

**Summary of Discussion of the Meeting of
Steering Committee on the Child Development Fund (SCCDF)
held on 8 December 2021 (Wednesday)
in Conference Room 3, G/F, Central Government Offices, Tamar**

Attendance

Ms LAU Yim, Alice - Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Chairperson)

Dr Jason CHAN

Ms Clara CHAN

Dr Stephen CHEUNG

Ms CHIU Kit-wa

Professor Angela CUI

Dr Kevin LAU

Ms Joyce LEE

Mr TSE Tsz-fung

Miss Koby WONG

Miss Mandy WU

Ms Judith YU

Mr Alex WONG - Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and
Corrections)

Ms Jeanne CHENG - Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Commission on Children) (Secretary)

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)

Mr David LEUNG Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1
Ms Terry CHEUNG Chief Executive Officer (Commission on Children)
Ms Betty LAW Senior Executive Officer (Commission on Children) 3
Mr Jonathan NG Senior Project Manager (Commission on Children)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Ms Phoebe WONG Chief Social Work Officer (Youth)
[For item 3 only]
Mr Benjamin LEE Social Work Officer (Child Development Fund)
[For item 3 only]

Members absent with Apologies

Ms Karin ANN
Mr LO Kin-hei

Agenda Item (1): Update on the Train-the-trainer Programme

Members were briefed on the train-the-trainer programme offered to the operators of the Child Development Fund (CDF) in 2021, and the programme proposed to be launched from 2022 to the first half of 2023.

2. Members noted that four train-the-trainer workshops were organised for more than 110 staff of CDF operators in 2021. The workshops covered financial planning, positive counselling rules for happy childhood, effective engagement with mentees and parents, and goal setting and implementation of personal development plans (PDPs). They were well received by the participants.

3. Members further noted that six workshops (including five on the existing topics and one on the new topic of how to establish and maintain good mentor-mentee relationship) would be organised from 2022 to the first half of 2023.

Agenda Item (2): Progress Update of the Child Development Fund Projects

4. Members noted the progress of various CDF projects, the project performance of the sixth batch of projects run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which were completed in 2020, and the sharing session for CDF operators conducted on 18 December 2020. In respect of the sharing session, Members noted that follow-up actions had been completed on most of the views/suggestions received from CDF operators, whilst the suggestions to explore ways to secure matching contribution from donors and to provide assistance to CDF operators for recruiting and supporting mentors would be followed up under agenda item (3).

5. Members also noted the trend identified in PDPs of the participating children in recent years. Most participants had adopted support to/improvement in academic performance as their short-term development goals, and would make use of the targeted saving to take tutorial classes or procure computer equipment to support their learning. On the other hand, PDPs with long-term development goals were mostly related to career planning. Participating children were more interested in the fields of information technology and engineering.

Agenda Item (3): Brainstorming on Enhancement Measures and Further Development of the Child Development Fund

6. Members were briefed on the challenges encountered during the organisation and/or implementation of the key components of CDF, including PDP, Targeted Savings and Mentorship, and value-added activities for participating children.

7. Members suggested that, in respect of the operation of CDF projects, consideration be given to lowering the requirement of at least 100 participating children for each NGO-run project to facilitate participation of small and medium NGOs, publicity materials be provided to facilitate their promotion of projects, promotion of joint efforts involving corporates to contribute donations and mentors and NGOs to involve in project management, and review of key components of CDF projects to enhance its uniqueness and competitiveness vis-à-vis other funding projects targeting at children from a disadvantaged background that were offered by the Government or NGOs.

8. As regards the key components, Members considered that CDF operators should make clear to parents/guardians of participating children the objective of CDF the value particularly the importance of inspiring and supporting participating children to develop long-term PDPs. Regarding Targeted Savings, consideration should be given to invite corporations with budget for promoting Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance and volunteer teams to make matching contributions, and more recognition should be given to donors as a reward for their contribution. In respect of Mentorship, corporate donors should be encouraged to motivate their staff and management trainees to be mentors and provide training to mentors, group mentoring could be arranged to enhance mutual support among the mentors and facilitate their sharing of experience, compulsory and structured group ice-breaking activities should be arranged at an early stage to help mentors and mentees to establish relationship, CDF operators should be encouraged to engage and recruit mentors through more means such as alumni network of universities and the social media platforms run by NGOs or charities, and mentees of completed CDF projects should be invited to serve as mentors for future projects.

9. Members also suggested that visits to landmarks in Hong Kong be arranged as value-added activities for participants. To enhance publicity, activities could be planned to publicise the effectiveness of CDF projects in alleviating inter-generational poverty. Consideration could be given to place advertisements of CDF on Facebook and Instagram to reach a wider audience.