

Frequently Asked Questions about Thriving Children – Thriving Community

If you have additional questions about TC2, please visit www.ThrivingWindsor.org or contact the TC2 Coordinator, Jan at 683-8677 or tc2coordinator@windsorecc.org.

What are we (TC2 & You) doing?

We are working together to make things better for young kids and their families in Windsor. As caring members of the Windsor community, we are putting a process in place that engages the Windsor community in decision making for the well-being of children - not just today, but year after year after year.

Why?

Young children in Windsor have needs. Caring for young children is important for the children as well as for their families and for the community as a whole. We can have the greatest impact by working together on known problems, by using common approaches/strategies and by measuring our results. The best results will come from a decision making process that involves all sectors of the community – especially those who are impacted directly.

Who's responsible?

- We (you, me, the community) all are. As representatives of the community who are currently working in town in ways that impact children, we are all responsible for determining how to proceed. How much will we collaborate? How important are the issues before us? Do we believe in the strategies that have been proposed? If not, are we willing to suggest and work for strategies that would be better?
- Those who are interested will come together to define the 'who' and 'how' of sustaining this important work in Windsor.
- Since this is a *blueprint* for how Windsor will address the ongoing needs of its children ages 0-8, the process that we put in place should be a process that is sustainable into the future – beyond the time that we (you & me) are physically around.

What level of improvements do we want to make?

- Changes that improve the well-being of children in measurable ways - big and small.
- Big systemic changes are important for significant change.
- However, if we don't have the capacity to put systemic change into place, we still need to outline what needs to happen. Then, we can begin with what's feasible given the current political and economic climate.

The strategies are too big! They need more work!

- It's true that some proposed strategies are not clearly defined. We will continue to work on that.
- The great thing about this work is that it's iterative. Nothing is set in stone. We can refine and revise our plan as we go. In fact, this is preferred. Precious time can be lost by too much time spent in deliberation.

Many of these strategies are in place in town right now.

- It's true! Hurray! And if the strategies are making a difference, we will see the impact in the future. There is no need to stop doing what's working.
- The strategy plan is less about doing new things and more about identifying *what things work*.
- Strategies that are currently in place and are making measurable improvements need to be in the plan/blueprint so that they continue.

What's this talk about a blueprint?

- The strategies you reviewed today are a part of a *blueprint* for community improvement. We are identifying a process for 1) assessing needs and 2) addressing needs to make *measurable* improvements that are sustainable into the future.
- A long-term approach is critical. Think about how many of us were at the table 10 years ago. Less than 1/3 of the participants in the room were a part of caring for kids in Windsor in the 1990's. 10 years from now, there will be different players in Windsor. We don't want to repeat this process.

How much money will it take?

- Money is an unknown in this economy, but the Windsor community as a whole does have resources. Existing budgets are being shaped as we speak. There are resources (space, people and ideas) both around the table and extending out into the community.
- At this point in the project we are creating a long-term blueprint of strategies. We need to be less concerned with cost and more concerned with *what strategies will make measurable improvements in areas of need*. Once we understand what strategies are needed, we can address what is feasible right now and what will need to wait for better times.