

**Brief Notes of the Meeting of the
Steering Committee on Child Development Fund
held on 16 January 2009 (Friday)
in Room 215, 2/F, Main Wing, Central Government Offices**

Attendance

Mr Paul TANG	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare	(Chairman)
Dr Timothy CHAN		
Dr Philemon CHOI		
Ms Evelyn LAM		
Dr LAW Chi-kwong		
Dr LEUNG Nai-kong		
Mr Francis MAK		
Ms Sandy WONG		
Mr Michael WONG		
Ms IP Siu-ming	Acting Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth & Corrections)	
Miss Helen TANG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)	(Secretary)

In attendance

Ms Carol YIP	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (2)
Mr Oscar LOH	Senior Executive Officer (Poverty)
Ms Crystal NG	Assistant Manager (Poverty)

For Item (1) only

Mrs Eltha WONG	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
Miss Chloe CHOW	Social Worker, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
Ms HO Sin-man	Social Worker, Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship
Mr Clarence TSANG	Assistant Director, Christian Action
Ms Alice CHAN	Ministry Coordinator, Christian Action
Ms Angie TANG	Centre Supervisor, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Mr Patrick MAN	Assistant Supervisor, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Mr Antony PANG	Supervisor, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Ms Rebecca WONG	Assistant Supervisor, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

Absent with apologies

Miss Jasmine CHAN

Mr Frederick LAI

Mr Ivan TING

Matters Arising

Members noted that the Hong Kong Polytechnic University was selected to conduct the Consultancy Study on the Child Development Fund Pioneer Projects. The Task Force on Consultancy Study (TFCS), set under the Steering Committee on Child Development Fund, held its first meeting on 16 December 2008.

2. Members noted that-
 - (a) Child Development Matching Fund (CDMF), a private independent matching fund, would apply for registration as a charitable organisation soon; and
 - (b) the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited agreed to manage CDMF and the management fee would be charged on a non-profit making basis.

Item (1) : First batch of CDF pioneer projects – Reports by Operating NGOs

3. Members were briefed on the details and progress of the Child Development Fund (CDF) pioneer projects in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West, Kowloon East, New Territories East and Tin Shui Wai respectively.

4. Members noted the latest progress of the recruitment of participating children and that the operating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) would complete the recruitment of participating children by the end of March 2009. Members explored the measures of strengthening recruitment of participating children such as soliciting support from major school sponsoring organisations. Members also agreed that children who were new migrants or members of the ethnic minorities should be recruited and that labelling effect should be avoided in the recruitment process.

5. Members considered that the one-to-one personal relationship between mentors and mentees was very important in assisting the participants to draw up and realise their own personal development plans and so emphasis should be placed on personal contacts between the mentors and mentees. Members also explored the sources of recruiting mentors such as churches, professional associations, university alumni associations and business associations.

6. Members noted that-
 - (a) participating children and their families could agree with the operating NGOs on lower savings targets;
 - (b) the operating NGOs should refer the participating families to other service units if their service needs could not be addressed within the CDF framework; and

- (c) the Secretariat would arrange visits to NGOs after the full commencement of all pioneer projects.

Item (2) : Progress Report on the Implementation of the Child Development Fund

(A) Pioneer Projects [SCCDF Paper 1/2009]

7. Members were briefed on the progress on the implementation of the CDF. Members noted that-

- (a) all operating NGOs were confident of completing the recruitment of the approved number of participating children by the end of March 2009 even though they encountered some difficulties in recruiting the older aged group of 14-16;
- (b) all pioneer projects except Tung Chung project had secured matching contributions and the latter was confident of meeting the target;
- (c) the operating NGOs which had partnered with companies/organisations found it easier to recruit sufficient number of mentors at the pledged ratio;
- (d) the CDF Launching Ceremony cum Exhibition held on 23 November 2008 attracted good media coverage as well as positive response to the two sharing sessions (one between the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and representatives of strategic partners, and the other among representatives of operating NGOs, participating children, parents and mentors);
- (e) the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had already issued guidelines on mentorship to the operating NGOs; and
- (f) the second batch of pioneer projects could only be rolled out in end-2009 the earliest after reviewing the experience of implementing the first batch of pioneer projects.

8. Members agreed that-

- (a) the need for a resource handbook on youth's training/education opportunities for mentors to be further discussed by the Task Force on Promotion;

- (b) Dr Philemon CHOI would phone in the radio programme of Mr Francis MAK on RTHK for publicising the CDF, especially to youngsters aged between 14-16;
- (c) any unfilled quota for children aged 14-16 could be reallocated to those aged 10-13, subject to the condition that participants of the former group should constitute no less than 70% of participants of the pioneer projects; and
- (d) children who had taken part in any of the CDF pioneer projects would not be eligible for future projects, so that other needy children could benefit from this programme.

(B) Task Force on Consultancy Study

9. Members noted that-

- (a) the background, proposed approach and methodology as well as the draft questionnaires of the study were discussed at the first meeting of the TFCS on 16 December 2008. A set of revised draft questionnaires prepared by the Consulting Team and the relevant paper (TFCS Paper 2/2008) were tabled at the meeting; and
- (b) a meeting between the Consulting Team and the operating NGOs of the seven pioneer projects on the study was held on 23 December 2008.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
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