

Report to Council

Report Title: Brockton Child Care Re-opening

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor

Department: Child Care

Date: June 16, 2020

Report Number: BCCC2020-04 **File Number:** C11BC, P03

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BCCC2020-04 – Brockton Child Care Centre Re-opening, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The Province of Ontario announced on Tuesday afternoon (June 9th) that it will allow child care operators to re-open starting Friday, June 12, 2020, provided that they meet guidelines in the [Operational Guidance During COVID-19 for Child Care Re-Opening](#) requirements recently released by the Ministry of Education.

Included in the Provincial announcement, was that Emergency Child Care services will discontinue effective June 26, 2020.

Developed in consultation with Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health and medical leaders at The Hospital for Sick Children, the [Operational Guidance During COVID-19 for Child Care Re-Opening](#) includes the following requirements:

- Children and staff will be limited to groups of 10 or less
- All staff and children must be screened daily prior to entering the building
- Anyone feeling unwell must stay home
- Providers must have a COVID-19 response plan if a staff member or child is exposed to the virus
- Providers must keep daily records of all attendees to support contact tracing
- Thorough cleaning of the centre before opening and throughout the day

- Permitting only "essential" visitors
- Pick-up and drop-off protocols that facilitate physical distancing
- Mandatory training, reporting and support from local medical officers of health prior to reopening

Analysis:

Re-opening the Brockton Child Care Centre and providing child care safely for the children in our community is a priority. In consultation with Grey Bruce Public Health and in consultation with Licensed Child Care Operators across the county we are working together to ensure the new guidelines and enhanced public health measures are in place before we begin providing child care.

Bringing our child care staff back to work is a priority. Prior to opening all written COVID related policies will need to be approved by the Ministry. Staff are working on them now based on the recent release of the guideline document. Staff will be brought back in stages to ensure the centre is ready and staff are trained, comfortable and confident with all new policies, procedures and protocols. We are preparing to welcome families back starting July 6th, 2020. This is a tentative guideline. Any number of factors could delay the re-opening. This target will allow staff time to ensure all design and safety protocols are managed, implemented and documented to ensure the safety of both staff and children.

A letter has went out to the families indicating the tentative opening date. A survey will also be conducted to determine child care needs to accommodate the most families possible in accordance within the approved guidelines. A priority must be given to full-time registrations (Monday to Friday). This is due to Provincial cohort and staff requirements. The opportunity will then be available to slot in and accept part time registrations as we are able.

We will do our very best to be transparent and provide updates as they are known and keep families informed with any potential impacts.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Additional staff will be required daily for cleaning and screening protocols. Less children will be permitted in the center per classroom than pre-COVID. The financial impacts are not clear at this time until further

scheduling and discussions with families occur. It is anticipated that additional provincial funding may be available to accommodate the lower revenue and additional staff required to open.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer



Sharon Cross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor