

Moscow City Department on Family and Youth
Policy

MOSCOW CHILDREN

Moscow Government's Policy Strategy for Better Childhoods for 2008 – 2017

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Introduction

Adopting the Policy Strategy for better childhoods for 2008-2017 “Moscow Children” (hereinafter – the Strategy), the Government of Moscow fulfills its obligation to ensure sustainable and harmonious development of the city for its future generations. We are convinced that the improvement of children’s position in society, their proper protection, creation of favorable conditions for their activity, education, upbringing and development is the key goal for state social policy and an obligatory condition for social progress. Investing in children guarantees successful and sustainable development of the region and the country in general, improvement of the population’s living conditions, increase of “human capital” cost and recapture of Russia’s role as a world scientific and technological leader.

Recalling that under the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, children are entitled to special care and assistance, the Moscow Administration joins UNICEF’s Child Friendly Cities Initiative. The Strategy aims to give specific meaning to the principle that “Children are Our Present and Future”, defining consistent and agreed measures aimed at improving the future generation’s well-being, their successful development and timely inclusion in a socially significant activity. The Strategy’s implementation should result in Moscow becoming a child friendly city within the next decade.

Recognizing that there are children in Moscow that live in extremely difficult conditions and require special attention, the Moscow Government has as a priority targeted support of all groups of vulnerable children and real equality of rights and opportunities for all small Moscow residents. The Strategy is intended to create conditions under which every child can grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, where every family can be provided with necessary protection and assistance so that it can perform its duties and every young person would be fully prepared to be brought up in a society of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity. It is the most reliable way to reduce social tensions and narrow the gap between the quality of life for the richest and the poorest families.

Basis for the Development of the Moscow Policy Strategy for better childhoods for 2008 – 2017 “Moscow Children”

By signing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Russian Federation assumed the obligations to create necessary conditions to exercise these rights, establishing comfortable and supportive environment for children where the best interests of youth are the primary consideration. These obligations are an absolute imperative in the activities not only of federal but also of regional and local authorities.

On May 10, 2002, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration “A World Fit for Children” that included the obligation “to change the world for and with children”. The Declaration states that “a world fit for children is one in which all children get the best possible start in life and have access to quality education, including primary education that is compulsory and available free to all, and in which all children, including adolescents, have ample opportunities to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment”¹.

The UNICEF initiative, “Cities for Children,” promotes the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the city level which directly impacts children’s lives, i.e. at the city level where they live. The basic elements making a city child friendly include:

- realization of all rights of all children and development of the potential of every child;
- promotion of meaningful participation by children in discussion and decision-making processes influencing their lives;
- creation of an inclusive tolerant society where children are not exposed to discrimination based on their capabilities, nationality, origin, etc., and where violence against children is inadmissible².

Improvement of children’s well-being, mother and child health protection, extended targeted assistance to families for child care is a priority for the Moscow Government. While in the 1990s, in conditions of economic recession, only urgent childhood and family problems were addressed and support was provided only to lower-income families, in recent years there has been developed and implemented the long-term strategy to support all groups of children and families. The policy is based on the priorities of family upbringing of children, endurances of equal rights and opportunities for every child and family, and targeted assistance to vulnerable

¹ Declaration and Plan of Action “A World Fit for Children” adopted by Resolution S-27/2 at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 10 May 2002.

² Creation of child friendly cities. Program of Action. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre; International Conference “Cities for Children”, M., 2007.

groups of children and families. To-date the Moscow Government has managed to achieve meaningful results in practically all policy areas affecting children and provide support to different groups of children. At the same time, there is a great potential for making these efforts more efficient.

The objectives in the sphere of childhood should establish a basis for the formulation of many other social goals and priorities in the city, with the best interests of children and future generations being a primary consideration in strategic decision-making and building civil accord. It is especially important in the life of society today when the search of social benchmarks, values and national ideas are still developing. Children can constitute the basis for the formulation of new values and benchmarks, and consolidation of public spirit.

1. Best possible conditions for childbirth

At present, the number of newborns in Moscow is increasing. While in 2000 there were 73,100 newborns in the city, in 2006 their number increased by 20% to 94,600, and in 2007, according to expert estimates, it will exceed 100,000. Infant mortality is also reducing. In 2000, the infant mortality rate was 11.3 per 1,000 live births, versus 7.9 in 2006. Maternal mortality has also reduced from 21.9 per 100,000 live-born children in 2004 to 18.2 per 100,000 live births in 2006. The increase in births is explained by a number of factors, including the demographic explosion in the first half of the 1980s, and federal and Moscow demographic policy. Therefore, even if the number of births in the next decade remains the same it can turn into a serious problem.

The cumulative birth rate (average number of children born by one woman through her lifetime) in Moscow is 1.14, whereas in Russia generally it is 1.3 births per woman. Meanwhile, for simple reproduction the cumulative birth rate should be at least 2.1 births per woman and probably more, depending on different factors.

Specialists note a noticeable decline of value of children in public conscience of Moscow residents. The attitude towards having two or three children has become considerably worse. At the same time, the perception of childlessness has become less negative. One child in a family is a social norm in the city, with 55% of Moscow children living in the family with one child. An average Moscow family consists of 2.8 members, while to prevent population decline, more than 50 percent of Moscow families should have three or more children.

However, the demographic policy priorities cannot be limited to increasing the number of births. Every born child should be desired for parents, family and society in general. The risks of poverty, ill health and social maladaptation should be minimized. This implies that a child-friendly demographic policy focused on improving not only quantitative but also qualitative reproduction characteristics should be developed and implemented in Moscow.

2. Health protection and healthy lifestyles

Infant and child mortality rates in Moscow (see above) correspond to levels in developed countries and show a steady downtrend.

In recent years, total child morbidity rates have lowered, including basic clinical factors related to respiratory, pulmonary and digestive system diseases. The number of children in health group III has been reduced, and the number of disabled children has stopped growing. The immunization coverage of children is very high.

At the same time, serious anxiety is caused by high incidence of child diseases, especially in the period of schooling, often due to overloaded school programs, malnutrition and irregular meals, lack of healthy lifestyles, unhealthy state of environments and sometimes inadequate medical care.

The group of sickly children is broadening. Bronchopulmonary diseases top the list: on average, every child has such illnesses 7-8 times per year. They are followed by gastroenterological diseases, with almost every second child having them to different degrees. As for the level of cancer morbidity among children, Moscow is third in Russia after St. Petersburg and the Sverdlovsk Region, with cancellation cancer being the main medical reason of child mortality.

The group of so-called borderline cases, i.e. children at risk of disability due to different mental and neurological disorders is rather numerous. According to expert studies, up to 40 percent of junior school pupils need some kind of prophylactic assistance. Failure to obtain such qualified assistance may lead to their social maladaptation or even disability.

Specialists are seriously concerned by widespread sexually-transmitted infections of minors, such as HIV/AIDS, as well as alcohol and drug abuse, and high suicidal rates.

3. Children in a family environment. Orphans and children without parental care. Family arrangements for children and preventive work with families

More than one fourth of newborns in Moscow are born to single mothers. For each nine registered marriages in the city, there are more than five official divorces. Every year over 18,000 children lose the support of one parent. Moscow has the highest percentage of children (34 percent) who grow in a family without one or both parents.

More than 8,000 Moscow families with children under 16 years of age are registered at the place of their residence as social risk groups. Over 4,000 orphans and children without parental care are identified in the city annually; of them 98 percent are social orphans. Every year about one-third of such children are placed in specialized state institutions for orphaned children.

- One of the primary reasons for family crisis today in Moscow and Russia in general is the unfavorable socio-economic environment. Most families with children need improved housing conditions or additional space. According to expert estimates, the risk of poverty for families with children is two times higher than the overall average and increases with the birth of each following child. It is necessary to increase the monthly allowance for children under 18 years of age from lower-income families to the minimum child care allowance (RR 1,500). (According to UNICEF experts, this will allow a 50% reduction of the poverty level among children).

Today the living standard of Moscow families with children has been stabilized, moreover, their income improvement is observed. In 2004–2006, the number of children in families with the average per capita income below the minimum subsistence level receiving monthly allowances was reduced by more than 33,000, from 42.3 to 40.4 percent of the total children population in the megalopolis. In that period, the minimum subsistence level in Moscow increased by more than 75%. According to UNICEF studies, children aged 3 to 7, i.e. when most state support measures for families with children discontinue, face the highest poverty risk¹.

The problem of equal access of all families with children to quality social, medical, education and information services is still an issue. It is necessary to change the existing stereotypes in respect of children without parental care to ensure their family arrangement.

The “generation gap”, namely weak links between generations, difficulties in passing values and traditions, unfavorable psychological situation in the family, lack of understanding and common interests is a topical problem for families from different economic and social statuses.

The Moscow Government places a special emphasis on the situation of orphans and children without parental care. Presently, about 9,500 children and adolescents are registered with the guardianship and trusteeship authorities in Moscow; of them, 7,900 receive cash allowances. About 4,000 children and adolescents in Moscow are left without parental care annually. Of them 30 percent are placed in state care in baby and children's homes, orphanages and boarding schools for orphans, 60 percent are placed in foster families (under guardianship or for adoption) and about 3 percent are returned to parents. Of special concern is the problem of child abandonment: only 2 percent of children in baby homes have neither father nor mother, others are orphans whose parents are alive. It is indicative that every year about 25 percent of all newly identified children and

¹ See: New maternity and child support measures: a growth in the living standard of families with children or increased birth rate? The review of maternity and child support measures implemented in the Russian Federation in 2007. UNICEF, Independent Institute of Social Policy, M., 2007. P.13.

adolescents without parental care are children taken away from parents deprived of parental rights. The number of deprivation cases referred to courts grows annually.

The most popular family care arrangement for orphans is guardianship. Only 10 percent of children without parental care are placed with people who are not their relatives. The remaining 90 percent live with often elderly relatives (grandmothers and grandfather). Under the 2007 Comprehensive Program of Additional Measures to Support Families with Children (Year of the Child), from 2007 the maintenance allowances for children under guardianship (custodial care) as well as the lump sum compensation for reimbursement of expenses during the adoption process and the monthly allowance for care in the foster family were increased with the maximum amount of the latter reaching RR 15,000.

However, the existing forms of temporary and permanent family arrangements for orphans (i.e. adoption, guardianship and custodial care, foster families), especially their regulatory and legal framework, remain undeveloped. Work with families in a crisis situation to prevent deprivation of parental rights is not always efficient. Cases of restoration of parental rights and children's return to the family after the latter's social rehabilitation are rare.

4. Children with disabilities and special needs

One of the most vulnerable groups of Moscow children are children with disabilities and children with health restrictions. Currently, about 2 percent of Moscow children have disabilities. According to the municipal information system data, as of the end of 2006 there were 26,600 children with disabilities in Moscow, the prevailing cases being psychoneurological disorders (about 40 percent), splachnopathies (about 20 percent), musculoskeletal system diseases (about 4 percent), eyesight and hearing disorders (about 6 percent). The majority of children with disabilities (24,300) live in families of which 32 percent are single-parent families.

The situation of such children and their families is quite vulnerable. The birth of a child with disability considerably changes the economic, social and psychological status of the family, often forcing a radical reorganization of its way of life due to new problems and difficulties. Quite often the family breakdowns and as a result the whole burden of child support and care lies on one parent (usually on the mother). The material standing of families with disabled children deteriorates due to additional expenses relating to the child's disease and full or partial loss of income of one of the parents because of the need to look after the child on a permanent basis. The municipal infrastructure is poorly adjusted for people with special needs and public opinion to a large extent is not ready to "accept" a person with disabilities as an equal member of society. Another problem is a limited access of a considerable part of "specific" children to quality education services. As a result, children with disabilities and their families may face

situations of social isolation aggravated by serious material difficulties and lack of prospects for a dignified life.

Under the 2007 Comprehensive Program of Additional Measures to Support Families with Children (Year of the Child), support to families with disabled children was considerably increased. The compensation to a parent who does not work and looks after a child with disabilities who earlier was paid until the age of 3 years now is extended up to 18 years of age for children with disabilities and to 23 years of age for persons disabled from childhood. The compensation was increased more than 4-fold and now is RR 4,500. Furthermore, one of the parents taking care of a child with disabilities under 23 years of age who studies in an educational institution is entitled to a "social card" for free travel, purchase of goods at a discount in shops, pharmacies etc. Children with disabilities who are unable to attend educational institutions have access to distance education, and educational institutions working with children with disabilities are provided with special transport.

At the same time, the maximum possible integration of children with disabilities into the educational system and social life, further broadening of the range and improvement of the quality of rehabilitation, education and social services accessible for all families having children with disabilities still remain urgent problems.

5. Child in the educational environment

Moscow schools maintain the best traditions of Russian and Soviet general education ensuring its world standard and prestige. The capital's educational network consists of about 4,000 educational institutions for children including general, preschool, primary and secondary professional education. There are numerous types of educational institutions, including lyceums, gymnasiums, ethnocultural schools, cadet schools, "health schools", correctional establishments, schools for children with deviant behavior and so on. The program of building new educational institutions is of principal importance for providing access to quality education. About 20 school buildings are commissioned in Moscow every year. The intensive construction of kindergartens that began in 2006 will allow to liquidate the shortage of places in kindergartens in the near future. Quality education requires provision of educational institutions with training equipment and information and communication technologies. The relevant program adopted by the Moscow Government in 2000 is to play a principal role in meeting this goal. Its implementation will to some extent eliminate the training equipment crisis of the late 1990s.

Moscow is Russia's leading region and takes a reputable place in the world in the sphere of informational support of general education. In 2007, the Year of the Child, all Moscow schools were provided with high-speed access to Internet

and access to educational resources and services under Moscow and federal programs.

However, the modernization of the Moscow education system still falls behind the complication and differentiation of social order. The problem of educational inequality of children from different social strata remains the issue of the day. There are groups of children uncovered or inadequately covered by educational services, such as children with disabilities, special needs and neglected children. Generally, educational services provided in Moscow should to the maximum possible extent meet the best interests and needs of children and families, requirements of society and global economy.

The “demographic gap” in the number of children born in different years beginning from 1990 affects and will continue to affect employment of education system personnel, efficiency of use of educational institution premises etc. The problem of deficit of places in preschool establishments is rather acute today.

Work with gifted children that embraces hundreds of thousands of pupils taking part in competitions, study and hobby groups, studying in the best specialized schools in Moscow is of paramount importance for creation of the intellectual future of Moscow and Russia. For winners in national and international competitions the city creates special conditions of education and preparation for competitions.

The general economic and social situation in the country and decline in the prestige of pedagogical profession that occurred in the period of extremely low salaries of teachers continue to have their impact on school, devaluing education, first of all, in natural sciences and mathematics.

Today the system of primary and secondary vocational education is addressing a critical complex task of determining, together with general education, the place of a young person in urban economics, fulfilling the region's social order while guaranteeing that graduates will be needed and will be able to find a well-paid job. All this requires continuous improvement of the vocational education system that should be more radical and responsive to social requirements of the city than the improvement of general education.

The Moscow Government pays special attention to education and social and cultural adaptation of migrant children. According to the most conservative estimates, about 25,000 such children attend Moscow schools. Most of them have poor Russian language skills, no knowledge of fundamental principles of the Russian legislation, culture, history, traditions and norms of behavior necessary for socialization. The efficiency of socio-psychological, cultural and language adaptation of migrant children is reduced by psychologically insecure educational environment, absence of special psychological and pedagogical technologies aimed at helping to develop necessary behaviors, emotional discomfort of teachers and low level of their legal culture.

To facilitate integration of such children in Moscow educational environment, 243 Russian language groups work on the basis of 152 educational institutions in all educational districts providing classes for about 3,000 children. Russian language teachers are trained for work with migrant children; recommendations for education of children with no or poor Russian language skills have been developed; the manual "Learning to Speak Russian" for primary school pupils is ready for publication. However, further work should be carried out to extend various forms of cultural, educational, psychological and pedagogical support to this group of children, to ensure systematic reporting, monitoring and analysis of the situation of migrant children in the Russian capital.

The strategic perspective of the development of education in Moscow appears in the implementation of the principle of open city educational environment. Open education is an education which goes beyond the externally set out context of any specific educational institution corresponding to strictly regulated study program and organization of the entire academic process. In the open education system every element of the social and cultural urban environment can perform educational functions and present a resource in building an individual education program.

To implement the principle of openness it is not enough to have a variety of educational proposals and services: it is necessary to have a clear method of selection and arrangement of these proposals in an individual education program. Only in this way the chaotic space of heterogeneous educational services in the city would become for a person a resource of his/her own educational development.

Finally, for general education, update of education goals, content and technologies is required. Relevant decisions should be taken on the federal level but actually be initiated and largely formulated and implemented in Moscow.

6. Child in the cultural environment

The primary condition of the child's development is access to cultural values, timely and full familiarization with the cultural heritage of the city, country and mankind. The megalopolis of Moscow provides its young residents ample opportunities for familiarizing themselves with cultural values, active participation in cultural life, creativity and self-expression.

The Moscow Government places a special emphasis on provision of wide and equal access to cultural achievements for all young residents. 90 percent of events for children and adolescents are organized by cultural institutions free of charge. For example, in 2006 alone, city cultural and leisure centers and clubs opened 126 new free club centers, such as theatre, dancing and vocal studios, artistic handicraft and decorative art, sculpture, painting, graphic arts and other groups. As compared to 2005, the number of children and adolescents involved in the activities of club associations increased by more than 90,000. In 2006, 147,300 pupils visited museums and exhibition halls free of charge. Library services in the

capital covered 820,000 children and adolescents. More than 300 special interest groups and clubs attended by over 5,500 children operated on the basis of children's libraries in Moscow. Every year about 1 million young spectators visit children's theatres in Moscow.

However, all these opportunities are not used in full. Specialists and society are alarmed by the reduction of children's involvement in the cultural life of the city. Poorer quality and reduction of the audience of youth mass media, small scale of youth cultural initiatives and projects, less children's and adolescents' interest in the history and culture of Moscow and Russia, reading of fiction and popular-science literature, museums, exhibitions and theatres are prevailing. Evidently, it is necessary to look for new forms of involving the rising generation in learning the cultural heritage and cultural creativity.

Moscow's rich cultural potential should be far more efficiently used for personal development of each young resident. It is important to make interactive all cultural programs and projects intended for children, take into account interests and opinions of children themselves, ensure their active involvement in studying the cultural heritage and creation of new cultural products.

7. Child in the social environment

Social environment is essential for child development and integration in society. A child wants to be heard and his actions to be important and useful for others, i.e. he/she wishes to become a subject of social life instead of an object of socio-pedagogical impacts. To help him in this means to solve the task of positive socialization, successive integration in society and fostering of civic culture attitudes.

An important component of an effective policy for better childhoods is the promotion of children's active participation in decision-making processes at different levels, from discussion to implementation, thereby making them equal partners of adults. One of the forms of such participation is pupils' involvement in school management (sometimes called "self-management") that is actively developed in Moscow schools. Another form is the participation in the children's social movement which includes nearly 600 children's public associations in Moscow.

The reasons of prevailing asocial phenomena and antisocial behavior among young people are largely connected with negative socialization when the child's "participation potential" is unused. Feeling that they are rejected, children search for opportunities for self-actualization in social shocking behavior and marginal social groups. The most effective measure to prevent abnormal behavior is to support and develop children's social activity.

A significant aspect of the youth socialization policy is assistance in occupational guidance, gaining first work experience, temporary employment of adolescents and students. This enables young people to properly use their labor

potential and find their place in the Moscow job market. In 2006, about 40,000 adolescents approached the Moscow Employment Service, of them 32,600 found a job and 33,400 were provided occupational guidance and psychological consultations.

Yet, the potential of children's participation in Moscow's social life, labor and socially oriented activity has not been maximized. The social environment often does not have a positive impact on the process of children's development and maturing, and sometimes such impact is negative. Local communities and authorities often keep aloof from addressing the problems of youth socialization, or including children in socially meaningful activities and decision-making processes.

Tens of thousands of Moscow children and adolescents participate in children's public associations. However, sometimes their social activity is not understood or supported by the municipal authorities. The constraining factors here are an undeveloped regulatory and legal framework for the activity of such associations and their adult organizers, inadequate competence of adults in interaction with children's public associations, and undeveloped material, technical and guidelines bases. Seeing a child only as an object of education is a steady stereotype.

8. Child in the world of high technologies. Passing on intellectual potential. Human resources for the implementation of the Strategy

This section is of prime importance in the nearest decade, as science and technologies in Russia are in an "intellectual reproduction demographic gap" that is much deeper than the physical reproduction demographic gap. The collapse of the Russian military-industrial complex accompanied by a drastic reduction of state support of academic science and institutions of higher education (with rare cases of non-governmental support, such as the Open Society Institute) combined with the liberalization of the temporary and permanent emigration regime, absence of culture, infrastructure and economic arrangements of commercial scientific research and outsourcing services (ordered intellectual works) have led to a gap in the nation's and Moscow's, in particular, intellectual scientific and technical human capital.

Decreasing living standards of teachers, practically below the poverty line, and lack social stability have resulted in lower level of knowledge of school leavers entering teachers' colleges. Social inertness in this respect continues to be observed.

Today more than one-third of Russia's scientific potential is concentrated in Moscow, including 22% of research organizations, almost one-third of the total number of research workers, more than half of doctors of science, over 44% of candidates of science and 19% of higher education students.

In the context of rapid scientific and technological progress, global information society and knowledge-based economy early inclusion of children in

the world of science and technologies, improvement of their technological and information competence, involvement of as many young people as possible in scientific and technical creative work is of paramount importance. Successful advance in this direction means better competitiveness of young people in the regional, national and global labour markets and growth of the “human capital” in Moscow.

9. Child in the urban environment

The megalopolis environment has a great influence on the life, development and well-being of children. It is extremely important that all the elements of the city infrastructure are child-friendly, comfortable and safe, and contribute to successful development and socialization of children. This concerns apartment house entrances, outer courtyard spaces, streets and leisure areas, transport, organizations and institutions.

Urban ecology, natural environment, communication with representatives of the urban fauna are especially important for favorable development of children. However the rapid growth of technical infrastructure is often accompanied by reduction of green spaces and deterioration of environment. Therefore, it is extremely important to preserve Moscow as a “green city for children”.

In the natural and industrial environment of the city, a child should not only be an object of care and protection but also an active actor in transforming this environment and improving it in the interests of children and all residents.

The Moscow Government pays great attention to creation of conditions for safe and convenient lives of children. Under the 2007 Comprehensive Program of Additional Measures to Support Families with Children (Year of the Child), a wide range of activities was carried out in this area in 2007. The program for teaching children how to behave in the megalopolis, including rules of conduct on the roads, in the streets and public places has been developed and implemented. Children's facilities and institutions were inspected for the availability of adequate lighting, alarm buttons, speed bumps and traffic lights, compliance with fire safety rules. Measures were determined that are aimed at improving conveniences for children in land transport and subway. The chain of stores and cafes for children has expanded. Courtyard areas are equipped with play- and sports grounds that meet the latest comfort and safety standards, including unimpeded access for different groups of children with disabilities. Special emphasis is placed on improvement of territories adjacent to child health centers and schools.

However, not all the problems of the city's infrastructure have been adjusted to meet the needs of children, especially small children, pregnant women and young mothers. Apartment house entrances are inconvenient for moving baby carriages, bicycles and other implements. Urban transport is inconvenient for children. No special places exist for leaving children for some time in stores. The number of baby-goods stores and assortment of affordable goods are inadequate.

Safety measures for children in entrances, yards, streets and city leisure areas also require further improvement.

10. Child in especially difficult circumstances

The Moscow Government gives priority to targeted support and assistance to children living in especially difficult circumstances. Such children can be divided into the following basic groups:

- children living in problem families who are actually deprived of necessary parental care;
- children whose parents are in the process of deprivation of parental rights;
- street and neglected children;
- children that do not attend educational institutions for a long time without valid reason;
- children subjected to violence and/or sexual harassment in the family;
- minors subjected to sexual exploitation, involved in prostitution or pornography;
- HIV positive children;
- children affected by economic exploitation and involved in begging;
- children dependent on alcohol and narcotic drugs;
- minors who are members of criminal associations, adolescent and youth gangs, extremist groups;
- children in special educational institutions for juvenile offenders and juvenile correctional institutions.

All of the mentioned groups are victims of neglect, indifference and/or criminal assault by adults. They are deprived of living and development conditions that are necessary for every child and risk joining the ranks (or are actually members) of asocial, socially dangerous groups.

Currently, more than 11,500 children and adolescents are registered with juvenile divisions of internal affairs bodies. Over 800 minors aged 8 to 17 are brought up and taught in open and closed special schools for children with deviant behavior. Preventive work is conducted with these groups of children in the city, using innovative methods, such as involvement of social volunteers and social rehabilitation, street social work and school reconciliation services.

This work resulted in a 22-percent reduction in the number of crimes committed by/ or involving juveniles in 2006. However, against the background of the overall decrease of the juvenile crime rate, there was an increase in the number of juvenile crimes associated with drugs and potent substances, intended infliction of serious harm to health and keeping and use of firearms, as well as a trend towards “younger” juvenile delinquency. In view of the above, it is necessary to widen the variety of forms and methods of preventive work, provide all-round

support to children from “risk groups” and improve the efficiency and comprehensive character of such activities.

Implementation of a comprehensive and long-term policy, that is aimed at improving the situation of all groups of children and families with children and transforming Moscow into a child-friendly city, requires closer coordination of activities among Moscow Government departments, municipal authorities, public organizations and socially oriented business targeted at the solution of burning childhood problems. It is also important to harmonize the basic provisions of federal and municipal targeted programs implemented in the capital, priority national projects, social initiatives of public organizations and business communities.

The relevancy of the development of the Moscow Government's Policy strategy for better childhoods for 2008–2017 “Moscow Children” is caused by the abovementioned problems and is aimed at their elimination.

Goals and Objectives of the Moscow Policy strategy for better childhoods for 2008–2017 “Moscow Children”

The Strategy focuses on a child, his/her interests, rights and needs. **The general goal of the Strategy** is to develop and implement in Moscow a socio-economic, information and cultural, and infrastructure and technology policy aimed at the comprehensive promotion of children's rights and interests, creating the best possible conditions for every child's life and development and developing children's and adolescents' civil position.

Implementation of the Strategy will promote the transformation of Moscow into:

- a city that welcomes a birth of every new resident, lavishes parental care upon them, encourages that every child is desired in the family and children and parents achieve mutual understanding by creating necessary economic and socio-cultural mechanisms;
- a city that ensures the rights of all its children, including the right to a family regardless of their sex, social status, religion and ethnicity, or state of health, by developing and maintaining a culture of equal opportunities and tolerance, and economic mechanisms of leveling and support;
- a city where every child's views, positions and interests are taken into consideration in the decision-making process and his/her problems and difficulties are timely identified, using modern information technologies and organizational mechanisms, and legal education programs for children and adults;
- a city where children's health, comfort and safety are supported and strengthened; risks are minimized; state of health is recorded; disease prevention and early detection are carried out; individual recommendations and early treatment are provided owing to the targeted health and urban development policy; there is state regulation of the market, and fostering of a culture of safety and health;
- a city where a strategy for better childhoods is a key factor in forming intellectual and cultural human potential for knowledge-based global economy on par with other leading world capitals; where conditions are provided for socialization, communication, recreation and entertainment of children; and where their worthy life prospects owing to the open education system linking the total available human potential to upbringing, development and education;

- a city where targeted attention and support are provided to the most vulnerable groups: children with disabilities, HIV, dependent on alcohol and narcotic substances, children from problem families or without parental care; neglected and street children, children affected by exploitation, violence and abuse; children in especially difficult circumstances; and children who are in conflict with the law, both who committed or may commit a crime;
- a city that unites different social groups in the interests of children, combines the activities of governmental structures, federal and regional programs, business initiatives and activities of public organizations.

Key objectives of the Moscow Policy strategy for better childhoods for 2008–2017 “Moscow Children”:

1. Create the best possible conditions for childbirth and healthy development of children, accessibility of qualified medical assistance for every child and promotion of a healthy lifestyle as a dominating mode of behavior of young Moscow residents.
2. Unconditional exercise of every child's right to a family and all-out support of families with children, i.e. economic, social and information and cultural support.
3. Ensure the rights, interests and development needs of every child in the capital's education system and cultural environment.
4. Ensure efficient socialization of young people through their involvement in socially meaningful activity and decision-making process regarding their future, and the future of their families and the city.
5. Create child friendly natural and technogenic environment in the city.
6. Provide social support, rehabilitation and adaptation to children with disabilities, children with health restrictions, children in especially difficult circumstances: living in problem families, affected by violence and sexual exploitation, neglected and street children, children with HIV, dependent on alcohol and narcotic drugs, and children who committed or may commit a crime.

Key Implementation Principles and Documents Underlying the Moscow Policy strategy for better childhoods for 2008–2017 “Moscow Children”

The Strategy includes a number of **key principles** that run through all the areas of its implementation and constitute a supportive framework for its content.

Key Strategy implementation principles:

Listen to every child. Moscow should become a city where the children's rights and best interests are among political priorities and where children participate in decision-making affecting them.

Leave no child behind. Special attention should be concentrated on most vulnerable groups of children: children with disabilities and special needs, children without parental support, neglected and street children, children affected by exploitation and abuse or in conflict with the law.

Reveal the potential of every child. Ensure the best possible conditions for education, development, socialization, vocational training and efficient employment of young people; worthy life perspective for every child and every family, development of the child's active civic position.

Protect rights and provide legal education. Moscow should become a city where effective mechanisms of protection of all children's rights and interests are put in place, a city where large-scale legal information and education programs are implemented for children and their parents.

A city that is safe and convenient for all children. Ensure safe and comfortable living of children in Moscow, unimpeded access to all services and opportunities of the capital megalopolis.

Knowledge and expertise should serve children. The policy for better childhoods is based on using the latest scientific achievements and modern social technologies. Training of highly-qualified personnel for the work with children and implementation of all sections of this policy is being organized. Direct familiarization of children with the latest scientific and technological achievements is organized in different forms: from acquaintance through mass media to involvement in scientific research.

Partnerships for the child. The policy for better childhoods should be based on social partnership and social and professional expertise technologies, involving all Moscow authorities, business communities, non-governmental organizations, regional and international partners.

A new perception of the child and the family. Ensure wide media support of the implementation of the policy for better childhoods, build a positive

public opinion in respect of children; strengthen family values in public conscience; and achieve better mutual understanding in families.

Implementation of some Strategy objectives requires registration of all children in the city, i.e. children that were born in Moscow, arrived in the city, were registered, applied for medical assistance, were detained by law enforcement agencies etc. For such registration, personal identification of a child is essential. The most efficient way of such identification is bioidentification (in particular, by automatic scanning of finger papillary pattern). Presently, there are a number of databases with information about children, the first among them being the Registry Office database; the introduction of Muscovite's social card (student's card) is gaining momentum. In the following years, the regulatory framework for using personal data, hardware and content of personal information databases will be improved. Individual Strategy activities involve using certain electronic databanks on children. When such activities are described, reference is made to Children Database (CD) without specification, which will be made in the process of the Strategy implementation. A CD and an identification system will address a number of important Strategy objectives, in particular, to expand the coverage of children by various types of services primarily general education, and to provide targeted assistance to socially disadvantaged groups of children.

The Strategy provides for a considerable number of free or nearly free programs for children from vulnerable, large families, children with disabilities and other restrictions. These programs will be financed by the Moscow Government based on individual access of such children. Such programs may include entertainment and cultural events, visits to sport and recreation centers, use of public transport (providing a free ticket with an identification card, which is similar to payment for service by a credit/debit card).

The Strategy content is based on study and adaptation for Moscow of experiences from developed countries and Russian regions in building child protection policies as well as from recommendations of experts from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Advanced research and ideas of Russian academics: demographers, sociologists, teachers, psychologists, health workers, culture experts were widely used. Special attention was paid to innovative social work technologies providing for self-reliance, exercise of the right to participate in solving one's problems together with specialists, use of the latest information technologies and search for original economic solutions.

The Strategy goals, objectives, key principles, priority directions and main activities were defined based on the following:

- *international instruments*, including:
 - UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Third Periodic Report of the Russian Federation on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Declaration Implementation Plan;
- UN Declaration and Plan of Action “A World Fit for Children”
- Program of Action “Creation of Child Friendly Cities”;
- World Health Report 2005 (WHO) “Make Every Mother and Child Count”, International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health – Children and Youth Version (ICF-CY) and other WHO documents;
- *Decrees of the President and Government of the Russian Federation, including:*
 - Priority National Projects “Health” and “Education”;
 - Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No 1351 “On Approval of the Concept of Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation up to 2025” of October 9, 2007
 - Federal target program “Children of Russia” for 2007-2010;
 - “Affordable and Comfortable Housing for citizens of Russia”;
- *Moscow laws:*
 - “On Development of Education in Moscow”
 - “On General Education in Moscow”;
 - “On Primary and Secondary Vocational Education in Moscow”;
 - “On Additional Guarantees of Social Support of Orphans and Children Without Parental Support in Moscow”;
 - “On Youth”;
 - “On Physical Culture and Sports”;
 - “On Social Support of Families with Children in Moscow”
 - “On Prevention of Drug Abuse and Illegal Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Moscow”;
 - “On Free Access of Disabled Persons to Social, Transport and Utility Infrastructure Facilities in Moscow”;
 - “On Additional Measures of Social Support of Disabled People and Other Persons with Disabilities in Moscow”;
 - “On Prevention of Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency in Moscow”;
 - “On Ombudsman for Children in Moscow”;
 - “On Commissions for Cases of Minors and Protection of Minors’ Rights”;
 - “On Delegation to Local Government Bodies of Moscow Municipal Entities with Powers from Moscow City to Establish and Organize the

Operation of District Commissions for Cases of Minors and Protection of Minors' Rights";

- "On Guardianship, Custodial Care and Patronage in Moscow";
- "On Procedure and Amount of Payment of Cash Allowances for Maintenance of Children under Guardianship (Custodial Care)";
- "On Monthly Child Allowance";

■ *Documents of the Moscow Government*, including:

- Main directions of the Moscow development strategy up to 2025;
- City target programs:
 - Medium-term housing program "Affordable Housing for Moscow Residents" (2007–2009),
 - "Affordable Housing for Young Families",
 - "Affordable Housing for Muscovites",
 - Medium-term program of development of physical infrastructure of child health organizations,
 - Moscow medium-term ecological program for 2006–2008,
 - Comprehensive program of small business development and support in Moscow for 2007–2009,
 - "Moscow Youth" for 2007–2009,
 - Medium-term comprehensive program "Patriotic Education of Moscow Youth for 2007–2009",
 - "The Yard and the Entrance of My House" for 2007–2009,
 - "Social Integration of Disabled Persons and other Persons with Disabilities in Moscow for 2007–2009",
 - "Moscow Sport–2" (2007–2009),
 - Program of further development of catering services for pupils and students of educational institutions in Moscow (2007–2009),
 - Program of provision of Moscow educational institutions with training equipment, computer hardware and software,
 - "Electronic Moscow",
 - "Creation of Rescue and Recreational Complexes on Water up to 2010",
 - Comprehensive Program of Crime Prevention and Control and Security of Citizens in Moscow for 2006–2010,
 - Migration Program for 2008–2010,
 - Comprehensive Program of Long-Term Development of the State Historical, Architectural, Artistic and Landscape Reserve Museum "Tsaritsino" for 2006–2008,

- Medium-term Program of Cooperation with and Assistance to Moscow Universities and Institutions of Federal Jurisdiction in 2007–2009,
- Concept of development of interaction of Moscow executive authorities with public and other non-profit organizations for 2006–2010,
- Concept of demographic development of Moscow,
- Plan of state support of the development of children's social movement in Moscow (for 2008–2010)

The Strategy will be taken into consideration in:

- drafting of laws:
 - “On Protection of the Rights of the Child”,
 - “On Delegation to Local Government Bodies of Municipal Entities of Individual Powers of Moscow in the Sphere of Guardianship and Custodial Care”,
 - “On Education of Children with Disabilities”,
- preparing the Moscow Development Strategy up to 2025;
- developing programs:
 - Year of the Family in Moscow (2008),
 - “Metropolitan Education – 5” (2008–2010),
 - “Metropolitan Health Services – 3”,
 - “Legal Education”

and other documents to be adopted in the future. The Strategy will also form the basis for working out some sections in such documents and will be taken into account in drafting federal laws and programs (including Federal Law “On guardianship and Custodial Care”),

Sections of the Moscow Policy strategy for better childhoods for 2008–2017 “Moscow Children”

Each Strategy implementation section has its **goal**, **objectives**, measurable performance **indicators** and **key actions**. The Strategy content concerns the social sphere complex with the involvement, in some cases, of the city-planning complex, Consumer Market Department, Department of Science and Industrial Policy and others. Many Strategy sections, indicators and activities are interrelated and interlinked. Therefore, for indicators and activities applying to a number of sections in the strategy, numbers in brackets “()” have been provided to defined other sections for which the given indicator or activity is applicable.

While the Strategy goals and objectives are supposed to be unchanged throughout its implementation period, indicators (specifically their values) and especially lists of activities will be adjusted and complemented both at the initial stage after approval of the Strategy and in the course of its implementation. In some instances, based on program objectives and activities, municipal programs and plans of action of different scope and duration can be developed.

Section 1. **Best possible conditions for childbirth and start in life** (child friendly demographic policy)

The goal of Moscow's demographic policy is to create the best possible conditions for childbirth and healthy development of children including a favorable socio-economic environment, effective health technologies and a positive socio-psychological climate.

The main policy **objectives** to achieve the stated goal are to:

- Create a system of moral and material incentives for having and increasing the number of children in the family;
- Ensure quality and accessible obstetrics, antenatal care and childbearing assistance, postnatal therapy, treatment of infertility and protection of reproductive health;
- Ensure high quality of life in an urban environment for pregnant women including work, recreation, nutrition and newborns feeding;
- Strengthen the family, revive and preserve cultural and spiritual traditions of family relations; develop in public conscience, including children and young people, a system of family and childbirth-related values, create conditions for higher social prestige of motherhood and fatherhood.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- 1.5-1.6 times higher cumulative birth rate, primarily due to birth of the second and successive children;
- reduction of maternal and infant mortality rates in accordance with the Concept of Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation up to 2025 and WHO recommendations;
- reduction of the number of abortions, including among primigravidas;
- increased percentage of women who at their own wish left workplaces with harmful and arduous working conditions and got a new profession, if necessary;
- increased number of women- and family-friendly maternity welfare centers, family counseling centers;
- increased coverage of pregnant women by sanatorium-resort health improvement services;
- reduction of the number of children infected with HIV/AIDS by their mothers;
- increased percentage of iodized salt sold through retail trade system;
- increased percentage of women nursing during six months after childbirth and continuing to nurse in combination with safe, suitable and adequate additional feeding during the first two years or longer;
- increased number of reproductive health rehabilitation cases, successful use of assisted reproductive technologies, including free medical services;
- change of the system of family values and reproductive orientations of young people towards registered marriages, having several children, higher family prestige, responsible motherhood and fatherhood. (Information obtained through the provision of a survey analysis.)

Key actions to implement the child friendly demographic policy

- Develop special programs allowing women to obtain new professions at the expense of employers and municipal budget in case of their transfer (release) from workplaces with harmful and arduous working conditions to new workplaces.
- Develop and introduce programs aimed at comprehensive medical, social and psychological assistance to pregnant women. Create a new model of woman and family friendly maternity welfare centers. Shift from maternity welfare to family counseling centers (2). Provide all pregnant women in Moscow free of charge with adequate amounts of iodine, vitamin A, Fe and other microelements necessary for healthy development of the child.
- Develop and introduce mechanisms contributing to wider coverage of pregnant women by sanatorium-resort health improvement services.

- Orientate perinatal diagnostics and pre-delivery examinations towards pregnant woman and fetus therapy, reduce the weight of recommendation for induced abortion in case of fetus' defects detection. Develop modern technologies of treatment of perinatal pathologies, prevention of congenital malformations and hereditary diseases; develop postnatal therapy.
- Conduct free examinations of pregnant women and newborn infants for sexually transmitted infections; improve prevention of HIV, hepatitis B and C transfer from mother to child.
- Improve access to and quality of free high-tech medical assistance to women during pregnancy and delivery and to their newborn infants. Improve material, technical and human resource support for mother and child welfare service in compliance with the standards of maternity clinic facilities.
- Develop family-oriented perinatal technologies reducing the risk of unfavorable outcomes of pregnancy and delivery, in particular, promote the development of an alternative model of domiciliary delivery and opportunities for parturient women to choose this model (2).
- Conduct mass examinations of newborn children for hereditary diseases under the neonatal screening program.
- Promote, support, protect and provide facilities for breast feeding, including breast feeding of babies during six months after birth and continued nursing combined with safe, suitable and adequate additional feeding during the first two years or longer. Update infant feeding centers in Moscow. Provide consultations to HIV or AIDS positive mothers on infant feeding so that they could make a free and informed choice.
- Implement programs for preventing abandonment of newborn children (primary support in maternity hospitals, home nursing).
- Develop medical care for women during pregnancy and for newborn children.
- Ensure access to and improve quality of medical assistance for reproductive health rehabilitation, including treatment of infertility and regular miscarriages, and assisted reproductive technologies, reduce the percentage of workplaces for women with harmful and arduous working conditions in order to preserve their reproductive health.
- Issue city orders for production of feature films (serials), popular-science, publicist and entertainment programs, talk shows, radio programs, social advertising promoting family values and importance of children in human life (3).
- Work out and approve a comprehensive city educational program for school pupils and students aimed at awareness raising in the sphere of family relations and formation of family values (5).

Section 2. **Health protection and healthy lifestyles** (younger generation health promotion policy)

The **goal** of the Moscow Government's child welfare policy is to create conditions for reducing child mortality and disease incidence, preventing disablement, harmonious physical and spiritual development of children, promoting healthy lifestyles and developing physical culture and sport.

The **main objectives** of the healthcare policy in the capital environment:

- Improve the child welfare system based on a shift from a purely medical to a broader social model of child health, humanization of the system of relations between specialists and their patients, promotion of self-reliance and the right to participate in solving their problems together with specialists;
- Build and improve the city infrastructure of health monitoring (including in the education system), preventive examinations, health survey, consultations and early assistance (early intervention); develop and introduce multipurpose electronic "health certificates";
- Create an efficient system of prevention of child disability;
- Strengthen municipal pediatric service and its interaction with the education system, law enforcement and social protection bodies; support child health centers and children's hospitals, develop their HR potential; strengthen the institute of district doctors; develop age-oriented services;
- Develop physical culture and health promotion activities for young people, child sports;
- Promote healthy lifestyles among children and young people, prevent development of pernicious habits; (5)
- Meet social, educational and cultural needs of sick children, including those in hospitals, as well as specific needs of mentally sick children and other special categories; (5, 6)
- Develop a system of medical and psychological support of children, including children from risk groups: HIV positive, dependent on alcohol or narcotic drugs, inclined to suicide;
- Provide information, counseling, service and other support to parents in promotion of children's health;
- Optimize the study load in educational institutions;
- Improve the provision of meals to children in educational institutions, foster healthy nutrition habits;
- Develop the infrastructure of and improve access to summer recreation and sanatorium-resort services to children.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- Decreased infant and child mortality (1);
- Decreased disease incidence among preschool and school-aged children, including most common groups of diseases;
- Percentage of mother and child health protection funding in the “Public Health” section of the Moscow budget;
- 100 percent of primary care pediatricians in child health centers and elimination of queues;
- Increased percentage of children having an electronic pupil's health certificate;
- Reduced distance to the nearest child health centers;
- higher consumer evaluation of the quality of services provided by child clinics and other health centers and primary care pediatricians' services (Information obtained through a survey analysis.);
- Percentage of children and adolescents that underwent prophylactic medical examinations;
- higher consumer evaluation of the quality of meals in kindergartens and schools (Information obtained through a survey analysis.) (5);
- Percentage of educational institutions where only healthy food is sold;
- Percentage of educational institutions with available and free pure drinking water;
- higher consumer evaluation of the quality of healthcare activities in educational institutions (Information obtained through a survey analysis.) (5);
- Increased participation of children in fitness and health-improvement activities, tournaments and competitions; increased regular attendance to sport clubs, groups and sections;
- Increased number of fitness facilities for children equipped with modern sports equipment (including those belonging to educational institutions): gyms and exercise rooms, swimming pools etc;
- Increased coverage of Moscow children by various forms of health-improving summer recreation and sanatorium-resort services;
- Percentage of young drug addicts who underwent treatment and rehabilitation with a remission period of at least 1 to 3 years compared to the total number of drug addicts who underwent treatment and rehabilitation (10);
- Decreased number of attempted suicides among children and adolescents (10);
- reduction of smoking, alcohol and beer consumption among school children (7, 10) (Information obtained through a survey analysis.);

- Increased number of educational and awareness-building programs supported by the Moscow Government and local authorities and targeted at sex education of young people and prevention of early sexual relations (7, 10);
- Decreased percentage of minors suffering from sexually transmitted infections;
- Enlarged access of migrant children to health services.

Key actions to protect children's health and promote healthy lifestyles

Allocate at least 30 percent funding for mother and child health protection measures in the section "Public Health" of the Moscow budget (1).

Implement the "Child Friendly Clinic" and "Child Friendly Hospital" projects.

Conduct compulsory prophylactic medical examinations of children and adolescents.

Create early intervention (early assistance) centers (4).

Develop and adopt a Directive on Special Assistance to Infants (4).

Implement the program of health care services to and attachment of migrant children to district health centers irrespective of availability of residence registration.

Create a system of professional development, certification and attestation of primary care pediatricians targeted at deeper specialization and increase general knowledge based on world experience.

Improve provision of meals in educational institutions; reequip school canteens; improve quality, diversity, balance and biological value of school meals; 100 percent of pupils having hot meals (5).

Supply all educational and health care institutions for children with publicly-accessible free pure drinking water.

Re-equip school medical and dental rooms (5).

Ensure professional development of doctors and nurses working in educational institutions.

Develop and introduce in school programs the promotion of health culture and healthy lifestyles, prevention of smoking, dependence on alcohol and narcotic drugs, and building of awareness about HIV/AIDS, and hepatitis B and C (5, 7, 10).

Conduct for teachers and parents an information campaign about the inadmissibility of smoking in the presence of children.

Create and develop within the capital's education system a network of health schools with pilot inclusion of modern health improvement technologies in the

academic process; extend the experience of such schools to mass teaching practices (5).

Integrate modules on healthcare education technologies into training courses for teachers of general education institutions. Provide training for teachers and managers of educational institutions on forms and methods of cultivating healthy values, prevention of smoking, dependence on alcohol and narcotic drugs (5, 7, 10).

Build, renovate and improve sports and fitness facilities in community areas and educational institutions: stadiums, swimming pools, gyms, exercise rooms, sports clubs; ensure such facilities' affordability and availability within walking distance for families with children (5, 7, 9).

Implement a professional development program for physical-education teachers, coaches and trainers of sports groups for children (5, 7, 9).

Ensure children's and young people's access to sports and fitness clubs, swimming pools, beaches and bath houses; and free use of such facilities by children from socially disadvantaged families (5, 9).

Ensure accessibility of recreation and improvement of children's health and sanatorium-resort services for all groups of children.

Maintain the summer camp network providing adequate opportunities for pupils' leisure, sports and creative activities and their educational counseling (7).

Organize disability prevention activities: implement programs on medical, social and psychological assistance to children with potential disabilities, and educational programs for pregnant women and young mothers (4).

Establish in child clinics drug rehabilitation rooms, reproductive health rooms, sexologist and venereologist consulting rooms; expand training of child narcologists and sexologists (7, 10)

Develop the network of city drug rehabilitation centers specialized in work with young patients. Develop their physical infrastructure, human resources and technological modernization (10).

Establish the municipal child suicide prevention service with counseling centers in all administrative districts and an in-patient department (10).

Section 3. **Child in the family environment** (policy of support of families with children and family arrangements for all children)

The **goal** of the family support policy in Moscow is the consolidation of the institution of family and marriage and unconditional respect of every child's right to a family, improved quality of life of families with children, creation of moral and psychological environment in families promoting the best possible harmonious development of children.

The main **objectives** of the family support policy:

- all-out social and economic support of families with children through:
 - system of money allowances and target subsidies;
 - assistance in improvement of housing;
 - facilitation of employment of both parents;
 - enhanced opportunities of both parents' employment while carrying out their family responsibilities;
 - development of infrastructure of temporary maintenance, caregiving, upbringing and development of preschool-age children;
 - development of infrastructure of joint recreation, leisure, cultural and educational centers and events for families with children;
 - ensuring of equal and priority access to education, health, culture, sports and social services;
- development of the system of socio-psychological and legal assistance to families through:
 - improvement of quality and accessibility of social services for families with children in social institutions for family and children;
 - access for all groups of families (including young, large, lower-income families, families experiencing family crises, registered problem families etc.) to family counseling, crisis centers, legal assistance services;
 - improvement of quality, accessibility and range of social services for families having children with disabilities and special needs;
 - social work with families in risk groups, assistance to parents in treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction, preventive activities in respect of neglect of children;
- information and cultural support of the family through:

- promotion of family-oriented television and radio broadcasting policy, editorial policy of print and electronic media;
- support and development of family forms of recreation and leisure, public associations, clubs, excursion programs for children and parents etc.;
- support and development of family forms of children's education;
- development of programs for improvement of parenting skills;
- development of infrastructure of pet keeping in a family (initial counseling, assistance in selection, veterinary services, training, zoo hotels etc.)
- reduction of the number of neglected and street children due to more active preventive work with families from "risk groups";
- ensuring the right to a family for orphans and children without parental support through:
 - optimization of adoption procedures;
 - encouragement of adoption and guardianship, support of adoptive parents and guardians;
 - development and support of foster homes and families and other forms of family arrangement;
 - formation of public opinion.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- increased average per capita income of Moscow families with children (including salaries, pensions and social allowances) (1);
- decreased percentage of large families with the net income per family member (including welfare payments and services) below the subsistence line;
- reduced difference between incomes of 20% of the richest and 20% of the poorest Moscow families (taking into account social payments and services) with the priority of reduction for large families;
- bringing monthly allowance for children under 18 years of age from lower-income families to a level corresponding to the minimum child-care allowance, i.e. RR 1,500 with sequential indexation (1);
- increased number of families with children that benefited from different credit programs (including education and property credits);
- increased subsidies for payment for municipal housing and utilities for lower-income families;
- increased number of young families living in separate apartments (1);
- reduced number of divorces (1);

- increased percentage of parents covered by good parenting programs;
- decreased percentage of registered families in crises (10);
- decreased percentage of children who do not attend school without good reason (5, 10);
- decreased percentage of parents deprived of parental rights (10);
- reduced stay in maternity hospitals of children abandoned at birth;
- reduced period of time necessary for family arrangements for children abandoned at birth;
- reduced number of orphaned children in specialized institutions;
- increased number of orphans and children without parental support placed in alternative families, including guardianship and foster families;
- increased percentage of children returned to biological families due to provision of efficient rehabilitation services (percent of the total number of orphans and children without parental support) (10).

Key actions to implement the family support policy

Create the system of informing newly-weds about social support measures for new families, possibilities of housing improvement etc. (1).

- Increase amounts of Moscow allowances to families and other social benefits with every newborn child in addition to allowances granted on the federal level (3).
- Provide municipal family capital at the birth (adoption) of each child following the first one with the possibility to use it to pay for education, medical treatment, preventive and rehabilitation measures, recreation and sanatorium-resort services (for parents and child), housing improvement, or to increase parents' pension accruals (3).
- Launch, in addition to federal, Moscow mechanisms of additional support of single-parent families with children and large lower-income families, families giving care to children without parental support and families having children with disabilities.
- Develop and implement additional measures aimed at providing housing to poor people with children who need accommodation, including removal of families with children from untenable and ramshackle buildings, priority provision of housing to children without parental support after their leaving educational and other institutions, in the families of guardians (caregivers), foster families and upon the termination of military service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.
- Develop a system of targeted assistance in paying for housing and utilities depending on the family structure and material situation.

- Provide opportunities for pregnant women to master skills before maternity leave, create conditions for women after maternity leave contributing to their return to labour activity, organize their upgrade and retraining in accordance with the labor market demand;
- Develop and promote full-time, distance and partially distance programs of vocational education (retraining, upgrade) for parents of small children.
- Provide possibilities of individual and distance education for parents studying in vocational training schools.
- Provide possibilities for some groups of small children's parents to get the second higher education at a reduced fare or free of charge in higher educational institution under municipal control (3).
- Develop a system of modern intellectual home and partially home work, flexible working arrangement (text and media information processing, translation from foreign languages, programming, design, teaching, call-centers etc.) allowing to combine work with family responsibilities, for parents of small children and children with disabilities (3, 4).
- Ensure government orders for social services to families with children provided by organizations of different organizational and legal forms.
- Create a city family friendly social service system including:
 - Creation of a network of family psychological counseling centers in all municipal districts of Moscow and accessibility of their services;
 - Creation of a network of family legal support centers in all municipal districts of Moscow and accessibility of their services;
 - Creation of a crisis and rehabilitation centers network for problem families as well as for women and children victims of domestic violence in all municipal districts of Moscow (1, 10).
- Develop and conduct monitoring of efficiency of institutions providing social services to family and children.
- Create a Moscow Family University, i.e. a network educational organization dealing with education and awareness-building among various population groups on family-related issues, relations between parents and children etc. Organize legal education of parents, sex education of children and development of family values, familiarization with the basics of age-specific psychology and conflict management, healthy lifestyles. Implement specific educational programs for certain groups of parents (having children with special needs, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dysgraphia and dyslexia, sickly children, children with poor progress in schools etc.).
- Enhance opportunities for family leisure, joint recreation of families.
- Develop and approve a package plan of actions aimed at prevention of children's leaving / separation from their family setting and reduction of the number of children in residential care.

- Improve the range, quality, efficiency and variety of family and children support services targeted at early identification of crisis situations, reunification and rehabilitation of families through providing social, psychological, economic and legal assistance, prevent child abandonment, violence against children and women in the family, deprivation of parental rights (10).
- Provide, on a competitive basis, the Moscow Government's financial assistance (grants) to public organizations providing support to families with children.
- Accelerate removal of orphans and children without parental support from maternity hospitals, in-patient care establishments and baby homes.
- Develop a comprehensive program of psychological and pedagogical training of candidates for guardians, adoptive and foster parents, caregivers.
- Develop qualification requirements, standards and wage system for the profession "patronage caregiver".
- Develop mechanisms of children's participation in evaluation of upbringing/life in an alternative family and provide for their efficient functioning; ensure the availability of specific complaint procedures and prompt responses (10).
- Organize a municipal advocacy campaign "A child should live in a family". Develop and broadcast television and radio programs on the development of family arrangements for orphans and children without parental support.

Section 4. **Children with disabilities and special needs** (policy of targeted support for children with disabilities and their families)

The **goal** of the Moscow Government's policy in respect of children with disabilities and their families should consist in ensuring all necessary conditions for life, development and integration in society of every child with disabilities, and inadmissibility of discrimination against such children and their families in all social spheres (public health, education, culture, employment etc.).

The main **objectives** of the policy of support of children with disabilities and their families:

- provide proper living standards to each family with a child with disabilities;
- prevent abandonment of children with disabilities by their parents and promote family arrangements for children with disabilities abandoned by their parents;
- create flexible financial mechanisms for targeted and efficient channeling of funds from the Moscow budget to organizations selected by a family with a disabled child for provision of necessary medical, rehabilitation and educational services;
- develop the municipal infrastructure for rehabilitation and educational (medical and pedagogical) assistance to children with special needs;
- provide free of charge all disabled children necessary medical and rehabilitation-educational services and with rehabilitation means;
- integrate children with special needs in the general education system and minimize isolated education forms;
- develop a system of distance (Internet) education for all groups of children with special needs;
- promote active participation of children with disabilities and their families in social, cultural and sporting events in Moscow;
- create a professional (career) education system accessible to every child with disabilities (according to medical indications);
- encourage creation of jobs in municipal services, social sphere and enterprises of all forms of ownership for employment of all young people with disabilities who do not have medical counter-effects;
- create a barrier-free environment, i.e. municipal technical infrastructure friendly for people with disabilities (apartment houses, public places, transport);
- form public opinion friendly to people with disabilities, culture of partnership and assistance.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- average per capita income higher than the minimum subsistence level and its upward trend in all families having children with disabilities;
- decreased percentage of children with disabilities without parental support in residential care (3);
- increased number of families with children with disabilities covered by social services and improved range of services provided to such families;
- targeted assistance provided to all families having children with disabilities for medical, rehabilitation and educational support of children;
- all children with disabilities are provided with rehabilitation services in relevant specialized institutions;
- all children with disabilities are provided with necessary rehabilitation facilities;
- increased percentage of children with disabilities integrated in the inclusive education system;
- increased percentage of children getting distance education support among pupils with poor grades from disadvantaged families
- increased percentage of educational institutions of different types and forms implementing the inclusive education model (5);
- increased percentage of children with disabilities participating in distance education programs and projects, network cultural initiatives (5, 6);
- increased percentage of children with disabilities participating in different cultural and sport events, social life of the city (2, 6, 7);
- number of free and discount sanatorium vouchers issued to children with disabilities;
- increased percentage of young disabled persons having part- and full-time jobs (7);
- suitability of apartment houses, public places and municipal transport in Moscow for the needs of people with disabilities (9);
- increased number of public organizations, initiatives, projects and charitable acts aimed at supporting children with disabilities.

Key actions to implement the policy of support of children with disabilities and their families

Develop and introduce a system of social standards of support for families with disabled children varying according to seriousness of the child's disability

and his/her needs for care, medical and rehabilitation services, number of working members and per capita income of the family.

Develop a flexible system of Moscow social allowances and other targeted financial assistance to families having children with disabilities (3).

Issue an additional monthly allowance to families giving care to children with disabilities (3).

Create a municipal system of medical and social services friendly to children with special needs and their families (2).

Assign to every family with a disabled child a personal curator from medical and social services. Define curators' functions and scope of responsibility.

Develop new standards and procedures of social support for families with disabled children: out-patient forms, psychological and pedagogical attendance at home.

Develop uniform city standards of rehabilitation assistance to children with disabilities. Introduce innovative methods for the work with disabled children. Provide rehabilitation facilities to family and child social services having units for work with children with disabilities.

Create a sufficient number of rehabilitation and education centers (curative pedagogics centers) to meet the need of such services. Support non-governmental organizations providing curative pedagogics assistance to children with disabilities and special needs.

Provide, at the expense of the Moscow budget, children with disabilities with specialized rehabilitation facilities according to life indications that are not funded from other sources, including computers (laptops) with standard (web-camera, printer, scanner, graphic panel) and, as acquired, additional specialized equipment (Braille bar, special keyboards, joysticks etc.).

Develop and adopt Moscow Law "On Education of Persons with Disabilities" (5).

Develop and introduce individual financing standards for education of persons with disabilities, including for inclusive education (5).

Develop and adopt regulations on Integrated (Inclusive) Education (5).

Develop and adopt new regulations on psychological and medico-pedagogical commissions.

Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for introducing inclusive education into all Moscow schools to ensure the right of all children with disabilities or children with difficulties in education/development to education in general education school while living in their families and include the following elements:

- physical accessibility of schools for children with disabilities (building of access ramps, widening of doors to toilet rooms etc.);

- increased material support of each school that intends to organize integrated education for children with disabilities, including necessary equipment and resource materials;
- training for school teachers on how to effectively educate children with special needs;
- promotion of inclusive education ideas in local communities (5).

Develop a municipal distance education system for children with disabilities targeted at general education and support of studying basic school subjects, and additional and vocational education (5).

Develop a system of city cultural and sport events, and social actions intended for disabled children's participation (2, 6, 7).

Organize and conduct the annual city festival of art- and craftwork of children with disabilities (6).

Increase the number of groups for adolescents and young people with disabilities in basic, secondary and higher vocational education institutions under municipal control (5).

Create a network of training and facilities for adolescents and young people with disabilities (5, 7).

Develop and implement a municipal program of effective employment for persons with disabilities (7).

Implement pilot interagency cooperation projects on social integration and rehabilitation of children with development problems.

Develop and implement a comprehensive plan of bringing Moscow's physical infrastructure (apartment houses, public places, municipal transport) in conformity with the needs and requirements of people with disabilities (9).

Provide the Moscow Government's financial assistance (grants) to public organizations, initiatives and projects targeted to support children with disabilities.

Conduct the city-wide advocacy campaign "Help children with special needs".

Section 5. **Child in the educational environment** (open education policy for development of potential of all children)

The **goal** of the open education policy in Moscow is to ensure that all young Moscow residents have equal access to quality educational services that meet the interests of each child, needs of the family and requirements of the knowledge-based global economy, to develop an individual education program and create good life perspectives for every child and every family.

The main **objectives** of the open education policy:

- ensure the right of all children in Moscow to quality education, irrespective of their sex, race, nationality, origin, place of residence, religion, beliefs, membership of public organizations (associations), health, social and property status;
- inform children and parents about social needs and possibilities in the sphere of education and development of human potential;
- ensure greater openness, transparency, understandability and attraction in education for children and parents, and participation of parents in school management;
- build a continuous education path “preschool – primary – basic – high-school education” with a possibility to get primary, secondary and higher vocational and additional education;
- meet the families’ needs in quality preschool education services based on:
 - improved accessibility and quality of services, in particular due to adoption of regional standards and their harmonization with federal standards as the latter are adopted;
 - promotion of flexible forms of provision of care and education of children according to their age;
 - affordability and availability within walking distance of the temporary maintenance, care, upbringing and development services for preschool-age children, elimination of shortage of places in kindergartens (5);
 - development of all forms of preschool educational institutions (public, private), diversification of the public preschool educational system aimed at the maximum possible satisfaction of the needs and requirements of different groups of parents (5);
 - increased competition on the market of temporary maintenance, care, upbringing and development services for preschool-age children by promoting an enlarged number of market participants (5).
- ensure accessibility of quality general education, including:

- walking distance to school (15 minutes for primary and basic school, in compliance with health recommendations);
 - possibility to study according to selected profile in senior secondary school, to get additional education, occupational guidance and training;
 - creation of a network school systems (school federations) of different organizational forms establishing a common education quality level and using distance technologies;
 - improvement of education content taking into account Moscow regional economic priorities based on knowledge of information technologies, data analysis and mathematical models, international and interethnic communication, sustainable development, economics and law;
 - equipment of Moscow general education institutions in compliance with perspective learning standards in general education taking into account world trends;
- provide primary and secondary vocational education in accordance with forecasted city requirements, graduates' employment in accordance with the subject, level and results of education and obtained qualification;
 - develop the additional education system that would meet a wide range of individual needs and inclinations of students and introduce them in the world of traditional technologies, arts and crafts;
 - assist Moscow graduates from secondary education institutions in continuing education, their orientation to perspective professions; create a Moscow counseling and career guidance system for young people, build an individual education path that, combined with the federal mechanism of a uniform state exam, would achieve optimal results in the high-school education system and its continuation in higher education institutions;
 - create a system of search, support and assistance in career choice for talented children and young people;
 - develop educational differentiation and individualization, create conditions for overcoming and preventing poor academic progress;
 - extensively use in education practice state-of-the-art information and communication technologies;
 - ensure highest possible performance efficiency of each teacher through:
 - developing a continuous variable system of methodological support, professional training, retraining and upgrading of teachers;
 - improvement of qualifying technologies and expert monitoring of educational activity;

- effective personnel policy promoting renewal of administration and teachers of educational institutions, increased personnel motivation, efficient use of various forms of encouragement and adaptation of young specialists;
- unconditionally respect the rights of the child in all educational institutions, develop a system of legal education, awareness-building and upbringing of children and adolescents;
- ensure security of children in school environment;
- ensure access to additional education, including:
 - development of additional educational services on the basis of general education institutions;
 - development of a full day school system;
 - development of a network of residential supplementary education institutions, improved range of their services;
 - development of a distance supplementary education network;
- develop mechanisms of children's participation in management of educational institutions;
- create and develop a public and professional system of independent evaluation and monitoring of education quality.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- increased coverage of preschool-age children by temporary maintenance, care, upbringing and development services (5);
- shorter waiting lists to preschool education institutions (5);
- availability of places in kindergartens within walking distance for a child;
- increased number of all forms of preschool educational organizations (public, private), development of flexible forms of provision of care and upbringing services to children according to their age (based on fiscal data);
- higher parent's evaluation of accessibility and quality of services provided by preschool educational institutions (Information obtained through a survey analysis.);
- adoption of regional preschool education standards and their harmonization with federal standards as the latter are adopted;
- percentage of children covered by programs of preparation for school on the basis of preschool and secondary educational institutions;
- increased percentage of general education institutions that submitted public progress reports for the current year in electronic (at their website) and printed form;

- increased percentage of general education institutions with effectively functioning management boards;
- increased percentage of students covered by the network school model;
- increased percentage of students covered by objective health monitoring and provided health recommendations in educational institutions;
- increased percentage of children returning to school from among those who did not attend school without good reason (10);
- coverage of migrant children by general education;
- availability of the system recording children's needs in supplementary education and relevant financing system;
- scope of educational programs implemented within the framework of supplementary education and volume indicators of pupils' participation in such programs;
- increased percentage of schools implementing programs of pre-profile and profile education, supplementary education and pre-professional studies as well as increased number of such programs on an average per school;
- decreased percentage of pupils with poor grades in one or several school program subjects and pupils that repeat classes (10);
- increased number of computer hardware units and licensed software copies (including freeware) used in schools (8);
- increased number of units and extended range of digital equipment and digital educational resources used in schools (8);
- increased percentage of general education institutions implementing the "Full Day School" model;
- increased percentage of general education institutions implementing the "Informatization School" model;
- increased percentage of study time supported by ICT support;
- increased percentage of Moscow pupils whose individual achievements at school (portfolio) are represented in the common municipal database;
- increased number of parents receiving general school and individual information about their children by means of state-of-the-art information and communication technologies (school website, mailing to home computers and mobile telephones);
- increased percentage of subject cabinets equipped in compliance with up-to-date learning condition standards;
- increased volume of upgrade and professional retraining of educational workers planned and implemented according to plans and standards in priority directions;
- optimization of expenditure on wages for employees of educational institutions in relation to education results following the introduction of the new remuneration system based on normative per capita financing;

- decreased number of emergency situations threatening life and health of children in Moscow schools (9);
- percentage of educational institutions (by types and forms) where the ombudsman for children service is realized;
- increased percentage of children covered by supplementary education and vocational training in the areas perspective for the city;
- increased number of pupils and subjects covered by an independent public system of evaluation of education results quality;
- increased number of gifted school-age children awarded moral and material incentives for achievements in intellectual and creative activities, including those who take part in subject olympiads and All-Russian competitions, among them children taking top places at the final stage of the All-Russian pupils competition; free access for all members of Moscow's olympic team to Internet resources and teachers' assistance for preparation to olympiads, increased percentage of winners of Moscow olympiads who receive such access (8);
- increased percentage of children included in the state system of identification, development and target support of talented children and their involvement in socially significant activities (8);
- increased number of programs of development of tolerance, universal cultural values, non-violent good behavior skills, socio-cultural and psychological and pedagogical adaptation of migrant children supported by the Moscow Government and local authorities and pupils' participation in such programs (7, 10).

Key actions to implement the open education policy

- Upgrade and retraining of different categories of workers engaged in the sphere of temporary maintenance, care, upbringing and development of preschool-age children on the basis of higher and secondary vocational education institutions under municipal control with the aim of their compliance with up-to-date education standards.
- Develop and implement, on the basis of the city teachers colleges and institutes, training and retraining courses for baby-sitters, tutors, home education organizers and distance learning tutors (3, 5).
- Provide opportunities to persons in need of employment to study in professional education programs of organizations providing child care and upbringing services (3).
- Create, on the basis of the Moscow City Education Department, a municipal Educational Counseling Agency providing consultations to parents who

themselves teach their children, providing assistance in selection of baby-sitters, tutors, coaches, kindergartens, development centers, schools, supplementary education institutions or specific education programs in compliance with the family's needs and requirements. Publish monthly "Moscow Education Bulletin" aimed at informing consumers about the market situation and existing services, with this information distribution being free of charge.

- Develop training and material facilities for municipal preschool institutions; build and reconstruct buildings, develop and improve adjacent territories (1).
- Develop and implement the program "School Success" including activities aimed at differentiation and individualization of education and planned success, and subprograms aimed at supporting individual groups of pupils with poor grades (hyperactive children, dysgraphia/dyslexia cases etc.), provide Internet support to pupils with poor grades from socially disadvantaged families (4, 10).
- Create, in accordance with applicable legislation, a distributed database on children for meeting children's education requirements (including individual academic works and achievements); ensure links between this database and other databases created in other structures. Develop and introduce mechanisms of identifying children not enrolled in general education schools (vagrant, migrant children) and their preparation for school. Use for that purpose electronic data of registries, Ministry of Internal Affairs, health structures and local authorities (10).
- Adopt the municipal program, "Informatization School," providing for improved efficiency and quality of education in general education institutions implementing the "Informatization School" model by using the new system of education goals, content and technologies based on wide application of ICT.
- Create district Russian language schools for social and cultural integration of migrant children. Develop and support programs of educational, socio-cultural and psychological and pedagogical adaptation of migrant children.
- Create a number of pilot sites implementing network profile of education organization models.
- Develop a program to equip educational institutions with information and communication technology learning aids and training facilities in compliance with educational standards requirements.
- Implement the project, "Open School," providing for a wide range of services for virtual interaction between parents and form masters, teachers, school administrations, familiarization with implemented educational programs, current academic performance of their children, significant events in school life etc.

- Conduct events directed on legal education, awareness-building and upbringing of children and adolescents (7).
- Create a system of pupils' participation in management of educational institutions within the municipal education system (7).
- Introduce the Ombudsman for children service in educational institutions (7).
- Create a municipal Supporting Fund for talented youth. Annually pay Moscow Mayor's scholarships to talented children, excellent pupils, promising young sportsmen etc. (8).
- Issue grants to children's creative teams (on a competitive basis) (6, 8).
- Implement the comprehensive project "School of the Future" integrating Moscow education innovations.

Section 6. **Child in the cultural environment** (policy of children's participation in the city's cultural life)

The policy **goal** on children's participation in Moscow's cultural life should be the effective use of cultural opportunities to promote children's all-round development, creative self-expression and constructive activity.

The main **objectives** should be to:

- enhance children's participation in the city's cultural life through:
 - providing, on a competitive basis, targeted financial assistance (grants) to youth print and electronic media, theatres, clubs and other cultural initiatives;
 - developing of museum, ethnographic and historical search activities in educational institutions, expanding of the city schools' and pupils' involvement in such activities;
 - providing mass performances, events, dance shows and parades with children's participation;
 - supporting theatres, TV and animation studios created by children;
- increase the coverage of children and adolescents by municipal patriotic, historical and aesthetic education programs, improve the efficiency of such programs and the attraction of the programs' events in the eyes of the younger generation;
- increase children's and youth audience's involvement in sightseeing activities, expand the variety and raise the attraction of the city's museums and exhibitions;
- provide targeted financial assistance to museums and cultural centers working with children and adolescents;
- provide support to and popularize children's libraries, increase the coverage of children and adolescent audiences by library services; encourage children's reading and listening to quality literature;
- maintain and develop club and study group activities among children; increase the coverage of child audiences of such activities.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- increased number of children and youth cultural initiatives and projects supported by the Moscow Government;
- increased number of educational, awareness-building and teaching programs for children and adolescents implemented by Moscow's museums and cultural centers and supported by the Moscow Government;

- increased attendance of children's libraries;
- increased number of events conducted at the premises of children's libraries and aimed at promoting children's reading and listening to fiction;
- increased percentage of children and adolescents involved in different out-of-school clubs, study groups and studio activities.

Key actions to implement the policy of children's participation in Moscow's cultural life

Provide, on a competitive basis, the Moscow Government's targeted financial assistance (grants) to children's and youth's cultural initiatives and projects (clubs, theatres, print and electronic media, etc.).

Organize and conduct city forums with the participation of children in children's public associations, festivals and performances.

Develop and conduct events aimed at artistic and aesthetic education of young people.

Develop and ensure Moscow Government's support to the development of programs for Moscow's Education Museum, Science City, Intellect Center, Museum of History of Moscow Children's Movement.

Provide, on a competitive basis, the Moscow Government's targeted financial assistance (grants) to city museums and cultural centers implementing educational, awareness-building and teaching programs for children and adolescents.

Develop museum pedagogical and excursion work with young people.

Provide, on a competitive basis, the Moscow Government's targeted financial assistance (grants) to children and youth libraries implementing innovative educational, awareness-building and teaching projects.

Develop a children and youth library network.

Develop and adopt the plan, "Books to Children," aimed to support publishing of children's literature and to encourage children's reading.

Conduct the annual city competition of children and school librarians and library-stock methodologists, "Master of the Book."

Section 7. **Child in the social environment** (policy of children's participation in the city's life and decision-making concerning their family, school, and social and public life)

The policy **goal** of children's participation in Moscow's life and decision-making is to create conditions for smooth integration of young people in the social world (first at the micro- and then at the macro-level), familiarize them with social values and norms and prevent abnormal behavior.

The main **objectives** of the policy of children's participation in the social life are to:

- create conditions for children's initial socialization within their neighborhoods, communication with peers and adults, and development of communication skills;
- develop mechanisms for taking into account children's views in the municipal policy making and participation of children and adolescents in the development and implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the social environment;
- support socially significant children and youth projects and initiatives through:
 - developing the regulatory and legal framework for activities and interaction of children's public associations;
 - improving specialized training and raising competence of adult organizers of children's public associations;
 - developing and adopting procedures to conduct an annual competition of socially significant projects and programs of children's public associations and a city exhibition fair of such projects and programs;
 - creating a system of information and methodological support of activities of children's public associations;
 - creating a system of public and state recognition of socially useful activities of children's public associations;
 - shaping a new perception of a child as an adult's partner, having civil rights and liberties;
- promote employment and socialization of minors through:
 - development and support of youth job centers;
 - development and support of student companies;
 - development and support of children-and-adult enterprises, including family ones;
 - increased range of organizational forms of seasonal work intended for minors;

- develop and support sex education programs for minors and early sex prevention programs;
- develop and support programs to promote tolerance, universal cultural values and positive, non-violent behavior;
- develop and support programs to prevent law violations, socially dangerous behavior, unhealthy habits and dependences, including
 - anti-smoking programs,
 - anti-alcohol programs,
 - anti-drug programs,
 - game dependency (game mania) preventive programs,
- develop the infrastructure of community social services and children and youth clubs (including children and youth volunteer organizations), train qualified personnel to organize such activities.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- increased number of members of children's public associations and participants in the events organized by children's public associations;
- increased number of educational programs, supported by the Moscow Government and local authorities, aimed at raising the competence of adult organizers of children's public associations;
- increased number of neighborhood events (games, competitions, landscaping) supported by the Moscow Government and municipal authorities, and of local residents participating in such events;
- increased number of children and adolescents participating in discussing the issues concerning the situation of children;
- number of developed and introduced mechanisms of children's and adolescents' participation in city management;
- increased involvement and number of meaningful proposals and discussions by children and adolescents on Internet portals of government authorities, public structures and movements;
- availability and active functioning of children's representative bodies, interacting with executive and legislative authorities;
- level of involvement of children and adolescents from marginal and risk groups (with disabilities, HIV-positive, children from foster families, migrant children) in the childhood-related decision-making process (4, 10).
- increased number of the capital's minors who benefit from different authorized forms of employment;
- increased number and efficiency of programs supported by the Moscow Government and local authorities aimed at preventing law violations,

socially dangerous behavior, unhealthy habits and dependences (including anti-smoking, anti-alcohol and anti-drug programs and game-dependency prevention programs) (10);

- inaccessibility of tobacco and alcohol products for minors (10);
- increased number and efficiency of programs, implemented on the basis of the city's higher education institutions, for training personnel for social services, children's and youth clubs and children and adult volunteer organizations, and of specialists trained under such programs (10).

Key actions to implement the policy of children's participation in the city's social life and decision-making

Develop and adopt the Moscow Law "On Government Support to Children's Public Associations".

Adopt normative acts regulating the activities of adult organizers of children's public associations.

Develop the interagency social project "Forum of Adults. Children's Movement: New Strategy for Moscow".

Develop the interagency social project "Forum of Participants in Children's Public Associations "We are Citizens".

Study children's and adolescents' views as to what should be done in Moscow to make it a city for children.

Create and support a system of the city's Internet portals for expression of and discussions on children's position and suggestions.

Develop and implement the interagency social project "Moscow Courtyard – a Space for Communication and Development of a Child" (9).

Support the organization of children and adult games, sporting events, landscaping initiatives (9).

Develop and adopt the Moscow Law on support of enterprises creating conditions for employment and vocational training of minors.

Adopt normative acts regulating adolescents' labor activity and determining responsibility of persons using and organizing their labor in the context of family business, show business and so on.

Develop and implement the interagency social project "My First Job" aimed at promoting effective employment of adolescents and students.

Implement the social and educational program "Young People's Achievements" providing for support of pupils' companies.

Implement the social and educational project "Tolerance: Images of a Big City" (5, 10).

Conduct information campaigns for specialists and the public at large to promote positive attitudes towards representatives of other ethnicities, migrants (10).

Create the city's *Association of computer game clubs* and develop common standards for rendering services to minors.

Ensure inaccessibility of tobacco and alcohol products for minors (10).

Train childhood specialists on the forms and methods of taking children's views into account in their work.

Section 8. **Child in the world of high technologies** (policy of provision of access to scientific and technological achievements and information technologies for all children)

The policy **goal** of provision of access to new technologies for all children in Moscow is to effectively develop the potential and ensure the future generation's high competitive capacity to scientific and technological innovations, information and telecommunications.

The main **objectives** of the policy of children's involvement in the world of new technologies are to:

- provide for effective and safe integration of all children in the modern IT environment;
- raise the competence of children and adolescents in the sphere of innovative scientific and technological ideas, concepts and solutions (nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, robotics, etc.);
- create the best possible conditions for direct contacts between Russian scientists and researchers and students (including through use of information and communication technologies, traditional print and electronic media, etc.);
- popularize, in mass media and within the secondary education programs, Russian, Soviet and post-Soviet scientific achievements;
- permeate the children's cultural, informational and recreational space with scientific and technological achievements and information thereon, support talented young people and shift their orientation from socio-economic to scientific and technical career;
- revive, on a new basis and principally a new scale, the system of scientific and technical creativity of children and young people.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- increased percentage of children having access to the Internet;
- higher level of children's and adolescents' competence in information technologies, information law and information security (5) (Information obtained through a survey analysis.);
- increased number of children's Internet projects and socially significant projects and programs of children's public associations aimed at improving the surrounding environment;
- widespread systems of parental control of access to Internet resources and TV programs (3);
- reduced number of crimes against children on the Internet (10);

- reduced number of crimes and law violations committed by minors in the sphere of information technologies and information security (7, 10);
- increased number of sites providing children and adolescents with the possibility to gain first-hand knowledge of scientific and technological achievements (science parks, school museums of experimental science) (5);
- increased proportion of science and technology information flow in electronic and print media;
- increased personal intellectual participation of scientists and researchers in children's programs (in the form of publications, public Internet and TV lectures for students and teachers, as competition jury members, children's involvement in research, etc.);
- increased number of competitions and olympiads, including those related to present-day science and technology achievements (particularly in programming, robotics, nano- and biotechnologies) and the results of Moscow's children in such competitions and olympiads (5);
- higher level of children's and adolescents' competence in innovative scientific and technological ideas, concepts and solutions (5) (Information obtained through a survey analysis.);
- increased number of children and adolescents involved in technological research on the basis of technological parks, scientific and technical creativity centers for children and youth, departments of institutes and laboratories (5).

Key actions to implement the policy of provision of access to innovative technologies for all children

Develop and adopt the interagency municipal program "Children in Internet: Education and Protection".

Develop and support educational, awareness-building and teaching programs aimed to raise the informational competence of young people, develop user skills, increase knowledge regarding legal regulation of network interaction, information security, copyrights and related rights (5).

Distribute free of charge software for parental control of access to Internet resources and TV programs (3).

Re-issue classics and translations of the world's best scientific and technical literature for children.

Create children's technological parks in all Moscow's districts.

Develop and ensure the Moscow Government's support of development programs for the Moscow Museum of Education, City of Science and Intellect Center (5).

Create the Moscow Municipal Youth's Innovative Technologies Center.

Provide the Moscow Government's targeted financial support (grants) to institutions and organizations that organize scientific and technological creative activities of children and adolescents (5).

Conduct an annual city competition of controlled robots.

Award, support and use the potential of teachers that trained the winners of school olympiads, involve them in upgrading the system, organize city-supported congresses, conferences, seminars and publications with their participation (5).

Create a network of interactive, research and experimental museums and exhibitions: from "Cities of Science" to school entertaining science museums (5).

Section 9. **Children in the urban environment** (policy of ensuring children's rights and interests in the city's infrastructure and natural environment)

The policy **goal** to ensure children's rights and interests in Moscow's urban infrastructure and ecosystem is to make the megalopolis's natural-and-industrial environment as child-friendly as possible and to provide conditions for the safe and comfortable stay of children in buildings, in the streets, parks and recreation areas. In this respect, it is also important to ensure a positive impact of young people on the city's environment – children's contribution to landscaping, implementation of environmental and restoration projects, preservation of architectural and artistic monuments, prevention of vandalism and environmental pollution, care for the city's fauna.

The main **objectives** of the policy of ensuring children's rights and interests in the city's infrastructure and ecosystem:

- reconstruction and artistic design of entrances of apartment houses to provide comfort and safety for children and positive influence on their personal development;
- implementation of the program of construction and development of children's villages in each of Moscow's courtyards;
- expansion of a network of neighborhood sport grounds and mini-stadiums, their improvement and provision of necessary equipment;
- ensuring safe and comfortable stay of children in the city's streets;
- ensuring safe and comfortable movement of children around the city (by municipal transport, bicycles and other unpowered vehicles);
- implementation of educational programs and projects aimed at informing children and adolescents about Moscow's infrastructure and promoting careful and respectful attitudes towards city facilities;
- implementation of projects for ensuring children's and adolescents' participation in events aimed at the protection of the city's historical and cultural heritage, landscaping and artistic design of the city's spaces and areas;
- creation of "green corners" in the city's residential areas and landscaping;
- construction of children's play-areas and sport grounds in gardens, parks, on municipal beaches and in other recreation zones;
- implementation of educational programs and projects aimed at environmental education of young Muscovites, participation of children

and adolescents in the activities aimed to preserve the natural environment and protect animals and birds.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- increased proportion of entrances of apartment houses equipped with access ramps and runners for baby carriages, places for baby carriages, bicycles and other sporting equipment (1);
- increased proportion of entrances of apartment houses equipped with locking devices, video surveillance cameras, devices for prompt communication with law enforcement agencies, concierge/attendant rooms;
- reduction of child traumatism;
- reduction of registered crimes against children (10);
- increased number of courtyard territories fully equipped with children's play-areas and sport grounds and video surveillance cameras (7);
- increased number of the Moscow Government-supported educational programs and projects aimed to inform children and adolescents about road regulations and basic requirements for personal safety in the streets and public places, and to promote safe behavior in the city (5, 7);
- reduced number of road traffic accidents involving children in Moscow's streets;
- increased network of underground and above-ground passages, speed bumps, safe bicycle lanes;
- increased number of the Moscow Government-supported projects involving children in the artistic designing of city spaces (6);
- increased number of the Moscow Government-supported projects involving children and adolescents in protection of the city's natural environment and cultural and historical heritage and improvement of the city's areas (6, 7).

Key actions to implement the policy of ensuring children's rights and interests in Moscow's ecosystem and infrastructure

Improve safety of operation of elevators in apartment houses; prevent the penetration of children and adolescents into elevator shafts, to apartment house rooves, basement service spaces, and attic floors.

Equip apartment house entrances and hallways with locking devices, door intercommunication systems and video surveillance cameras; establish concierge/attendant rooms, devices for prompt communication with the police division and police station.

Install in apartment house hallways information stands, social and educational advertisement and other messages addressed to children and parents.

Build play areas, sports grounds, stadiums, places for dogs in the courtyards of apartment houses and provide them with necessary equipment (2).

Install video surveillance cameras in the courtyards of apartment houses.

Develop infrastructure ensuring babies' convenience and comfort in public places (e.g. safe moving with a baby carriage around the city and availability of rooms for baby carriages in apartment houses and public places, availability of baby feeding and changing facilities, special furniture, game rooms and corners in public places, etc.) (1).

Expand the network of underground and above-ground passages, speed bumps and bicycle lanes in Moscow streets.

Install benches and create recreation areas, fountains, free drinking-water sources and public toilets in Moscow streets (2).

Implement educational programs and projects that inform children and adolescents about road regulations and basic requirements for personal safety in the street and public places, and promote safe behavior in the city (5, 10).

Develop and adopt the Program of Environmental Education of Children and Adolescents in Moscow (5).

Support children's and youth social projects aimed at improving the city's environment and urban design, and preserving architectural monuments and other historical objects (6, 7).

Section 10. Child in especially difficult circumstances (support and adaptation policy)

The **goal** of the support and adaptation policy for children and adolescents in especially difficult circumstances in Moscow is to create conditions for their social and psychological rehabilitation and adaptation, elimination of the impact of criminal or socially unfavorable environment, return to school and ensuring health maintenance and normal life.

The main **objectives** of the support and adaptation policy for children and adolescents in especially difficult circumstances are to:

- create a system of timely identification of children and adolescents in especially difficult circumstances and in risk groups;
- prevent discrimination and ensure unconditional observance of the rights of all groups of children in especially difficult circumstances;
- reduce violence against children, develop preventive work with socially vulnerable and high-risk families;
- ensure unconditional observance of the right to education for all HIV-positive children;
- combat labor exploitation of minors and their involvement in begging;
- create a municipal database of criminal groups, adolescent and youth gangs, extremist groups involving minors in criminal activities;
- develop and test new effective methods of social and psychological and pedagogical work with different groups of children and adolescents in especially difficult circumstances;
- support internal affairs departments specializing in operational, investigative and preventive work with minors;
- develop educational and teaching programs targeted at different groups of children in especially difficult circumstances;
- develop a system for raising professional competence of different categories of specialists working with children in especially difficult circumstances;
- develop a network of institutions of different civil forms providing all types of assistance and support to children in especially difficult circumstances.

Indicators of effective implementation of the above objectives and progress in achieving the stated goal (impact and performance indicators):

- reduced number of children and adolescents killed as a result of violence;
- increased access to specialized assistance in rehabilitation and overcoming the consequences of violence for children victims of violence and their families (3);

- reduced percentage of identified minors using drugs in relation to the overall number of persons in this category, including those registered with preventive care health centers;
- reduced rates of child and juvenile delinquency in Moscow (7);
- lower recidivism rate among those who leave closed correctional institutions for minors.

Key actions to implement the support policy for children and adolescents in especially difficult circumstances

Create a Moscow Mayor's interagency coordination council for providing support to children in especially difficult circumstances.

Create an interagency group to monitor the situation of different categories of children in especially difficult circumstances. Organize monitoring of social problems in children's and youth environment (violence and discrimination, neglect and homelessness, juvenile delinquency, use of psychoactive substances).

Create and maintain common city databases "Risk-Group Children" and "Risk-Group Families" (3).

Develop and introduce a program of early identification, rehabilitation and social adaptation of families and children in especially difficult circumstances (3).

Develop and adopt normative acts regulating prevention of domestic violence (3).

Provide targeted assistance to lower-income families with minors in especially difficult circumstances (3).

Organize summer camps for children in especially difficult circumstances (2, 7).

Organize cultural and entertainment events for minors registered with social services for families and children (visiting theatres, museums, exhibitions, charitable actions, film festivals, etc.) (6).

Develop a network of social services for children and adolescents victims of violence.

Conduct municipal informational and educational campaigns directed against corporal punishment of children and for non-violent methods of education (3).

Introduce independent public inspection of conditions in child-care institutions (3, 4, 5).

Organize joint patrolling by police officers, social service workers and representatives of public organizations of the city's railway stations, markets, subways, railroad transport and other "critical" gathering places, in order to identify homeless children and take them to centers for homeless children.

Provide material assistance (food, clothing, footwear, other essential things) to homeless and unsupervised children.

Provide, on a competitive basis, the Moscow Government's targeted financial assistance (grants) to state and public organizations treating alcohol and drug dependent minors (2).

Provide conditions for long-lasting socially active life for drug-dependent young people who underwent treatment and rehabilitation through rendering social services. Involve volunteers from those who underwent rehabilitation to assist in motivating drug-dependent young people (7).

Create social and labor rehabilitation centers for minors dependent on narcotic drugs and alcohol (7).

Provide (on a competitive basis) the Moscow Government's financial support for the development and implementation of educational and awareness-building programs and projects aimed at working with different groups of children in especially difficult circumstances (5, 7).

Implementation Procedure for the Moscow Government's Policy strategy for better childhoods for 2008 – 2017 “Moscow Children”. Monitoring and reporting system

The Strategy is interagency: it will be implemented by all Moscow Government's complexes and territorial executive bodies with the main role assigned to the Social Sphere Complex. At the same time, one of the key principles of the Strategy is reliance on social partnership technologies, and therefore should involve a wide range of the capital's non-governmental structures, public organizations and business communities.

The Strategy implementation presupposes the availability of the following essential elements:

- scientifically grounded formulation and preparation of the Strategy implementation documents;
- coordination of different programs and projects within the framework of the Strategy, coordination with federal programs, Moscow Development Strategy up to 2025, different municipal programs and day-to-day activities of executive authorities;
- public review, control, public and state management;
- competitive mechanisms of drafting and adoption of documents and financing;
- coordinated implementation of plans by all participants in the Strategy implementation process;
- direct interaction with children and parents;
- monitoring of the Strategy implementation progress and the city's current status in respect to the Strategy-related essential sections involving professional as well as independent and international structures.

The Strategy implementation may and most likely will require the development of:

- Moscow laws and other legal and regulatory acts;
- Normative documents of the Moscow Government and executive authorities;
- programs, including city targeted programs.

Furthermore, the Strategy should be reflected in short-term and long-term planning of executive authorities' activities.

The program and target design of the Strategy implementation will require:

- planning of the Strategy programs and activities;
- specification of plans in the form of tender documentation for preparing the respective programs and terms of reference and, as required, feasibility study of individual activities;
- adoption of programs by executive authorities at the respective level (for municipal targeted programs – by the Moscow Government).

Municipal targeted programs shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure established by the Moscow Government's Resolution No 33-ПП "On Procedure for the Development, Approval, Financing and Monitoring of Progress of Implementation of Municipal Targeted Programs in Moscow" dated January 17, 2006 (as amended according to the Moscow Government's Resolution No 744-ПП dated 26.09.2006). Besides, the basic agreements necessary for the adoption are obtained within the framework of the Strategy Interagency Council.

To successfully implement the Strategy objectives it is necessary to create a system of effective coordination with the activities conducted under other municipal programs, primarily the Moscow Development Strategy up to 2025, and also with the day-to-day activity of municipal executive authorities. In this context, within the framework of the Strategy development and implementation, it is necessary to provide for structures to perform the following functions.

1. Interagency coordination function presupposing coordination with all involved structures and partners within the Strategy to agree plans of action and adopt decisions to be submitted for consideration to the Moscow Government.

Body performing this function: Moscow Mayor's Strategic Committee for the Childhood and Family Policy.

Composition of the Committee: heads of executive bodies included in the Social Sphere Complex, representatives (at deputy head level) of other concerned executive bodies, deputies of the Moscow City Duma, Moscow Child Rights Ombudsman, representatives of non-governmental organizations, business community, children and young people. Chairman of the Committee is the Strategy implementation manager.

2. Function of public and professional evaluation of program and action plans, issue of terms of reference and acceptance of the results of their implementation, and analysis of monitoring results.

Body performing this function: Moscow Government's Expert and Analytical (Advisory) Council on Childhood and Family Issues.

Composition of the Council: experts in various child-related issues, professional experts, prominent public figures, representatives of international organizations. As required, the Council may engage (where appropriate, on a

competitive basis) external specialists and organizations to perform expert evaluation.

3. Function of monitoring and direct interaction with Moscow's children and parental community.

Body performing this function: Moscow Government's Group for Interaction with Children.

Composition of the Group: teachers, journalists, sociologists, participants in the children's movement, and children themselves. As required, the Group may engage relevant professional organizations to conduct monitoring, interview children, prepare materials for publication in children's mass media and Internet, etc.

3. Function of direct representation of children's interests and views.

Body performing this function: Children's City Duma.

Composition of the Duma: representatives of children's community represented by mass children's organizations and movements and backed up by large numbers of children (on the Internet or otherwise). The Duma will receive the original and adapted Strategy planning and implementation documents, delegate its members to participate in the work of other Strategy structures and will influence the decision making process, adopt decisions on the Strategy implementation plans and progress reports and submit them to the Moscow Government.

The role of the above mentioned structures would not be limited to participation in the Strategy implementation. In accordance with their status and charter functions they will play a significant role in the solution of child-related problems irrespective of the Strategy implementation.

The first set of activities within the framework of the Strategy implementation will include:

- data collection, including from Moscow and federal executive authorities and institutions and through surveys;
- mathematical modeling and forecasting of the developments in the sphere of child welfare (childhood);
- elaboration of possible Strategy implementation scenarios, in particular depending on allocation of financial resources;
- adoption of a basic scenario and determination of the Strategy indicators by year;
- creation of a plan for the development of Strategy programs and activities.

Academic and Methodological and Human Resources Support for the Implementation of the Moscow Government's Policy strategy for better childhoods for 2008 – 2017 “Moscow Children”

The potential of Moscow as the intellectual and scientific center of the Russian Federation creates favorable conditions for academic and methodical support for the Strategy implementation and for training highly-qualified personnel to implement its main directions.

The basic principles of academic and methodological support for the Strategy implementation:

- reliance on the latest academic developments and the best world and Russian experience in building an effective social policy;
- engaging the best representatives of Russian and international scientific and expert organizations;
- regular monitoring and forecasting investigations;
- prompt submission of received data and tenable hypotheses to the Moscow Government and professional community.

In addition to competitive design, expert-analytical and monitoring activities conducted within the framework of the Strategy implementation mechanisms, the creation of standing units within the Social Sphere Complex and on interagency basis could be economically feasible and administratively effective.

The human resources support for the Strategy implementation should not only be aimed at filling existing or emerging vacancies but also at training world class specialists for working with children with good knowledge of modern efficient social work technologies, able and ready to take into account in their work children's views, highly-motivated and humanitarily oriented.

The basic principles of the human resources support for the Strategy implementation:

- creation of an integral system of education, retraining and upgrade of specialists based on international and Russian best practices;
- maximum use of capacities of Moscow higher education institutions and research organizations, business education system, active and interactive education technologies, traineeships in Russia and abroad;

creation of a modern attestation and qualification system, application of modern motivation technologies and effective forms of remuneration for labor.

The Moscow Government annually approves and puts up for tender the municipal request for training of different categories of specialists working with children. Assignments may be awarded to any organization specializing in personnel training and upgrading provided that their bids and capacities meet the requirements of the terms of reference.

Distribution of information on the results and progress of the Strategy implementation

The important condition for the effective Strategy implementation is the information openness policy aimed at providing to the public full and objective information about the policy for better childhoods implementation progress, arising problems and their possible solutions, opportunities for each Muscovite to make a personal contribution to make the capital a child-friendly city. The Strategy implementation should be accompanied by information campaigns aimed at attracting public attention to child-related issues and awareness-building in such important issues as tolerance, social integration and children's rights.

The basic elements of information and media support of the Strategy include:

- publication and placement on the Internet annual general reports on the Strategy implementation, reports of executive bodies and the most significant analyses, results of sociologic and monitoring surveys;
- publication of the magazine "Children in the City" in printed and Internet versions;
- organization of "hot line" on the Strategy implementation and making Moscow a child-friendly city and of thematic forums on the Internet;
- regular reports of the Strategy implementation managers and expert-analytical personnel in the city mass media explaining the basic priorities of the Moscow Government's childhood and family policy and the need to make the capital a child-friendly city;
- organization of TV thematic debates, talk shows, radio programs, commentaries and analytical materials in mass media, etc.;
- city-wide advocacy campaigns using social advertising means. Examples of key slogans include:
 - Invest in children today to guarantee the country's future tomorrow!
 - Act today in the interests of children!
 - To include every child!
 - There are no illegal children!
 - All-round development of each child is an assurance of future prosperity of the country!