Summary of Discussion of the Meeting of
Steering Committee on the Child Development Fund
held on 11 March 2026 (Wednesday)
in Conference Room 3, G/F, Central Government Offices, Tamar

Attendance

Ms LAU Yim, Alice	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Chairperson)
Dr Tony LAU	
Ms Joyce LEE	
Mr Victor PANG	
Dr Angela SIU	
Mr TSE Tsz-fung	
Mr John WONG	
Miss Joe CHAN	Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Corrections)
Ms Neve LEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2 (Secretary)

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)

Mr Fletch CHAN	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1
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
Ms KWAN Wai-man	Senior Social Work Officer (Youth) 2
Ms LEUNG Wing-shan	Social Work Officer (Child Development Fund)

Members Absent with Apology

Ms Clara CHAN

Ms Maria CHU

Ms Kathy CHUNG

Professor Angela CUI

Mr Andy KWOK

Ms Judith YU

Agenda Item (1): Training and Activities for Child Development Fund Programme

Overview and Suggestions

Regarding the training and activities provided in the Child Development Fund (CDF) programme, members noted that the scope covered training provided by project operators for participating children, mentors and parents / guardians, and train-the-trainer programmes for project operators. Members were shared with some successful projects that could serve as good references for enriching and enhancing the content of training in future. Members also noted that their suggestions in designing and refining the programmes under the new batch had been taken into account. In particular, workshops were organised and a range of multi-faceted programmes were in the pipeline, focusing on strengthening trainers' soft skills that addressed the development needs of mentees at a younger age. Members appreciated the

structured design and impactful results of the training and activities which were instrumental in the personal growth, character building and long-term development of the participating children.

2. Members noted that, in addition to monitoring the quantitative output standards, qualitative feedback from participants would also be collected for conducting comprehensive reviews of the projects. Members were of the view that those project operators whose programmes consistently received positive feedbacks should be given recognition, and be encouraged to organise similar kinds of activities. Members also noted that project operators collected views from participating children, mentors and parents/ guardians, indicating their satisfaction levels and offering suggestions for improvement. Those views collected enabled continuous programme review by the project operators and the Government.

New Positioning of CDF Programme

3. Members discussed the implications brought by the new positioning of CDF programme. A member shared that, participating parents welcomed the structured design of three-year theme-based projects which enabled parental engagement at an early stage, benefitting the long-term development of children.

4. Members were glad to note that invitations for the 10th batch projects in 2024, which was the first batch of applications targeting upper primary school students, were well responded. The number of applications exceeded the original quota, and the enrolment result was comparable to the previous batches, reflecting positively on the continual support and active participation of the enhanced CDF by the operators and target student groups. CDF would continue to launch more projects and further enhance its elements with the injection of funding by the Government in 2026.

5. On CDF's uniqueness and competitiveness in garnering support by the community as compared with the Strive and Rise Programme ("S&RP"), members noted that that both CDF and S&RP were core initiatives under the Government's targeted poverty alleviation strategy. The project duration and target participants of S&RP and CDF programme bore distinctive features. The S&RP spanned for one year and targeted secondary one to four students,

while CDF programme covered three years and targeted upper primary students. The clear delineation of the two programmes facilitated CDF's concentration of resources to provide dedicated support to upper primary school students.

6. Members also noted that following a comprehensive review of CDF programme and the implementation of improvement measures since 2024, the operation of CDF was benefitted from a clear positioning of target groups, strategic roles and future direction. In addition to providing participants with direct access to resources on training and opportunities that were dedicated to students at primary school level, CDF also helped them grow in a more supportive environment by empowering the people around them.

Branding and Promotion of CDF

7. A member suggested that strategic measures should be in place to enhance the visibility, recognition and brand identity of CDF, which in turn would help maintain its social recognition and brand image, and attract mentors and funding from the community.

8. Another member observed that CDF programme was commended by the community since its launch, especially its targeted savings element to encourage family participation and social support in cultivating a saving habit for children. Consultancy studies also recognised its positive impacts on alleviating intergenerational poverty and fostering financial discipline. Given a shift in target participants, the member suggested highlighting the unique strengths of CDF and showcasing success stories from over a decade of implementation through promotion initiatives.

9. Leveraging on public awareness on CDF, coupled with the replenishment of financial resources and a strengthened strategic positioning, members concurred that it would be opportune to initiate a publicity relaunch to demonstrate the historical success alongside the future direction of CDF to enhance its visibility and appeal. The objective was to highlight the efforts of both long-term participants and newcomers to reinforce the impact of CDF and broaden public outreach. The Government would also continue to promote tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community to garner cross-sectoral support on projects, including CDF.

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

10. Members noted the performance of the 9th batch NGO-led projects and the 8th batch school-based projects. Members were also briefed on the progress of the 10th batch projects, and the launching schedule of the upcoming 11th batch projects in March 2026. Moreover, the CDF programme will be further enhanced starting in 2026, through introducing thematic activities of two new aspects, namely "Career aspirations" and "Understanding society and environment".

Labour and Welfare Bureau
May 2026