

Ms YU Fan	Unit in charge, Kwai Fong Youth S.P.O.T., The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Mr Ivan YIU	Assistant Community Services Secretary (Youth & Family), Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Mr Sam HUNG	Project Officer, Jockey Club Shatin Integrated Services Centre, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Mr Antony PANG	Supervisor, Jockey Club Tin Shui Wai Integrated Services Centre, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

Absent with apologies

Mr Frederick LAI

Mr Francis MAK

Mr Ivan TING

Matters Arising

Members agreed to join the “Team Building” Day Camp organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups for all participating children and mentors on 11 July 2009. A sharing session with participants would be arranged.

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

2. Members were briefed of the details and progress of the CDF pioneer projects in New Territories West, New Territories East and Tin Shui Wai respectively.
3. Members noted that-
 - (a) the appeals made by individual SCCDF members to schools had facilitated recruitment of participating children;
 - (b) female children were more interested in joining the CDF;

- (c) flexibility was provided for participating children and their families with financial difficulties to set the saving target below \$200;
- (d) individual operating NGOs had set up a reserve pool of mentors as replacement in case of drop-out;
- (e) group mentor-mentee activities/gatherings had been organised so that mentors and mentees could get acquainted with each other;
- (f) some parents preferred not to participate in workshops; and
- (g) mentors might need to have special skills for communicating with participating children with disability. The parents of these children also had high expectation on mentors.

4. Members agreed that-

- (a) different nature/arrangements of programmes should be considered for attracting more male participating children;
- (b) the operating NGOs should plan how to sustain the commitment and participation of mentors;
- (c) emphasis should be placed on the one-to-one personal contacts between the mentors and mentees on top of group activities;
- (d) participation and support of parents was an essential element of the programme. Parents should be clearly informed of the objectives of CDF and their roles;
- (e) operating NGOs with participating children with disability or of ethnic minorities could approach organisations/NGOs with relevant experience in the recruitment of mentors and solicitation of support; and
- (f) operating NGOs should refer participating families with difficulties to other service units/SWD if their service needs could not be addressed within the CDF framework.

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

(A) Pioneer Projects [SCCDF Paper 2/2009]

5. Members were briefed on the progress in the implementation of the first batch of CDF pioneer projects. They noted that-

- (a) the target of recruiting 750 participating children was met, with 71% of children aged between 14 and 16 and 29% of children aged between 10 and 13;
- (b) there were two potential drop-out cases in one of the pioneer projects because of heavy school work. The operating NGO concerned was following up with the participating children and their families;
- (c) five out of the seven operating NGOs had met the pledged mentor-mentee ratio or the pledged number of mentors. Another operating NGO had recruited sufficient number of mentors but met technical difficulty in matching mentors and mentees of the same gender. Additional mentors would be recruited to address the problem. The remaining operating NGO was confident of meeting the target by end-May 2009;
- (d) all pioneer projects had secured matching contributions; and
- (e) training/programmes for the participating children and mentors respectively had already commenced. Guidance was given to the operating NGOs on the prevention of human swine influenza when organising large-scale programmes.

(B) Task Force on Consultancy Study

6. Members noted that the Consultancy Team (CT) had finalised the questionnaires and established contacts with the operating NGOs for working out the logistics arrangements in conducting survey. The CT would complete the first round of data collection, started in late March 2009, by end-May 2009 and the recruitment of control group children by mid-April 2009. Focus group discussions would also be organised to supplement the survey findings.

7. Members also noted that the Inception Report of the study submitted by the CT, which outlined the overall objectives, conceptual framework and research approach and methodology of the study, was considered by the Task Force on Consultancy Study (TFCS) at its meeting on 25 March 2009. Member noted that-

- (a) the study would analyse good and viable practices in relation to the recruitment and retention of participating children and mentors, mentors training, targeted savings, personal development plans etc.; and
- (b) the CT would consider the social, economic and cultural factors in the overview of relevant programmes in USA, Singapore and Taiwan to encourage the longer-term personal development of children from a disadvantaged background.

8. Members agreed to explore the feasibility of arranging an overseas visit in order to enhance members' understanding of programme outside Hong Kong.

(C) Task Force on Promotion of Child Development Fund

9. Members noted that Task Force on Promotion of Child Development Fund (TFPCDF) agreed at its meeting on 22 April 2009 that-

- (a) intensive publicity activities should only be organised later to tie-in with the launch of the second batch of pioneer projects;
- (b) publicity could be targetted at large corporations/organisations which would be in a better position to mobilise their staff as mentors and provide matching contributions;
- (c) the youth portal would provide one-stop comprehensive and updated information on training and education opportunities for the youth; and
- (d) it would be useful if a simple guideline could be worked out for mentors' easy reference.

10. Members also noted that -

- (a) the Child Development Matching Fund (CDMF), a private independent matching fund, would be registered as a charitable organisation; and
- (b) CDMF would only serve as the last resort to meet the shortfall in case any operating NGOs of future batches of CDF projects could not raise enough funds.

11. Members noted that a proposal for launching the second batch projects, which would take into account the observations in the First Interim Report of the consultancy study, would be submitted for members' consideration.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
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