

**Brief Notes of the Meeting of the
Steering Committee on Child Development Fund
held on 24 June 2010 (Thursday)
in Room 215, 2/F, Main Wing, Central Government Offices**

Attendance

Mr Paul TANG Permanent Secretary for Labour (Chairman)
and Welfare

Dr Timothy CHAN

Dr Philemon CHOI

Mr Frederick LAI

Ms LAM Pik-chu

Dr LAW Chi-kwong

Dr LEUNG Nai-kong

Dr Grace POON

Mr Ivan TING

Mr Michael WONG

Ms Sandy WONG

Mr FUNG Man-lok Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth
and Corrections)

Mr Franco KWOK Principal Assistant Secretary for (Secretary)
Labour and Welfare (Poverty)

In Attendance

Ms Irene YOUNG Deputy Secretary for Labour and
Welfare (2)

Mr Oscar LOH Senior Executive Officer (Poverty)

Ms Crystal NG Assistant Manager (Poverty)

For Item (1) only

Ms Angie TANG	Supervisor, Jockey Club Shatin Integrated Services Centre Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Mr Sam HUNG	Project Officer, Jockey Club Shatin Integrated Services Centre Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Mr Andy HO	Coordinator (Youth S.P.O.Ts), The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Mr HUI Po-kin	Unit-in-charge, Tsuen King Youth S.P.O.T. The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Ms Rebecca WONG	Deputy Supervisor, Tin Shui Wai Integrated Services Centre Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Ms Sherry IP	Training Officer, Tin Shui Wai Integrated Services Centre Tung Wah Group of Hospital

Absent with Apologies

Miss Jasmine CHAN

Ms Evelyn LAM

Mr Francis MAK

Matters Arising

Members noted that:

- (a) a sharing session was scheduled for the end of July 2010, at which the operating non-government organisations (NGOs) of the pioneer projects would be invited to share their experience with those of the second batch projects; and

- (b) certificates of appreciation were presented to the representatives of mentors of the seven pioneer projects at the kick-off ceremony of the second batch projects held on 12 June 2010. Personal certificates would be sent to all serving mentors through the operating NGOs.

2. Members also noted that the consultancy study on the first batch pioneer projects, which evaluated the effectiveness of the projects and included a longitudinal study on the participating children, was still in progress. Given that the core elements and design of the second batch projects were basically the same as those of the first batch pioneer projects, it was considered unnecessary for conducting another consultancy study for the second batch projects. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) would closely monitor the progress and performance of the second batch projects and report to the Steering Committee regularly.

Item (1): Reports by Operating NGOs of Pioneer Projects

3. Members were briefed of the progress of New Territories East, New Territories West (NTW) and Tin Shui Wai CDF projects respectively and noted that:

- (a) all participating children of the three projects could meet the agreed savings targets;
- (b) training programmes for parents were organised on weekday evenings and weekends to facilitate their participation. Moreover, parents were encouraged to participate in mentor-mentee gatherings to enhance their understanding of the mentorship programme and help them build up relationship with the mentors;
- (c) supporting measures were implemented to facilitate personal contacts between the mentors and mentees;
- (d) participating children were organised to participate in community and volunteer services to help them build up positive attitudes and broaden their horizons;
- (e) the operating NGOs concerned would focus on the personal development plans of the participating children in the second year of the pioneer projects. Regular trainings, briefings by professional associations, enterprise visits and discussion groups would be arranged to help the participating children think about their future and targets. Parents and mentors would be encouraged to get involved in the planning process; and
- (f) for the NTW project, the participating children had already given some initial thought to their development targets. In general, their long-term targets were mainly related to career development and their short-term goals focused on study and academic achievements. The operating

NGO observed that children aged between 10 and 13 required more guidance in working out their personal development plans;

- (g) at the early stage of the projects, group gatherings instead of private meetings were arranged for the mentors and mentees to facilitate their relationship building and to encourage mutual support among mentors;
- (h) mentors and mentees were required to meet at least once a month. Social workers would proactively help those less active mentors and mentees line up meetings. Mentors were required to inform the operating NGOs of the meetings/activities with mentees in advance and to report afterward. If the mentors and mentees had special needs, the social workers would offer timely and appropriate support;
- (i) sharing sessions were arranged at the monthly gatherings for mentors so that social workers and other mentors could give advice on problems/difficulties faced by individual mentors;
- (j) few mentors dropped out. For those who did, it was mainly owing to personal reasons, such as work, health, study or family considerations. Some mentors dropped out because they had left the corporation which partnered with the operating NGO in the mentorship programme; and
- (k) the participating children were expected to use the savings they accumulated in the projects to realise their personal development plans, though they were not required to spend all the savings by the end of the projects.

4. Members agreed that the mentor drop-out rate had been relatively low so far. They advised that operating NGOs of subsequent batches should be encouraged to partner with large corporations/organisations for recruitment of mentors as the large corporations/organisations would be able to provide additional support for the mentorship programme, such as to recruit and recommend better quality and committed staff to serve as mentors, to facilitate mentors' participation in programme activities, etc. However, for the benefit of the participating children, arrangement should be worked out so that a mentor could continue to serve as mentor after he had left the partner corporations/organisations.

5. Members noted that while the minimum mentor-to-mentee ratio for the second batch projects was 1:3, the pledged ratio for more than half of the second batch projects was 1:1. The Chairman said that while the recruitment of mentors might not be easy, the quality of mentors should not be compromised.

6. Members suggested that mentors should be advised to seek assistance from the operating NGOs if the participating children had personal or family problems which were beyond the mentors' capabilities to handle, and noted that this was covered in the Guidebook for Mentors.

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

(i) First and Second Batches of CDF Projects [SCCDF Paper 3/2010]

7. Members noted the progress of the pioneer projects and second batch projects and suggested that:

- (a) a monitoring system be developed to help the operating NGOs monitor the performance of individual mentors and help SWD monitor the performance of the operating NGOs; and
- (b) a cross-checking mechanism be put in place to prevent children from submitting more than one application.

(ii) Task Force on Consultancy Study

8. Members noted that the Task Force on Consultancy Study had considered the initial findings for the Third Interim Report at its meeting on 22 April 2010 and would meet again in July 2010 to examine the Third Interim Report in detail.

(iii) Task Force on Promotion of Child Development Fund

9. Members noted that:

- (a) the Task Force on Promotion of Child Development Fund (TFPCDF) had considered the publicity plan for the second batch projects at its meeting on 13 May 2010. TFPCDF members had also recommended a slogan “規畫人生 夢想成真” which highlighted the primary objective of CDF;
- (b) the kick-off ceremony of the second batch projects was held on 12 June 2010; and
- (c) the suggestion that appreciation be given to corporations and organisations, which supported CDF projects in the recruitment of mentors and/or in providing matching contribution for the targeted savings programme, at an appropriate juncture.

Item (3) : Any Other Business

10. Members noted that the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services was briefed of the progress of CDF projects at its meeting on 14 May 2010.