

**Brief Notes of the Meeting of the
Steering Committee on the Child Development Fund (SCCDF)**

**held on 22 June 2015 (Monday)
in Room 1018, 10/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, Tamar**

Attendance

Miss Annie TAM	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare	(Chairperson)
Dr Philemon CHOI		
Mr Rex IP		
Mr Frederick LAI		
Ms Iris LAM		
Ms LAM Pik-chu		
Miss Elizabeth LAW		
Dr LEUNG Nai-kong		
Dr Grace POON		
Mr WONG Kam-leung		
Mr Michael WONG		
Mr Peter NG	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Corrections)	
Ms Eugenia CHUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)	(Secretary)

In Attendance

Ms Doris CHEUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) ¹
Miss Joey LEE	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)
Mr Joseph YU	Senior Executive Officer (Poverty)

Absent with Apologies

Ms Blanche TANG

Dr Odalia WONG

Terms of Reference of SCCDF and Guidelines on the Declaration of Interest of SCCDF Members

Members were briefed on the terms of reference of SCCDF and guidelines on the declaration of interest of SCCDF Members.

Progress update of the Child Development Fund (CDF) Projects [SCCDF Paper 1/2015]

2. Members were briefed on the key components of CDF projects, i.e. targeted savings, mentorship programmes, and personal development plan. Members noted that the age criterion for the targeted participants was set between 10 to 16 years old because this was considered a critical stage of development for children; and the mentorship programme was a special feature of CDF projects through which mentors helped participating children draw up and implement their personal development plans, and shared their life experience with the children. Members further noted that one of the key objectives of CDF projects was to foster positive attitude among the participating children. A Member said that he considered it worthwhile to promote CDF as it was a special programme implemented with the joint efforts of family, private sector, community and Government to support the longer-term personal development of underprivileged children. Another Member commented that, as compared with similar overseas programmes for alleviating child poverty, CDF was unique in the sense that it had comprised, among others, a mentoring element. As promoting youth upward mobility was key to alleviating poverty, CDF had an important mission and the long-term development of participating children should be tracked for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the projects.

3. Members were briefed on the progress of the CDF projects since the last meeting held in December 2014. The CDF had so far rolled out 61 projects operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in four batches and seven school-based pilots operated by schools, benefiting nearly 7 000 underprivileged children. For the fifth batch of NGO-run projects, 20 projects were awarded in late March 2015 and 7 more projects would be awarded in end-June 2015, and all these NGO-based projects were awarded under the new “one-plus-one” approach. As for the second batch of school-based pilots, Members were informed that Social Welfare Department (SWD) would announce the results by end-June 2015. Members noted that the participating

schools were supportive despite the envisaged additional workload the projects brought to them.

4. Members noted that, at present, the unspent targeted savings of CDF participants would be disregarded in the asset test under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) scheme for a period of one year after the end of CDF project. Members noted that, after the secretariat's follow-up with the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (WFSFAA) (the then Student Financial Assistance Agency) and the Housing Department (HD) on the disregard arrangement of unspent targeted savings, both WFSFAA and HD agreed to exempt the unspent targeted savings of CDF participants within the disregarded period of one year after the end of a CDF project from the calculation of asset for public rental housing applications, as well as applications under the relevant student financial assistance schemes and the upcoming Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) scheme.

5. Members noted that those children living in LIFA families receiving LIFA would be included as target participants of CDF projects.

6. Members were briefed on the enhancement measures as set out in paragraph 8 of SCCDF paper 1/2015 which would be implemented in the CDF projects to be rolled out from 2016. Noting that the age criterion of 10 to 16 years old for school-based projects would be fine-tuned to students from Primary 4 to Secondary 4, a Member suggested allowing NGO-run CDF projects to recruit students from Primary 4 to Secondary 4. After discussion, Members agreed to allow operating NGOs to recruit children aged 10 to 16 and students from Primary 4 to Secondary 4 irrespective of their age, for NGO-run CDF projects to be rolled out in the future.

7. Members noted that the study to examine the long-term effect of CDF on project participants would be awarded in around end-June 2015. The study was expected to commence in around July 2015 and be completed in one year's time. The study would focus on measuring and analysing the long-term development of the participants in areas such as academic performance, career prospects and social networks. Members noted that the Consulting Team would be invited to the next meeting to brief them on the scope and methodology of the study.

8. A Member suggested that, in order to enhance the capacity of CDF projects and facilitate recruitment of mentors for the projects, promotion and publicity on CDF should be stepped up to enhance public understanding of CDF projects and their impact. Several Members suggested making better use of the mass media to publicise CDF feature stories, for example, by publishing some success stories of CDF participants on newspaper. A Member also suggested stepping up publicity of CDF to schools in order to increase schools' awareness of CDF projects. Members noted that the Committee could stock-take Government's efforts in promoting CDF projects and discuss what more could be done at the next meeting.

Activities for Participants of the Child Development Fund in 2015 [SCCDF Paper 2/2015]

9. Members were briefed on the activities already arranged for CDF participants in 2015. These included Sleep Beauty ballet show, Wofoo etiquette training, CDF kick-off cum certificate presentation ceremony and concert of the Hong Kong Bach Sacred Music Festival. Members noted that the secretariat was liaising with parties concerned on various activities scheduled in the second half of 2015, including visits to Customs and Excise Training School, visits to the Cathay Pacific City, Youth Square's "Backpacker Challenge" and Dragonair (KA) Community Flight Programme.

10. For the KA Community Flight Programme, Members agreed to adopt the proposed theme 「規劃人生 夢想成真」, which was the theme of the recent CDF kick-off cum certificate presentation ceremony, as the theme for the Programme. Members also agreed to adopting the following criteria for selecting CDF participants to join the Programme:

- (i) the nominated CDF participants should have never flown before;
- (ii) each nominated CDF participant may bring along one to three companions (including his/her grandparents, parents, siblings and/or his/her mentor); and
- (iii) the passengers should be between primary 1 students and persons aged 68 or below.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
August 2015