

**Brief Notes of the Meeting of the
Steering Committee on Child Development Fund
held on 1 April 2011 (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		
Mr Frederick LAI		
Ms LAM Pik-chu		
Dr LAW Chi-kwong		
Mr Francis MAK		
Dr Grace POON		
Mr Ivan TING		
Ms Sandy WONG		
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 Item 1 only

Kwun Tong Child Development Fund Project

Mr CHAN Wing-kin Supervisor (Kwun Tong District)
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of
Hong Kong

Ms May LAM Project Officer
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of
Hong Kong

Sha Tin Child Development Fund Project

Mr WONG Kwai-yau Supervisor (Sha Tin District)
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of
Hong Kong

Ms Christo HO Project Officer
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of
Hong Kong

Tung Chung Child Development Fund Project

Mr Kelvin WONG Supervisor (Family and Development Team)
The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council

Miss Cherry CHAN Social Worker
The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council

Absent with Apologies

Miss Jasmine CHAN

Ms Evelyn LAM

Dr LEUNG Nai-kong

Matters Arising

Members noted that a sharing session would be arranged before the rollout of the third batch projects for the operating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of the first two batches projects to share their experience with those NGOs selected for operating third batch projects.

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 Kwun Tong, Sha Tin and Tung Chung respectively and noted that:

Participating Children

- (a) schools were the main source of participating children. However, recruitment in schools could not commence until after the summer holidays. The operating NGOs concerned had also identified eligible children, particularly the ethnic minorities (EM) children, through their existing service networks;

Mentorship Programme

- (b) the operating NGO of the Kwun Tong and Sha Tin projects recruited 10 to 15 mentors from each supporting corporation/organisation. In this way, they could recruit a sufficient number of mentors, and mentors from the same corporation/organisation could form small groups to provide mutual support;
- (c) for the Tung Chung project, the operating NGO concerned cooperated with the social work departments of local universities and successfully recruited a number of prospective graduates to serve as mentors;
- (d) mentors and mentees were matched having regard to a number of factors including gender, personalities, interests, personal development goals, etc. ;

Training/Activities

- (e) the training programmes for participating children, including financial management, personal development, self-awareness and relationship building, had begun. Mentors were also provided with training on communication skills, cultural features/differences of the EM communities, new senior secondary curriculum, etc. to help them discharge their duties.

3. Members also noted that:

- (a) mature mentors with more working experience and exposure were preferred as they could provide better guidance to the participating children in planning for long-term development;

- (b) mentors had been reminded to maintain an appropriate relationship with the mentees and seek the advice of social workers if necessary; and
- (c) the mentor-mentee meetings were closely monitored by the operating NGOs concerned.

Item (2): Progress Report on Implementation of CDF Projects

(a) First and Second Batches of CDF Projects [SCCDF Paper 1/2011]

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

- (a) the target savings, as well as the matching contribution and government's financial incentive, should be used to realise the personal development plans of the participating children. If participating families had financial difficulties, they should be advised to seek assistance from existing social welfare services.
- (b) the operating NGO of one project had partnered with a corporation which supplied all the mentors. However, the mentors had to drop out when they left that corporation;
- (c) for another two projects, some mentors dropped out after the induction training because they considered themselves not suitable for the task or were unable to commit themselves for a three-year programme. It was observed that the mentor drop-out rates of these two projects had improved after the projects came into operation. SWD was also closely monitoring the performance of these two operating NGOs; and
- (d) all the operating NGOs had recruited additional mentors as reserve for replacement.

(b) Task Force on Consultancy Study

5. Members noted that the Task Force on Consultancy Study (TFCS) had considered the Fourth Interim Report at the ninth meeting held on 9 March 2011. They also noted that:

- (a) of the 732 participating children who still stayed in the targeted savings programme, 98.8% had accumulated the expected amount by 31 December 2010. Many had developed a saving habit;

- (b) eight recommendations, most of which were operational issues, were made in the Fourth Interim Report. TFCS members asked the Consulting Team (CT) to study and suggest measures which could enhance the capabilities of and support for mentors, thereby helping them guide the participating children in drawing up and implementing the PDPs; and
- (c) the CT would collect and analyse the final version of the children's PDP and study how they intend to implement them.

Item (3): Third and Fourth Batches of CDF Projects [SCCDF Paper 2/2011]

6. Members were briefed on the proposed framework for the third and fourth batches of CDF projects and noted that the proposed timeframe for recruitment of children would not clash with school holidays or school examinations.

7. To encourage NGOs to recruit more mentors, members agreed that the incentive for recruiting more mentors (i.e. extra marks to those NGOs which pledged a mentor-mentee ratio higher than the minimum ratio of 1:3 as specified in the service specification) should be maintained.

8. Members noted that for the first and second batch projects, there was no minimum attendance requirement for individual participants (including participating children, parents and mentors). The proposed changes to the attendance requirements aimed to ensure that individual participants could benefit from the training programmes/activities.

9. Members endorsed the proposed framework for the third and fourth batches of projects, subject to paragraph 7 above. Members also agreed that:

- (a) replacement of drop-out children should be allowed at the beginning of the projects only;
- (b) for those participating children who had set a lower savings target, there was no need for CDF to top up the amount to \$200. Members shared the view that the primary objective of the targeted savings programme was to help the participating children develop a regular saving habit and to accumulate financial assets according to their affordability, rather than to ensure that each and every participating child own the same amount upon completion of the projects; and
- (c) targeted savings could be used to enrol in courses/training programmes which aimed to achieve the specific short-term/long-term targets as set out in the participating children's personal development plans.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
June 2011