

**Minutes of the 47th Meeting of
The Committee on Services for Youth at Risk (CSYR)**

Date : 3 October 2018 (Wednesday)
Time : 3:00 pm
Venue: Conference Room 918, 9/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Present

Mrs Helen Kwok (Chairperson)
(on behalf of Ms Carol Yip, JP)
Social Welfare Department

Mr Woo Chun-sing (Vice-chairperson)
Education Bureau

Ms Vivian Ko
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Tsang Yue-tung, Andrew
Security Bureau

Mr Li Chun-yu, Michael
(representing Mr Leung Ka-lok, Sammy)
Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Ho Kit-wah, Kitty
Education Bureau

Ms Wong Ping-ping
(representing Mr Tse Chun-chung, John)
Hong Kong Police Force

Dr Chung Wai-hung, Thomas
Department of Health

Dr Tik Chi-yuen, SBS, JP
Action Committee Against Narcotics

Mr Tong Sau-chai, Henry, MH, JP
Committee on Home-School Co-operation

Mr Tso Tat-ming
Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council

Mr Cheung Tat-cheong
St. James' Settlement

Mr Lai Kwan-ho, Raymond
The Salvation Army

Ms Hui Wah-ying, Joelle
S.K.H. All Saints' Middle School

Miss Chow On-lai, Edna
Youth Representative

Ms Mak Suk-kwan, Lorensa
Social Welfare Department

Ms Ding Shuk-wah, Alice
Social Welfare Department

(Secretary)

In-attendance

Ms Hsu Siu-man
The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
(For Agenda Item 4 only)

Mr Ho Chun-yu, Stanley
The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
(For Agenda Item 4 only)

Ms Wong Ching-yi
Caritas - Hong Kong
(For Agenda Item 4 only)

Ms Lee Pui-yan, Leanne
Social Welfare Department
(For Agenda Item 4 only)

Ms Leung Shui-ling
Social Welfare Department

Ms Ng Lai-hung
Social Welfare Department

Absent with Apologies

Mr Lau Ming-wai, GBS, JP
Youth Development Commission

Ms Yiu Kit-ling, Karen
Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Professor Wong Cheong-wing, Victor
Hong Kong Baptist University

Welcoming Remarks

The Chairperson conveyed the apology of Ms Carol Yip, the Director of Social Welfare, who could not convene this meeting due to an urgent official engagement. The Chairperson welcomed Mr Woo Chun-sing, Ms Vivian Ko, Mr Cheung Tat-cheong, Mr Lai Kwan-ho, Raymond and Ms Hui Wah-ying, Joelle to joining the meeting for the first time. She also extended her warm welcome to the representatives, including Mr Li Chun-yu, Michael (representing Mr Leung Ka-lok, Sammy) and Ms Wong Ping-ping (representing Mr Tse Chun-chung, John) for attending the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed with no amendment.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood: A Jockey Club Community-Based Youth Enhancement Programme (P.A.T.H.S.) (para. 3-6)

3. Ms Ding Shuk-wah, Alice updated Members that the second batch of the P.A.T.H.S. Community-Based Programme had been completed in July 2017. Under this batch, eight projects were implemented by five non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with 11 community-based service units and 27 schools liaised to participate in the programme. There were 3 959, 4 373 and 4 749 beneficiaries for 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 respectively under the second batch. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT) had approved a grant of \$13.28 million, which was the remaining resources of the second batch of the P.A.T.H.S. Community-Based Programme, for curriculum revamping of the project to Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). The HKJCCT arranged a meeting with the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and PolyU in January 2017 to share on the

revamping work, and the curriculum revamping of the project commenced in the same month. All newly developed materials and the interactive learning platform would be launched together with the new website in October 2018. Apart from revamping the teaching materials, training package would be developed in addition to training workshops for school teachers and social workers. The project team had collected relevant data on the schools which would continue using the teaching materials after the completion of P.A.T.H.S. A hard disk including all the teaching materials would be sent to those schools and NGOs having participated in P.A.T.H.S.

4. The Chairperson remarked that the approach, concept and teaching materials of P.A.T.H.S., which had been implemented from school-based to community-based for over 10 years, were effective in addressing the developmental needs of the students.

Child Development Fund (CDF) (para. 7-16)

5. Ms Mak Suk-kwan, Lorensa reported that up till now, six batches of NGO-run projects and four batches of school-based projects had been rolled out. With additional resources of \$300 million injected into the CDF in 2018-19 making a total allocation of \$900 million, it was estimated that 30 000 children would eventually benefit from the CDF. In April 2018, the CDF was entering its 10th Anniversary. A series of celebration events spanning the whole year would be launched, featuring the theme of “Celebrating 10 Years of Dreams for Future” (十年敢想). The Chinese theme had adopted a pun which delivered the two-fold meaning of “dreaming for the future” and “a ten-year reflection”. The Chairperson thanked schools and NGOs for their support to the CDF.

6. Mr Cheung Tat-cheong shared the experience of St. James Settlement that the cooperation with its partnered school in running CDF project was valuable. With the graduates of the same school being mentors, both parents and students showed more confidence and acceptance when joining the CDF project.

7. Dr Tik Chi-yuen showed recognition to the effectiveness of the CDF. He enquired whether there was any evidence-based study for future development. The Chairperson stated that a study was commissioned in 2009 to evaluate the effectiveness of the three components of the CDF, i.e. personal development plan, mentorship scheme and savings programme. The second study was conducted between 2015 and 2017 to examine the impact of the CDF on participants after their completion of the project. Both studies proved that the CDF had positive impact on the children from disadvantaged background in life and career planning. PolyU would conduct the third study involving parents, mentors, and children who had benefited from the CDF, together with a control group comprising children who had not joined the CDF. Tentatively, the final report of the third study would be submitted by the end of 2019.

8. Mr Lai Kwan-ho, Raymond agreed that school-based CDF had its merits in facilitating service development. He appreciated schools' efforts in supporting CDF in the past 10 years. The successful experience of interfacing between schools and NGOs was a good reference for future direction. The Chairperson echoed that collaboration among different sectors could bring the utmost benefit to the youths.

9. Miss Chow On-lai, Edna expressed concerns on the difficulty in recruiting mentors. To strengthen the mentorship scheme, she considered that volunteer mentors could be sustained through mentorship alumni and active promotion to employers.

10. In response to Mr Tong Sau-chai, Henry's enquiry on the means of mentor recruitment, the Chairperson stated that the recruitment was through participating schools and NGOs as well as supporting organisations. The Government also made use of different platforms for promotion. An example was the previous promotion to the Sub-committee on Promotion of Corporate Volunteering which was a platform appealing to corporates for assistance in both donation and mentorship. The Chairperson acknowledged that continuous efforts should be made to extend the pool of mentors, and integrity and quality of mentors should be ensured.

Review of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (CSYR Paper 1/2018)

11. As invited by the Chairperson, Ms Mak Suk-kwan, Lorensa presented the paper on "Review of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres" (ICYSCs). Ms Mak informed that ICYSCs, originally named "Integrated Teams", were formed in 2002 subsequent to the recommendation of the "Report on Review of Children and Youth Centre Services" published in 1994. The modernisation in 2000 was made on facilities and service components. Currently, there were a total of 139 ICYSCs over the territory. To re-examine the service provision of ICYSCs for meeting the changing needs of contemporary children and youth (C&Y), (i.e. aged 6 to 24), a cost-neutral administrative review on service objectives, strategies, target users and performance standards in the Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) was completed in 2017. Ms Mak elaborated the challenges of ICYSCs on repositioning of age range of service targets [covering both pre-school children (i.e. aged 3 to 5) and young adults (i.e. aged 25 to 29)], service refocusing (providing, other than developmental programmes, specialised services for specific target groups, in particular those with special educational needs (SEN), mental health concerns, ethnic minorities, etc.) and possibility of incorporation of After School Care Programme (ASCP) as a service component of ICYSC which might involve policy review on ICYSCs. The Chairperson remarked that the revised FSA had been brought into effect since April 2018 and the current review would be revisited after a year of implementation, i.e. after April 2019. She invited Members to give views on future service development of ICYSCs.

12. Dr Tik Chi-yuen said that school was a good platform to work on youths. Strategic partnership would be the main trend on youth services. Through close collaboration with community stakeholders, the service provision of ICYSCs would be strengthened and be more efficient. Besides, more flexibility should be given to the mode of collaboration under the Lump Sum Grant funding allocation.

13. Dr Chung Wai-hung, Thomas revealed that currently the Student Health Service Centres would refer cases with individual and family problems to Integrated Family Services Centres (IFSCs) for follow up if needed. He explored whether ICYSCs would accept similar kind of referrals. The Chairperson shared that the existing system on referring cases to IFSCs was effective as family problems would be handled from the perspective of “family as a whole”, including working on youths’ significant others.

(Dr Tik Chi-yuen left the meeting at this juncture.)

14. Mr Lai Kwan-ho, Raymond opined that the service delivery mode of ICYSCs should be reviewed in response to the changing needs of the youths. Apart from giving support to the youths, ICYSCs could provide support to the community stakeholders, which were also working on the developmental needs of youths, through existing community-based and non-labelling work model. For ICYSCs’ future development, repositioning of service provision on the age range of C&Y as well as service integration with schools and community for facilitating early identification and intervention of youth problems were required. Also, liaison with other service units, such as Youth Outreaching Teams (YOTs), could assist to fill the service gaps in the community.

15. Mr Tso Tat-ming stressed that the roles of schools nowadays became more complicated. Schools needed to help students handle mental health issues, drug problems, life planning, etc. which required input from professional social work or medical expertise. He stressed that it was important to strengthen collaboration between schools and different disciplines for helping students in different aspects.

16. Mr Tong Sau-chai, Henry suggested that ICYSCs could approach parents through community organisations, such as principals’ association and teachers’ association. The Chairperson responded that getting access to parents through community stakeholders might help achieve early intervention purpose.

17. Ms Hui Wah-ying, Joelle commented that schools were able to provide a good contact point for students and parents who required professional intervention. She found that students and parents were more ready to receive service at schools. However, schools did not have the expertise in helping students with complicated problems like mental health and SEN issues. If the services of ICYSCs could be provided at schools, students would be more willing to receive the services in school

environment. The Chairperson acknowledged that further deliberation on collaboration between schools and ICYSCs would be needed.

(Mr Tsang Yue-tung, Andrew left the meeting at this juncture.)

18. Mr Cheung Tat-cheong stated that as ICYSCs covered a wide spectrum of activities, prioritisation of work, including the setting of appropriate age range, was needed to make good use of the resources available. If the problems facing the youths required intensive intervention and counselling, it would be more appropriate to refer these cases to IFSCs or school social work for follow up. Besides, in view that there were more hidden youths in the community, online approach would be an effective means to engage the youths apart from centre-based activities.

19. Mr Lai Kwan-ho, Raymond was of the view that youth development work should include disadvantaged groups. For service review, the roles and functions of ICYSCs as well as how to strengthen the service collaboration with community stakeholders could be examined.

20. Mr Tso Tat-ming suggested establishing a platform for regular contacts between schools and ICYSCs. The Chairperson shared that currently individual ICYSCs might have different forms of collaboration with schools in respective districts and there was no standard practice.

21. Mr Tong Sau-chai, Henry pointed out that some schools had received enquiries from parents on coping with stress arising from child discipline. However, as some of the parents might have reservation to receive services at IFSCs, Mr Tong suggested that a platform between schools and ICYSCs could be established to facilitate parents in seeking help.

22. Dr Chung Wai-hung, Thomas viewed that it was a good opportunity to develop a network between schools and ICYSCs during the review. Through the network, community resources could be better utilised.

23. The Chairperson expressed thankfulness to all Members' valuable views and suggestions, which would be taken into consideration in the future review of ICYSCs.

Cyber Youth Support Teams (CSYR Paper 2/2018)

24. The Chairperson invited Ms Mak Suk-kwan, Lorenza to present the paper of "Cyber Youth Support Teams" (CYSTs) concerning the background and objectives of CYSTs (para. 1-5). To address the problems of at-risk and hidden youths who might not prefer conventional mainstream services, SWD pioneered to take forth the Pilot Cyber Youth Outreaching Projects (the Pilot Projects) with

funding support from the Lotteries Fund from 2011 to 2015. Through invitation for quality-based proposals, three NGOs, namely the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA), Caritas - Hong Kong (Caritas) and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG), were selected to operate the Pilot Projects. With support from the SWD, the three NGOs obtained additional funding from the HKJCCT to continue another three-year Cyber Youth Outreach Service from 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2018 to further develop the service delivery model.

25. Given the successful implementation of the service in the past seven years, recurrent resources were secured in 2018-19 for subventing NGOs to operate five CYSTs, one in each of the five regional clusters. To maintain seamless service provision for the existing service users of the three Pilot Projects and taking into consideration that the three NGOs (i.e. BGCA, Caritas and HKFYG) were successful bidders of the Pilot Projects with satisfactory performance, they were approved to each operate a CYST in the regional clusters of West Kowloon, East Kowloon and New Territories West respectively. For the remaining two CYSTs in the regional clusters of Hong Kong Island and New Territories East, through the SWD's invitation for proposals, St. James' Settlement (SJS) and Hong Kong Children and Youth Services (HKCYS) were respectively awarded service contracts for operating the CYSTs after the vetting exercise conducted. All the five CYSTs were targeted to commence operation on 1 December 2018 with a two-month preparatory period covering October and November 2018.

26. The Chairperson invited Ms Hsu Siu-man, Mr Ho Chun-yu, Stanley and Ms Wong Ching-yi, representatives from HKFYG, BGCA and Caritas, to present their projects and experience in working with the young people with cyber-related problems. Ms Hsu highlighted the achievements of the projects, which laid down a solid foundation and paved the way for further service development of cyber youth work. She briefed Members of the service targets, online approach and practice mode in the past years. Mr Ho shared the experience of cooperating with mainstream services. He added that BGCA had cooperation with YouTubers and it was very successful to recruit some youths who had never received centre-based services before. Ms Wong also shared that Caritas had established collaborative networks and formed some service hubs to work with ICYSCs for promotion of its services.

27. Miss Chow On-lai, Edna enquired about the image of social workers in the cyber world. Mr Ho Chun-yu, Stanley responded that social workers indeed required time to build up relationship and image with the service users in the cyber world as the latter might initially regard them as watchdogs over their behaviour or reporters of their adverse behaviour to the police. Once a trustful relationship could be established with the youths, the intervention would be smooth and effective.

28. Dr Chung Wai-hung, Thomas enquired whether CYSTs would handle internet addiction. Ms Wong Ching-yi responded that in order to engage the hidden youths and develop their proper knowledge and attitude in using internet, Caritas

would motivate them to join the eSports by groups and programmes as an entry point. Without a labelling effect, the youths could be engaged more easily and be more receptive to counselling. She further stated that for some serious internet addiction cases, they would be referred to appropriate service units for more in-depth counselling and intervention.

29. Ms Wong Ping-ping shared that “Junior Police Call” had also adopted eSports as one of the platforms to engage the youths and to instil positive values in them.

30. The Chairperson concurred with the importance of collaboration amongst sectors in providing timely services for the youths. She further explained that the purpose of assigning the five regional clusters to the CYSTs was to facilitate strategic alliance with community stakeholders within their respective regional clusters.

31. The Chairperson thanked Ms Hsu Siu-man, Mr Ho Chun-yu, Stanley and Ms Wong Ching-yi for their presentation. She also showed appreciation to the dedicated efforts and contribution of the three NGOs in the cyber youth services in the past seven years and looked forward to seeing the commencement of CYSTs in December 2018.

(Ms Hsu Siu-man, Mr Ho Chun-yu, Stanley, Ms Wong Ching-yi, and Ms Lee Pui-yan, Leanne left the meeting at this juncture.)

32. The Chairperson invited Ms Mak Suk-kwan, Lorensa to present the challenges of CYSTs (para. 6-12) under the “Paper on CYSTs”. Ms Mak highlighted the challenges, including the strategies and positioning of CYSTs for handling cyber youth problems, collaboration with community stakeholders, promotion and community education on the service as well as case management and information and community technology development.

33. Mr Tso Tat-ming appreciated the new approach of CYSTs. He suggested having more promotion and publicity for this new service to allow the public, schools and related NGOs to have more knowledge and better understanding of the nature and scope of service.

34. The Chairperson thanked Members’ views on this new initiative and SWD would further work with the five CYSTs to provide appropriate support services for the at-risk and hidden youths in a collaborative manner with various community stakeholders.

Any Other Business

35. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

36. The meeting would be held on a need basis and Members would be informed of the date of the 48th meeting nearer the time.

Social Welfare Department
October 2018