

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Under the targets and indicators of this Programme, the number of outreaching social work teams (OSWTs) is maintained at 16 in 2008-09, but the number of cases served and clients identified will be increased to 14 662 and 5 221 respectively with the cost per case per month at \$485. Would the Administration please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the reasons for an average increase of about 5% in the number of cases served and clients identified in 2009-10 despite the fact that the number of OSWTs is maintained at the present level?
- (b) of the reasons for a decrease instead of an increase in the cost per case per month in 2009-10? Will the quality of service be affected?
- (c) how it will monitor the performance of the enhanced services of the OSWTs?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

- Reply :
- (a) Although the number of OSWTs is maintained at the present level, one additional social worker post has been allocated to each of the 16 OSWTs since October 2008, thus enabling the OSWTs to cope with the increase in caseload.
 - (b) The total expenditure for the service in 2009-10 is estimated to increase by 3.5% as compared to the 2008-09 Revised Estimate owing to the provision of additional staff mentioned in (a) above. As the number of cases is estimated to increase by 5%, the unit cost will show a small decrease of 1.4%. The quality of service will be enhanced due to the increase in manpower in 2009-10.

- (c) SWD monitors the performance of subvented welfare services through the Service Performance Monitoring System (SPMS). Under SPMS, service performance is assessed according to the Funding and Service Agreements and a generic set of Service Quality Standards drawn up between SWD and non-governmental organisations operating the subvented services. The enhanced services of all 16 OSWTs are also monitored under the SPMS.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please list out the number of school social work cases served and school social workers in each District Council District in 2008-09? Would the Administration consider allocating more resources in 2009-10 to strengthen the provision of school social work service (SSWS) in Tin Shui Wai district? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : According to the District Council's geographical demarcation, the number of secondary schools provided with subvented SSWS pursuant to the established policy of 'one school social worker for each school' in the 2008/09 school year is given as follows:

District	Number of schools with subvented SSWS
Central & Western	13
Eastern	35
Southern	20
Wan Chai	17
Kowloon City	39
Kwun Tong	34
Sham Shui Po	28
Wong Tai Sin	26
Yau Tsim Mong	18
Islands	11
Kwai Tsing	34
North	20
Sai Kung	28
Sha Tin	49
Tai Po	24
Tsuen Wan	13
Tuen Mun	38
Yuen Long *	39
Total	486

* Out of these 39 schools, 21 are in Tin Shui Wai.

We have maintained statistics on the overall number of cases handled through the SSWS but not the breakdown by individual districts. In 2008-09, the average caseload is estimated to be 85 cases per school social worker, which is the same as those in the 2005-06 to 2007-08 financial years.

Given that each secondary school in Hong Kong is already provided with a school social worker and the overall caseload has been steady, the Administration has no plan to increase resources for this service.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	16 March 2009

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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is projected that the cost per case per month for outreaching social work will be reduced from \$492 in the 2008-09 Revised Estimate to \$485 in the 2009-10 Estimate. Would the Administration please explain why the cost is expected to drop under inflation?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The total expenditure for outreaching social work service in 2009-10 is estimated to increase by 3.5% as compared to the 2008-09 Revised Estimate while the number of cases is estimated to increase by 5%. As a result, the cost per case per month will show a small decrease of 1.4%. It should be noted that one additional social worker post has been allocated to each of the 16 outreaching social work teams (OSWTs) since October 2008, thus enabling the OSWTs to cope with the increase in caseload.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Regarding the school social work cases served under the indicators, would the Administration please inform this Committee whether it will consider increasing resources in the coming year to tackle drug abuse problem of students at school given a number of such cases were reported recently?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : As each secondary school is already provided with subvented school social work service (SSWS) pursuant to the established policy of “one school social worker for each school” and the trend of the actual caseload from 2005-06 to 2007-08 has been steady, the Administration has no plan to increase resources for this service.

Pursuant to the Security Bureau’s policy initiative to tackle the drug abuse problems and to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has secured additional resources in 2008-09 to strengthen the services of counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs), drug treatment and rehabilitation centres, outreaching social work teams and the community support service scheme, etc., so as to facilitate early identification and timely engagement of young drug abusers. In 2009-10, SWD has earmarked additional resources to provide medical support for psychotropic substance abusers at CCPSAs on a recurrent basis and to launch a two-year pilot project to enhance probation service for drug offenders.

School social workers will collaborate with the above-mentioned services to help needy students. Separately, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has allocated \$750 million for the Education Bureau and SWD to implement the “Positive Adolescent Training through Holistic Social Programmes to Adulthood: A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme” for

secondary schools. The Scheme has been in operation since the 2005/06 school year, and aims at promoting a healthy life style for secondary school students, instilling in them positive values and enhancing their resilience and life skills. This will also help prevent drug abuse problems among students.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	20 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10 that the Social Welfare Department will “set up a new integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) in Tseung Kwan O through pooling of existing resources”, would the Administration please inform this Committee whether “pooling of existing resources” implies that additional resources are not required, and whether this will result in a reduction in the manpower and resources in other areas?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The new ICYSC in Tseung Kwan O will be formed by pooling surplus resources for youth services on a cost-neutral basis as agreed with the non-governmental organisation that operates the services. This will not lead to a reduction in existing manpower and resources.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10” that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) will “continue to monitor the performance of the enhanced services of the community support service scheme (CSSS) and outreaching social work teams (OSWTs)”. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the details of the above service monitoring work as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : SWD monitors the performance of the CSSS and OSWTs through the Service Performance Monitoring System (SPMS). Under the SPMS, service performance is assessed according to the Funding and Service Agreements and a set of Service Quality Standards drawn up between SWD and non-governmental organisations operating the subvented services. There is no breakdown of the expenses and manpower provision specifically allocated to the monitoring of the CSSS and OSWTs under the SPMS.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the provision allocated over the past two years (i.e. 2007-08 and 2008-09) to Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) under the targets of this Programme and the provision to be allocated to these centres in the coming year? What are the criteria for allocating provision to these centres? Has the Administration evaluated the service effectiveness of these centres?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The total recurrent provisions for ICYSC in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are as follows:

Year	Amount (\$ million)
2007-08 Actual Expenditure	745.60
2008-09 Revised Estimate	804.70
2009-10 Estimate	812.20

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) monitors the performance of ICYSCs through the Service Performance Monitoring System (SPMS). Under the SPMS, service performance is assessed according to the Funding and Service Agreements (FSAs) and a generic set of Service Quality Standards drawn up between SWD and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating the subvented services. The allocation of the recurrent subventions to the operating NGOs is subject to their compliance with the FSA requirements. In general, the ICYSCs can comply with the requirements of FSAs.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

17 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In face of a probable upsurge in service demand due to economic downturn, would the Administration please inform this Committee whether additional resources will be provided to Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) under the targets of this Programme in 2009-10? If no, does that mean the Administration has not taken into account the impact of financial tsunami on young people?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : According to the current planning standard, one ICYSC will serve a population of 12 000 young people aged from six to 24. The current provision of 136 ICYSCs fully meets service demand.

The ICYSCs provide a comprehensive range of services including guidance and counselling services, supportive services for young people in disadvantaged circumstances, socialisation programmes and programmes for the development of social responsibility and competence. All these seek to help young people cope with the difficulties they encounter during their developmental process, including those arising from the recent financial crisis.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In 2009-10, the number of outreaching social work cases served is anticipated to increase by 702 as compared with that of last year and the Administration has indicated that manpower provision of the service of outreaching social work teams (OSWTs) will be increased. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The Social Welfare Department has allocated one additional social worker post for each of the 16 OSWTs with effect from October 2008. The full-year additional recurrent provision for these additional posts is about \$4.8 million, on top of the existing annual provision of \$73 million for the 16 OSWTs in 2008-09.

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Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10 that the Administration will set up a new integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) in Tseung Kwan O. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved and the schedule for setting up the centre?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply : The new ICYSC in Tseung Kwan O will be formed by pooling surplus resources for youth services on a cost-neutral basis as agreed with the non-governmental organisation that operates the services. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$5.8 million per annum. The new ICYSC is expected to commence operation in the fourth quarter of 2009.

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Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2009

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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10, the Administration stated that a new integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) will be set up in Tseung Kwan O in 2009-10. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the exact location, the numbers of service users, the staff establishment, the target completion date and the expenditure of the centre?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The new ICYSC will be located in Tseung Kwan O Area 86. According to the current planning standard, an ICYSC will serve a population of 12 000 young people aged from six to 24. The new ICYSC is expected to commence operation in the fourth quarter of 2009. The estimated expenditure involved will be about \$5.8 million per annum. The service operator is subvented under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System and can flexibly deploy resources to meet service needs.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

18 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration stated that there will be 24 401 cases served for school social work and the number of social workers will be increased by one to 487 in 2009-10. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the staff establishment and the scope of work for school social worker; and
- (b) the estimated expenditure in 2009-10.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a) & (b) The Social Welfare Department has implemented the policy of 'one school social worker for each secondary school' since the 2000/01 school year. School social workers are stationed at schools. They collaborate with stakeholders in other disciplines and perform a wide range of duties including identifying and assisting students with academic, social and emotional problems, maximising their education opportunities, developing their potential and preparing them for responsible adulthood. In 2009-10, the estimated expenditure for school social work service is \$233.7 million.

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18 March 2009

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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration stated that the number of cases served for outreaching social work will be increased by 702 to 14 662 in 2009-10. However, the number of service teams will be maintained at 16. Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Will additional manpower be provided for each service team? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) Will additional resources be provided to meet service demand? If yes, please give the details. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a) & (b) Although the number of outreaching social worker teams (OSWTs) is maintained at the present level, one additional social worker post has already been provided to each of the 16 OSWTs in October 2008, thus enabling the OSWTs to cope with the increase in the number of cases served. The full-year recurrent cost for those additional manpower is about \$4.8 million. The Social Welfare Department has no plan to further increase the manpower provision and resources for OSWTs in 2009-10.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

19 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Social Welfare Department set up a new Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre (ICYSC) in Tin Shui Wai in 2008. What is the location of the centre? How many types of services are provided for young people by the centre? What are the numbers of service users for each type of service? What was the expenditure for each type of service in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The new ICYSC is in Tin Ching Estate, Tin Shui Wai. It provides a wide range of comprehensive services including guidance and counselling services, supportive services for young people in disadvantaged circumstances, socialisation programmes and programmes for the development of social responsibility and competence.

As the new ICYSC has just commenced operation in early March 2009, the service utilisation figures are not yet available. We have no information on the ICYSC's expenditure by service type as the operating NGO is subvented under the Lump Sum Grant subvention system and can flexibly deploy resources among the ICYSC's services to meet the actual service demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Stephen Fisher
Post Title	Director of Social Welfare
Date	18 March 2009

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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

Programme : (7) Young People

Controlling Officer : Director of Social Welfare

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Question : The Administration states that a new integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) will be set up in Tseung Kwan O through pooling of existing resources in 2009-10. Will the resources for other services be reduced as a result? Will additional resources be provided to meet the expenditure of the project?

In addition, where will the ICYSC be located? When will it come into operation? What types of services will be provided? How many young people will benefit?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply : The new ICYSC will be formed by pooling surplus resources for youth services on a cost-neutral basis as agreed with the non-governmental organisation that operates the services. This will not lead to a reduction in existing resources.

The new ICYSC is in Tseung Kwan O Area 86 and is expected to commence operation in the fourth quarter of 2009. It will provide a wide range of comprehensive services including guidance and counselling services, supportive services for young people in disadvantaged circumstances, socialisation programmes and programmes for the development of social responsibility and competence.

According to the current planning standard, an ICYSC will serve a population of 12 000 young people aged from six to 24.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

20 March 2009

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Head : 170 – Social Welfare Department

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Question : The Social Welfare Department will set up a new integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) in Tseung Kwan O in 2009-10. When will the ICYSC come into operation and where will it be located? How many types of services will be provided by the ICYSC for the young people? What is the estimated number of participants for each type of service? What is the estimated expenditure for each type of service in 2009-10?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply : The new ICYSC is in Tseung Kwan O Area 86 and is expected to commence operation in the fourth quarter of 2009. It will provide a wide range of comprehensive services including guidance and counselling services, supportive services for young people in disadvantaged circumstances, socialisation programmes and programmes for the development of social responsibility and competence. According to the current planning standard, an ICYSC will serve a population of 12 000 young people aged from six to 24.

We have no information on the ICYSC's estimated expenditure by service type as the operating NGO is subvented under the LSG subvention system and can flexibly deploy resources among the ICYSC's services to meet the actual service demand.

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Stephen Fisher

Director of Social Welfare

20 March 2009
