



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee

MINUTES

Date: May 13, 2025
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Wordofa

Regrets: Councillor Nijjar

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Mandy Koroniak - Manager of Children's Services, John Ritz - Supervisor Homelessness and Housing Stability, Jeff Wilson – Housing Manager, Miranda Franken - Council Clerk Secretary

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Nijjar provided regrets for this meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Respectful Conduct Statement

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence

from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the May 13, 2025 Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Manager of Children's Services

4.1 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Update and Directed Growth Priorities (SOC25-007)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Update and Directed Growth Priorities" (SOC25-007), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services welcomed the new Manager of Children's Services who provided an overview of the report highlighting the following:

- the report outlining updates to implementation of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (CWELCC);
- the 2025 maximum daily parent fee for eligible children under 6 years old reduced to \$22;
- the Provincial introduction of a new cost based funding formula, representing a shift in funding of licensed childcare with new accountability for Childcare Operators and Service System Managers;
- on March 31, 2025, the Province having communicated recalibrated growth targets for spaces to be enrolled into CWELCC;
- Stratford saw the reduction of 108 spaces and associated reduction of start up and operational funding;
- growth targets identifying 461 spaces to be added by the end of 2026;
- there having been an announcement of Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC) Infrastructure Fund for Service System Managers,

with this being the first major community based capital funding made available since CWELCC implementation;

- Stratford having received \$1.6 million through this funding;
- the funding being for centre based, community based, not for profit programs or programs directly operated by Service System Manager in areas or populations being underserved;
- CWELCC expansion to be in alignment with the Service System Manager directed growth plan;
- prioritization in accordance with current rates of access to licensed childcare; and
- all municipalities currently falling below the Provincial stated target of an overall access rate of 37% for children ages 0-5.

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Update and Directed Growth Priorities" (SOC25-007), be received for information.

Carried

5. Report of the Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability

5.1 Homelessness and Housing Stability Update (SOC25-006)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness and Housing Stability Update" (SOC25-006), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Homelessness and Housing Stability Supervisor provided an overview of the report highlighting the following:

Councillor Wordofa joined the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

- The City of Stratford working collaboratively with community agencies towards the shared goal of ending homelessness;
- key positions having been created such as the Community Developer positions in St. Marys and North Perth, the Community Safety and Well Being By-law Officer position and the Community Paramedic Program in partnership with the Perth County Mobile Integrated Health Team; and

- implementation of Homeless Individuals and Family Information System (HIFIS) to better share information between agencies for individuals being served by multiple agencies and to streamline service delivery to prioritize individual needs.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness and Housing Stability Update" (SOC25-006), be received for information.

Carried

6. Department Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services provided an overview of the metrics reflected in the variance report for the first quarter (Q1) of 2025.

Discussion occurred between Sub-committee and staff. Highlights of the discussion included:

- a Member noting there were over 300 monthly maintenance requests and asked if these are new monthly requests;
- staff noting these are new monthly requests with the number being reflective of aging buildings, continued maintenance, routine clean up from winter and summer preparation;
- the work being done by three maintenance repair people and external contactor support;
- life safety work being done within 1 day, and then work prioritized by 3, 7 or 30 days;
- a work order being created by the maintenance team for each task required;
- a Member asked if statistics are shared amongst other, similarly sized, municipalities and staff noted Ontario Works (OW) statistics are accessible with regional and Provincial OW meetings held to identify trends; and
- at present, Perth County having fewer job openings with the economic state having a larger impact than in Grey, Bruce or Huron.

7. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is June 10, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:46 P.M.