

Commission on Poverty (CoP)
Task Force on Children and Youth
Meeting held on 10 October 2006
Gist of Discussion

The CoP Task Force on Children and Youth held its sixth meeting on 10 October 2006.

Item (1) Child Development Forum

2. Members were updated on the preparation of the Child Development Forum, which would be held on 10 November 2006 to identify short-term improvement measures, as well as long-term policy directions to promote child development, especially for children from a disadvantaged background. After discussion, Members agreed on the following directions -

- (a) the Administration should consider how to further strengthen support for children and their families, especially those high-risk children and their families;
- (b) the Administration should draw reference from the successful experience of some non-governmental organizations in implementing child development programmes, which put emphasis on how to enhance the capacity and resilience of children rather than simply giving them material support; and
- (c) the overseas experience of Child Development Fund (CDF) was worth exploring, and the Child Development Forum would provide a good opportunity to enhance the public understanding of the overseas experience and to discuss what was the most effective way to promote the development of our children and youth, especially those from a disadvantaged background.

Item (2) Comprehensive Child Development Services (CCDS) – An Update (*CoP TFCY Paper 4/2006*)

3. Members were updated by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau on the latest development of CCDS and noted the positive feedbacks of the pilot programmes. They also took note that CCDS was comprehensive and effective to identify the varied needs of children and their families at an early stage. Members asked the relevant bureau and department to organise

a visit to MCHCs running CCDS for the Task Force members in order to further enhance members' understanding of the operation of the service.

Item (3) School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes – An Update (*CoP TFCY Paper 5/2006*)

4. Members were briefed by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) on the latest developments of the School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes. They noted that a revised mode of funding had been introduced for academic year 2006/07 (i.e. school-based grant (SBG) & community-based grant (CBG)) to address the needs of students and to encourage community efforts to organise more worthwhile development programmes for children and youth. They also noted that around 90% of schools in Hong Kong had applied for the grants. Participating schools were also required to assess the effectiveness of their programmes in assisting students from disadvantaged families and to submit evaluation reports to EMB.

Item (4) Other Youth Development Programmes (*CoP TFCY Paper 5/2006 & CoP TFCY Paper 6/2006*)

5. Members were briefed by representatives from the Home Affairs Bureau and the Home Affairs Department on the work of the Commission on Youth (CoY) and the Summer Youth Programme (SYP) in facilitating child development outside school. They noted that both CoY and SYP had their own arrangements/mechanism to facilitate children and youth from a disadvantaged background to participate in their programmes.

6. All in all, Members noted that the existing services and programmes had already catered for the developmental needs of children and youth on three key aspects, namely pre-school, school-based and outside school development. They asked relevant bureaux and departments to continue their work and to ensure the resources were effectively used for fostering the growth of children and youths especially those from a disadvantaged background.

Commission Secretariat
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