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Corporation of the County of Bruce
Planning & Development Department

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Media Release

April 5, 2018

Bruce County launches the first EarlyON Program Guide for Spring 2018

Walkerton, Ontario: As part of the County's effort to improve communication and build awareness with residents about EarlyON programs, staff are excited to launch the very first EarlyON Program Guide for spring 2018. Bruce County launches the first EarlyON Program Guide for Spring 2018. The Guide outlines services offered between April 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018. The program guide has been distributed locally to community centres, lower tier municipalities, Library Branches, the Bruce County Museum, Public Health, School and has been posted both on the Bruce County website and on the EarlyON Facebook page for quick and easy access.

As the System Service Manager for early years', Bruce County worked through 2017 to conduct a Needs Assessment and Initial Plan. The plan identifies important next steps, including a review of the EarlyON service delivery model. Since the release of the plan, Bruce County has conducted a service review that looked closely at EarlyON programs and focused on developing a responsive and accessible system to better meet the current needs of Bruce County children and their families. In sync with provincial guidelines for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres, the review considered information collected in the OEYCFC Needs Assessment & Initial Plan and went further to capture other considerations specific to organizational mandate, capacity, resources and future opportunities.

Since 2001, Keystone Child Youth & Family Services has been delivering early years services through a purchase of service agreement with Bruce County. This has been a long standing arrangement, that has served children and families well. In 2016 the Ministry of Education announced the provincial plan to integrate and transform all EDU-funded child and family programs into a system of services managed by the local consolidated service managers, in this case Bruce County.

In response to the Initial Plan and the review, the County has determined that all EarlyON core services and program sites will transition to a direct service delivery model under the municipality effective September, 2018. This transition will provide a consistent approach to the delivery of EarlyON services and a stable platform for the Bruce County Children's Services Division to deliver responsive, quality early years services to all residents. With the transfer of core service responsibility, Bruce County would like to extend a sincere thank you to Keystone Child Youth and Family Services for their investment in programming and their commitment to shaping the early years system at the local level. As we carve a path forward, Bruce County looks forward to reestablishing a partnership with Keystone and exploring the delivery of specialized programs and targeted outreach activities in the future.



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