

Report SSR-SS-07-16

To: Chair Burley and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Barbara Fedy, Director of Social Services
Meeting Date: June 15, 2016
Subject: **Thames Valley Children's Centre Speech and Language Service Agreement**
Status: Adopted as presented in resolution SSC50-16 by Grey County Council July 5, 2016

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS The County of Grey received notice that Grey Bruce Health Unit will no longer be providing speech and language services to families and children in Grey County;

AND WHEREAS Grey County Social Services staff have met with representatives from Thames Valley Children's Centre who will assume the provision of speech and language services from the Public Health Unit effective July 1, 2016;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report SSR-SS-07-16 be received;

AND FURTHER THAT approval be granted for the County of Grey to enter into a Service Agreement for Speech and Language Services with Thames Valley Children's Centre.

Background

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has provided written notice to Grey County Social Services indicating that they would be no longer be directly providing speech and language services due to changes in the health unit mandate. Staff were advised that the intention was to transfer the Integrated Preschool Speech and Language Services in Grey Bruce to Thames Valley Children's Centre effective July 1, 2016.

Staff have met with representatives from the Grey Bruce Health Unit and the Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) in May 2016 to ensure the services would continue

without disruption. Although the main administration offices for TVCC are located in London, commitment was received that the agency would deliver the program from their existing offices in Bruce and Grey. There are a host of preschool services already provided by TVCC throughout Grey and Bruce Counties at a variety of locations and this new model of delivery for speech and language services will allow for a more integrated service delivery model for children and their families.

Funding for the Integrated Preschool Speech and Language Services is provided through a variety of funding streams, including the Ministry of Education through the Special Needs and Core Funding allocation. The Counties of Grey and Bruce have been providing funding for this program to the Grey Bruce Health Unit and Grey's commitment through a service agreement has been \$33,639 annually. Bruce County contributes funding as well, with the combined amount resulting in a portion of the total funding needs for this program.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/Information Technology Considerations

There are no new staffing or IT considerations associated with this report. There are no additional funding considerations as funding received from Ministry of Education in the amount of \$33,639 will be redirected to the Thames Valley Children's Centre. Legal considerations are included through the agreement as attached.

Link to Strategic Goals/Priorities

Continuity of this program is important to the families and children in Grey County. Contracting with a service provider supports the goal of listening and working together through collaborating with the public, stakeholders and other governments to improve the delivery of county services. It also ensures achieving excellence in governance and service as programs are inclusive, accessible and reflective of the diversity of the population.

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted by,

Barbara Fedy
Director, Social Services

Director Sign Off: *Barbara Fedy*

