

Clause 12 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 26, 2017.

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Authority for a Consolidated Agreement with  
Markham Stouffville Hospital Speech and Language Services

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated December 15, 2016 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. Council authorize an agreement between the Region and Markham Stouffville Hospital for the continued delivery of coordinated Speech and Language services, to December 31, 2020.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Region.

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Report dated December 15, 2016 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize an agreement between the Region and Markham Stouffville Hospital for the continued delivery of co-ordinated Speech and Language services, to December 31, 2020.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Region.

2. Purpose

This report recommends that Council authorize the renewal of a consolidated agreement with Markham Stouffville Hospital for the continued delivery of coordinated Speech and Language services for families and preschool children with special needs. Council approval is required under the Purchasing Bylaw because

the term of the proposed contract, including extensions, may be greater than five years.

### 3. Background

Early Intervention Services collaborates with community agencies

All Early Intervention Services collaborate with community agencies to provide support to families and children with special needs. The Inclusion Support Services program visits licensed child care programs to support the participation of children with special needs. The Infant and Child Development program supports families who have young children with special needs at home.

The Early Intervention Services programs support children, who may have a diagnosis of a developmental delay, as well as those who currently have delays in their development without a known cause, or those who may be at risk for such delays. These children often need Speech and Language therapy. In York Region, the publicly funded preschool Speech and Language program is delivered by Markham Stouffville Hospital's Child Development programs.

Early Intervention Services collaborates with York Region  
Preschool Speech and Language Programs

Markham Stouffville Hospital is funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to provide Speech and Language therapy services to children. The Early Intervention Services program provides other supports (not including Speech and Language therapy) to children with special needs. Since the Preschool Speech and Language program began in 1998, the Region and Markham Stouffville Hospital have had a number of agreements that allow staff from the hospital to share office space, a receptionist and an Intake Worker with the Early Intervention Services program.

Regional Council has endorsed the partnership since its inception. Council further reinforced the partnership on June 22, 2006 when it authorized the establishment of a Multi-Service Hub for the Early Intervention Services unit with Markham Stouffville Hospital Preschool Speech and Language Program and the Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe-York.

Continuation of the partnership, as requested, will maintain efficient and effective team work, when families need support from both programs. Sharing an Intake Worker means that families have easier access to the supports they need, (one stop shopping in many cases) and families consistently report that this is very helpful.

#### 4. Analysis and Implications

In 2015, the Region provided coordinated service delivery to 3,029 children with special needs

Annually, over 3,000 families benefit from the integrated service delivery between York Region's Early Intervention Services program and Markham Stouffville Hospital Child Development programs. Most of these children also received supports from the York Region Preschool Speech and Language program.

Markham Stouffville hospital staff (Speech and Language Pathologists, Communication Disorders Assistants and Clerical support staff) are co-located in six Regional buildings alongside staff from the Early Intervention Services programs, facilitating a collaborative team approach and ensuring families in all municipalities have access to services close to their home community.

Three contracts with Markham Stouffville Hospital are expiring

There are currently three separate contracts with Markham Stouffville hospital for the provision of shared services that are expiring. These contracts are for: managing costs associated with the co-location of staff; salary for a jointly funded receptionist; and salary for one Intake Early Interventionist. Each contract was put in place as the partnership with Markham Stouffville Hospital evolved. Legal Services has consolidated these contracts into one agreement providing a more efficient and stream-lined method of executing agreements to share services.

#### 5. Financial Considerations

The net tax levy impact associated with this request is zero. The Region's annual contribution of \$11,144 is 100% offset by Ministry of Education funding. The funding is directed to Markham Stouffville Hospital to cover approximately 30% of a receptionist position.

In turn, Markham Stouffville Hospital provides the Region with funds for the full salary of one Regional Intake Early Interventionist, and for staff work space and treatment rooms in six Regional buildings. Table 1 reflects the associated details.

The total value of the five-year term of the contract will be \$1,491,430 (\$298,286 x 5).

**Table 1**  
**Net Annual Contract Recovery**

| Funding Source                      | Detail                                      | (\$)           |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Markham Stouffville Hospital        | Salary for one Intake Early Interventionist | 119,913        |
| Markham Stouffville Hospital        | Facilities Cost                             | 189, 517       |
| <b>Markham Stouffville Hospital</b> | <b>(Subtotal)</b>                           | <b>309,430</b> |
| Ministry of Education –Subsidy      |   | (11,144)       |
| <b>Annual cost</b>                  |   | <b>298,286</b> |

## 6. Local Municipal Impact

Early Intervention Services are delivered in a responsive and collaborative fashion in all local municipalities, benefiting children who have special needs and their families from across York Region. Markham Stouffville Hospital, York Region Preschool Speech and Language program staff are co-located in six Regional buildings and the intake workers offer their support to every family who calls enquiring about supports for their child with special needs.

## 7. Conclusion

Providing integrated and coordinated service delivery to families with children with special needs is an important component of effective service delivery. It is critical to maintain access to supports so that children may reach their potential. Through this agreement, children and families in York Region will continue to experience streamlined access to the both the Region’s Early Intervention Services programs and the York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program provided by Markham Stouffville Hospital.

For more information on this report, please contact Cordelia Abankwa, General Manager, Social Services, at 1-877-464-9675 extension 72150.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

December 15, 2016

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