System Change

8.6 Promote London’s “community hubs” (such as Family Centres, Resource Centres, and Libraries) and online resources to help families connect to supports

City of London

- The City continues to leverage existing space at community centres across the city to promote other city hubs to residents, such as family centres.
- City of London community centre supervisors are also responsible for community development across neighbourhoods; City staff actively support residents across all planning districts, supporting them to access our community spaces, plan and host community events, and help to build the capacity of the residents they work with.
- The City continues to leverage community centres to share information about neighbourhood initiatives, community groups and other information pertaining to the neighbourhood. Community centres are a place where neighbours can come together and build new relationships, socialize and recreate.
- The City’s Child and Youth Network (CYN) is a collaborative of more than 170 local organizations and individuals from the education, health, recreation and social service sectors. The CYN is dedicated to working together to change outcomes for children, youth and families in our city.
- The City of London promotes community centres through Spectrum, social media, City of London website and through community partners.

FamilyInfo.ca

FamilyInfo.ca is a web portal for parents, caregivers and service providers that links information on programs, services and resources in the London and Middlesex area for children.

FamilyInfo.ca is not intended to reproduce or duplicate anything that already exists. It is a launching point to other sites that contain early years centres information. FamilyInfo.ca is centred on the early years. It helps parents, caregivers and professionals find the information they are looking for in an easy to use, friendly
environment. The focus is on programs and services that are available. It is the first step in leading people through the process of finding the information they need.

**Community Connector Training**
Community Connector Training opportunities are provided at no cost for licensed child care educators in London and Middlesex. The workshops are developed for the Family-Centred Service System, and are provided through the City of London’s 2018 Licensed Child Care Affordability Pilot - Capacity Building/Special Projects.

Participants will:
- attend a tailored workshop, responsive to the child care sector that will incorporate situational examples from child care settings;
- increase their knowledge and awareness of Family Centres, EarlyON Child and Family Centres, relevant referral processes, and other local community supports available to the families they work with;
- help strengthen communities of practice through the sharing of information; and
- further their ability to consistently deliver high quality service information and referrals to families.

**Youth Connector Training**
The development of this initiative began in 2015 when the Child and Youth Network consulted over 700 young people, service providers, parents, teachers, guidance counsellors, and more about how to support young people to graduate from high school. From this, several youth-focused initiatives related to high school graduation were brought forward in the 2017-2021 Child & Youth Agenda.

Through these interviews there was a clear theme that meaningful, supportive relationships with adults and peers in mentorship roles are critical to the success of young people. In response to this learning, the CYN moved forward with its initiative to develop a training program that can build on the skills and capacity of individuals working with youth across the community.

**211 Ontario**
211 is an award winning helpline and website that provides information on and referrals to Ontario’s community, social, health-related and government services. 211 connects people to the right information and services, and helps people become more engaged with their communities.