



Today's Children - Chatham-Kent's Future

CHATHAM-KENT BEST START COMMITTEE 2011-2015 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1 Continue to identify and capitalize on opportunities to strengthen collaboration and system integration.

2 Increase service provider and family engagement.

3 Analyze and use planning tools to improve local outcomes.

4 Apply innovative approaches to strengthen and expand existing systems.

5 Advocate for financial stability to underpin policy and system change.



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Continue to identify and capitalize on opportunities to strengthen collaboration and system integration.



ACTIONS:

- 1.1 Implement use of the Integration Tool to promote continued collaboration and to strengthen and develop new partnerships.
- 1.2 Strengthen and sustain Best Start Committee membership.
- 1.3 Strengthen relationships with service providers and other community planning tables and coordinate planning and delivery of services, where appropriate.
- 1.4 Partner with other community planning tables to deliver programs and services at local events.
- 1.5 Increase service provider connectedness and participation in Best Start.

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Increase service provider and family engagement by:
i) Strengthening partnerships within the community,
ii) Improving outreach to smaller communities, and
iii) Developing unique programming for marginalized groups.

ACTIONS:

- 2.1 Ensure opportunities for joint service planning.
- 2.2 Offer culturally responsive programming that targets and integrates marginalized groups.
- 2.3 Deliver services in locations where families and children congregate.
- 2.4 Solicit local champions to increase participation in Best Start.
- 2.5 Strengthen partnerships and increase programming with library and recreation services.
- 2.6 Strengthen community representation and planning capacity of Neighbourhood Advisory Committees.
- 2.7 Facilitate assisted inter-agency referrals on behalf of parents.



3

Analyze and use planning tools to improve local outcomes.



ACTIONS:

- 3.1 Expand campaign to increase awareness of local planning data with a wide variety of stakeholders.
- 3.2 Develop strategies to lower vulnerabilities common to multiple neighbourhoods.
- 3.3 Complete Preschool Early Learning Program evaluations and share outcomes.
- 3.4 Continue the development and use of the Clinical Services Index.

4

Apply innovative approaches to strengthen and expand existing systems, including:

- i) Best Start Hubs,
- ii) Supporting and sustaining licensed child care centres, and
- iii) Supports for children with special needs.

ACTIONS:

- 4.1 Promote networking and joint planning between practitioners working in Best Start Hubs.
- 4.2 Strengthen voice of licensed child care and seniors at the Best Start Committee.
- 4.3 Consult and investigate need for additional supports to licensed child care providers.
- 4.4 Assess and increase supports available in licensed child care centres to enable more children with special needs to attend.



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Advocate for financial stability to underpin policy and system change.



ACTIONS:

- 5.1 Continue to network with provincial ministries to share lessons learned, demonstrate achievements and advocate for change.
- 5.2 Collect feedback from parents, children and practitioners that demonstrates positive impacts of Best Start and share testimonials.
- 5.3 Share EDI results as evidence of positive impact of local interventions.
- 5.4 Continue to promote community wide awareness of benefits of early child development.
- 5.5 Support the advocacy campaigns of other community planning networks and solicit their reciprocal support, where applicable.

How the work is getting done...

