

On October 26th, Peel’s advisory group for the OEYCFC project (Success by 6), provided input in three key areas:

- Finalizing a vision and set of principles to guide Peel’s OEYCFC planning process
- Discussed ideas about using the one-time service planning investment from the Ministry of Education
- Commented on potential risks that may impact the planning of the OEYCFC.

Planning Principles for 2016-2018:

The Region of Peel presented a summary of the facilitated discussion held in September with SB6. Based on the highlights from that discussion, the group crafted a local vision for the OEYCFC project:

“Peel’s children 0-6 years and their families thrive, supported by an integrated system of responsive, high-quality, and accessible early years programs and services”

The group agreed on the following principles to guide the planning process:

- **Build on existing strengths** – recognize strengths of current family programs and build strong collaboration
- **Data driven** – use relevant data to inform decision making
- **Minimize service disruption** – ensure a seamless transition process
- **Peel Children’s Charter of Rights** – reinforce the values presented in the charter
- **Responsive** – support a system that responds to the changing realities of the community

Service Planning Investment:

The Region of Peel advised that the Ministry of Education is providing a one-time investment of over \$200,000 to support the OEYCFC planning activities in Peel. The ministry is providing funds to service system managers in 2017 to build capacity to determine community needs, develop local service system plans for child and family centres and establish local service contracts/agreements to prepare for program implementation in 2018.

SB6 suggested the following uses for the one-time funding:

- **Family engagement** – outreach, in-person consultation, incentives for parents to participate, interpreters, technology to get input from the “hard to reach” via phone and online platforms
- **Broader engagement** – consulting stakeholders in other sectors
- **Research analyst/consultant**

Project Risk Management:

The group discussed potential risks that may arise during the planning process. Some risks include effective communication with stakeholders, uncertainty among staff about upcoming changes and meeting project scope requirements and objectives. The Project manager will work with Success By 6 to create plans to eliminate or mitigate the identified project risks.

Working Groups:

- The Local Needs Assessment and Research working group held its first meeting in early October. A survey was distributed to operators of the Ontario Early Years Centres, Parenting and Literacy Centres and the Child Care Resource Centres (EDU funded programs) to collect initial data. This group is also analyzing census data and existing research reports.
- The Family Engagement working group will meet at the end of October to discuss existing family engagement activities and to define its work plan.