

**Brief Notes of the Meeting of the
Steering Committee on Child Development Fund
held on 25 February 2014 (Tuesday)
in Conference Room, Lions College, 90 Hing Shing Road, Kwai Fong**

Attendance

Miss Annie TAM		(Chairperson)
Miss Jasmine CHAN		
Dr Philemon CHOI		
Mr Frederick LAI		
Ms LAM Pik-chu		
Dr LAW Chi-kwong		
Dr LEUNG Nai-kong		
Dr Grace POON		
Mr Michael WONG		
Ms Lorensa MAK	Chief Social Work Officer (Youth)	
Ms Jane LEE	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)	(Secretary)

In Attendance

Mr Donald CHEN	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2
Mr Joseph YU	Senior Executive Officer (Poverty)

For Agenda Item 1 only

Mr KWOK Yui-ham	Vice-principal Lions College
Ms YAN Yi-man	Administrative Officer Lions College

Absent with Apologies

Ms Evelyn LAM

Mr Francis MAK

Mr Ivan TING

Ms Sandy WONG

Presentation by Lions College – one of the operators of the school-based pilots

The Lions College briefed Members on the progress of its school-based pilot project. The Lions College remarked that operating a Child Development Fund (CDF) project was more labour-intensive than expected. Members noted the following suggestions made by Lions College:

- (a) taking into account the operation of schools, for future school-based projects, the Administration should consider to invite proposals in around May to facilitate the operating schools to commence the projects at the start of school year;
- (b) in view of the heavy workload of schools' staff members, provision designated for employment of additional staff for the project should be provided to operating schools to take forward the projects; and
- (c) the reporting requirement for the project should be minimised as far as possible.

2. Noting that the Lions College had been recruiting mentors through its existing networks, such as parent-teacher association, some Members suggested that Lions College might leverage on the network of its alumni association and that of the Lions Club (being the school's sponsoring body) to source for mentors. Lions College might also seek assistance from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in operating the pilot project, so as to tap relevant experience in providing appropriate guidance to underprivileged children and organising activities.

3. Regarding the resources provided to operating schools, Members noted that the amount of financial resources provided to schools per participating child were the same as that provided to operating NGOs for the fourth batch mainstream projects. To cater for individual circumstances of the schools, flexibility had been exercised on the number of participating children per pilot project, of which the lower limit was 50 only (instead of 100 for the fourth batch projects). Since the actual amount of

provision provided to each pilot project would depend on the number of participating children, pilot projects of smaller size would have a smaller amount of total provision.

Progress Report of the Fourth Batch Projects and School-Based Pilots

4. Members were briefed on the progress of the fourth batch projects and school-based pilots. Members noted that 16 out of 21 fourth batch projects had completed the recruitment of both participating children and mentors. A total of 2 220 children and 1 536 mentors have been recruited. Regarding the seven school-based pilot projects, five projects had already started and the remaining two projects would commence in April 2014. For the five projects which had started, a total of 268 children and 127 mentors had been recruited. NGOs and schools would continue to recruit participating children and mentors for the projects.

5. Members discussed whether a new batch of school-based projects should be launched this year. Some Members were of the view that the school-based pilots were still at a very preliminary stage and the merits of the school-based approach had not yet been demonstrated. Members agreed that no new round of school-based projects would be launched in 2014. They noted that the Administration would keep in view experiences gained by the existing operating schools to further consider the way forward of school-based approach.

Report on the Latest Initiatives for Promoting CDF Projects [SCCDF Paper 1/2014]

6. Members were briefed of the initiatives taken since August 2013 on promoting CDF projects as set out in paragraphs 4 to 8 of SCCDF Paper 1/2014. These included publicising the success stories of CDF projects, arranging radio and newspaper interviews with mentors and mentees, reaching out to target mentor groups, putting up an article in the Volunteer Movement Newsletter, and distribution of posters and leaflets, etc. Members were informed that the Administration was preparing a certificate presentation ceremony for second batch projects on 17 May 2014. The opportunity would also be taken to kick-off the fourth batch projects and school-based pilots.

7. Regarding the kick-off cum certificate presentation ceremony, a Member suggested that the Administration should give due recognition to mentors who had served CDF projects. One possible way to show the Administration's appreciation was to present pins to the mentors during the ceremony. Another Member suggested that further publicity be done to showcase the contribution of mentors – e.g. newspaper supplements might be arranged to highlight some feature stories. Members noted that the Administration would explore appropriate means to commend the efforts of mentors and their contribution to CDF.

Report on the Second Batch Projects [SCCDF Paper 2/2014]

8. Members were briefed of SCCDF Paper 2/2014 and noted the results of the second batch of CDF projects. A Member commented that it was encouraging to see that most of the participating children (i.e. over 95%) had completed the second batch projects.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
April 2014