

Consolidated Clause in Policy and Finance Committee Report 3, which was considered by City Council on April 25, 26 and 27, 2006.

3

**Proposed Structure, Terms of Reference and Membership
for the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee**

City Council on April 25, 26 and 27, 2006, adopted this Clause without amendment.

The Policy and Finance Committee recommends that City Council adopt the staff recommendations contained in the Recommendations Section of the report (March 27, 2006) from Deputy City Manager Sue Corke subject to amending the recommendations and the Terms of Reference to provide that the name of the committee be amended to read "Children's Services Advisory Committee", so that the Recommendations now reads as follows:

"It is recommended that:

- (1) the proposed structure, terms of reference and membership of the Children's Services Advisory Committee, attached as Appendix 1, be approved;**
- (2) the Children's Services Advisory Committee develop and submit a detailed work plan to the Community Services Committee; and**
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto."**

The Policy and Finance Committee submits the report (March 27, 2006) from Deputy City Manager, Sue Corke:

Purpose:

This report outlines the proposed structure, terms of reference and membership for the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement :

There are no direct financial implications to this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the proposed structure, terms of reference and membership of the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee, attached as Appendix 1, be approved;
- (2) the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee develop and submit a detailed work plan to Community Services Committee; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

At its meeting of July 19, 20, 21 and 26, 2005, Council adopted the Best Generation Yet (BGY), a framework for future development of children's programs and services in Toronto developed by the Children's Working Group of the Mayor's Roundtable on Children, Youth and Education. In adopting the BGY framework report, Council provided direction to implement Recommendation 15 of the BGY, which states:

(15) "In order to support our vision of healthy outcomes for the children of the "Best Generation Yet" through expanded and integrated children's services, the City will establish an Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee to monitor and advise on the implementation of the 10-year plan. As well, the Advisory Committee would provide partners with an opportunity to obtain timely feedback on major initiatives that could be used as part of their respective submissions to their decision –making bodies (i.e., City Council, Provincial Cabinet or the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto District Catholic School Board).

The Mayor's Roundtable on Children, Youth and Education has accomplished its mandate and held its last meeting December 1, 2005. At its last meeting, the Roundtable reviewed a progress report on Best Generation Yet (Appendix 2) which outlines the initiatives that are or soon will be in place to support the continued development of BGY. In consideration of the Best Generation Yet Progress Report at its meeting of January 31, February 1 and February 2, 2006, Council requested the Deputy City Manager submit a report to the April 11, 2006 meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee with a proposed structure, Terms of Reference and membership for the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee as recommended in Best Generation Yet.

Comments:

In support of integrated planning and delivery of services to children and families, Best Generation Yet proposes an Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee to monitor and advise the Mayor and City Council on policies, programs, strategies and actions to achieve a comprehensive system of integrated, inclusive and high quality services that will support best outcomes for Toronto's children; including monitoring and advising the City on the progress of BGY. Integrated planning is happening within the City divisions that provide services to children, as directed in BGY. City Divisions are developing a joint service plan to inform the

2007 budget. Integrated planning and joint collaboration is also happening with external partners including school boards and community agencies serving children and families. Best Start Phase 1 has involved integrated planning in all of its pieces – the Best Start Service and Transition Plan, the Best Start Infrastructure Plan and the Best Start Plan itself. Toronto First Duty has provided valuable information for planning and integration of early years services that the Best Start Plan has incorporated, and the Best Start Network has enhanced the ability of governments and community organizations to plan together.

With regard to the provision of meeting and appointment support services, the City Clerk's Office has indicated that, as this committee is replacing in part, the Roundtable on Education, Children and Youth, it is appropriate that the City Clerk's Office continue to provide meeting and appointment support services. The Advisory Committee will conduct its meetings in accordance with the Simplified Rules for Advisory Bodies, as was done previously by the Roundtable.

Conclusions:

This report seeks approval of the Proposed Structure, Terms of Reference and Membership Categories for the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee and recommends that the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee report to Community Services Committee on its future work plan.

Contact:

Barbara Jordan, Policy Development Officer, Children's Services Division, Tel: (416) 397-1447
Email: bjordan@csd.toronto.ca

List of Attachments:

Appendix 1 - Proposed Structure, Terms of Reference and Membership Categories of the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee.

Appendix 2 - Best Generation Yet: Progress Report.

Appendix 1

Proposed Structure, Terms of Reference and Membership
of the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee

(A) Purpose:

To monitor and advise the Mayor and City Council on policies, programs, strategies and actions to achieve a comprehensive system of integrated, inclusive and high quality services that will support best outcomes for Toronto's children; including monitoring and advising the City on the progress of BGY.

(B) Standing Committee Alignment:

The Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Mayor and Council through the Community Services Committee and other committees as required.

(C) Composition and Membership:

- (1) The Advisory Committee will be composed of up to 20 members including the Council Lead for Children and two additional members of Council. The remaining members will be from the community and will represent the following groups: school boards, community agencies including associations serving children and families, including services to children with special needs, academia, business, labour, and recreation;
- (2) The Advisory Committee will be chaired by the Council Lead for Children;
- (3) for the first term, the Council members will be the Council Lead for Children, one Council member from Economic Development and Parks Committee and one from Community Services Committee;
- (4) representatives from the following groups will be asked to appoint representatives: Child Care Advisory Committee (CCAC), Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care, Toronto Public Library Board, Toronto Board of Health, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Best Start Network, and Special Needs Advisory. The remaining community members, representing business, labour, etc. will be appointed by the Council Lead for Children; and
- (5) The Advisory Committee may establish working groups as necessary in support of its work.

(D) Term:

- (6) The Advisory Committee will be established and all Council and community members of the Advisory Committee will be appointed for the remainder of the 2003-2006 term of Council. Membership will be reviewed for the new term of Council.

(E) Advisory Committee Role and Procedures:

- (7) The Advisory Committee will conduct its meetings in accordance with the Simplified Rules for Advisory Bodies, established by City Council in September 2004;
- (8) The Advisory Committee will report through Community Services Committee to the Mayor and Council;

- (9) Secretariat services for the membership appointment process and meeting support will be provided by the City Clerk's Office;
- (10) any Advisory Committee advice or recommendations that require implementation, reports or any other action by staff must first be considered by the appropriate standing committee and approved by City Council;
- (11) all Advisory Committee meetings will be open to the public;
- (12) The Advisory Committee may carry out public consultations in support of its work;
- (13) The Advisory Committee will meet a minimum of twice and a maximum of six times a year at the call of the Chair;
- (14) primary policy-related staff support will be provided the Advisory Committee by staff from the Children's Services Division, to assist them in their deliberations and provide expert advice. Additional staff support will be provided by the Interdivisional Staff Team overseeing the implementation of the BGY recommendations; and
- (15) membership on the Advisory Committee is voluntary and a public service. Appointees will not be remunerated and no honoraria will be paid as a result of appointment to the Advisory Committee.

Appendix 2

Best Generation Yet: Progress Report

Regardless of the socio-economic status of his/her family and community, every child has the right to childhood experiences which promote the chances of developing into a healthy, well-adjusted and productive adult. (Toronto Vision for Children).

Introduction:

Working from the *Toronto Vision for Children*, in July, 2005, Toronto adopted *The Best Generation Yet (BGY)*, a framework for the future development of children's programs and services in Toronto developed by the Children's Working Group of the Mayor's Roundtable on Children, Youth and Education. In approving the *BGY* recommendations, Council set the City on the road to achieving "a comprehensive system of integrated, inclusive and high-quality services for children that will support best outcomes for Toronto's children."

The *Best Generation Yet* provides a framework for the expansion and integration of Toronto's services for children and for the implementation of initiatives such as *Best Start*. It provides broad direction as to how we will work to integrate our own services as well as how we will develop and implement new programs, often in partnership with community agencies and other

governments. Since *BGY* includes children aged 0-12, it also provides a platform for new areas of advocacy and program expansion such as middle years children – those aged 6 to 12, who are currently left out of the new federal/provincial funding. The ongoing progress of *BGY* will be guided and monitored by a new body, the Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee.

City staff from all divisions that provide resources to support children and their families have met over the last four months to begin to put the building blocks in place to develop the *Best Generation Yet* ten year plan. This document is a progress report to the Roundtable. It outlines the initiatives that are or soon will be in place as the work to implement *BGY* continues.

Progress Towards the Best Generation Yet:

The main principles for the *Best Generation Yet* were developed by the Children's Working Group of the Mayor's Roundtable as the foundation for the *BGY* framework document (Appendix 1). These principles still stand and will continue to guide the City in the implementation of policies and programs for children. In the process of beginning to work on the ten-year plan, staff used the principles to form the goals and objectives for *BGY* implementation across all City divisions and in communities with our partner governments and organizations.

The objectives and our progress to date are highlighted below:

(1) Funding and Service Delivery:

Objectives:

Toronto will:

- (i) provide high-quality, age appropriate programs and services to children and families;
- (ii) expand the current services for children and families;
- (iii) ensure that services are inclusive of all children and families with special supports provided to children in special circumstances including but not limited to ability, socio-economic status, family structure, race or ethnicity; and
- (iv) improve equity of access to services.

Actions:

BGY lays out a framework that supports the City of Toronto's expansion and integration of programs and services for children and families including:

- (i) implementation of the Best Start Service and Transition Plan and Best Start Infrastructure Transition Plan, adopted by Council in October, 2005 and resulting in the creation of 2,145 new child care spaces by March 31, 2006 and a further 3,710 new child care spaces by March 2008 for children aged 0-5;

- (ii) as the City implements the Best Start plans, developing neighbourhood-based children's services hubs. The evaluation results of Toronto First Duty provide direction to this work;
- (iii) with 100 percent City funding, establishing innovative after school programs for children age 6-12 in priority communities, providing youth employment and high quality after-school recreation and care;
- (iv) increasing opportunities for participation in all programs so that children with special needs can participate fully. For example, funding for Special Needs Resourcing for children with special needs will increase by 50 percent in 2005-06 and double by 2008;
- (v) through Parks, Forestry and Recreation, committing to a goal of increasing the number of children registered in recreation programs by 20 percent;
- (vi) expanding public health services to meet the needs of Toronto's pregnant women, children and families in the areas of Reproductive Health, Child Health, Dental Health, Injury Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Healthy Environments and Preschool Speech and Language and Infant Hearing Programs;
- (vii) committing to the goal of expanding library services and outreach so that 80 percent of Toronto's children have a library card and visit the library at least once a month;
- (viii) expanding affordable housing: 25 percent of the 3,000 affordable housing units developed over the last five years can house families with children; new funding under the Affordable Housing Program will provide both new and renovated units and housing allowances for families with children; and
- (ix) expanding services in shelters and hostels that will enhance all aspects of well-being of pregnant women, infants, preschool and school-age children temporarily living in emergency shelters.

(2) Joint Planning and Collaboration:

Objectives:

Toronto will:

- (i) plan and consult with stakeholders and government and community partners;
- (ii) work towards integration of services for children and families; and
- (iii) actively work to continuously engage the community in the planning of services and programs.

Actions:

The City continues to work with school boards, community agencies, communities to plan, develop and implement services for children and families through such actions as:

- (i) the commitment to establish an Integrated Children's Services Advisory Committee;
- (ii) Council adoption of the use of EDI as benchmark to measure the outcomes of children in Toronto;
- (iii) cross-divisional planning for children's services to improve the outcomes of Toronto's children;
- (iv) ongoing monitoring of our progress in integrating delivery of services for children through the Children's Report Card;
- (v) City leading the planning process to implement Best Start and chairing the Best Start Network;
- (vi) through the Best Start Network, developing, with the school boards, high-quality child care space to support expanded and, where possible, integrated services for children;
- (vii) developing a joint plan for children's services to inform the 2007 budget. The plan will be based on *BGY* goals and objectives as well as Best Start implementation, existing divisional strategic and service plans and will contain outcomes, indicators and costings. The joint service planning process will be ongoing to support subsequent City budgets and will form the basis for the *BGY* ten-year plan;
- (viii) developing an interdivisional process, such as an ongoing inventory, for monitoring the progress of integrated delivery of services for children;
- (ix) creating opportunities for integrated services for children by requiring, as a first step, divisions delivering services for children that are building or renovating space to canvass other divisions to assess the possibilities for developing facilities for integrated programs. The charette, implemented in October of 2005, is an example of this type of joint initiative; and
- (x) developing a process (a "children's lens") to assess all activities and policies recommended to Council to determine their impact on children.

(3) Advocacy and Community Engagement:

Objectives:

Toronto will:

- (i) advocate for increased funding to provide more and improved services for children; and

- (ii) communicate the importance of services for the City's children and families.

Actions:

The City of Toronto and its agencies such as Toronto Public Health will continue to advocate to the provincial and federal governments to ensure that children's issues are a priority and that the City has the flexibility to use funding in ways that meet needs of Toronto's children. In the short term, the advocacy will focus on:

- (i) recognition of the needs of middle years children (ages 6-12) and advocacy for increased resources for this age group from provincial and federal governments; and
- (ii) a symposium in 2006 on strategies to promote high-quality, integrated programs for all children, particularly addressing the issues of the middle years and integrated out-of-school programs.

Conclusion:

Over 25 years of research tell us that good children's programs enhance childhood experience. In some cases, not only are they good for children, they enable parents to work or attend school. At times, they make the difference in succeeding or not in later life. Organizations such as the OECD, UNICEF and the World Bank have made strong arguments for investment in programs promoting sound education, development and care for children across all program sectors.

The achievement of the *Best Generation Yet* goals and objectives hinges on the availability of funding that will enable city divisions to implement the actions outlined above. While many of the programs are cost-shared with other governments (primarily, the Province of Ontario), expansion of programs will mean that there will be a future net increased cost to the City.

Integrating services for children will mean intensified co-operation on the part of all governments and children's services organizations both on a City-wide basis and in neighbourhoods. The *Best Start Network* is a strong first step in this regard. We have learned from *Toronto First Duty* that the creation of integrated hubs takes time, community readiness and resources to support the progress towards integration. Toronto will continue to count on increased resources from other governments and enhanced collaboration to support the healthy development of the best generation of children yet. We will continue to work with our government partners and our strong network of community organizations to ensure that all children in Toronto thrive.