

APPENDIX (vi):*(Paragraph 4.14 of the Report)***CHILD DEVELOPMENT – AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING SERVICES****PRE-PRIMARY CHILDREN (0-5 YEARS OLD)**

Objective: To cater for the developmental needs of children at an early stage, and to identify those at risks.

Health: All children can enjoy a wide range of disease prevention and health promotion services at Maternal and Child Health Centres.

Early intervention: The Comprehensive Child Development Service was introduced in 2005 to identify and support the health, developmental and social needs of children aged 0 to 5 and their families.

Pre-primary education: A series of new initiatives have been introduced since October 2006 to provide children aged from 3 to 6 with quality and affordable pre-primary education.

Parenting: A range of parenting programmes are available. Parents with parenting difficulties can join the Positive Parenting Programme of the Department of Health.

Child care: Child care/after school care are provided to assist working parents. Subsidies are provided to families in financial need.

SCHOOL CHILDREN (6-14 YEARS OLD)

Objective: To provide children with quality education and developmental opportunities so that they can be prepared for their future.

Schooling: All children in Hong Kong enjoy 9 years of free and compulsory education. Children from poor families can apply for financial assistance to meet their schooling expenses. The Government has introduced small class teaching in primary schools with a majority of students from disadvantaged families.

Development opportunities

- An extensive network of 61 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), as well as 134 Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) all over Hong Kong to provide holistic services for, amongst others, young people aged 6 to 24.
- Students have opportunities to take part in various types of training (including IT training) and extra-curricular activities (including Uniformed Groups) inside and outside schools.
- There are financial assistance/subsidies to schools and non-governmental organisations to organise different learning activities for students with financial difficulties. These programmes include the School-based After School Support and Learning Programme; the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund; the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged; the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development; funding administered by the Commission on Youth and the Summer Youth Programme Committee etc.. There are also various sources of funding from charitable trusts and private sector for the purpose.

Prevention

- “Understanding the Adolescent Project” (U.A.P.) for primary schools and the “P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood: A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme” (P.A.T.H.S.) for secondary schools are introduced to screen children in need of additional support.

YOUTH (15-24 YEARS OLD)

Objectives: To equip our youth with the necessary knowledge and skills in pursuit of their future career. Particular attention is given to youth not in education, employment or training (“non-engaged youth”).

Study: Students can continue their study in mainstream secondary schools and tertiary institutions after completing the 9-year free education. Students with financial needs can also apply for financial assistance. Programmes like Project Yi Jin and Associate Degree Programme are also available for students who are unable to further their study in traditional schools.

Training/Employment: We have introduced vocational training programmes under the Career Oriented Curriculum in traditional schools. Students can also choose to receive vocational training offered by institutions like Vocational Training Council or the pre-employment training /placement programmes of the Labour Department. The Government has also established a Youth Sustainable Development and Engagement Fund to finance pilot projects on employment-related training programmes targeted at non-engaged youths.