

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

**held on 9 December 2016 (Friday)
in Room 1018, 10/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, Tamar**

Attendance

Miss Annie TAM	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare	(Chairperson)
Ms Karin ANN		
Ms CHIU Kit-wa		
Ms Amy FUNG		
Mr Rex IP		
Mr LO Kin-hei		
Mr WONG Kam-leung		
Dr Odalia WONG		
Mr Peter NG	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Corrections)	(AD(YC))
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 2 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 Iris LAM

Dr Kevin LAU

Miss Elizabeth LAW

Ms Blanche TANG

Final Report of the Study on the Longer Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants

The Consulting Team, presented the findings of the Draft Final Report of the “Study on the Longer Term Development of Child Development Fund Project Participants” (the “Study”).

2. Members noted that the key findings of the Study were as follows –
 - (a) Personal Development Plan (PDP): the participants were motivated to improve themselves in order to achieve their future career goals. The positive experiences gained by the participants were useful to their pursuit of further study as well as their career development. The participants also had higher academic expectations and future orientation, and reported less problematic behaviour than the non-participants.
 - (b) Mentorship Programme: the participants reported higher levels of social support from family, friends, and others than the non-participants. Most of the mentors and mentees maintained a long-lasting relationship as demonstrated by the fact that most of the mentors maintained contact with their mentees after completion of CDF projects.
 - (c) Targeted Savings: most of the participants sustained their savings habits after they had completed the CDF projects. Some of the

non-governmental organisation (NGO) operators reported that the influence of the targeted savings was also extended to the participants' families.

- (d) Positive changes in CDF participants' siblings: the siblings of some participants had developed a savings habit, became more positive and optimistic, were more willing to meet others, and their horizons were broadened.

3. The Consulting Team summarised that the Study found that, as compared to non-CDF-participants, the CDF participants had greater motivation and pleasure in learning and studying, higher academic expectations, greater self-confidence, and better communication skills; and they received higher levels of social support; displayed higher levels of positive exploration of, and commitment to, their future education and careers; and developed persistent savings habits.

4. Based on the findings of the Study, the Consulting Team made the following recommendations –

Sharing of experience

- (a) The sharing of good practices and ideas in running CDF projects among NGO operators, and sharing of experiences among mentors should be facilitated and encouraged;

Reaching out to more potential beneficiaries of the CDF projects

It was recommended that efforts could be focused on -

- (b) stepping up publicity and promotional efforts to increase the awareness of CDF projects in schools and among school teachers;
- (c) increasing transparency on the information on, including the availability of, projects so that interested families knew where to apply if they wished to join CDF projects;
- (d) encouraging NGO operators to target at siblings of CDF participants as potential beneficiaries of CDF projects, as their siblings should be more informed about CDF projects and therefore more ready to join CDF projects;

- (e) expanding the pool of potential mentors via (i) targeting recruitment from commercial sectors and school teachers; and (ii) facilitating NGO operators to reach organisations which might be interested in supporting CDF projects;

Targeted Savings

- (f) while noting that there was no feedback complaining that the sum of targeted savings was inadequate, the amount of targeted savings could be reviewed in the long run so that the total sum of targeted savings would keep up with the price level and continued to allow CDF participants to have diversified options in implementing their PDPs; and

Future Research Focus

- (g) a longitudinal study would be useful to track the long-term achievements and psychological well-beings of beneficiaries of CDF projects. One possible way was to keep track of the CDF participants participating in the Study two to three years later and examine their performance when more of them were expected to be working rather than studying at that time.

5. In reply to Members' questions, the Consulting Team made the following clarifications/comments:

- (a) Regarding the impact of CDF projects on participants' relationship with their families, the Consulting Team agreed to elaborate its impact based on the information collected via interviews with parents.
- (b) As to whether any of the three key components of the CDF projects had been demonstrated to be more effective or valuable than the other components, the Consulting Team said that the results of the Study demonstrated that each of the three key components of the CDF projects was highly complementary to each other, and each had its unique longer-term impacts on the CDF participants. All the three key components were essential to the CDF projects.

6. Members noted that Government would consider taking follow up actions on recommendations of the Study and would discuss with the SCCDF at the next meeting.

Progress Report on Promotion of Child Development Fund and Value-Added Activities in support of Child Development Fund Projects

7. Members were briefed on the Secretariat's efforts and progress in promoting CDF since October 2015. These included creation of a new set of leaflets and posters, development of three short video testimonials of value-added activities, enrichment of newsletter, enhancement of CDF website and reaching out to key stakeholders to solicit support and organisation of various value-added activities for CDF participants.

8. Members were further briefed on the publicity initiatives which were in the pipeline for 2017. These included an additional video testimonial about Education University of Hong Kong's Junior Teacher Classroom programme, a five-minute introductory video about CDF, a kick-off cum certificate presentation ceremony, a CDF-themed board game, development of mobile version of CDF website and exploration of supporting project operators' mentor recruitment efforts.

9. A Member said that the Investor Education Centre had developed a financial education programme for primary students which might be of interest to CDF participants.

Agenda Item (4) : Any Other Business

10. Members were briefed on the proposal put forward by the Child Development Matching Fund (CDMF) to increase the Government's special financial incentive from 1:1 matching (i.e. a maximum of \$4,800 per participant who achieved the total savings of \$4,800 (\$200 x 24 months), and no less than \$3,000 for participants who completed the Targeted Savings programme with total savings less than \$3,000) to a fixed amount of \$4,800 so that the level of incentive received by all participants would be the same regardless of how much they had saved. While noting the reason of CDMF's proposal, Members considered that the Government's special financial incentive at an 1:1 ratio served an important incentive to encourage CDF participants to make their best efforts to save up to \$4,800 for the Targeted Savings programme, and thereby cultivating a saving habit. After thorough discussions, Members were of the view that the current arrangement should be maintained.