

Eastside Child Development Hub Study

Community Conversation
October 6, 2011



United Way
of the Lower Mainland



The Public Partners Child Development Committee is working to develop four Child Development Hubs in New Westminster.

Hubs:

- **act as focal points for their neighbourhoods;**
- **support the healthy development of children and families;**
- **include at least two child development or family strengthening services, one of which is licensed child care;**
- **enable families to obtain information and seamlessly access a continuum of services related to their needs;**
- **facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration and partnership building.**

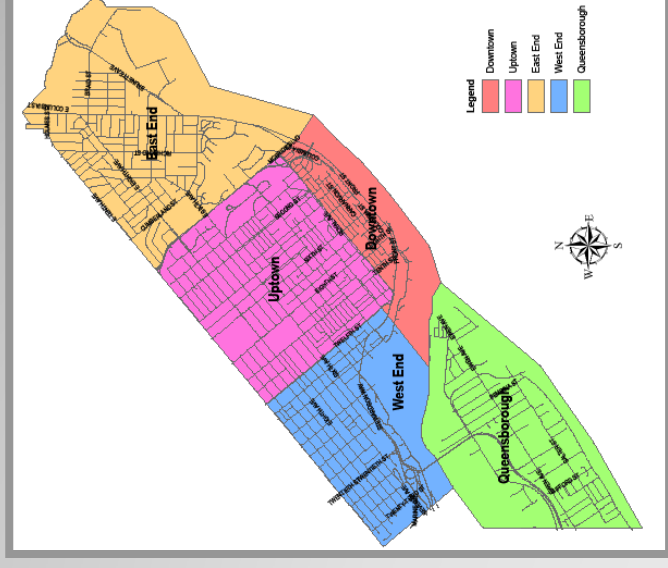
Background

Planning for two of the four hubs is well underway.

Queensborough and Uptown / Downtown

To date:

- **action teams established;**
- **needs assessments completed;**
- **potential sites identified;**
- **planning progressing;**
- **construction occurring with regard to Queensborough.**



Background

The Public Partners are now directing their attention to the Eastside Hub. With funding support from the United Way of the Lower Mainland, a needs assessment study is currently underway.

This study will:



- **develop a socio-demographic profile;**
- **engage parents and community members;**
- **document needs and gaps;**
- **document assets and resources;**
- **explore possible components;**
- **identify possible locations;**
- **identify partnership and funding opportunities.**

Background

A key component of the needs assessment study is a survey involving parents living on the Eastside.



This survey included questions regarding:

- **residency;**
- **levels of neighbourhood satisfaction;**
- **challenges in accessing programs/services;**
- **programs and services that are needed but not available;**
- **possible components of a hub.**

In total, 128 surveys were received.

Eastside Survey

The following is a profile of survey respondents.

- **Neighbourhood of Residency:**
 - Sapperton (57.4%), Glenbrook South (23.5%), Victory Heights (19.1%)
- **Length of Residency:**
 - 55.1% of respondents were relatively new to the Eastside, with 39.8% reporting that they had lived in the area for 1 to 4 years and 15.3% reporting that they had lived in the area for less than 1 year.
- **Number of Children:**
 - 83.2% of respondents reported having either two children (49.6%) or one child (33.6%) in their household.
- **Household Characteristics:**
 - 93.9% of respondents reported that they belonged to a two-parent household
 - 85.7% of respondents reported that their home language was English
 - 63.2% of respondents reported that they belonged to a dual-income household

Survey Respondents

Survey respondents were asked a number of questions about their neighbourhood.

The majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements about their neighbourhood:



- **easy access to parks and open spaces (87.9%)**
- **good place to raise a family (84.5%)**
- **friendly (82.9%)**
- **safe (77.0%)**
- **comprised of people from different cultures (61.0%)**
- **ability to meet most of my daily needs (50.4%)**

Only 6.5% strongly agreed or agreed that their neighbourhood had adequate child care spaces.

Neighbourhood Livability

Survey respondents were asked about challenges in accessing or using programs and services on the Eastside.

The number one challenge was the lack of accessible, affordable or conveniently located child care. This response was cited by 38.3% of all respondents.

Other challenges included:

- **distance or transportation related issues (28.2%)**
- **cost of programming (16.4%)**
- **inconvenient scheduling (13.3%)**
- **lack of or limited availability (10.9%)**



Access to Programs and Services

Survey respondents were asked about programs and services that were needed but unavailable on the Eastside.

The following provides an indication of need:

- **after-school programming (51.9%)**
- **leisure, recreation and social programming (51.9%)**
- **family support and parental education (47.1%)**
- **early childhood development and learning programs (45.2%)**
- **language and literacy programs (42.3%)**
- **health education and services (28.8%)**

Although not listed, 74.4% of the respondents who answered other as part of the survey cited child care.

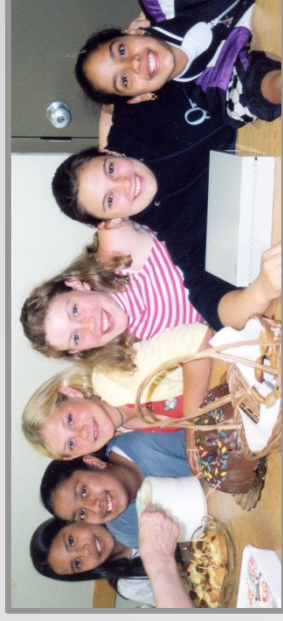
Gaps in Programs and Services

Survey respondents were asked about what programs or services they would like to see offered in a hub.

The number one program or service was licensed child care. This response was cited by 40.6% of all respondents. Other responses were as follows:



- **leisure, recreation or social programming (27.4%)**
- **learning, library or literacy programs (25.8%)**
- **information and referral services (15.6%)**
- **parental education and information (14.8%)**



Possible Components of a Hub

Based on the survey responses, an underlying theme was the need for a hub to facilitate community-building, neighbourliness and social interaction.

Survey respondents wanted to connect with other parents; built friendships and social support networks; and participate in programs with other parents and their children.



I want to build friendships and support networks. I have no extended family thus friends could provide child care and support when needed.

Survey Respondent, 2011

Possible Components of a Hub

Now that we have a better idea about hubs; about needs and gaps on the Eastside; and about what others would like to see in a hub, we want to hear from YOU.

This is your opportunity to let us know what you see as being important to YOU and YOUR FAMILY.



Possible Components of a Hub

In your small groups, we would like you to answer the following three questions. Each group has a facilitator and there will be a report back after 40 minutes.

Please spend 5 minutes each on the first two questions and 30 minutes on the third question:

- **What is your name and what do you like about the Eastside?**
- **What are some of the challenges in raising a family on the Eastside?**
- **What programs, services or supports would you like to see included as part of a hub?**

Small Group Discussions

The survey results and the consultation findings, including from this event, will be used to inform the Eastside Hub Development Study.

Over the next four months:

- **The consultation findings from this event will be summarized.**
- **The study will be developed and available in January 2012.**
- **The study will be used to identify possible opportunities for a hub on the Eastside and, if successful, to inform the development of the hub.**

All the information will be posted on the below website:



Next Steps

The last word goes to a parent:

I agree that a hub must include child care. It should be easily accessible by public transit. It should provide information and referral and provide supports to families. It should be a place to connect with and meet other parents. It should also be open into the evening and offer a range of drop-in and structure programs.

Survey Respondent, 2011

Notable Quote