

**Brief Notes of the Meeting of the  
Steering Committee on the Child Development Fund (SCCDF)  
held on 19 February 2016 (Friday)  
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	
Dr Odalia WONG	
Mr Michael WONG	
Mr Peter NG	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Corrections)
Ms Kitty HO	Principal Inspector (Guidance & Discipline), Education Bureau
Ms Eugenia CHUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty) (Secretary)

**In Attendance**

Mr David LEUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) <sup>1</sup> (Acting)
Ms Connie YIP	Deputy Public Relations Director (Child Development Fund)

Mr Joseph YU

Senior Executive Officer (Poverty)

**Absent with Apologies**

Ms Blanche TANG

Mr WONG Kam-leung

**Progress and Mid-term Review of School-based Pilot Projects [SCCDF Paper 1/2016]**

Members noted that the first batch of school-based pilot projects was launched in 2014 and most of them had run for 2 years. In order to have an in-depth review of the progress of the pilots, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and Social Welfare Department (SWD) had been collecting feedback from the participating schools, mentors and CDF participants in the past three months.

2. Members further noted that the schools in general were able to implement CDF projects according to the stipulated requirements in respect of matching of mentors and donations, implementation of targeted savings programmes, provision of training for project participants, and making bridging arrangements for students leaving schools during the project period. A vast majority of the CDF participants were able to sustain and complete the two-year savings programmes. Schools had also been able to leverage on school-specific resources and networks in project implementation. The attendance by CDF participants in the school-based training or activities was generally good.

3. Noting that some schools had expressed difficulties in recruiting sufficient number of mentors in the initial period, a Member commented that business corporations, trade and professional associations and chambers of commerce could supply mentors. Several mentors and their mentees could form mini-groups for the purpose of activity and experience sharing. Regarding the recruitment of mentors, Members noted that SWD's Central Office for Volunteer Service and 11 District Social Welfare Offices were ready to render assistance to those schools participating in CDF projects, if needed.

4. Another Member commented that promoting youth upward mobility was a key to alleviating poverty. CDF had provided an important foundation for underprivileged children aged 10 to 16. The longer-term development of participating children should be tracked for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the projects. The Commission on Poverty had launched the

“Life Buddies” mentorship programme which focused on career aspiration and training for young people. These elements were also important for enhancing young people’s upward mobility.

5. A Member suggested that school operators should capitalise on the community resources available in their districts in operating their projects and mentor recruitment.

6. Members were generally impressed by the performance of the participating schools, and agreed to roll out more school-based projects in the 2016-17 academic year.

7. Members were briefed on the proposed enhancement measures with regard to the operational arrangements of CDF projects. Members welcomed the proposals, and agreed to implement the following improvement measures starting from the third batch of school-based projects:-

- (a) SWD would closely liaise with the schools on recruitment of mentors especially in the initial period, and render assistance to schools if needed;
- (b) sharing sessions on operating school-based CDF projects would be arranged for the schools to share good practices and experiences; and
- (c) CDF participants might start using their savings in the middle of second year for implementing their personal development plans. The portion that could be used would be limited to those saved by CDF participants, while the matching donation and Government’s special financial incentive would be available to the CDF participants only on completion of the two-year saving programmes.

8. Members noted that the issue of regularising the school-based approach would be considered in the light of further operating experience of implementing the pilot projects already approved in the past batches or to be approved in the 2016-17 batch.

9. Members were informed that, with the assistance of Education Bureau, the Secretariat would organise an experience sharing session on operating school-based CDF projects on 24 February 2016.

**Value-Added Activities in support of the Child Development Fund Projects**  
**[SCCDF Paper 2/2016]**

10. Members were briefed on the activities already arranged for CDF participants since October 2015. These included Aviation 360 and Journey of Dreams by Dragonair, the Nutcracker performance by Hong Kong Ballet, dressed rehearsal of the Hong Kong Police College Open Day and the Sound of Movie music performance.

11. Members noted that the Secretariat had liaised with supportive organisations on arranging various value-added activities for CDF participants from February to October 2016, including Youth Square's Hostel Management Experience programme, Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Cine Fan community screenings and various visits to the Hong Kong Observatory, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, CLP's power stations, Radio Television Hong Kong's radio studios and Customs and Excise Training School.

12. Regarding suggestions on new programmes to be arranged for CDF participants, a Member suggested that activities which could help participants develop their career aspirations should be considered.

Labour and Welfare Bureau  
May 2016