

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

**held on 11 July 2016 (Monday)
in Room 1018, 10/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, Tamar**

Attendance

Miss Annie TAM	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare	(Chairperson)
Ms CHIU Kit-wa		
Ms Iris LAM		
Dr Kevin LAU		
Miss Elizabeth LAW		
Mr LO Kin-hei		
Mr WONG Kam-leung		
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

Miss Leonia TAI	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) ¹
Ms Connie YIP	Deputy Public Relations Director (Child Development Fund)
Mr Joseph YU	Senior Executive Officer (Poverty)

For Agenda Item 3 only

Dr Edward CHAN	Associate Professor, Department of Social Work & Social Administration, University of Hong Kong (HKU)
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Ms Ruby LO Deputy Director, Policy 21 (Research Institute)

Mr Rommel HO Research Assistant, Policy 21 (Research Institute)

Absent with Apologies

Ms Karin ANN

Mr Rex IP

Ms Amy FUNG

Ms Blanche TANG

Dr Odalia WONG

Introduction on Child Development Fund (CDF), Terms of Reference of SCCDF and Guidelines on the Declaration of Interest of SCCDF Members

Members noted the terms of reference of SCCDF and guidelines on the declaration of interest of SCCDF members.

2. Members were briefed on the background of CDF and the key components of CDF projects, i.e. targeted savings, mentorship programmes, and personal development plan. Members noted that the CDF had provided support to underprivileged children to widen their horizons, enhance their exposure, enlarge their social networks and help them develop a saving habit. In addition to the training provided by the operators, the Labour and Welfare Bureau had been arranging value-added activities for the participants to help enrich their social experience and build up their self-confidence. Members were also briefed on the value-added activities to be held for CDF participants in July and August 2016. These included visits to Customs & Excise Department Headquarters and its Tai Lam Dog Base, CLP's power stations, Swire Coca-Cola Hong Kong's bottling plant, Radio Television Hong Kong's radio studios, Customs and Excise Training School, and Vocational Training Council's member institutes.

3. Regarding the latest progress of CDF projects, Members noted that CDF had so far rolled out five batches of projects run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and two batches of school-based projects. As regards

the third batch of school-based projects, the evaluation of schools' proposals had been completed and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had awarded 13 school-based projects (including 2 joint school applications) to 17 schools. These projects would commence in the 2016-17 academic year. As regards the NGO-run projects, SWD would issue invitation for proposals for the sixth batch projects within July 2016.

4. A Member said that schools were a suitable candidate for implementing CDF. Members noted that the Secretariat had earlier invited principals of two school operators, namely Yan Oi Tong Tin Ka Ping Secondary School and Yan Chai Hospital Law Chan Chor Si College, to serve as the speakers of an experience sharing session on operating school-based CDF projects organised in February 2016.

Progress Report on the Study on the Longer Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants [SCCDF Paper 3/2016]

5. The Consulting Team presented the key findings and progress of questionnaire surveys of the Study on the Longer Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants (the "Study"). The Consulting Team further said that, with the assistance of the Secretariat and NGO operators, sufficient samples were identified for the conduct of the Study.

6. Members noted that the key findings of the qualitative study were as follows –

- (a) Personal Development Plan (PDP) : most of the interviewees found that the horizons of the participants were broadened, their social networks widened, confidence boosted and communication skills improved.
- (b) Mentorship Programme : most of the interviewees were of the view that the role of NGOs was important in the mentorship programme, especially at its early stage. NGOs should launch more mentor-mentee gatherings/activities and provide more training for mentors on youth culture. Most of the participants would discuss their personal development, future educational planning, life experience and school life with their mentors.
- (c) Targeted Savings : the participants usually spent their targeted savings on pursuing personal interest or curriculum tutorial classes; and purchasing equipment and other accessories. The targeted

savings programme was particularly useful in helping younger participants and their families develop savings habits.

- (d) Overall views on the CDF Programme : interviewees considered that the CDF Programme could help participants enhance their abilities, develop persistent savings habits and search for their ambitions. These would attribute to their future successes and breaking away from poverty in the long term.

7. In reply to Members' enquiries on the Study, the Consulting Team made the following clarifications/comments:

- (a) Regarding the number of NGOs involved in the qualitative study, the Consulting Team said that in-depth interviews had been conducted with all 18 NGOs involved in operating CDF projects. The CDF participants joining each focus group discussion came from 5 to 6 different NGOs.
- (b) The impact of CDF on poverty alleviation was yet to be seen as most of the CDF participants were still studying and were not contributing to their family income. That said, the CDF participants displayed positive attributes which would contribute to maintaining stable employment in future, and this would be an important factor that should help them get out of poverty.
- (c) The Consulting Team had made reference to similar studies of other countries and had adopted some scales of these studies for measuring areas such as health and emotional well-being and perceived social support of the respondents in the questionnaires of the Study.

8. Members noted that the Consulting Team would be invited to the next meeting to brief Members on the findings of the final report.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
September 2016