

Commission on Poverty (CoP)
Task Force on Children and Youth
Meeting held on 11 May 2006
Gist of Discussion

The CoP Task Force on Children and Youth held its fifth meeting on 11 May 2006.

Item (1) Promoting Child Development – Child Development Fund as a Model (CoP TFCY Paper 3/2006)

2. The Meeting discussed the applicability of overseas experience in setting up Child Development Fund in Hong Kong. Members noted that a number of programmes and funding schemes had already been put in place by the Government or other charitable bodies to cater for the developmental needs of children and youth. In considering whether and how Hong Kong should implement a new Fund/programme, the Meeting emphasized that it was important to examine current gaps and to avoid duplication with the existing services.

3. Many members also noted that the U.K. and the U.S. had adopted the long-term investment approach, which primarily aimed at promoting saving habit and financial literacy and preparing the younger generation for adulthood. Members noted that this might not fit with the community expectations for delivering more immediate support to children during childhood. Noting there were diverse expectations in the community on the subject, as a next step the Task Force would arrange a sharing session to gauge the views of relevant parties on ideas of a meaningful and feasible arrangement that suit Hong Kong's circumstances.

4. Members noted that in the long run, the Government should consider the formation of a Children Commission to provide a dedicated platform within the Administration which could take an overview on the holistic development of children.

Item (2) Presentation on “Intensive Community Mentoring Scheme” – A study in tackling intergenerational poverty

5. Members were briefed by Dr Charles CHAN from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on the “Intensive Community Mentoring Scheme”

which was funded by the Quality Education Fund. Members also discussed the effectiveness of mentorship programme in tackling intergenerational poverty. They agreed that the Task Force would further explore how to promote good mentorship models among relevant parties and stakeholders.

Commission Secretariat

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