

Subject: [Fwd: Re: FW: Group Homes on the North Shore]

Date: Mon, 15 Nov 2004 14:41:01 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: FW: Group Homes on the North Shore

Date: Mon, 15 Nov 2004 13:38:09 -0800

From: Robyn Newton <Robyn_Newton@dnv.org>

To: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>, Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org, Mark Bostwick <Mark_Bostwick@dnv.org>

Here is a summary of the residential care facilities on the North Shore. Please note that the extended care and intermediate care beds are not licensed by the Community Care Facilities Licensing, so the information on those beds was taken from the Health Region's web site. As you know, the District is not involved in approving group home locations, as that is a provincial responsibility.

In response to Ms. James concern about child care:

The immigration process and the requirements prospective immigrants must meet are a federal responsibility. That being said, the District provides financial support to the North Shore Multicultural Society, which in turn provides settlement services to help integrate newcomers into our community, including English Language training.

The District is taking a number of pro-active steps to support early learning for children.

1. We provide North Shore Child Care Resource Program with funding to provide programs for nannies and other informal caregivers, including
 - playgroups where caregivers can bring the children for socialization with other children
 - training on early childhood development and child care
2. We provide child care funding of \$30,000 annually to a variety of projects to enhance the quality of child care, including funding of a child care conference (professional development) for North Shore caregivers.
3. The District is currently exploring the development of a child care bursary program, to assist low income families with the fees for quality, licensed child care.

In the wider community, there has been a good response to the need for appropriate early childhood experiences for children under 6, and a number of good programs for both parents and caregivers and the children in their care. Whether people take advantage of these opportunities is another thing, but they do seem to be popular.

Just as an interesting aside, there were fewer child care options when I was looking for a caregiver for my son, and I ended up hiring a Filipino nanny for my son (and his older sister). I was concerned about language acquisition, but wouldn't you know, my son was an early, prolific talker, and in grade 3 was designated as gifted. Some of the research on early development has identified that it is the caregiver's response to the child's attempts at early language that is crucial (the caregiver provides positive feedback when the child babbles, for example). This may be more important than the caregiver's proficiency in English. I do believe that my son also benefited hugely from being enrolled in quality, licensed care once he turned 3 (an option that was not available for my daughter).

Thank you for contacting us with your concerns, and please feel free to contact me if I can provide any assistance.

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From: Elizabeth James [mailto:cagebc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2004 10:13 AM
To: Brian Platts; Ernie Crist
Cc: fonvca@fonvca.org; Robyn Newton
Subject: Re: FW: Group Homes on the North Shore

Good info, Brian...these sheets are worth keeping handy for sure. I've been thinking this over for a while, in the context of proposed changes to the LV Centre area. I came to the conclusion that 'perception' may be presenting a distorted segment only of the overall picture. Grocery and Post Office trips up to the Mall reveal many people whose lives are severely compromised - most by a mental incapacity - being 'taken for walks in the community.'

Because that seems way less evident at, for example, Capilano Mall or Edgemont Village, one can be forgiven for wondering if most group homes have been located in that area of the District.

Your information and that of Ms. Newton will be helpful in giving all of us a much clearer picture of reality.

On another, social services, issue: - What is also evident up at the Mall are the numbers of pre-school toddlers who are being 'nannied' or otherwise cared for by women for whom English is, at best, a second language. On many a sunny day, I have seen two or three of these ladies - for whom I have the utmost respect - chatting away in their home language, while the - yes, Caucasian - toddlers sit mute in their strollers.

I have a great deal of concern about this issue. Any educator worth their salt, will tell us that language skills are implanted at a very early age - indeed from birth onwards. What will be the learning prognosis for these children who are listening to what must be a virtually unintelligible language being spoken over their heads?

Canadian governments already have undertaken huge educational and health costs because they have chosen not to undertake more rigorous screening in the country of origin. Now, I see a danger that, because so many mothers must work out of the home in order to make ends meet, these policies are well set to have unintended and less than optimum consequences for Canadian-born children.

I firmly believe that Canada should impose a requirement that fluency in one or other of our official languages should be a condition for immigration to this country. Here, I should emphasize that I am talking about immigration policy not refugee policy.

In closing, I have urged Clr. Crist and other members of Council to focus on its own mandate and not to encourage further downloading of what are the responsibilities of senior governments. I still think that should be so. However, if we, for whatever reason, do not provide our children with the best possible education - and health care - it is local governments who have to pick up the social costs for that negligence....policing and homelessness being but two of the unintended consequences.

Perhaps Ms. Newton might have some ideas about how best to tackle these issues in a multi-disciplinary manner.

Regards,
Liz

Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca> wrote:

Dear Councillor Crist:

Perhaps I can partially answer your question. The North Shore Disability Resource Centre operates 11 group homes for people with disabilities, five of which offer independent living while six homes are supportive living with 24 hour care. These homes are located as follows:

Independent Living

- The Ranch - 900 block of Hendry Ave., NV
- Kilmer House - 1600 block of Kilmer Road, NV
- 23rd Street House - 700 block of West 23rd., NV (just off Edgemont Blvd.)
- Gordon House - 1500 block of Gordon Ave. in West Van.
- Rufus House - 2000 block of Rufus Dr. in NV

Supportive Living

- Wilding Way House - 2400 block of Wilding Way, NV
- Shone Road - 4000 block of Shone Rd. NV
- Nancy Green Way - 5700 block of Nancy Greene Way, NV
- Quinton Place - 3900 block of Quinton place, NV
- Loraine House - 3900 block of Loraine Ave., NV
- Kerrstead - 1600 block of Kerrstead Place, NV

Other organizations also have group homes for people with physical or mental disabilities. For example, in the Edgemont, or Upper Capilano area, I am aware of two other group homes in addition to 23rd Street House, Loraine House, Quinton Place, and Nancy Green Way.

I do not have any information on half-way houses for people making the transition from prison to society, safe houses for women, or other group homes that assist people dealing with psychological diseases such as schizophrenia.

I trust that I have partially answered your question.

Sincerely,

Brian Platts

Ernie Crist wrote:

This in response to an enquiry from a concerned resident that virtually all group homes on the North Shore are located in the District, specifically in Lynn Valley. The question I asked of staff was how many group homes are there on the North Shore and how many of them are in the District ? You will note that this question has not yet been answered by Ms Newton from our social planning staff.

Ernie Crist

From: Robyn Newton
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2004 11:21 AM
To: Ernie Crist
Cc: Mark Bostwick; Irwin Torry; Robyn Newton
Subject: Group Homes on the North Shore
Importance: High

There are no current applications with the Health Authority for new group homes in Lynn Valley.

There are some changes underway to seniors care facilities in Lynn Valley (a net reduction in 30 licensed care beds):

1. Sunrise (Lynn Valley Road) is changing ownership - I will forward the details when we receive them. They have 107 licensed care beds.
2. Cedarview (1200 Cedarview Close in Lynn Valley) has taken 30 intermediate care beds and replaced them with assisted living beds (which are not licensed by the Health Authority)

There are two applications in the City of North Vancouver for group homes:

1. 200-block West 22nd - application for 4 beds
2. 500-block West 25th - application for 6 beds (intermediate care)

There are currently no applications in West Vancouver. The Amica Building on Clyde Avenue will be provided assisted living beds, so will not be licensed.


The Health Authority is sending me an updated list of licensed adult care facilities on the North Shore, and when I receive that I will determine the relative number of care facilities and beds in the 3 municipalities (and Lynn Valley vs. the rest of the District).

As noted, assisted living beds will not be included in these totals.

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