

CHILD CARE STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

January 30, 2012

Introduction

The Child Care Strategy for New Westminster (February 16, 2009) defined the City's role in developing a comprehensive child care system and recommended 21 actions over three years in support of developing such a system.

Regarding the City's role, it stated:

The City of New Westminster is committed to being a leader and an active partner with the senior levels of government, the School District, businesses, child care providers, faith organizations, parents and the community in developing and maintaining a comprehensive child care system. A comprehensive child care system is one that includes the provision of quality programs that are accessible and affordable.

As part of Recommendation #2 of the Child Care Strategy (herein referred to as the strategy), it called for the establishment of an Implementation Group to assist in the implementation of the strategy and to prepare an annual report on the progress in implementing the strategy. It also called for the examination of child care related issues or situations that may have arisen since the preparation of the strategy.

The Child Care Strategy Task Group, whom helped prepare the strategy, incorporated this recommendation for two reasons: (1) to build in an accountability component through monitoring and reporting; and (2) to ensure that the strategy remains relevant and responsive in light of unforeseen issues or situations. It was also a recognition of the fact that the earlier 'Caring for Children' Child Care Strategy for New Westminster (1995), while comprehensive and forward thinking, did not achieve many of its objectives as there was no City staff person assigned to implement it and there was little follow-up to determine if actions were actually implemented.

Progress Summary

This report was prepared by the City's Social Planner, with direction and input by members of the New Westminster Early Childhood Development Committee's Child Care Action Team. Please note that this direction and input does not constitute endorsement of the strategy or the progress report by the organizations in which these members represent.

This report provides a progress update on the implementation of the recommended actions. For each action, it provides a written description of the progress made in implementing that action, along with an indication as to whether it has been fully, partially or not implemented (starting on page 7). With regard to those actions that have been partially or not implemented, an explanation is provided as to why?

Of the 17 actions in Year 1, 15 have been fully implemented and two have been partially implemented; of the two actions in Year 2, one has been fully implemented and one has not been implemented; and of the two actions in Year 3, both have been fully implemented. As such, of the 21 actions in Years 1 to 3, 18 or 85.7% have been fully implemented.

Based on the actions in Year 1, the main action that has not been fully implemented is permitting child care operations with up to 16 spaces as an outright use in single detached dwelling districts. On September 12, 2011, a report went to City Council which documented challenges in implementing this action, including resolving issues related to traffic and parking and the uncertainty related to the 2012 BC Building Code. The City's Building Division has advised that any amendment to the Zoning Bylaw should wait until after the release of the 2012 BC Building Code and a review of the implications of the new Code for licensed child care operations in single detached dwellings.

Based on the actions in Year 2, a review of City personnel policies and practices with a view to assisting employees to better balance responsibilities related to work and family, and a review of the child care needs of employees, has yet to be implemented. Such a review process will require the involvement of the City's Human Resources Department and potentially external expertise. To explore this action further, discussions will be held with Human Resources and, based on the outcome; this action may be pursued in Year 3.

In addition to the recommended actions in the strategy, significant progress was made on a number of other actions which support the development of a comprehensive child care system in New Westminster. These actions include:

- amending the City's Zoning Bylaw to remove requirements for suitably landscaped outdoor space for child care facilities, thus making it easier to develop child care facilities in more built-up and commercial areas of the city;
- assisting in the preparation of a proposal for three Neighbourhood Learning Centres as part of the New Westminster Schools Project, two of which will incorporate licensed child care spaces;
- assisting in the preparation of an Eastside Child Development Hub Study, which includes a licensed child care component;
- contacting the Justice Institute of British Columbia to determine if there is interest in developing an on-site child care facility;
- examining the implications arising from the introduction of full school day kindergarten in September 2010 – i.e., what will be the impacts on family, group and school age care programs;
- exempting non-profit child care facilities from in-lieu fees related to parking variances;

- developing the first civic child care facility as part of the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre; and
- realizing a \$100,000 voluntary amenity contribution from Aragon Development Corporation in support of the Child Development Hub, which is anchored by licensed child care, at the Queensborough Community Centre.

Child Care Situation

At the completion of the Child Care Needs Assessment (October 27, 2008), there were 1,198 licensed child care spaces and four registered license not required child care spaces in New Westminster. As of January 30, 2012, there were 1,522 licensed child care spaces and six registered license not required child care spaces in New Westminster. This represented a net increase of 324 licensed and registered license not required child care spaces for the time period in question; which equates to a 27.0% increase.

October 27, 2008 to March 22, 2010

Between October 27, 2008 and March 22, 2010, there was a net increase of 152 licensed child care spaces in New Westminster. This number reflects the 142 group child care (see chart #1) and 35 family child care spaces which were created and the 25 licensed or registered license not required child care spaces which closed.

Chart #1:

Child Care Provider	Sub-Area	Total Spaces	0-36 months	30-60 months	Pre-School	School-Age	Multi-Age
• Core Education and Fine Arts (CEFA)	Downtown	68	36	32	-	-	-
• Graham Montessori – Royal Avenue	Uptown	54	-	24	20	10	-
• Queen Elizabeth Out-of-School Care	Queensborough	20	-	-	-	20	-
		142	36	56	20	30	-

March 23, 2010 and January 30, 2012

Between March 23, 2010 and January 30, 2012, there was a net increase of 172 licensed and registered license not required child care spaces in New Westminster. This number reflects the 155 group child care (see chart #2) and 17 family, in-home multi-age, and registered license not required child care spaces which were created.

Chart #2:

Child Care Provider	Sub-Area	Total Spaces	0-36 months	30-60 months	Pre-School	School-Age	Multi-Age Group
• Cambridge Montessori	Uptown	25	-	-	-	-	25
• Fraser Montessori	West End	50	-	50	-	-	-
• Graham Montessori – Jamieson Court	Eastside	25	-	25	-	-	-
• Precious Early Years Child Care	West End	20	-	-	-	-	20
• WCASS Connaught Heights	West End	25	-	-	-	25	-
• WCASS Queen Elizabeth *	Queensborough	5	-	-	-	5	-
• We Care Daycare *	Downtown	5	-	5	-	-	-
* Increase in Capacity		155	-	80	-	30	55

Proposed or Under Development

Angel and Little Lambs Child Care Centres are proposing increases subject to building and licensing approval.

There are 25 non-profit licensed group child care spaces that will be created as part of the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre and 108 licensed group child care and 50 school age care spaces proposed as part of the development of three new schools under the Neighbourhoods of Learning project. There are also up to 35 licensed group child care spaces that could be created as part of two possible rezonings.

Metro Vancouver, as part of a Regional Child Care Policy Review (July 14, 2011) reported that there were 18 licensed child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 years in New Westminster. By comparison, there were 16 (regional average) licensed child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 years in Metro Vancouver. Neighbouring municipalities had the following breakdown of licensed child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 years: Burnaby (17), Coquitlam (20) and Surrey (10).

Analysis

Based on the most recent reporting period (i.e., March 23, 2010 to January 30, 2012), 75 or 48.4% of the group child care spaces were created as a result of a direct City action – e.g., rezoning or lease of City-owned land. Based on the first reporting period (i.e., October 27, 2008 to March 22, 2010), 122 or 85.9% of the group child care spaces were created a result of a direct City action – e.g., rezoning or development variance permit.

Similar to the first reporting period, the majority of the new group child care spaces created (75.5%) were located in for-profit operations and their fees may not be affordable to moderate or lower income families. With regard to the child care facilities proposed for civic and school facilities, they would target non-profit operators and given low or subsidized lease rates, their fees would likely be affordable to moderate and lower income families. As such, there is a key role for the City and School District, through the lease of space, in ensuring affordability, which is a central tenant in the development of a comprehensive child care system.

There are a large percentage of child care operations which are housed within facilities with uncertain lease arrangements, serious building deficiencies, and/or non-optimal spaces (e.g., basements). Given the potential to accommodate child care operations within new civic and school facilities, and the establishment of the civic child care grant program, there is the potential to relocate some existing operations which face an uncertain future and to address building deficiencies and issues related to physical accessibility. For example, several non-profit operators, through the receipt of civic child care grants, have addressed building deficiencies and maintenance issues which could have resulted in the loss of their license and possible closure.

A large percentage of the licensed group child care spaces created were 30 months to school age – i.e., 45.8% for the two reporting periods in question. There is evidence that some child care operations now have vacancies for this care type. Based on requests and waitlist information, there is still a shortage of infant/toddler (0 to 36 months) and school age care (6 to 12 years) spaces. Regarding the former, operators are required to sprinker their buildings and provide fire separations, which given the age of many buildings in New Westminster, can be cost prohibitive. As for school age care, given the introduction of full school day kindergarten, there is increased demand for this care type. The City, through inquiries related to zoning, is encouraging potential operators to consider providing these two in demand care types.

Despite the creation of 324 licensed child care spaces for the two reporting periods in question, only 32 or 9.9% were located in Queensborough. Based on the Needs Assessment (October 27, 2008), Queensborough had the lowest number of licensed child care spaces (59) by sub-area. It also had the lowest number of licensed group child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 years (3.8) by sub-area. By comparison, there were 14.6 licensed group child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 years for the City-as-a-whole. The reasons for the low base number and lack of activity could be many and include: buildings and lands which are being held for speculative purposes; issues related to the floodplain; and limited appro-

priately sized and located commercial spaces. The proposed development of a Child Development Hub, anchored by licensed child care, as part of the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre, will result in 25 new licensed group child care spaces.

Developments and Trends

Some developments and trends to track include:

- The introduction of full school day kindergarten. Full school day kindergarten does not include out-of-school (before and after school) care, thus the demand for this care type will increase, as more parents decide to return to the workforce full-time. Recently, the Province increased the capacity limits of group child care centres providing this care type; however, it is not anticipated that these changes will meet increased demand.
- The erosion of funding for child care under the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, including grants related to the Major Capital Funding Program and the Minor Capital Funding Program for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation.
- The increasing diversity and multiculturalism in New Westminister. In 2006, 31.7% of the population was comprised of immigrants, with 23.1% having less than five years of Canadian residency. Additionally, between 2001 and 2006, increases to the immigrant population comprised 79.1% of total population growth in New Westminister. This raises the following questions: What will be the impacts on the child care system? How can the child care system be more responsive to the needs of new immigrants and refugees?
- The changing demographics in Queensborough and the implications for child care in this neighbourhood. The Port Royal development appeals to young families with two parents in the labour force. As such, this development, and others, will increase demand for child care in this under-resourced neighbourhood. Based on the Needs Assessment, there were 3.8 group child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 in Queensborough compared to 14.6 group child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 12 for the City-as-a-whole.

Suggested Action

- That consideration be given to updating the Child Care Needs Assessment (October 27, 2008). The document is now over three years old, with much of the statistical information based on the 2006 Census. This update could include surveying of child care operators and parents to determine needs and gaps and compiling statistical information based on the 2011 Census.

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>1. That the responsibility for child care reside within the job description of the Social Planner 2 position within the City of New Westminster and that this position receive adequate resources and support to perform the prescribed duties in this area.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The job description for the Social Planner 2 position states: "You will develop and implement social planning policy in areas such as homelessness and affordable housing, child care, multiculturalism, and neighbourhood community development." It also states: "You will work closely with the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department on arts and culture, early childhood development, youth and seniors issues." Additionally, it states: "You will act as the staff liaison for City social planning committees; serve as the City's representative to outside social agencies; and review development applications with social planning components or issues or where there is an opportunity to promote social innovation."</p>	✓		
<p>2. That a Child Care Strategy Implementation Group be established to assist in the implementation of the new Child Care Strategy.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The New Westminster Early Childhood Development Committee's Child Care Action Team, as part of its mandate, will support the implementation of the Child Care Strategy and inform the preparation of an annual progress report on the implementation of the recommended actions as contained in the strategy. This body formed the nucleus of the Child Care Strategy Task Group which was responsible for the preparation of the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, thus its members are knowledgeable about child care and familiar with the recommended actions. They also have a vested interest in ensuring that the recommended actions are implemented.</p> <p>Given the reactivation of the Child Care Action Team after its involvement on the Child Care Strategy and given the fact that this body would include many of the same members as a Child Care Strategy Implementation Group, it was seen to be preferable to work within an existing structure rather than create a new one.</p>	✓		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>3. <i>That the City continue to participate on the Public Partners Child Development Committee which is working to develop four ECD Hubs serving six neighbourhoods in New Westminster.</i></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City, through Parks, Culture and Recreation and Social Planning, are active members on the Public Partners Child Development Committee. The City is also a signatory to the Public Partners Child Development Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU sets out a vision, purpose, desired outcomes and procedures. Other signatories include Fraser Health, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, School District #40 and the United Way of the Lower Mainland. The City is also an active member of the Early Childhood Development Committee, Middle Childhood Committee and Youth Committee, as well as several related Action Teams.</p> <p>The Public Partners Child Development Committee has been recognized for its innovation and success and has been asked to present at several major conferences.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p>4. <i>That a Child Care Protocol be developed whereby the City and School District jointly work to stabilize and increase the viability of existing child care programs so that there is no loss in spaces within their collective control and that they plan for and develop new child care spaces on City/School District lands and promote joint use of space.</i></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>On November 9, 2009, City Council unanimously endorsed a Child Care Protocol between the City and School District. This protocol, which has also been endorsed by the School District, recognizes that licensed child care is an essential community-based service and that it makes a significant contribution to the social and economic development of New Westminster. This protocol contains seven key objectives, including maintaining and, where necessary, stabilizing existing child care spaces within their collective control, and planning for and developing new child care spaces on their collective lands.</p> <p>This protocol is further evidence of the collaboration which is occurring between the City and School District and it has been shared with the Ministry of Education as part of the proposal to develop licensed child care and child development facilities under the Neighbourhoods of Learning program within the three new schools planned for New Westminster.</p>	<p>✓</p>		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>5. <i>That discussions be initiated with the Public Partners Child Development Committee to determine if this body would consider expanding its mandate to include child care. Recently, this body signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop four Child Development Hubs in New Westminster.</i></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The mandate of the Public Partners Child Development Committee encompasses child care, as all four Child Development Hubs will be anchored by licensed child care. Additionally, the mandate of the committee was recently broadened to also include the middle years (i.e., children aged 6 to 12 years), which is consistent with the Child Care Strategy (i.e., 0 to 12 years). Complementary, the Early Childhood Development Committee’s Child Care Action Team has been reactivated and one of its five goals is to support the implementation of the Child Care Strategy, including monitoring progress related to its implementation. It will also raise awareness about and advocate on behalf of child care and ensure that child care issues are represented at the Early Childhood Development Committee.</p>	✓		
<p>6. <i>That child care be designated as a ‘standard’ community need similar to park land and that child care planning be integrated into the municipal planning process. Additionally, that child care be considered in all appropriate development projects, including through the negotiation of developer contributions, and that neighbourhoods be planned as ‘child-friendly’ places.</i></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Child care planning has become more integrated into the municipal planning process and is a consideration in all appropriate development projects in which a developer is seeking an increase in density or some other benefit. As evidence, the Social Planner is involved in all major land use planning and development processes and, as part of this position’s involvement, is seeking to identify potential child care opportunities. Child care targets have also been developed to guide municipal planning, particularly with regard to identifying and addressing gaps.</p> <p>Neighbourhoods are also being planned as ‘child friendly’ places. As evidence, the new Downtown Community Plan includes the following strategy: “Support the Downtown as a family-friendly neighbourhood, with sufficient services and amenities to meet the needs of households with children and youth.” Additionally, it incorporates a number of specific actions, including: “encouraging the development of more ground-oriented housing and housing suitable for families” and “establishing guidelines for unit size distribution in new developments (e.g., number of 1BR, 2BR and 3BR).” This ‘child-friendly’ lens is being applied to other neighbourhoods, including the update to the Queensborough Community Plan.</p>	✓ (ongoing)		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>7. That a review of municipal policies, procedures and regulations be conducted to ensure that no undue procedural obstacles exist in the development of child care.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City has reviewed its policies, procedures and regulations related to child care. Based on this review, a number of changes have been made, including amending the City's Zoning Bylaw to remove requirements for suitably landscaped outdoor space for child care facilities which acted as a disincentive to their development in more built-up and commercial areas.</p> <p>Additionally, all child care inquiries and rezonings are handled by the Social Planner, which is a senior position within Development Services. As such, a consistent message is provided and the inquirer or applicant is provided with expert advice and assistance related to their needs.</p> <p>The City, through the Metro Vancouver Child Care Policy Review (July 11, 2011), has examined policies, procedures and regulations in use in other municipalities. Based on this examination, and follow-up phone calls, the City is determining which ones, if any, would be beneficial.</p>	✓		
<p>8. That a review of City-owned lands and buildings be conducted to identify and inventory sites/spaces that could reasonably accommodate child care facilities/programs.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City has conducted an analysis of City facilities and lands which could reasonably accommodate child care programs. The Social Planner has been involved in discussions related to the expansion of the Queensborough Community Centre and the renovation/redevelopment of the Canada Games Pool/Centennial Community Centre. The Social Planner has also informed the development of the Policy Framework for the Disposition of City-Owned Lands, which includes the following proposed criterion: "Is there an overall community/social good to be gained through the retention of the property." Child care, given that it is a City priority, would fall under this criterion.</p>	✓		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>9. That consideration be given to building or incorporating space for child care facilities as part of the development of new municipal facilities or major renovations to existing ones.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Child care has been a consideration in all new municipal facilities or major renovations to existing ones. For example, the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre includes a Child Development Hub. This hub will be anchored by a child care program with 25 licensed spaces (30 months to school age). As part of the future development of the Gaswork site on Twelfth Street, one of the possible uses for the 'community hub pavilion' is licensed child care. As documented, the "child care centre could have direct access to secured outdoor play space."</p> <p>Regarding the Downtown Civic Multi-Use Facility, design and programming constraints precluded the inclusion of licensed child care. Regarding the new Youth Centre, the budget (about \$2.5 million) and size (about 4,000 square feet) precluded the inclusion of licensed child care.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p>10. That Parks, Culture and Recreation examine the feasibility of providing licensed, play-based pre-school programs (that complement and not replace its tiny tot programs). Additionally, that Parks, Culture and Recreation examine the feasibility of providing accessible, recreation-based, after-school care and drop-in program options.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Discussions have been held with Parks, Culture and Recreation to determine its interest, capacity and readiness in providing licensed play-based programs and accessible, recreation-based, after-school care and drop-in programs. Based on these discussions, it was felt that there needed to a more detailed review, including consideration of costs and space implications. Of significance, leisure and recreation facilities are currently operating at or near capacity, thus opportunities are limited.</p>		<p>✓</p>	

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>11. That targets be established for the number, type and location of child care spaces which are required to meet current and future needs by sub-area in New Westminster. These targets would be based on the amount and type of projected development, the anticipated rate of population growth and the needs assessment information.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Based on the child care needs calculator developed by the City of Vancouver, and background research into other jurisdictions, a child care needs formula has been developed and piloted for City of New Westminister. This formula, which takes into consideration the number of residential family units (i.e., two or more bedrooms), the female labour force participation rate and the child care use rate, yields information as to the number of additional child care spaces that are required as a result of new residential development. The child care use rate, which measures the percentage of children who will need some form of licensed child care outside the home, was calculated at 55% for New Westminister. This calculation is based on New Westminister Child Care Questionnaire for Parents, which was completed by 428 parents and represented the child care needs of 732 children.</p> <p>The child care needs formula will be used in the planning of community amenities and services associated with population growth and new residential development in New Westminister.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p>12. That a step-by-step guide to establishing a new child care operation in the City be prepared. This guide would provide information on the different types of child care; the Zoning and Building Code requirements; the municipal approval process; and relevant contact information. This guide would be regularly updated and reflect any changes and would be available in hard copy and on-line.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>A step-by-step guide has been developed and is available on the City's website. This guide outlines the key steps needed to establish a licensed group child care facility in New Westminister. As part of the guide, it contains valuable information and links with regard to locational and financial considerations which will impact the sustainability of the operation. It also contains valuable information and links with regard to the City of New Westminister's Zoning Bylaw and the BC Building Code. Regarding the former, it includes information as to when a rezoning is necessary and the process involved. As for the latter, it includes information on Part 3 of the BC Building Code, which applies to child care operations with an occupancy load exceeding 10 people (including staff).</p>	<p>✓</p>		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>13. That a child care page be created under the resident section of the City's official website. This site would provide direct access to the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy; the Step-by-Step Guide to Establishing a New Child Care Operation; and other municipal documentation and initiatives related to child care and early childhood development. The site would also contain links to relevant websites, including the Early Childhood Development Committee, Fraser Health and the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>A child care page has been created and contains the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, as well as other municipal documentation and reports related to child care and early childhood development. The site also contains links to other relevant websites. The child care page can be accessed at:</p> <p>http://www.newwestcity.ca/business/planning_development/social_planning/articles21.php</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		
<p>14. That child care information targeting developers and realtors be prepared. This information, which could be in the form of brochures or pamphlets, would raise awareness about investment opportunities.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>A package of materials targeting realtors has been developed. This package includes zones in which child care is a permitted use and any requirements related to those zones; group child care building code requirements; the step-by-step guide; the child care licensing regulations; and development guidelines and regulations, including a general guide to rezoning.</p>	<p>✓</p>		
<p>15. That the City lobby the senior levels of government for increased funding and support to child care operators, caregivers and families.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City has written a number of letters to the senior levels of government on child care related issues, including a letter opposing decreased grant amounts under the Minor Capital Fund for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation which is administered by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and a letter in support of a National Child Care Strategy to the Government of Canada.</p>	<p>✓ (ongoing)</p>		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>16. That child care operations with up to 16 spaces be permitted as an outright use in all single detached dwelling districts. No rezoning would be required and approval would be the responsibility of City staff and would be subject to Provincial Licensing requirements.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Considerable work has been undertaken in support of this recommended action. A report was prepared which identified potential benefits and challenges associated with such a zoning amendment. Regarding challenges, a major concern was the potential for increased traffic and parking at the neighbourhood level. To address this concern, consideration was given to limiting the number of group child care operations to one per block front in single detached dwelling districts; however, such a zoning regulation was determined to be invalid by the City's Solicitor. More specifically, it was deemed that one property owner's rights cannot be altered or dependent on the actions of another property owner. Consideration was also given to requiring prospective child care operators to contract the services of a professional engineer to undertake a transportation assessment; however, this was deemed to present another obstacle in the development process, given that an assessment can cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000.</p> <p>On September 12, 2011, a report went to City Council which documented challenges in implementing this action, including resolving issues related to traffic and parking and the uncertainty related to the 2012 BC Building Code. Regarding the latter, the City's Building Division has advised that any amendment to the Zoning Bylaw should wait until after the release of the 2012 BC Building Code and a review of the implications of the new Code for licensed child care facilities in single detached dwellings.</p>		<p>✓ (on hold)</p>	

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>17. That larger child care operations be permitted in all residential zones, subject to Council and public review of applications. Approval would be the responsibility of City Council. In conjunction, review and establish parking requirements for such uses; develop guidelines with regard to building, siting and design; and require operators to document potential neighbourhood impacts (e.g., noise, parking and traffic).</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>The City has identified a comfort level of having a maximum of 25 licensed child care spaces in a single detached dwelling. Consideration could be given to a higher number if the dwelling was located nearby a park or school or if it could be documented that neighbouring land uses would not be negatively impacted.</p> <p>The City has reviewed and confirmed off-street parking requirements for group child care operations which are located in single detached dwellings. It has also developed 'Good Neighbour Guidelines' for group child care operators located in residential zones. These guidelines address and provide strategies for mitigating issues associated with parking, traffic, noise and privacy.</p>	✓		
<p>18. That child care be designated as a preferred community amenity and that density bonus be used to create new child care spaces. In exchange for extra density, a developer would provide either a purpose-built child care facility or cash contributions-in-lieu to a Child Care Development Reserve Fund.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>On October 5, 2009, City Council endorsed the recommendation that 10% of all density bonus revenues be allocated for child care facilities. Under the new density bonusing system, it is estimated that the City may receive approximately \$60 million (present value) over the next 20 years – i.e., \$20 million in the first decade and \$40 million in the second decade. As such, approximately \$6 million may be available for child care capital projects over the time period in question.</p>	✓		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>19. That a joint Employer-Employee Committee be established to review the City's personnel policies and practices and, where possible, recommend adjustments to assist City employees to better balance their responsibilities to both work and family. This committee would also determine the child care needs of City employees and explore options in meeting those needs, including the possible development of child care spaces for use by City employees. Based on the results of the review, consider encouraging other major employers in New Westminster to establish child-friendly workplace policies and on-or-off site child care facilities.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>Given the number of recommended actions, including those carried over from Year 1, and given the need to work with other Departments and potentially involve external expertise, this action was not pursued in Year 2. It is proposed that exploratory discussions be held with the City's Human Resources Department and, based on the outcome; that consideration be given to pursuing this action in Year 3.</p>			✓
<p>20. <i>That a Child Care Development Reserve Fund be created to assist with the capital costs of developing new child care facilities and to fund a Child Care Grant Program. Where possible, this fund would be used to leverage senior government funding thus maximizing the dollars available for child care. It would be funded by cash contributions from developers who are building projects that capitalize on the density bonusing system, as well as other potential sources of funding.</i></p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>On October 5, 2009, City Council endorsed the recommendation that 10% of all density bonus revenues be allocated for child care facilities. Under the new density bonusing system, it is estimated that the City may receive approximately \$60 million (present value) over the next 20 years – i.e., \$20 million in the first decade and \$40 million in the second decade. As such, approximately \$6 million may be available for child care capital projects over the time period in question.</p>	✓		

Recommended Actions	Implementation Status		
	Fully	Partially	Not At All
<p>21. That a Child Care Grant Program be established that would include both Capital Improvement and Program Stabilization Grants. The former would assist existing child care operators to expand, renovate or repair their facility; enhance physical accessibility; or purchase new equipment. The latter would assist child care operators to stabilize their financial situation, restructure their financial systems and conduct long-term financial planning.</p> <p>Status Update:</p> <p>On January 25, 2010, City Council endorsed the establishment of a Child Care Grant Program subject to the continuation of seven day parking metres after the three to four month trial period. The program, which would be funded through Sunday parking metre revenues, would make up to eight grants of \$5,000 available annually to licensed, non-profit child care operators in New Westminster. The grants would assist child care operators to address building deficiencies and purchase needed equipment and furnishings to meet Provincial licensing requirements for health, safety and quality standards. As such, it would assist existing child care operators to remain operational. It would also enable child care operators to make improvements, which would enhance quality and physical accessibility, and could result in an increase in spaces.</p> <p>In 2010, eight applicants were awarded child care grants and the total amount awarded was \$38,299.83. In 2011, seven applicants were awarded child care grants and the total amount awarded was \$34,961.72.</p>	✓		