



For Item (1) only

Mr Clarence TSANG	Deputy Director, Christian Action
Ms Alice CHAN	Ministry Coordinator, Christian Action
Mr Li Wan-cheung	Deputy General Secretary, Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship
Ms HO Sin-man	Social Worker, Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship

**Absent with apologies**

Mr Ivan TING

Mr Michael WONG

**Matters Arising**

Members noted that –

- (a) bilingual version of the Guidebook for Mentors of the Child Development Fund (CDF) had been sent to the operating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of the pioneer projects for distribution to the mentors. Mentors of second batch projects would also be provided with the Guidebook for reference; and
- (b) the operating NGOs had confirmed that while no formal guidelines were issued, basic information on mentorship programme was given to the participating children through briefings and trainings.

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

2. Members were briefed of the progress of the CDF pioneer projects on Kowloon East and Kowloon West respectively and noted that -

- (a) financial management training, which covered money values and its importance in personal development planning, would be provided after the participating children had received basic training such as self-awareness and personal development. The training would also induce the participants to rethink the importance of other values such as family and health;
- (b) schools were the major source of targeted participants of CDF. It would be helpful if the relevant Government's bureaux/departments could assist in soliciting support from school principals for recruitment of participating children;
- (c) it was observed that mentors recruited through the operating NGOs' own networks, e.g. churches, were more committed. That said, the operating NGOs welcomed mentors from other sources;
- (d) commendations to outstanding mentors would encourage more volunteers to serve as mentors; and
- (e) a participating child had already deposited the total amount of targeted savings because his parent considered it troublesome to bank the savings every month. The operating NGO concerned agreed that this was not a good practice and had already advised other parents that the savings should be contributed on a monthly basis.

3. As to paragraph 2(e) above, members suggested that the operating NGOs explain to parents that the purpose of the targeted savings programme was to help participating children develop a saving habit. The operating NGOs should also take appropriate measures to discourage parents from banking the savings in lump sums in advance.

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

### ***(i) Pioneer and Second Batch Projects [SCCDF Paper 1/2010]***

4. Members were briefed of the progress of the pioneer projects and second batch CDF projects and noted that -

#### *Pioneer Projects*

- (a) the operating NGOs concerned would consider and approve the applications for use of the emergency funds to meet the targeted savings of participants in accordance with their established rules and criteria; and
- (b) in one of the pioneer projects, many participants receiving assistance from the emergency funds set their savings target at \$200 per month. Members agreed that the operating NGO concerned should discuss with the participants to set a realistic savings target so that they could no longer rely upon the emergency funds.

#### *Second batch of the CDF projects*

- (c) the briefing session held on 8 January 2010 for prospective applicants for operating the second batch projects was well received by some 30 NGOs;
- (d) it was anticipated that the projects could be formally launched by the selected NGOs in August 2010; and
- (e) arrangements were being made to brief school principals and parent teacher associations on the CDF at the regional/district level. In addition, District Social Welfare Officers would inform school principals of the details of the second batch projects and solicit their support in recruiting participating children.

5. Members suggested that:

- (a) a sharing session be arranged to invite the operating NGOs of the pioneer projects as well as the Consulting Team (CT) of the CDF to share experience with those NGOs selected for the second batch projects; and
- (b) commendations to outstanding mentors be made at an appropriate juncture.

*(ii) Task Force on Consultancy Study*

6. Members noted that the Task Force on Consultancy Study (TFCS) had considered, at its meeting on 22 January 2010, the Second Interim Report submitted by the CT and the investigation report on the loss of the USB thumb drive submitted by the Hong Kong Polytechnics University (PolyU). They also noted that:

- (a) the Second Interim Report covered the operation of the seven pioneer projects, including their training, targeted savings and mentorship elements. The CT made a total of 15 recommendations in the Second Interim Report, all of which were operational issues;
- (b) with reference to the control group, the “ceiling effect” was not observed in the first batch pioneer projects;
- (c) some parents did not attend any training programmes/activities organised by the operating NGOs. The CT would continue to monitor the attendance rate of the participating children, parents and mentors and assess its impact on the effectiveness of the projects;
- (d) some participating children did not make their targeted savings on a monthly basis. The methods that the operating NGOs used to collect the savings, i.e. either through children’s personal savings accounts or operating NGO’s designated bank accounts, might also have affected the savings behaviour of the participants. The CT would further review the savings behaviour of the participating children and assess its impact on asset accumulation and children’s personal development;
- (e) the USB thumb drive was recovered within the PolyU campus four days after the reported loss. Having considered all the evidence, PolyU concluded that there should be no leakage of personal data. The CT had implemented all the measures as recommended in the investigation report to enhance the protection of personal data; and
- (f) the CT had confirmed that the personal data collected from the respondents was essential for the purpose of the consultancy study. To minimise the risk of data loss, the respondents would not be required to provide personal data again in subsequent rounds of survey. In addition, the CT had been reminded to meet the confidentiality requirements as stipulated in the Services Agreement.

7. Members considered that the consultancy study provided very useful information to help them monitor the progress of the CDF pioneer projects. They suggested that consideration be given to conducting another consultancy study for the second batch projects.

Labour and Welfare Bureau  
June 2010