efforts to recruit qualified program and supply staff. Actions have also been underway to recruit additional providers for the Huron Community Home Child Care program.

In addition to these strategies, parents have also suggested other actions that could be taken to make the licensed child care system more responsive to their needs. As one parent stated, "The wait list is long. Most centres are not flexible to parents who work shift work and need different days each week." It will be incumbent upon each centre to engage their parents in conversation about how best they can meet family needs.

- Programs and services reflect cultural and/or linguistic diversity, geographical spread and address demands or gaps in program and services.

The Avon Maitland District School Board is participating in a pilot project that will help school boards identify and understand their students better. The survey was conducted online and during classroom time for students from grade seven to twelve, and was completed online by parents of children in kindergarten to grade six. Questions related to ethnicity, religion or spiritual affiliation, the first language they learned to speak as a child, and if they consider themselves a person with a disability. Once the results are available they will bring clarity to the Board's student population and will help inform some of the board's initiatives and policies to ensure that students are getting what

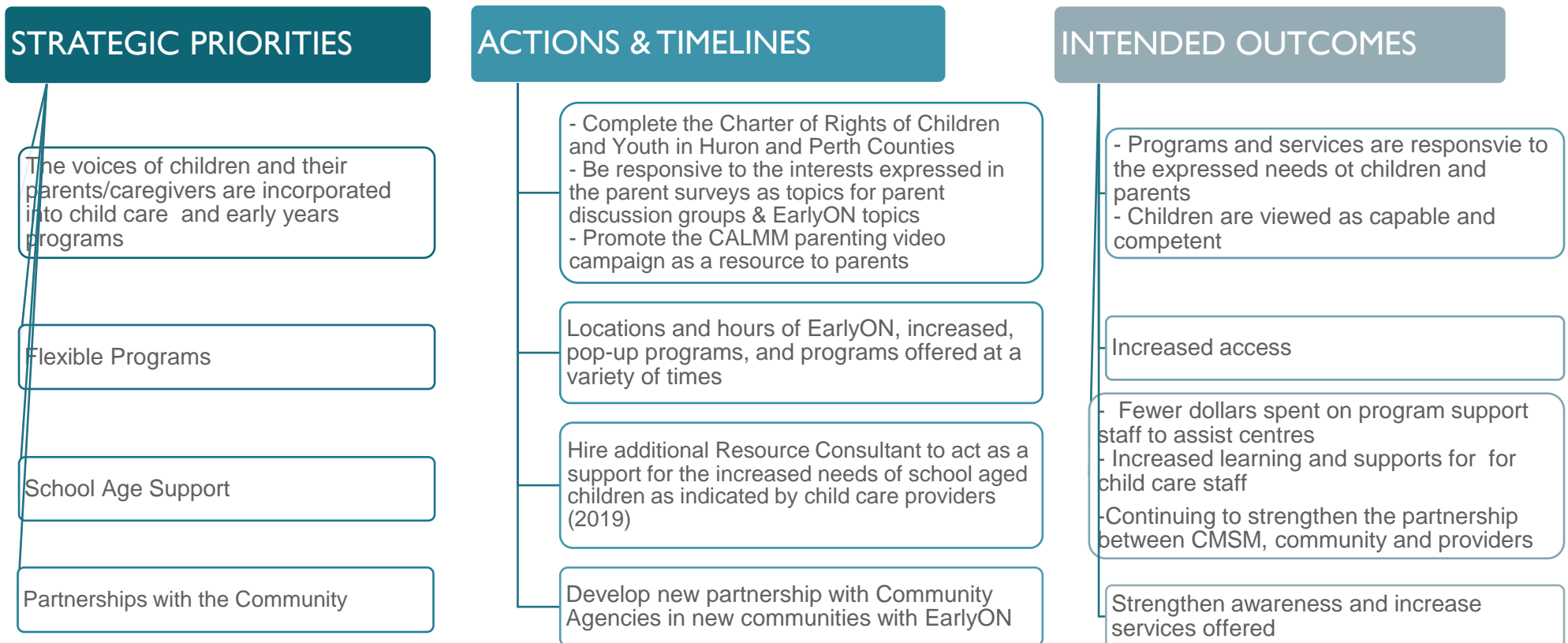
they need. It is hoped that the Board will share its findings so that child care and early years programs can be more reflective of cultural and/or linguistic diversity and can complement the practices put in place by the local school boards.

As stated in an earlier section of this Plan, EarlyON Child and Family Centres and their respective outreach sites are broadly dispersed throughout the County. Thus far, this approach has worked to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The manner in which the child care and early year's service system will respond to demands or gaps in programs and services has previously been responded to.

AFFORDABILITY

- Community service providers enhance engagement and collaboration with broader community service providers, school boards, early years partners, primary care providers, parents and caregivers.



Service providers were asked for their thoughts on how to strengthen the ways services and organizations work together to ensure more integrated services for families. The most frequently cited action was having a greater knowledge of available services followed by the sharing of space. Having centralized information available and jointly planning programs and services were each identified by one-third of respondents. Improved communication and the joint delivery of programs and services were each cited by 28% of those who completed the survey. Lastly, 19% of service providers felt that joint professional learning would result in more integrated services.

Engagement and collaboration has greatly increased in the decade since Kids First Huron-Perth was conceived. Service providers from a variety of disciplines operating in Huron County, Perth County and London (in the case of specialized service providers) regularly come together to share information, plan programs and services, engage in professional learning, etc. As a case in point, some 65 organizations and agencies recently signed the Kids First Collaborative Agreement which is included as Appendix I.

The leadership that the County of Huron has provided since 1999 when it was designated the service system manager has not gone unnoticed by service providers. One service provider stated, she has "...always felt extremely positive about the County's support of and vision for licensed child care in our communities." Another comment made was "our system is excellent in the way it supports and encourages all programs." Service providers therefore feel that it is important for all concerned to continue to work collaboratively to avoid duplication and to continue to increase awareness of services. As was stated by another service provider, the "services in Huron County should be held up as a model for the province."

- Early years partners collaborate to improve affordability of child care and early years services in the community; policies support families in need through fee subsidies.

Fee subsidy provides families with the financial support they require to retain employment and in turn, support the local economy. Children benefit from early learning, nutritious meals and socialization in a safe, nurturing environment. Licensed child care programs benefit from program stability and from being able to provide employment opportunities to in excess of 115 full time equivalent qualified staff and to those who are self-employed and under contract with the Huron County Community Home Child Care program.

"Without it I wouldn't have been able to afford the quality care and learning my children have and still are receiving. I'm confident when they are in the program that they are safe and in a great learning environment." Parent of a school-aged child

"Since I qualify for fee subsidy I have been able to get off of assistance, go back to school to further my education and have the opportunity it get a job that pays more than minimum wage." Parent of a preschool aged child

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Survey respondents were asked if they were aware of the availability of fee subsidy. While the majority (76%) were familiar with the program, a large number of parents indicated they had not used it either because they had not applied or, they had applied and did not qualify. Those who had applied for fee subsidy had positive comments to offer about the process and those administering it.

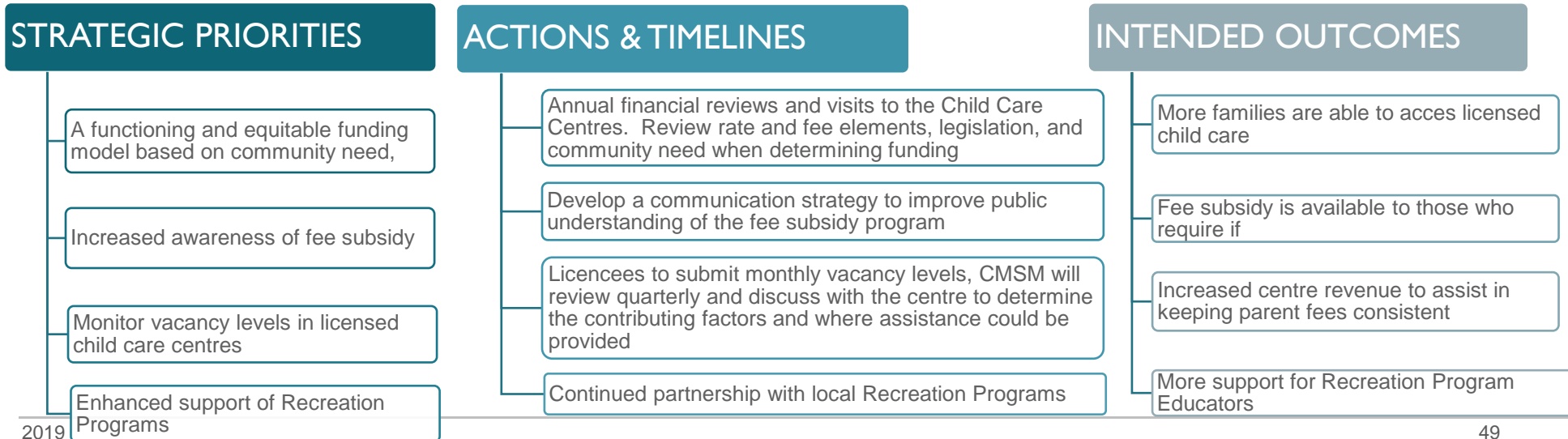
"Very kind and understanding and non-judgemental for the time I needed it."

"Fair to all families, easy to access, once a year updates are nice (nice that it isn't more often to make it more time consuming)"

When asked what could make the experience better, the following suggestions are representative of the comments made:

- More fee subsidy support for "middle class" families
- Advocate for universal child care fees or subsidies
- The ability to use an alternate day of care when a scheduled day is cancelled because of weather or a Statutory Holiday
- Greater publicity of the availability of fee subsidy
- Provide more information on fee subsidy eligibility
- Make more of the fee subsidy process available online
- Prioritize fee subsidy and space availability for those who need it the most
- Reduce the cost of licensed child care
- Provide outreach services so fee subsidy can be accessed in locations other than Clinton
- Provide continued fee subsidy or a discounted daily fee while a parent is on parental leave to encourage continued learning for children

Several service providers suggested that making licensed child care more affordable should be among the coming years' priorities particularly on light of the cost of centre based care as outlined in Table 20.



HIGH QUALITY

- Programs and services align with health and safety requirements set out in the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.

The child care and early years system in Huron County is very connected to the Huron County Health Unit. Not only does the Health Unit sit on the Kids First Steering Committee, the Huron Service Integration Committee and the Child Care Supervisors Network, it is regularly consulted and provides input into local operational policies and procedures related to the health and safety of children and staff of child care centres and EarlyON sites, and Community Home Child Care providers.

For example, the Healthy Kids Community Challenge and Children's Services: Dietitian Contract 2018 provided the opportunity for the Health Unit's registered dietitian to deliver nutritional support to child care providers in Huron County. In particular, the contract provided for menu analysis, addressing healthy eating questions and providing evidence-based resources, activities and nutrition messaging for parents. Sustainability was built in by providing the resources and tools for staff and parents to continue using beyond the December 2018 end of the project.

- Programming and pedagogy is consistent with *How Does Learning Happen? (HDLH?): Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*, and reflects the view of children as competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.

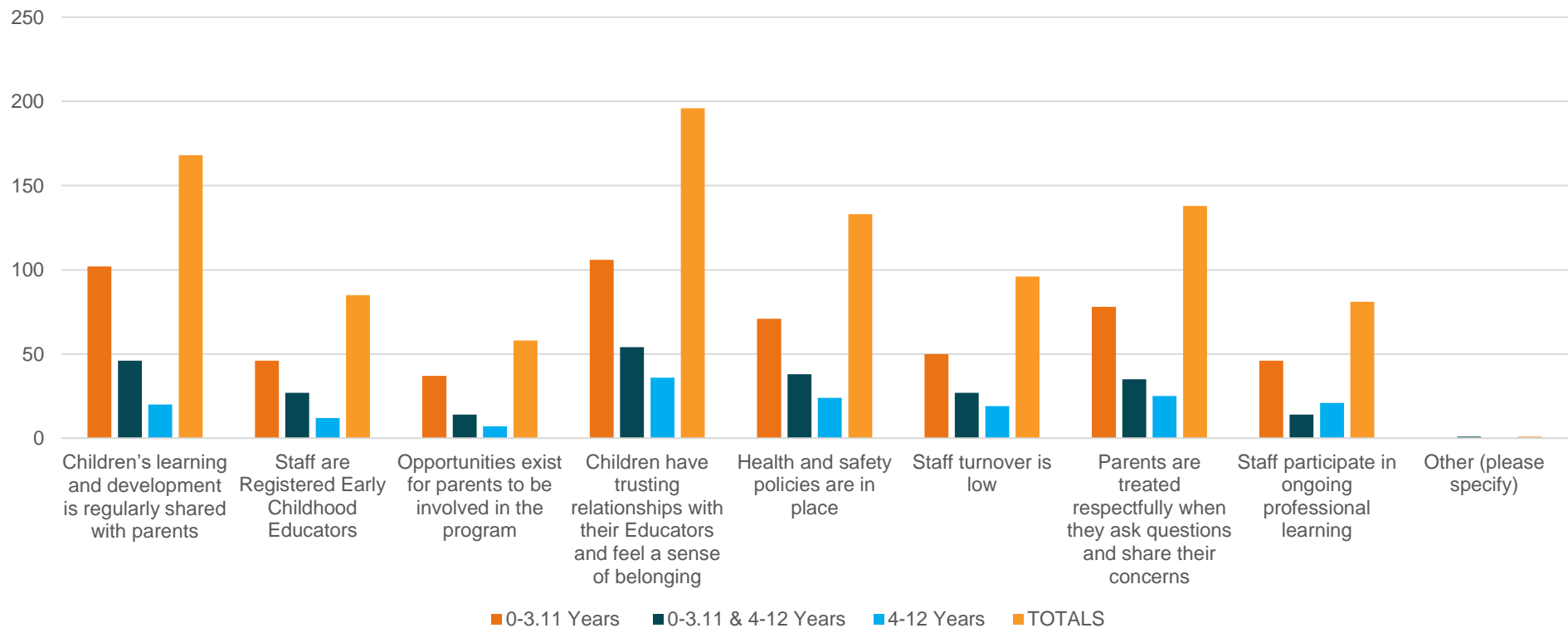
Through their survey results, parents and caregivers identified the child-focused characteristics that define a quality child care program. The Figure 18 that follows shows some differences by age. Having said that, the characteristic that was most frequently selected as defining a quality program was 'that children are comfortable, relaxed and happy'.

Figure 18: Child-focused characteristics that define a quality child care program



Parents and caregivers were also asked to select those administrative characteristics they felt made a child care program a quality program. Again, Figure 19 which follows shows some differences by age with 'children have trusting relationships with their Educators and feel a sense of belonging' being the most frequently selected characteristic.

Figure 19: Administrative characteristics that define a quality child care program



When provided with the opportunity to identify additional administrative factors one respondent said “staff are compensated well for their work and have adequate hours and benefits to maintain a standard of living for their families about [sic] the poverty line.”

- Programs and services are staffed by a highly skilled workforce such as Registered Early Childhood Educators or other certified professionals.

One of the service providers who completed the survey indicated that ensuring that quality was not compromised in the child care and early years system should serve as a priority for the coming years. They cited the use of 'unqualified staff' as an example of how, in their view, quality can be negatively impacted. On a similar note, one of the Child Care Directors stated that her biggest roadblock to offering affordable, quality care is recruiting and retaining staff.

More than one service provider put forward their view that child care and early years staff should be more appropriately compensated. A former home child care provider also mentioned that they felt that those who care for our children are undervalued by government and by parents.

- Community providers provide capacity building opportunities to engage child care and early years staff in ongoing professional learning and development needs.

One example of a recent collaborative capacity building opportunity is the Circle of Security® training that was attended in either March 2018 or June 2018 by twenty-three individuals from twelve organizations and agencies. As a result, Huron County and Perth County parents, caregivers and service providers can benefit from the expertise these individuals have gained in supporting and strengthening parent-child relationships. Eight week sessions can be held by the Registered Parent Facilitators to help parents and caregivers:

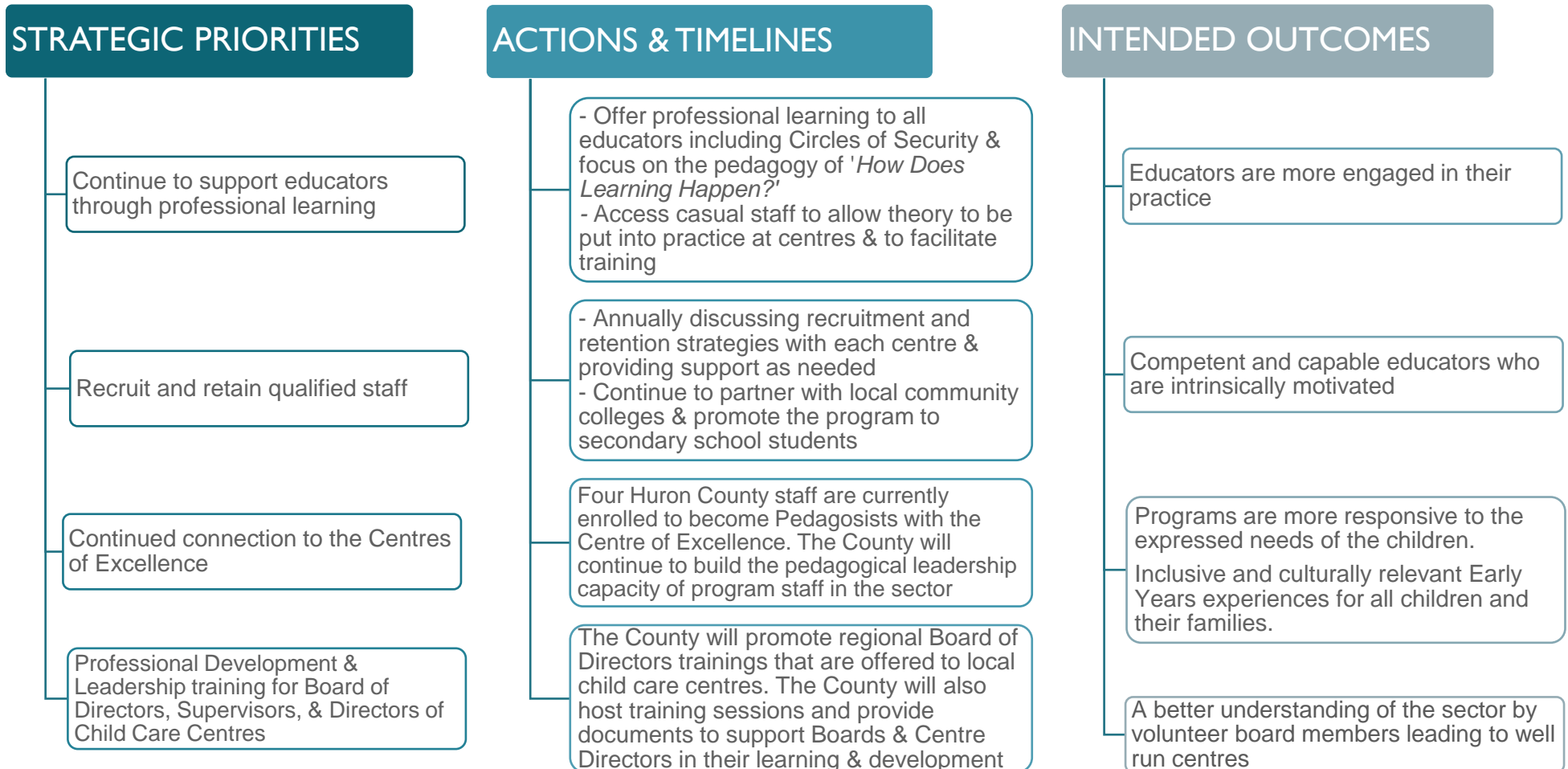
- Understand their child's emotional world by learning to read emotional needs
- Support their child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of their child's self esteem
- Honor the innate wisdom and desire for their child to be secure

Service providers who completed the survey suggested that making professional learning opportunities available should be considered a priority in the coming years. The rationale put forward for this view is that professional learning provides growth and lifelong learning which in turn supports children, families and caregivers.



Lastly, the results of the survey completed by school aged children attending before and/or after school programs show a range of responses to the majority of the statements put forward to the children (see Appendix I). While variation among programs is to be expected, some of the outlying rankings do warrant further exploration and possibly additional professional learning and development for program staff.

The statement that was consistently ranked high in all ten programs was "The leaders in my program care about me" which does speak to an important personal characteristic of program leaders.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: MATTERS OF PROVINCIAL INTEREST

Under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, it is a matter of provincial interest to have a system of child care and early years programs and services that:

- a) Is focused on Ontario's children and families;
- b) Promotes the health, safety and well-being of children;
- c) Provides high quality experiences and positive outcomes for children with a provincial framework to guide pedagogy;
- d) Includes knowledgeable, self-reflective and qualified professionals and staff, including members of the College of Early Childhood Educators;
- e) Responds to communities' needs by,
 - i. Providing services both for families who receive financial assistance for child care and for families who do not receive such financial assistance
 - ii. Providing a range of service options to support parents who are part of the workforce, such as options that address varied working hours and arrangements, and
 - iii. Providing centre-based and home-based options for families in relation to the receipt of licensed child care;
- f) Respects equity, inclusiveness and diversity in communities and the particular qualities of,
 - iv. Aboriginal, First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities,
 - v. Children with disabilities,
 - vi. Francophone communities, and
 - vii. Urban, rural, remote and northern communities;
- g) Provides for strong and sustainable partnerships among Province, service system managers and others in the community;
- h) Is coordinated with other community and human services;
- i) Is flexible and able to adapt to local circumstances;
- j) Supports the social and economic well-being of Ontarians;
- k) Ensures appropriate accountability for public funding;
- l) Supports the transition from child care and early years programs and services to school;
- m) Approaches pedagogy in child care and early years programs and services in a manner that supports the transition referred to in clause (l);
- n) Addresses any other aspect prescribed by the regulations.

APPENDIX B: ROLES OF SERVICE SYSTEM MANAGERS

As set out in the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 service system managers:

- May establish, administer, operate and fund licensed child care and early years programs, including providing assistance to licensees and evaluating and assessing the impact of public funding;
- Deliver and administer local policies respecting the operation of child care and early years programs and services;
- Coordinate the planning and operation of child care and early years programs and consult and cooperate with school boards and other prescribed persons or entities in the development and implementation of the service system plan;
- Coordinate the planning and operation of child care and early years programs with the planning and provision of other human services delivered by the service system manager; and
- Assess the economic viability of child care and early years programs and facilitate changes to make programs more viable.

APPENDIX C: 2016 ONTARIO MARGINALIZATION INDEX INDICATORS

Residential Instability

This measure refers to area-level concentrations of people who experience high rates of family or housing instability. The indicators included in this dimension measure the types and density of residential accommodations, as well as certain family characteristics. Residential instability is important as it relates to neighbourhood quality, cohesiveness and supports.

- Proportion of the population living alone
- Proportion of the population who are not youth (age 5-15)
- Average number of persons per dwelling
- Proportion of dwellings that are apartment buildings
- Proportion of the population who are single/divorced/widowed
- Proportion of dwellings that are not owned
- Proportion of the population who moved during the past five years

Material Deprivation

Material deprivation is closely connected to poverty and it refers to inability for individuals and communities to access and attain basic material needs. The indicators included in this dimension measure income, quality of housing, educational attainment and family structure characteristics.

- Proportion of the population aged 20+ without a high-school diploma
- Proportion of families who are lone parent families
- Proportion of total income from government transfer payments for population aged 15+
- Proportion of the population aged 15+ who are unemployed
- Proportion of the population considered low-income
- Proportion of households living in dwellings that are in need of major repair

Dependency

This measure refers to area-level concentrations of people who do not have income from employment. It includes seniors, children and adults whose work is not compensated. Adults included under this measure may be taking care of households, taking care of people in the community, and/or prevented from working due to disability.

- Proportion of the population who are aged 65 and older
- Dependency ratio (total population 0-14 and 65+/total population 15 to 64)
- Proportion of the population not participating in the labour force (aged 15+)

Ethnic Concentration

This measure refers to high area-level concentrations of people who are recent immigrants and/or people belonging to a 'visible minority' group (defined by Statistics Canada as "persons, other than aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour). Statistics Canada Aboriginal status indicators did not load on any of the factors during initial factor analysis. Research on immigration in Ontario shows that newcomers to Canada often have better overall health outcomes, a phenomenon commonly known as the "healthy immigrant effect." At the same time, research is clear that both structural racism and anti-immigrant discrimination have profound impacts on individuals, community and population health.

- Proportion of the population who are recent immigrants (arrived in the past 5 years)
- Proportion of the population who self-identify as a visible minority

APPENDIX D: HEALTHY TODDLER VISITS AND REFERRALS BY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

	2016	2017	2018
CLINTON FAMILY HEALTH TEAM			
Visits	69	55	63
Referrals	15	5	7
NORTH HURON			
Visits	52	38	40
Referrals	10	8	13
HURON COMMUNITY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM			
Visits	49	65	39
Referrals	8	6	8
MAITLAND VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM			
Visits	77	53	63
Referrals	11	10	6
BLUEWATER FAMILY HEALTH TEAM			
Visits	37	28	25
Referrals	6	6	6

Two visits and two referrals took place in Exeter in 2017. The Grand Bend and Area Community Health Centre conducted four visits in 2016 one of which resulted in a referral and conducted three visits in 2018.

APPENDIX E: EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI) DOMAINS

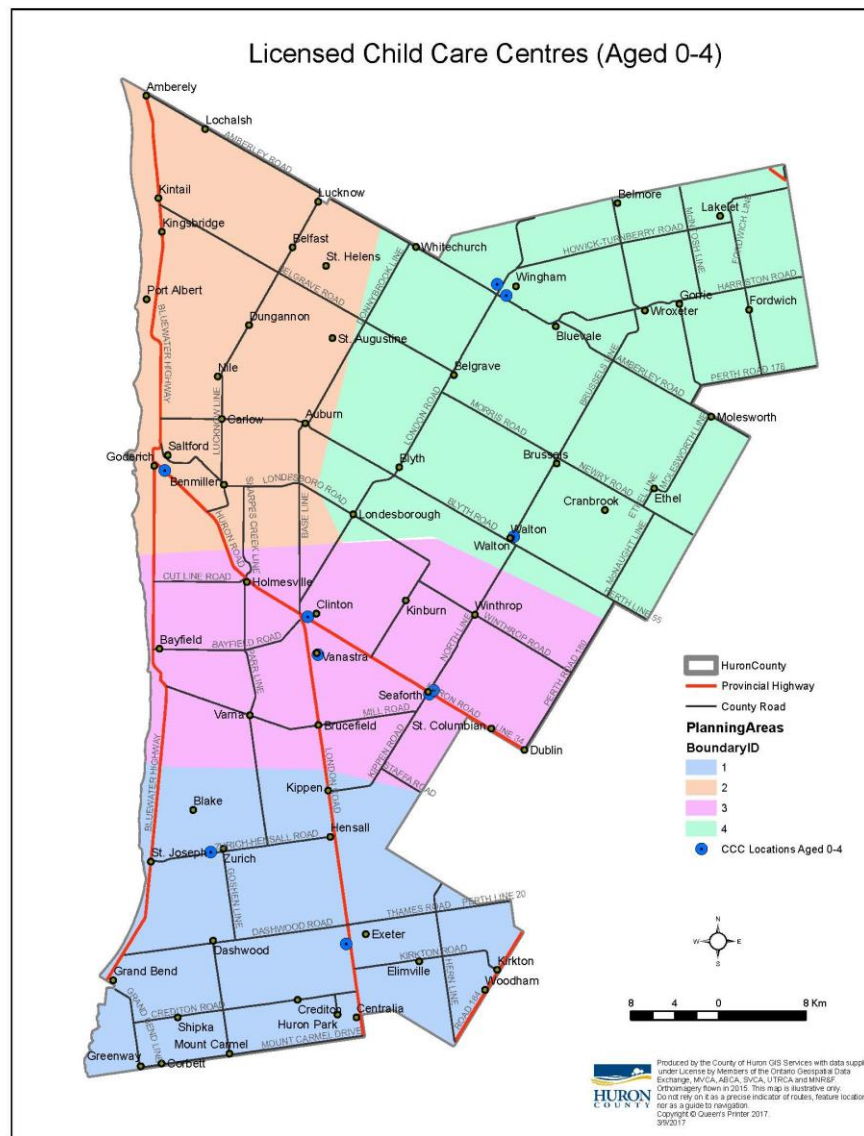
Physical Health & Well-Being: Teachers are asked to complete 13 questions for this domain. Questions relate to the child's physical readiness for the school day, physical independence, and gross motor and fine motor skills (e.g., holding a pencil, running on the playground, motor coordination, and adequate energy levels for classroom activities).

Social Competence: Teachers are asked to complete 26 questions for this domain. Questions relate to the child's curiosity about the world, eagerness to try new experiences, knowledge of standards of acceptable behaviour in a public place, ability to control own behaviour, cooperation with others, following rules and the ability to play and work with other children.

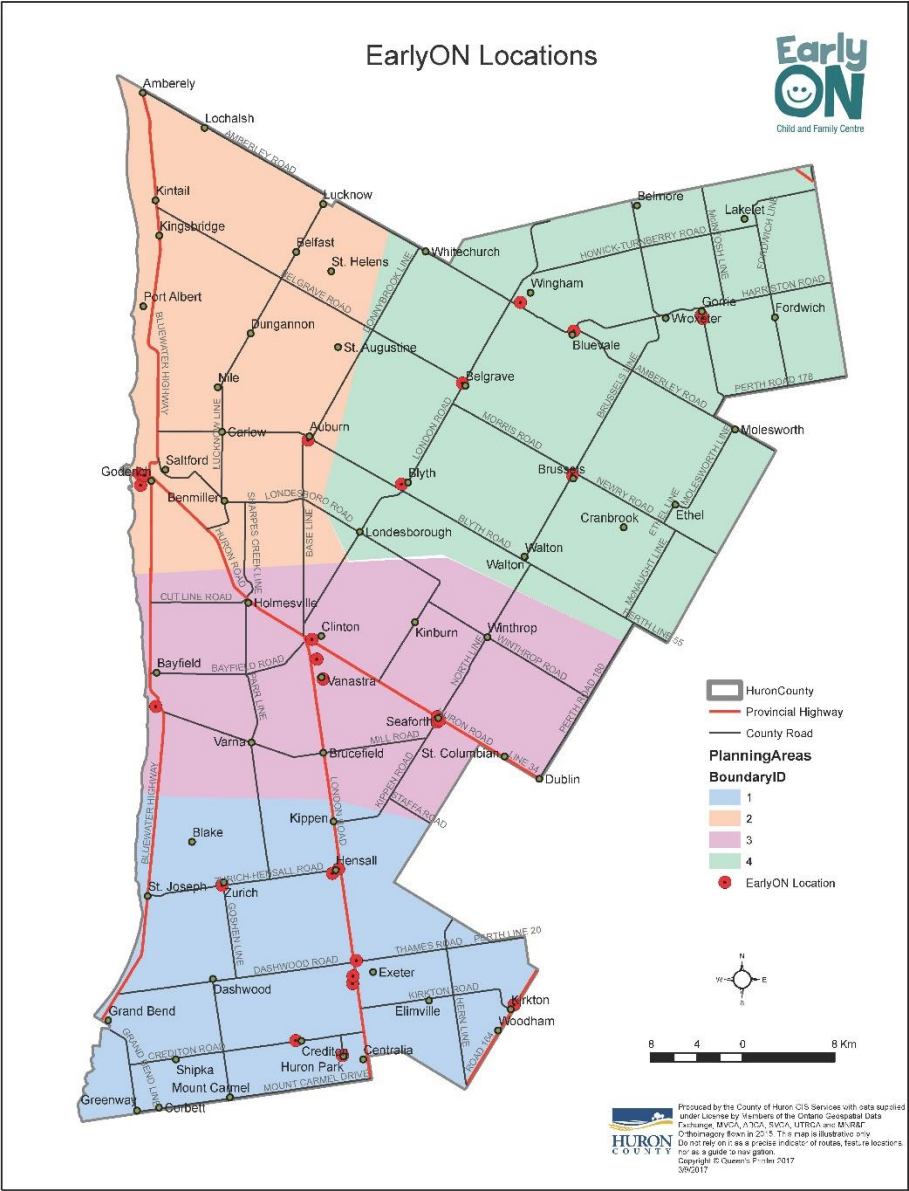
Emotional Maturity: Teachers are asked to complete 30 questions for this domain. Questions relate to the child's ability to reflect before acting, a balance between too fearful and too impulsive, the ability to deal with feelings at an age-appropriate level, and empathetic response to other people's feelings.

Language & Cognitive Development: Teachers are asked to complete 26 questions for this domain. Questions relate to the child's reading awareness, age-appropriate reading, writing and numeracy skills, board games, and the ability to understand similarities and differences, and to recite back specific pieces of information from memory.

Communication Skills & General Knowledge: Teachers are asked to complete 8 questions for this domain. Questions relate to the child's ability to communicate needs and wants in socially appropriate ways, symbiotic use of language, story-telling, and age-appropriate knowledge about life and the world around.



APPENDIX G: LOCATION OF EARLYON SITES



APPENDIX H: COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	4	3	1	8
Parent and child play groups	7	Not asked	0	7
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	5	2	1	8
Physical activities and recreation	4	4	1	9
Music programs	4	2	0	6
Dance programs	2	1	1	4
Art program	2	4	1	7
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not asked	2	Not asked	2
Child health and development services	2	Not Asked	0	2
Early identification and screening programs	0	2	1	3
Speech and language services	3	Not asked	1	4
Pre/post-natal services	0	Not asked	0	0
Parenting workshops/education services	4	1	1	6
Children's mental health services	1	0	0	1
Community events for families	5	Not asked	2	7
Community nutrition programs	2	4	0	6

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What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	6	Not Asked	2	8
Nutrition	7	4	1	12
Sleep	5	3	1	9
Language and literacy	7	4	2	13
Separation and divorce	1	2	0	3
Talking to children re: illness and death	1	3	1	5
Starting kindergarten	5	Not Asked	1	6
Internet safety	4	4	1	9
Breastfeeding	2	Not Asked	0	2
Car Seat safety	4	0	0	4
Sibling rivalry	4	3	2	9
Mental health	2	4	0	6
Balancing work and family	7	4	1	12
Parenting on your own	1	2	0	3
Helping your child feel good about themselves	6	2	2	10

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	3	1	1	5
Parenting support group	4	2	1	7
Parent fair	1	0	0	1
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	1	1	0	2
Newsletters	6	1	1	8
Internet or online learning	6	5	2	13
Through child's school or child care	6	3	1	10
Books	1	0	0	1
Videos	1	0	1	2
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	4	4	1	9
Pamphlet	2	1	0	3

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: BLUEWATER

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	10	2	6	18
Parent and child play groups	16	Not Asked	8	24
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	9	1	5	15
Physical activities and recreation	17	2	8	27
Music programs	10	1	6	17
Dance programs	7	1	3	11
Art program	3	1	4	8
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	1	Not Asked	1
Child health and development services	4	Not Asked	0	4
Early identification and screening programs	2	0	2	4
Speech and language services	3	Not Asked	1	4
Pre/post-natal services	5	Not Asked	0	5
Parenting workshops/education services	0	0	0	0
Children's mental health services	4	0	1	5
Community events for families	7	Not Asked	6	13
Community nutrition programs	3	1	0	4

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	14	Not Asked	5	19
Nutrition	15	2	8	25
Sleep	13	0	6	19
Language and literacy	18	1	8	27
Separation and divorce	2	0	1	3
Talking to children re: illness and death	5	2	2	9
Starting kindergarten	10	Not Asked	8	18
Internet safety	5	1	6	12
Breastfeeding	5	Not Asked	2	7
Car Seat safety	8	0	1	9
Sibling rivalry	3	1	5	9
Mental health	9	2	3	14
Balancing work and family	14	2	6	22
Parenting on your own	5	1	0	6
Helping your child feel good about themselves	13	2	8	23

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	3	1	3	7
Parenting support group	5	0	2	7
Parent fair	0	1	0	1
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	6	0	0	6
Newsletters	10	2	5	17
Internet or online learning	14	1	9	24
Through child's school or child care	7	2	3	12
Books	4	1	2	7
Videos	2	0	1	3
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	16	1	9	26
Pamphlet	7	0	1	8

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: CENTRAL HURON

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	12	3	4	19
Parent and child play groups	19	Not Asked	6	25
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	9	0	4	13
Physical activities and recreation	22	3	9	34
Music programs	11	2	2	15
Dance programs	6	2	2	10
Art program	3	2	4	9
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	3	Not Asked	3
Child health and development services	9	Not Asked	2	11
Early identification and screening programs	1	0	3	4
Speech and language services	5	Not Asked	2	7
Pre/post-natal services	3	Not Asked	2	5
Parenting workshops/education services	5	0	0	5
Children's mental health services	4	3	1	8
Community events for families	10	Not Asked	6	16
Community nutrition programs	11	2	3	16

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	18	Not Asked	5	23
Nutrition	21	4	7	32
Sleep	17	0	4	21
Language and literacy	14	2	9	25
Separation and divorce	1	0	0	1
Talking to children re: illness and death	5	2	3	10
Starting kindergarten	18	Not Asked	4	22
Internet safety	9	4	7	20
Breastfeeding	6	Not Asked	0	6
Car Seat safety	12	1	4	17
Sibling rivalry	9	4	6	19
Mental health	12	2	3	17
Balancing work and family	18	2	7	27
Parenting on your own	3	3	2	8
Helping your child feel good about themselves	17	4	8	29

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	11	0	3	14
Parenting support group	9	2	5	16
Parent fair	2	0	2	4
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	10	0	4	14
Newsletters	12	2	5	19
Internet or online learning	21	2	9	32
Through child's school or child care	12	1	6	19
Books	9	0	4	13
Videos	6	1	3	10
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	19	2	6	27
Pamphlet	10	1	3	14

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: GODERICH

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	11	12	3	26
Parent and child play groups	15	Not Asked	8	23
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	10	5	4	19
Physical activities and recreation	18	13	6	37
Music programs	11	13	5	29
Dance programs	4	8	3	15
Art program	5	11	1	17
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	5	Not Asked	5
Child health and development services	1	Not Asked	0	1
Early identification and screening programs	2	1	0	3
Speech and language services	3	Not Asked	1	4
Pre/post-natal services	2	Not Asked	1	3
Parenting workshops/education services	2	1	3	6
Children's mental health services	2	4	2	8
Community events for families	8	Not Asked	4	12
Community nutrition programs	6	2	4	12

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	13	Not Asked	6	19
Nutrition	15	13	7	35
Sleep	10	4	4	18
Language and literacy	16	12	7	35
Separation and divorce	2	3	0	5
Talking to children re: illness and death	6	10	1	17
Starting kindergarten	14	Not Asked	5	19
Internet safety	6	15	6	27
Breastfeeding	4	Not Asked	1	5
Car Seat safety	6	6	1	13
Sibling rivalry	7	4	2	13
Mental health	10	11	6	27
Balancing work and family	13	12	6	31
Parenting on your own	4	2	2	8
Helping your child feel good about themselves	12	13	8	33

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	10	1	6	17
Parenting support group	10	1	4	15
Parent fair	4	3	2	9
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	6	4	4	14
Newsletters	6	8	5	19
Internet or online learning	18	9	6	33
Through child's school or child care	8	8	7	23
Books	5	6	7	18
Videos	6	4	4	14
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	14	10	6	30
Pamphlet	6	6	5	17

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: HOWICK

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	2	0	0	2
Parent and child play groups	2	Not Asked	0	2
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	0	0	0	0
Physical activities and recreation	2	0	0	2
Music programs	1	0	0	1
Dance programs	0	0	0	0
Art program	1	0	0	1
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	0	Not Asked	0
Child health and development services	0	Not Asked	0	0
Early identification and screening programs	0	0	0	0
Speech and language services	0	Not Asked	0	0
Pre/post-natal services	0	Not Asked	0	0
Parenting workshops/education services	0	0	0	0
Children's mental health services	0	0	0	0
Community events for families	2	Not Asked	0	2
Community nutrition programs	0	0	0	0

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	2	Not Asked	0	2
Nutrition	2	0	0	2
Sleep	2	0	0	2
Language and literacy	2	0	0	2
Separation and divorce	0	0	0	0
Talking to children re: illness and death	1	0	0	1
Starting kindergarten	1	Not Asked	0	1
Internet safety	1	0	0	1
Breastfeeding	1	Not Asked	0	1
Car Seat safety	1	0	0	1
Sibling rivalry	1	0	0	1
Mental health	0	0	0	0
Balancing work and family	0	0	0	0
Parenting on your own	0	0	0	0
Helping your child feel good about themselves	0	0	0	0

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	1	0	0	1
Parenting support group	0	0	0	0
Parent fair	1	0	0	1
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	2	0	0	2
Newsletters	1	0	0	1
Internet or online learning	2	0	0	2
Through child's school or child care	1	0	0	1
Books	0	0	0	0
Videos	0	0	0	0
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	2	0	0	2
Pamphlet	2	0	0	2

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: HURON EAST

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	9	2	5	16
Parent and child play groups	11	Not Asked	6	17
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	9	1	4	14
Physical activities and recreation	15	3	8	26
Music programs	9	2	2	13
Dance programs	5	0	6	11
Art program	5	1	3	9
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	1	Not Asked	1
Child health and development services	5	Not Asked	3	8
Early identification and screening programs	2	1	3	6
Speech and language services	3	Not Asked	4	7
Pre/post-natal services	4	Not Asked	0	4
Parenting workshops/education services	2	1	4	7
Children's mental health services	2	2	3	7
Community events for families	11	Not Asked	7	18
Community nutrition programs	3	1	2	6

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	11	Not Asked	6	17
Nutrition	13	3	9	25
Sleep	13	1	10	24
Language and literacy	16	1	8	25
Separation and divorce	0	0	1	1
Talking to children re: illness and death	4	3	9	16
Starting kindergarten	7	Not Asked	4	11
Internet safety	6	3	4	13
Breastfeeding	3	Not Asked	0	3
Car Seat safety	5	0	1	6
Sibling rivalry	8	3	8	19
Mental health	15	2	5	22
Balancing work and family	14	2	10	26
Parenting on your own	1	0	0	1
Helping your child feel good about themselves	15	3	8	26

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	5	0	6	11
Parenting support group	4	1	4	9
Parent fair	1	0	1	2
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	2	1	1	4
Newsletters	12	1	4	17
Internet or online learning	13	3	8	24
Through child's school or child care	10	2	6	18
Books	6	0	2	8
Videos	5	0	3	8
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	10	1	10	21
Pamphlet	3	0	4	7

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: MORRIS-TURNBERRY

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	2	2	0	4
Parent and child play groups	4	Not Asked	2	6
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	2	0	1	3
Physical activities and recreation	3	2	2	7
Music programs	1	1	2	4
Dance programs	0	0	0	0
Art program	1	2	0	3
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	1	Not Asked	1
Child health and development services	0	Not Asked	0	0
Early identification and screening programs	1	0	0	1
Speech and language services	1	Not Asked	0	1
Pre/post-natal services	1	Not Asked	0	1
Parenting workshops/education services	1	1	1	3
Children's mental health services	0	1	0	1
Community events for families	3	Not Asked	2	5
Community nutrition programs	0	0	0	0

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	2	Not Asked	1	3
Nutrition	2	2	2	6
Sleep	3	1	0	4
Language and literacy	3	2	2	7
Separation and divorce	0	0	0	0
Talking to children re: illness and death	1	1	2	4
Starting kindergarten	2	Not Asked	2	4
Internet safety	2	2	0	4
Breastfeeding	2	Not Asked	0	2
Car Seat safety	2	0	0	2
Sibling rivalry	1	1	2	4
Mental health	2	2	0	4
Balancing work and family	3	1	2	6
Parenting on your own	0	0	1	1
Helping your child feel good about themselves	3	2	0	5

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	1	0	0	1
Parenting support group	2	0	0	2
Parent fair	0	1	0	1
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	1	0	0	1
Newsletters	2	2	2	6
Internet or online learning	4	2	2	8
Through child's school or child care	3	1	1	5
Books	2	1	0	3
Videos	1	0	1	2
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	2	2	1	5
Pamphlet	1	2	1	4

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: NORTH HURON

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	7	2	3	12
Parent and child play groups	13	Not Asked	4	17
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	8	1	3	12
Physical activities and recreation	17	4	4	25
Music programs	7	3	0	10
Dance programs	4	2	1	7
Art program	2	2	0	4
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	2	Not Asked	2
Child health and development services	4	Not Asked	1	5
Early identification and screening programs	3	1	1	5
Speech and language services	5	Not Asked	0	5
Pre/post-natal services	4	Not Asked	0	4
Parenting workshops/education services	4	0	1	5
Children's mental health services	2	1	1	4
Community events for families	5	Not Asked	1	6
Community nutrition programs	5	2	0	7

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	13	Not Asked	0	13
Nutrition	13	4	3	20
Sleep	12	3	1	16
Language and literacy	10	2	3	15
Separation and divorce	0	1	0	1
Talking to children re: illness and death	6	0	4	10
Starting kindergarten	11	Not Asked	2	13
Internet safety	6	3	4	13
Breastfeeding	5	Not Asked	0	5
Car Seat safety	8	2	0	10
Sibling rivalry	1	3	2	6
Mental health	11	3	1	15
Balancing work and family	11	2	3	16
Parenting on your own	5	1	0	6
Helping your child feel good about themselves	11	3	4	18

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	9	1	2	12
Parenting support group	6	1	2	9
Parent fair	1	1	0	2
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	4	1	2	7
Newsletters	5	3	2	10
Internet or online learning	14	4	3	21
Through child's school or child care	9	1	3	13
Books	6	1	1	8
Videos	7	0	1	8
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	12	1	3	16
Pamphlet	7	2	1	10

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: SOUTH HURON

What programs and services would you and your child like to attend?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Literacy and library programs	9	5	7	21
Parent and child play groups	12	Not Asked	11	23
Licensed child care (centre or home based)	7	3	6	16
Physical activities and recreation	11	6	12	29
Music programs	12	2	8	22
Dance programs	8	1	3	12
Art program	6	2	2	10
Clubs (such as Beavers or Brownies)	Not Asked	1	Not Asked	1
Child health and development services	1	Not Asked	2	3
Early identification and screening programs	0	1	5	6
Speech and language services	1	Not Asked	6	7
Pre/post-natal services	1	Not Asked	0	1
Parenting workshops/education services	2	2	2	6
Children's mental health services	1	2	3	6
Community events for families	6	Not Asked	7	13
Community nutrition programs	3	5	1	9

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

What topics would you like more information about?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Toilet learning	12	Not Asked	6	18
Nutrition	13	6	9	28
Sleep	12	4	7	23
Language and literacy	10	5	12	27
Separation and divorce	0	2	0	2
Talking to children re: illness and death	3	4	9	16
Starting kindergarten	13	Not Asked	7	20
Internet safety	4	3	9	16
Breastfeeding	2	Not Asked	3	5
Car Seat safety	6	1	6	13
Sibling rivalry	5	0	6	11
Mental health	6	5	7	18
Balancing work and family	11	5	9	25
Parenting on your own	1	1	1	3
Helping your child feel good about themselves	12	6	12	30

County of Huron, Social & Property Services Children's Services

Child Care & Early Years Community Plan

How do you like to receive information about parenting topics?	Parents of children aged 0-3.11	Parents of children aged 4-12	Parents of children aged 0-3.11 and 4-12	Total
Parenting classes	2	2	3	7
Parenting support group	6	2	6	14
Parent fair	0	1	4	5
Drop-in office hours with a parenting professional	2	2	4	8
Newsletters	8	2	4	14
Internet or online learning	12	4	13	29
Through child's school or child care	5	2	8	15
Books	6	3	3	12
Videos	5	1	2	8
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	11	4	13	28
Pamphlet	8	1	3	12

APPENDIX I: KIDS FIRST COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT



COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

On behalf of [insert name of organization] _____ I/we confirm the following:

- We are committed to working collaboratively to realize the shared vision for the early years – “All children and families have access to a range of high-quality, inclusive and affordable early years and child care programs and services that are child- and family-centred and contribute to children’s learning, development and well-being.”
- We are committed to providing programs, services and resources that are child and family centred, inclusive and of high quality.
- We will support our staff in their participation in professional learning opportunities in support of the shared vision.
- We will actively participate in collaborative information sharing, planning and implementation activities.
- We value and incorporate evidence-based knowledge, research and best practices (see attached for a partial listing of best practices).
- We ascribe to importance of strong partnerships and to the innovative use of resources and opportunities.

Dated the _____ day of _____ 201__

Signature _____

Name and Title _____

Best Practices

As a member of Kids First Huron Perth we value the adoption of best practices, including the following:

- *Huron Perth Service Coordination Guidelines*: These Guidelines, developed by Kids First, define service coordination as both a philosophy and a process aimed at supporting family-centres, strength-based service planning for families who have children with special or complex needs. Service coordination enables families to achieve and maintain a quality of life consistent with their values, priorities, strengths and preferences.
- *Red Flags – A Quick Reference Guide for Early Years Professionals in Huron and Perth Counties*: The guide has been designed by the Perth District Health Unit and the Huron County Health Unit as a quick reference guide to assess children up to the age of six years for growth and development by domains. It also includes other areas that impact child health, growth, and development due to the dynamics of parent-child interaction, such as perinatal mood disorder, abuse, etc. The purpose therefore of the guide is to promote the early identification of children who are in need of additional resources to meet their developmental milestones. The goal is to ensure that all children in Perth County and Huron County are able to develop to their optimal developmental potential.
- *No Wrong Door*: The Kids First No Wrong Door approach to accessing services is based on the principle that every door in a child and family system should be the right door. In practical terms, wherever a family first interacts with the child and family system – and regardless of the type of service being provided – family members can be connected quickly and effectively to a broad range of other services.
- *Baby-Friendly Initiative*: The Baby-Friendly Initiative acknowledges that breastfeeding is the healthiest choice for infants, mothers, and families. The Perth District Health Unit and the Huron County Health Unit have both received the Baby-Friendly designation given their actions to encourage and help women to successfully breastfeed their babies.
- *Calling All Three Year Olds (CATYO)*: CATYO kindergarten registration serves as another checkpoint to identify developmental concerns for all three year old children in Huron County and Perth County prior to school entry the following September. A strength of CATYO continues to be the long lasting partnership of health units, school boards and community early childhood program and service providers to plan, implement and resource CATYO.

- *18 month enhanced well-baby visit:* The provincially initiated 18 month well baby visit provides an opportunity for primary care practitioners to engage in a more extensive discussion with parents about enhancing healthy child development; to conduct a more in-depth review and evaluation of the child's current stage of development; and to provide information and referrals that will help parents connect with community programs and services.
- *Read to Baby Bundle:* Presented to parents by nurses and midwives, the 'Read to Baby' Bundle is designed to engage little minds, bring support and tools to parents and help nurture the bond between baby, mommy and daddy. The Bundle was developed and is funded by Kids First Huron Perth in collaboration with the Foundation for Education Perth Huron.
- *Circle of Security:* Circle of Security is an international, evidence-based intervention program for parents and children that draws a clear link between child development, attachment research, emotional co-regulation and learning.
- *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years:* A professional learning resource guide, produced by the Government of Ontario, about learning through relationships for those working with young children and families. It is intended to support pedagogy and curriculum/program development in the early years.

www.myPerthHuron.ca/index.php: An online resource (developed by the United Way of Perth-Huron's Social Research and Planning Council) to help track the well-being of our communities, where we are doing well, and where our communities may be facing challenges. Information is provided on eight domains – community vitality, democratic engagement, education, the environment, healthy populations, leisure and culture, living standards, and time standards. Where possible, local data from agencies and governments is available about our communities.

APPENDIX J: RESULTS OF BEFORE AND/OR AFTER SCHOOL SURVEYS BY PROGRAM

The children were asked to rate each statement 'Yes', 'So-So', or 'No'. The figures in the Table that follow represent the percentage that said 'Yes' while 'N' refers to the number of completed surveys.

	Program One N=7	Program Two N=5	Program Three N=13	Program Four N=13	Program Five N=9	Program Six N=14	Program Seven N=61	Program Eight N=8	Program Nine N=8	Program Ten N=20
The snack I get is good.	50%	60%	85%	45%	38%	66%	67%	87%	87%	68%
I feel safe.	100%	100%	92%	75%	71%	71%	91%	100%	87%	95%
I can choose what I want to do.	100%	40%	78%	31%	62%	69%	83%	100%	100%	70%
I like our room.	75%	60%	92%	42%	62%	85%	83%	100%	87%	100%
I get to play.	83%	75%	92%	77%	87%	83%	97%	100%	100%	100%
I get to do things outside.	83%	60%	92%	92%	100%	92%	82%	100%	87%	95%
I can relax if I want to.	75%	60%	67%	69%	78%	85%	60%	100%	100%	75%
The leaders listen to what I have to say.	100%	100%	85%	54%	60%	75%	88%	100%	100%	90%
I feel included.	75%	75%	85%	64%	67%	67%	85%	87%	87%	85%
The leaders in my program care about me.	100%	100%	85%	85%	89%	92%	95%	100%	100%	90%
I like coming to the program.	75%	75%	61%	61%	44%	61%	71%	100%	100%	90%

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ADDENDUM

Update on the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system (CWELCC) growth plan – Enrolment and Growth in 2023

As announced in December 2022, beginning in 2023 the Ministry of Education has shifted child care expansion from open enrolment to a directed growth plan to create new child care spaces. A directed growth approach will ensure funding is available to support new spaces in communities most in need of access to high-quality, affordable child care.

As the service system manager, the County of Huron has developed a five-year directed growth plan that aligns with provincial directives and space targets while meeting the needs of communities across the region. This plan will be updated annually to best reflect the changing needs of our communities.

The Ministry of Education has provided municipalities with space targets for CWELCC-funded growth. Huron County has committed to expand the CWELCC system by 175 community-based locations between 2022-2026.

Approvals for growth are provided to operators by the Children's Services Division in alignment with our growth plans and space targets and in accordance with the Ministry of Education CWELCC guidelines for directed growth.

In Huron County, the focus for directed growth expansion will leverage existing child care centres in more populated areas to expand in place. There will also be exploration of under served regions in the North and recruitment for home child care providers in those regions. This plan builds on our existing five-year service plan and will be integrated into our service plan currently under development.