

**Brief Notes of the Meeting of the
Steering Committee on Child Development Fund
held on 22 November 2010 (Monday)
in Room 215, 2/F, Main Wing, Central Government Offices**

Attendance

Mr Paul TANG	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare	(Chairman)
Dr Philemon CHOI		
Mr Frederick LAI		
Ms LAM Pik-chu		
Dr LAW Chi-kwong		
Dr LEUNG Nai-kong		
Mr Francis MAK		
Dr Grace POON		
Mr Michael WONG		
Mr FUNG Man-lok	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Corrections)	
Mr Franco KWOK	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)	(Secretary)

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 Agenda Item 3 only

Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong Child Development Fund Project

Ms Milk HO	Unit In-charge Division of Service Planning and Development Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Mr Leo NG	Assistant Service Development Officer Division of Service Planning and Development Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service

Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing Child Development Fund Project

Ms Ada LUI Deputy Chief Executive
Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship

Ms Allie WONG Project Coordinator
Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship

Sai Kung Child Development Fund Project

Ms Elsa YIU Ministry In-charge
Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship

Miss Gladys CHAN Project Coordinator
Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship

Absent with Apologies

Miss Jasmine CHAN

Dr Timothy CHAN

Ms Evelyn LAM

Ms Sandy WONG

Mr Ivan TING

Matters Arising

Members noted that the operating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of both the first and second batch pioneer projects had already set up their own monitoring mechanism. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) had also set up a reporting system for the operating NGOs to report the progress of the projects. SWD would also inspect the programmes and activities organised by the operating NGOs.

Item (1): Reports by Operating NGOs of Second Batch Projects

2. Members were briefed of the progress of the Child Development Fund (CDF) second batch projects at Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong, Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing and Sai Kung respectively and noted that:

Participating Children

- (a) schools, churches/religious organisations and other NGOs in the districts were the main sources of participating children. The operating NGOs also identified eligible children through their existing service networks. Family visits were arranged to brief the children and their parents on the objectives and details of CDF when necessary;
- (b) recruitment in schools could not begin until September owing to school examinations in June and the summer vacation;
- (c) following individual briefings by the operating NGOs, more EM families expressed interest in joining CDF projects, and helped promote CDF to other EM families;
- (d) to help children with disabilities attend training and activities, special transport services and other support measures would be provided;
- (e) there were a lot more girls than boys participating in the Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing project. The operating NGO concerned suggested that this was because boys were more worried about the labelling effect;

Mentorship Programme

- (f) most of the mentors were recruited through churches/religious organisations, service organisations and volunteer teams of government departments. Mentors were fully briefed of the objectives of CDF and the roles of mentors before they joined;
- (g) most of the mentors had attained tertiary qualifications and had working experience;
- (h) the operating NGOs would monitor the progress of mentor-mentee relationship building and the performance of the mentors;

Training/Activities

- (i) a wide range of training programmes on self-awareness, personal capacity, financial management, personal growth and development, etc. would be provided to help the participating children build up and accumulate financial and non-financial assets. Other activities would be arranged to extend their social network and broaden their horizon;

- (j) training would be provided to parents to help them understand and communicate with their children, guide their children in setting goals and drawing up personal development plan, enhance their financial management skill, etc.;
- (k) the training and activities for those EM participants who could not speak Cantonese would be conducted in English. Interpretation services would also be provided to parents who spoke their native languages only;
- (l) the training for mentors would focus on young people's culture and problems, skills in communicating with them and helping them draw up personal development plans, etc. Special training programmes would also be provided to those mentors whose mentees were EM or children with disabilities; and

Matching Contributions

- (m) matching contributions came from different sources, including business corporations, supporting organisations, churches/religious organisations, mentors and individual donors.

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

(i) First and Second Batches of CDF Projects [SCCDF Paper 4/2010]

3. Members noted the progress of the pioneer projects and second batch projects. They also noted that:

- (a) the mentor-to-mentee ratio for individual projects was proposed by the operating NGOs but in any case should not be lower than 1:3. The operating NGOs could recruit more mentors than they committed; and
- (b) the matching contribution would be correspondingly reduced if the children lowered their savings target. The Government's special financial incentive for children who had completed their savings programme, however, would still be \$3,000 regardless of their savings target.

(ii) Task Force on Consultancy Study

4. Members noted that the Task Force on Consultancy Study (TFCS) had considered the Third Interim Report submitted by the Consulting Team (CT) at its meeting on 22 July 2010. They also noted that:

- (a) about 88% of the 741 participating children who remained in the targeted savings programmes could meet the saving targets in the first year;
- (b) more than 25% of the participating children had not attended the financial planning and personal asset development programmes. The CT suggested that the operating NGOs try harder to encourage the participating children to attend such programmes, as they were crucial to enhancing their capabilities in building and accumulating assets;
- (c) large scale activities such as kick-off ceremonies and mentor-mentee matching activities provided an effective platform for initial contacts between the mentors and the mentees and also between the parents and the mentors;
- (d) the attendance of mentors at programmes had a significant bearing on the quality of their mentor-mentee relationship (MRQ) which in turn correlated with the participating children's developmental outcome; and
- (e) the CT would further analyse the correlation between MRQ and changes in the participants' development outcome at different points in time, and collect more qualitative information during the focus group discussion to support its analysis.

5. Members also noted that TFCS had considered the initial findings and observations for the Fourth Interim Report at its meeting on 4 November 2010 and would examine the Fourth Interim Report in detail at its next meeting.

Item (3) : Any Other Business

Subsequent Batches CDF Projects

6. Members noted that CDF projects would be rolled out gradually having regard to the operating NGOs' capacity, the availability of suitable mentors, and the practical experience in implementing the first and second batch projects. The Labour and Welfare Bureau and SWD would work out the scope and the timetable for subsequent batches of projects and seek members' comments. Members suggested that large scale publicity event be organised to enhance public awareness of the CDF and help the operating NGOs recruit mentors and participating children. The Task Force on Promotion of Child Development Fund would follow up.