

Overview on Youth Services, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services and Community Development Services in Hong Kong

Service Direction

- To address the multifarious and changing needs of young people, we adopt a **holistic and integrated mode** of service.
- Social Welfare Department subvents and monitors Non-governmental Organisations to run a wide range of **preventive, developmental and remedial services** for young people, to help them become mature, responsible and contributing members of society.

A. Major Youth Services in Hong Kong

Early Identification and Intervention

Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres

- Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres are set up to serve children and youth aged between 6 and 24 in the neighbourhood. Services are provided in a holistic manner. **Core programmes** include guidance and counselling, supportive services for young people in disadvantaged circumstances, socialisation programmes and development of social responsibility and competence. **Non-core programmes** such as drop in service, interest groups, summer youth programmes and study room service are also provided to offer opportunities for children and youth to spend their leisure time constructively. For list of centres, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

School Social Work Service

- School Social Work Service is implemented in accordance with the policy of “**one school social worker for each secondary school**”. Each secondary day school is provided with one full-time stationing social worker to identify and help needy students with academic, social or emotional problems. Please approach respective school for enquiries.

After School Care Programme

- After School Care Programme (ASCP) aims at providing **supportive services for children aged 6 to 12** whose parents are unable to provide proper care for them during **after-school hours** owing to work or other reasons. Services include homework guidance, meal service, parent guidance and education, skill learning and other social

activities. For list of centres, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

- ASCP Centres are operated on a **self-financing and fee charging** basis. In order to enhance self-reliance of women and family carers, Social Welfare Department provides **full fee waiving or half fee reduction subsidies** under the programme for needy low income families and recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. Applicants can direct approach centres concerned for making applications.

Timely Support

District Youth Outreaching Social Work Service

- District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams are provided on a territory-wide basis to **reach out and provide counselling and guidance** to those young people aged between 6 to 24 who normally do not participate in conventional social or youth activities and are vulnerable to undesirable influences. The service is effective in addressing the needs of high-risk youth and tackling juvenile gang problems. For list of teams, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

Overnight Outreaching Service for Young Night Drifters

- Overnight Outreaching Service for Young Night Drifters is provided on a territory-wide basis to reach out to **high-risk young night drifters** exposed to possible moral danger. For list of teams, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

Hotline Service for Youth- at-Risk

- Hotline service runs by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (**2777 8899**) is to offer immediate counselling to youth-at-risk facing crisis through **telephone contact**. Services provided to the callers include telephone guidance and counselling, face-to-face counselling for immediate intervention and referrals to other appropriate service units.

District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development

- The Scheme aims to meet the developmental needs of children and youth aged 0 to 24 in disadvantaged circumstances at district level. The resources are distributed as **direct cash assistance** to deprived children and youth on individual items to meet their development needs as well as allocated on **project basis** to cover programme expenses. Needy customers may approach their responsible social workers for details.

Steering Young People back to the Right Course

Community Support Service Scheme

- Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) aims at helping children and youth **cautioned under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme** with a view to re-integrating them into the mainstream education or work force and reducing the likelihood of re-offending. Services include individual and family counselling, therapeutic groups, skill training or educational groups, adventure activities as well as recreational and community services. For better service synergy, the CSSS Teams are each attached to an Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre. For list of teams, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

B. Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers

- Counselling Centre for psychotropic substance abusers aims at providing counselling, preventive education programmes and assistance to habitual/occasional/potential psychotropic substance abusers and to young people at risk with a view to assisting them to abstain from psychotropic substance abuse and develop healthy life style. Services provided include (i) case and group counselling for psychotropic substance abusers, (ii) counselling for family members, (iii) regular preventive education programmes for secondary students and the community; (iv) professional training for allied professionals; and (v) on-site medical support service for needy people. For list of centres, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

Residential Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres and Halfway Houses

- Residential Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres and Halfway Houses cater for those drug abusers who wish to **seek voluntary residential drug treatment, rehabilitation and social integration**. With a continuum of services and aftercare provision, it aims to help the drug abusers to quit the drug taking habit, attain positive change in behavior, develop a new direction in life and re-integrate into the community. For list of the subvented centres, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

Centres for Drug Abusers, Ex-drug Abusers and Their Family Members

- At present, Caritas Lok Heep Club operates two centres providing **counselling and assistance to the drug abusers, ex-drug abusers and their families**. It aims to

provide counselling service to help drug abusers to abstain from drug abuse and family members to deal with problems resulting from drug abuse, and supportive services, including group work services, to help drug abusers, ex-drug abusers and their family members. It also provides preventive education services to various target groups. For list of centres, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

C. Community Development Services

Community Centre

- Community Centre is a **focal point for all age groups** in a locality which promotes social relationships and mutual support; develops a sense of self-reliance, social responsibility and cohesion within the community; and empowers individuals and families in solving community problems and improving the quality of community life. For list of centres, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project (NLCDP)

- Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project (NLCDP) is to serve the **deprived and transient communities** where the provision of welfare services and facilities is inadequate or non-existence. NLCDP service is anticipated to be phasing out with the provision of more community based services to serve the vulnerable groups in the community and the drop in clearance programmes of temporary housing areas, squatter areas and public housing estates etc. For list of teams, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.

Care and Support Networking Team (CSNT)

- Care and Support Networking Team aims at assisting mainly the **ex-offenders, ex-mentally ill persons and street sleepers in West Kowloon** to reintegrate into the community through provision of outreaching, support, casework and group work services. For list of teams, please refer to the website of Social Welfare Department at <http://www.swd.gov.hk>.