



## **In Attendance**

### **Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Ms Shirley HO                      Chief Executive Officer (Welfare) 2

Ms Janice WONG                  Senior Executive Officer (Welfare) 2A

### **Social Welfare Department (SWD)**

Mr Joshua WONG                Chief Social Work Officer (Youth) 2

Mrs Fanny CHEUNG              Senior Social Work Officer (Youth) 2

## **Member Absent with Apology**

Ms Clara CHAN

### **Agenda Item (1): Report of the Enhanced Child Development Fund Programme**

Members noted the implementation progress of the enhanced Child Development Fund (CDF) Programme. On endorsement of the CDF Steering Committee (Steering Committee), a series of enhancement measures were implemented in accordance with the recommendation arising from an overall review completed in 2023. To enhance CDF's uniqueness and competitiveness vis-à-vis other funding projects targeting children from a disadvantaged background, key improvement measures included defining the strategic role and future directions of CDF; targeting children studying in Primary 3 to Primary 6; and streamlining the mode of operation and implementation arrangements, while maintaining the three components of CDF projects (i.e. personal development plan, target savings and mentorship).

2. Under the new mode of operation, invitations for applications for the 10<sup>th</sup> batch school-based and NGO-led projects were issued in March 2024. Members took note of the recruitment result of the 10<sup>th</sup> batch projects and were pleased to note the positive responses from the project operators and active participation by target student groups in the enhanced CDF Programme.

Members also noted that all CDF projects funded under the 10<sup>th</sup> batch met the minimum mentor-to-mentee ratio of 1:3, while further recruitment of mentors to pursue a higher ratio as proposed by the operators was underway. This notwithstanding, continuous efforts would be made to attract mentors to join the Programme, including the possibility of inviting “graduates” of the Programme to become mentors in the future and recognition scheme for mentors.

3. Members were also given an update on the enhancement measures endorsed at its last meeting. To strengthen the overall management and monitoring of project performance, the Steering Committee agreed that potential project operators should be reminded that they should maintain direct management of the CDF projects at all times, and the application cycles for both NGO-led and school-based projects would be combined and conducted on a biennial basis (i.e. every 24 months) starting from the 11<sup>th</sup> batch to be launched in March 2026. The enhancement measures mentioned above were announced in January 2025 on CDF and Social Welfare Department (SWD)’s websites, followed by an online briefing session conducted for project operators. Generally, NGOs and schools responded positively and showed understanding of the duties and responsibilities of CDF operators as well as the standardised application cycle.

4. Members also noted the progress of the train-the-trainer programme to enhance training support for project operators to equip them with the knowledge and skillsets to meet the needs of student participants at primary school level. In view of the enactment of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance, project operators would be encouraged to attend child protection training programmes provided by SWD to help raise the awareness of mentors and staff of CDF Programme on child protection given the young age of CDF participants. Since parental guidance would play a pivotal role in child development, the train-the-trainer programme would equip project operators with the skills, knowledge and strategies required for provision of suitable training and guidance to parents/guardians to promote positive parent-child relationship.

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

5. Members noted the progress of the 9<sup>th</sup> batch NGO-led projects and the 9<sup>th</sup> batch school-based projects, which would be completed in April 2025 and November 2025 respectively.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**  
**March 2025**