

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

Date: 6/29/2016 12:58:50 PM

Subject: Memo, RE: RTS 11496 Update on the representative for Children and Youth Report

Attachments: [Memo to M&C re Paige's Story June 29 2016.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, General Manager of Community Service. This memo provides an update on the July 7, 2015 Council motion directing staff to report back on progress made on implementing the BC Representative for Children and Youth "Paige Report" recommendations. The vast majority of recommendations are assigned to the Province, however there are 5 recommendations where the City has some role and responsibility to fulfill. Staff will provide a more fulsome report back to Council in the Fall of 2016.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas directly.

Best,

Sadhu

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COMMUNITY SERVICES
General Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

June 29, 2016

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office
Mukhtar Latif, Chief Housing Officer, City Manager's Office
Mike Magee, Special Advisor to the Mayor
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Katie Robb, Director of Communications, Mayor's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications
Jane Pickering, Acting General Manager, Planning and Development Services
Andrew Naklicki, Deputy General Manager, Human Resources & Digital Strategy and IT
Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Parks and Recreation
Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Business Planning
Bill Aujla, General Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management
John McKearney, Fire Chief and General Manager, Fire and Rescue Services
Francie Connell, Director, Legal Services
Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager, Engineering Services
Sandra Singh, Chief Librarian, Vancouver Public Library
Adam Palmer, Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department
MaryClare Zak, Managing Director Social Policy and Projects

FROM: Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, General Manager

SUBJECT: RTS 11496 - Update to Mayor and Council on the Representative for Children and Youth Report: *Paige's Story: Abuse, Indifference and a Young Life Discarded*

This memo provides an update Mayor and Council on City actions taken to date in response to Paige's Story and a motion passed July 7, 2015. Staff will provide a more fulsome report back to Council in the Fall of 2016.

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The motion directed staff to report back on progress made on implementing the BC Representative for Children and Youth recommendations related to the City of Vancouver, and progress to create a Regional Youth Secretariat with the BC Government and Metro Municipalities. The motion further specified that the BC government:

- a. Extend the option of foster care to the age of 24, and end the practice of automatic aging out of the system;
- b. Create a “Secure Care” system for vulnerable children and youth;
- c. Add more Rapid Response capacity to ensure that action happens quickly when a child or youth is at serious risk; and
- d. Quickly adopt and implement all recommendations from the May 2015 report from the BC Representative for Children and Youth entitled “Paige’s Story: Abuse, Indifference and a Young Life Discarded”.¹

City of Vancouver Recommendations and Status Update

The Representative’s report identified thirty actions. While the vast majority of these are assigned to the Provincial government, the City of Vancouver is identified in five actions as a partner with the Province. The status and next steps of each are described in Table 1 “Five (5) Actions Related to the City of Vancouver”:

Table 1 - Five (5) Actions Related to City of Vancouver

Action	Status	Next Steps
1. Conduct an urgent review of the current provision of services - including child protection, housing, health care and substance use treatment - to vulnerable children in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, informed by an accurate picture of their circumstances, input from social services and based on evidence of inter - generational trauma.	<p>The Province convened a three tiered Rapid Response Team in July 2015 to review services and improve responses. In May 2016 the Province announced \$1.2M funding towards:²</p> <p>Ten new positions to coordinate the ‘Rapid Response’ function to create an adolescent services unit near the DTES</p> <p>Over \$400,000 annual funding for youth outreach</p> <p>5 new beds of low-barrier temporary housing³</p>	The Province will implement funding over the next several months

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¹ A link to “Paige’s Story” is provided here:
https://www.rcybc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/reports_publications/rcy-pg-report-final.pdf.

² Includes services that were previously reduced or discontinued

³ There are currently 54 youth shelter beds and 17 safe house beds. As a part of the Winter Shelter Strategy, there were 10 temporary beds operated between January and April 2016. Directions Youth Detox has 10 beds. There are currently 50 permanent shelter beds for families and children and operate at full capacity/

Action	Status	Next Steps
2. Analyze numbers of children and youth in care in the area, needs of these children, an inventory of service providers currently working in the Downtown Eastside and the gaps in the services provided.	<p>A profile of high risk youth in the DTES provided by the Province identifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 124 youth between the ages of 12 and 19 are in Ministry care - About half are Aboriginal youth and over 60% are female⁴ - Average age is 17 years - The vast majority struggle with addictions; many face mental health challenges, young women report being sexual exploited and a significant proportion (80%) have been in conflict with the law - 30-40% of older youth are from outside of Vancouver 	Completed - the action plan noted point 3 will focus on the needs of the 124 youth.
3. Follow up analysis with timely creation and implementation of an action plan, including detailed public reporting on outcomes for the children and youth in this area	Under development	The Province will develop a draft action plan in the fall for input from the City and other partners
4. Coordinate regular inspections of SROs to ensure compliance with these rules.	Staff continue with cross departmental annual SRO inspections as well as ongoing rechecks for compliance on all bylaw violations	<p>The City will formalize written procedure for inspections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What to look for 2. Who to notify 3. How to escalate

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⁴ MCFD Report: Profile of Children and Youth in the DTES.

Action	Status	Next Steps
5. Provide training to staff on Duty to Report.	Park Board and Carnegie Centre have trained staff on Duty to Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City is planning training for inspectors; • Carnegie Staff recently completed training; • Parks provided training to youth workers and front line staff; • Training will also be considered for VPL, & other Community Services staff; • VPD updated policy and communicate and reinforced duty to report incidents; • VFRS - duty to report is part of their practice.

Province Policy Responses and Gaps in response to the Motion:

Support for Youth Leaving Care up to Age 24: Some steps are being taken to close the gap in supports for youth leaving care up to age 24. Eligible youth can receive up to \$1,000 per month over a total period of 24 months to access training and vocational studies; previously, funding was available to age 21. About ten percent of youth leaving care access these funds.

No action has been taken to create a Regional Youth Secretariat in partnership with the BC Government and Metro Municipalities or to create some form of secure care.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Investments have been committed to by the Province and plans to extend supports for vocational opportunities up to age 24 are in process. However, actions are modest relative to overall need.

40% of homeless adults were part of the child welfare system as children/youth⁵; youth homelessness, and numbers of police calls involving youth with mental health issues has increased⁶ To address actual need, staff advise that the Province work with local governments and other partners to:

- Implement preventative 'upstream' measures, including implementation of Truth and Reconciliation recommendations, poverty reduction, and quality early care and learning opportunities for families;
- Invest in a province wide response to youth at risk, involve youth in care in policy making, and apply an Aboriginal and gender lens to improve responses; and
- Provide additional affordable and accessible housing options in and outside of Vancouver

Staff will continue to complete "Paige's Story" recommendations and related work including:

- Presenting alternatives to improve the current response to youth at risk;
- Convening partners to secure youth housing options;
 - Continue to support the Vancouver Foundation *Fostering Change* campaign along with collective impact approaches to youth leaving care⁷ and
 - Continued provision of grants to youth non-profit agencies for outreach services, and
 - Taking steps towards implementation of Truth and Reconciliation recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Clare Zak at maryclare.zak@vancouver.ca.



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General Manager

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KL/th

⁵ Vancouver Foundation web page

⁶ Between 2013 to 2015 the number of youth apprehensions increased from 158 to 164 and 15% of the homeless population, a 2% increase since 2010, are identified as youth in the 2015 City's homeless count.

⁷ Includes funding for collective impact initiative and support for Youth Matters sponsored by RayCam and Britannia Community Centre and other partners.

