

Eastside Child Development Hub Survey Results

Introduction:

A key component of the needs assessment study is a survey involving parents living on the Eastside of New Westminster. This survey was administered during the month of June and July 2011.

This survey included questions regarding:

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

In total, 128 surveys were received.

Results:

Questions 1-2: Number of Children and Age

About half of survey respondents (49.6%) reported that they had two children in their household. About a third of survey respondents (33.6%) reported that they had one child in their household. A far lower percentage of survey respondents (17.6%) reported that they had three or more children in their household.

In total, the surveyed households comprised 135 children aged 0 to 5; 79 children aged 6 to 12; and 23 children aged 13+.

Questions 3: Languages Spoken at Home

The vast majority of survey respondents (85.7%) spoke English at home. With regard to those who spoke a language other than English at home, the most commonly cited languages were Filipino (Tagalog), Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin), Spanish and Persian.



Questions 4-6: Length of Residency

The vast majority of survey respondents (77.6%) reported that they had lived in Canada for ten or more years, with many reporting that they were born in Canada. A far lower percentage of survey respondents (31.6%) reported that they had lived in New Westminster for ten or more years. About a quarter of survey respondents (23.7%) reported that they had lived on the Eastside for ten or more years.

Interestingly, over half of survey respondents (55.1%) reported that they were relatively new to the Eastside, with 39.8% reporting that they had lived in the area for one to four years and 15.3% reporting that they lived in the area for less than one year. The response to this question may suggest the need for enhanced information and referral services.

Question 7: Neighbourhood of Residency

The majority of survey respondents (57.4%) lived in the Sapperton neighbourhood. The remaining survey respondents were quite evenly split between the Glenbrook South (23.5%) and Victory Heights (19.1%) neighbourhoods.

Question 8: Neighbourhood Livability

The vast majority (87.9%) of survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their neighbourhood offered easy access to parks and open spaces. High percentages of survey respondents also strongly agreed or agreed that their neighbourhood was a good place to raise a family (84.5%), was friendly (82.9%) and was safe (77.0%).

Far lower percentages of survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that their neighbourhood was comprised of people from many different cultures (61.0%) and met most of their daily needs (50.4%).

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

Question 9: Challenges in Accessing Programs and Services

Survey respondents identified a number of challenges to accessing programs and services on the Eastside. The number one challenge, cited by 38.3% of survey respondents, was the lack of accessible, affordable and conveniently located child care. Other challenges included distance to facilities and transportation related issues (28.2%); cost of programming (16.4%); inconvenient hours (13.3%); and lack of or limited availability of programming (10.9%). Regarding transportation related issues, a number of survey respondents cited inadequate public transit services.

Question 10: Programs and Services that are Needed but Not Available

Most survey respondents cited two or more programs or services that were needed but not available or in short supply on the Eastside. Of the programs and services listed in the survey, the two most popular were after-school programming (51.9%) and leisure, recreation and social programming (51.9%). Other frequently cited responses were: family support and parental education (47.1%), early childhood development and learning programs (45.2%) and language and literacy programs (42.3%). Far fewer survey respondents (28.8%), cited health education and services. Although not listed, 30.1% of survey respondents cited licensed child care. This represented 74.4% of the responses under the category of other.

Question 11: Possible Components of a Hub

Most survey respondents cited two or more components that they would like to see form part of an Eastside Hub. The number one component, cited by 40.6% of survey respondents, was child care. Other components were: leisure, recreation or social programming (27.4%); learning, library or literacy programs (25.8%); information and referral services (15.6%); and parent education and information (14.8%).

A common theme which emerged was the need for a hub to facilitate community-building, neighbourliness and social interaction. Survey respondents wanted to connect with other parents; build relationships and support networks; and participate in programs with other parents and their children.

Question 12: Other Comments or Ideas

Survey respondents used this opportunity to emphasize challenges, ideas or suggestions that had been raised elsewhere in the survey.

Questions 13: Family Composition and Labour Force Participation

The vast majority of survey respondents reported that they were part of a two-parent household (93.9%). The majority of survey respondents reported that there were part of a dual-income household (63.2%), which could account for the frequent references to the lack of child care and inconvenient program hours.

Question 14: Type of Housing

The majority of survey respondents (79.1%) owned their home, with a far lower percentage of survey respondents (20.9%) renting their home.

Question 15: Child Care Arrangements

The majority of survey respondents (62.5%) reported that they relied on some form of child care. Of those that did, the majority (48.4%) used informal care arrangements such as that offered by family members or friends. Other frequently cited responses included: licensed child care (34.1%) and a nanny (13.2%).