

For information

Provisional Legislative Council
Panel on Security

Action Plan on the Implementation
of the Recommendations of the
"Research on the Effectiveness of
Rehabilitation Programmes for Young Offenders"

Introduction

This paper informs Members of an action plan to implement the recommendations of a "Research on the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Programmes for Young Offenders" (the research).

Background

2. A variety of programmes and services are being provided to offenders by Correctional Services Department (CSD) and Social Welfare Department (SWD), as described in Annex A and Annex B respectively.
3. The Fight Crime Committee (FCC)'s Standing Committee on Young Offenders commissioned the City University of Hong Kong to conduct a research to recommend ways to further enhance the rehabilitative programmes and services. The research report, copy at Annex C, has been endorsed by the FCC.

Action Plan

4. An action plan to implement the recommendations of the research is at Annex D.
5. The action plan sets out the proposals to follow up the 30 sets of recommendations of the research, which cover a wide range of services, including

educational training, vocational training, service for families of young offenders, community reintegration, through-care, probation service, Community Service Order (CSO), half-way house, Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) and a proposed short-term residential treatment programme.

6. Of the 30 sets of recommendations, action has been completed on 11 of them. Major examples include -

- A new Rehabilitation Division headed by a new post of Assistant Commissioner (Rehabilitation) was established in CSD in January 1998. The Division is tasked to formulate strategies for the long-term development of rehabilitation programmes and aftercare services, and to better co-ordinate the provision of these programmes and services;
- CSD and SWD have widened the spectrum of practical subjects taught to inmates, including computer and language studies;
- SWD has developed a checklist for assessment of offender's suitability for CSO, and issued in December 1997 a reference kit on streamlining the compilation of CSO suitability report to the courts; and
- CSD has increased group counselling sessions by aftercare staff in half-way house from five to eight per week.

7. The remaining 19 recommendations include -

- (a) those which will be implemented later in the year, such as -
- new computer and office training facilities in Lai Sun Correctional Institution to be provided by the end of 1998;
 - a Parent-Inmate Centre at Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution to be completed in August 1998, which will provide a venue for enhancing communication among inmates, their family members and aftercare staff;

- operating the currently pilot CSSS teams run by SWD and the non-government organisations on a permanent basis starting from April and October 1998 respectively; and
 - extending CSO to district courts, the Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal in May 1998;
- (b) recommendations which will require additional resources; and
- (c) a recommendation to set up a new short-term residential treatment programme, the details of which are being considered in the context of required enabling legislation.

Security Bureau
April 1998

Correctional Services Department's Rehabilitation Programmes for Young and Adult Offenders

Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides rehabilitation programmes and aftercare services to help inmates reintegrate into the community as law-abiding citizens after their release, through the provision of education, vocational training, psychological services, counselling, social skill training etc. Different rehabilitation programmes and supervision schemes address the rehabilitative needs of offenders in different kinds of institutions, such as prisons, detention centre, training centres and drug addiction treatment centres. Aftercare services facilitate released inmates' smooth transition from custody to freedom, through supervision conditions, job placement, guidance to strengthen offenders' confidence etc.

Educational and Vocational Training for Young Offenders

2. All offenders aged under 21 are required to receive half-day educational and half-day vocational training as part of their daily programme in training centres and prisons except during public holidays. Inmates are assigned to classes according to their previous educational attainment. The classes, which are taught by qualified teachers, range from primary to secondary levels. Vocational training is designed to develop good work habits and skills which would help the inmates obtain employment after release.

Community Reintegration and Character Building Programmes

3. For training centre inmates, visits to youth centres, factories, and country parks are arranged on public holidays as part of the programme to prepare inmates for reintegration into the community. Opportunities are also provided to inmates to render social services to the elderly and the disabled. To widen inmates' interests and better develop their personalities, scouting and guiding activities are included as part of the curriculum. The Hong Kong Award for Young People Scheme (formerly known as Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme) operated through CSD provides another avenue for inmates' character development. Other recreational and cultural activities include marching/pipe bands in Cape Collinson Correctional Institution and Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution, production of young offenders' newsletter etc. The training period in a training centre may range from six months to three years.

Detention Centre Programme

4. Detention Centre training is designed to instil in young offenders a respect for the law, self-respect and awareness of neglected capabilities in legitimate pursuits as well as ability to live with other people in harmony. The programme is carried out at Sha Tsui Detention Centre and emphasizes strict discipline and hard work, such as foot drill, landscaping and maintenance work. Sha Tsui Detention Centre has two sections, one for young offenders aged under 21, who may be detained there for 1-6 months, and one for young adults aged between 21 and 24, who may be detained there for 3-12 months.

Drug Addiction Treatment Centre Programme

5. The period of treatment ranges from two to 12 months. The work programme aims at improving the inmates' health, developing good working habits and establishing self-confidence and a sense of responsibility. There are various types of work for inmates, such as carpentry, metal-work, tailoring, laundry service, gardening, construction and maintenance work. The work assigned will depend on the physical fitness of the inmate.

Adult Prison Programme

6. All adult prisoners, except those certified medically unfit, are required to engage in work, such as printing, book-binding, carpentry, fibreglass production, laundry service etc. These tasks help them develop a positive attitude towards work. In addition, recreational activities, hobby and education classes are organized for prisoners in their leisure time. They are also encouraged to enhance their education through correspondence courses and self-study.

Sentence Planning for Prisoners

7. For prisoners serving long sentences, CSD has developed a Sentence Planning Scheme, put into effect in July 1996. Long-term confinement is not easy for prisoners to cope with, and they will require special assistance for their reintegration into society. These prisoners need to structure their time purposefully under guidance. A special programme has been devised for each of these prisoners to guide them towards rehabilitation and equip them with job skills to prepare for their return to society.

Psychological Services

8. Psychological services are provided to all inmates to enhance their psychological well-being and to help them change their offending behaviour. There are also counselling programmes for inmates with special needs, such as the Mental Health Programme for long-term prisoners and a special programme for sex-offenders.

Welfare Services and Reintegration Orientation Courses

9. Prisoner Welfare Officers provide assistance and guidance to help prisoners deal with personal problems and difficulties arising from imprisonment. To help prisoners reintegrate into society upon release, CSD organizes individual and group counselling sessions, Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Courses and Never Again Association meetings and family sessions. These programmes provide prisoners with information on community resources and promote self-enrichment through skill-acquisition training.

Aftercare Supervision

10. Aftercare officers maintain regular contacts with supervisees during the statutory supervision period to ensure that the supervisees comply with the conditions of the supervision orders. A person who breaches supervision conditions may be recalled for further training, treatment or imprisonment. The coverage of aftercare supervision includes all Training Centre and Detention Centre inmates, young prisoners and prisoners under Release under Supervision Scheme, Pre-release Employment Scheme and Post-release Supervision Scheme.

Half-way House Programme

11. Supervisees in need of a short period of transitional adjustment would take up residence in a half-way house operated by CSD. They go out to work or school during daytime and return at night. Emphasis is placed on behavioural performance (such as conduct, appearance, inter-personal relationship) and strengthening of family support in monitoring the progress of residents. Individual and group counselling sessions, in-house recreation, outdoor activities and community services are organized to cultivate a spirit of civic and moral awareness among the residents.

**Social Welfare Department's
Services for Offenders**

Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides services to help offenders reintegrate into society as law-abiding citizens, through community-based and/or residential services, which adopt social work approaches. Through proper supervision, counselling service, academic, prevocational and social skill training, the offenders can be equipped with the necessary skills to help them return to society as law-abiding citizens.

Probation Service

2. Probation is a community-based treatment programme whereby the court orders that an offender be placed under the supervision of a probation officer for a period of 1-3 years.

Community Support Service Scheme

3. The scheme provides structured day-training, such as social group activities, community service projects, job training packages etc., to help young offenders develop social skills and an interest in school or work.

Community Service Orders

4. A community service order may be made against an offender aged 14 or above convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment. The offender performs unpaid work of benefit to the community for not exceeding 240 hours, within a period of 12 months.

Post-Release Supervision of Prisoners Scheme

5. The scheme is jointly operated by Correctional Services Department (CSD) and SWD, to provide statutory supervision to certain categories of discharged adult prisoners to help them reintegrate into society.

Remand Home/Place of Refuge Service

6. Remand homes/places of refuge provide assessment, short-term custody and care to young offenders, illegal immigrants and children in need of care or protection.

Residential Homes for Offenders

7. Young offenders requiring residential training are accommodated in probation homes/hostels and reformatory schools for 6-18 months, followed by a period of aftercare supervision in the community.

Young Offender Assessment Panel

8. The Panel is a special board with members drawn from CSD and SWD, to provide co-ordinated professional views to courts in the sentencing of young offenders aged 14-25.

**Action Plan on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the
"Research on the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Programmes for Young Offenders"**

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Education			
(1)	403	<p>A) Both SWD and CSD should continue to introduce a wider spectrum of practical subjects at various residential establishments. These subjects may include simple accounting, typewriting, computer and language studies, and those that can meet the changing demands of society.</p> <p>B) It is important that residents/inmates can attend public examinations.</p>	<p>A) <u>CSD</u> CSD is running 17 courses on 10 practical subjects and has been widening the spectrum of practical subjects taught to inmates:</p> <p>a) Basic typing, commercial studies and economics courses have been taught in Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution and Pik Uk Correctional Institution since the 1980s.</p> <p>b) Computer and language courses are being strengthened. Basic computer courses were introduced at Lai King Training Centre (LKTC) in June 1994, TGCI in May 1996 and PUCI in December 1997. Similar courses will be available at Cape Collinson Correctional Institution (CCCI) in April 1998 and Lai Sun Correctional Institution in early 1999. A new HKCEE computer studies course was introduced at PUCI in 1997. New language courses will be available at CCCI and LKTC upon the completion of language laboratories in April and June 1998 respectively.</p> <p>c) Nine more courses including 4 new practical subjects will be introduced in 1998.</p> <p><u>SWD</u> SWD is widening its spectrum of courses:</p> <p>a) More softwares will be purchased before the end of 1997/98 to strengthen computer and language laboratory training in correctional homes.</p> <p>b) Language laboratories have been set up since summer 1997 in all residential homes to facilitate more effective Putonghua and English language teaching. Language lessons have been increased since the 2nd term of the 1997/98 school year by 10% to 15% in individual homes.</p> <p>c) Commercial subjects, such as typewriting and Chinese Word processing, have been added since February 1998 to the curriculum of Begonia Road Boys' Home and Fanling Girls' Home.</p> <p>B) <u>CSD</u> It has always been CSD's policy to encourage inmates to take public examinations (e.g. HKCEE, LCC&I and Pitman) to acquire recognized qualifications. There are classes in all institutions for young offenders to prepare them for public examinations. Assistance is provided to inmates in their enrollment, and those in need may apply for subsidies in examination fees from the Education Trust Fund operated by CSD. The above-mentioned public examinations are arranged to be conveniently taken inside the institutions. Many inmates have obtained good results. There will be even more opportunities as the spectrum of courses is progressively widened.</p> <p><u>SWD</u> Arrangements are in place for residents to take public examinations on Arithmetics and English in addition to Typewriting and Computer. Residents have obtained satisfactory results.</p>

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Education (Cont'd)			
(2)	404	The curriculum of SWD residential homes should match with the level of Practical School. Practical schools should be encouraged to take in the discharged residents.	<p><u>SWD</u></p> <p>a) Subsequent to a review of the curriculum of SWD residential homes, practical subjects like metalwork, wood work and electronics are maintained, while new subjects including air-conditioning, word processing, cookery, beauty therapy and plumbing are being added to the curriculum.</p> <p>b) Communication with Education Department has been strengthened to maintain close liaison on working towards residents' reintegration into mainstream/practical schools upon discharge.</p>
(3)	405	A) The working conditions of teachers in CSD should continue to be reviewed so that they can have better terms of employment to compensate for the poor teaching conditions and remoteness of work places.	<p>A) <u>CSD</u></p> <p>CSD set up a task group in January 1998 to continue to review the working conditions and staffing structure vis-a-vis CSD teachers, and aims to complete an interim report by October 1998.</p>
		B) Special in-service training on the handling of emotional and behavioural problems of young offenders should be provided to prepare teachers to work with a group of unmotivated students.	<p>B) <u>CSD</u></p> <p>CSD aims to raise the quality of education, teaching standard and work conditions through systematic planning and implementation. Major areas of improvement being considered in consultation with Education Department include:</p> <p>a) setting up of a quality education system;</p> <p>b) revision of curriculum;</p> <p>c) provision of in-service training for teachers; and</p> <p>d) setting of standards for class size and teacher-class ratio.</p> <p>It is planned to commission a consultancy to revise and update the core course content and to advise on how to match the curriculum with the level of practical schools and community schools, and to design suitable training courses for teachers to raise their teaching standard and equip them with the necessary skills for handling unmotivated students with emotional or behavioural problems.</p>
(4)	406	The facilities in Lai Sun Correctional Institution should be improved.	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>New computer and office training facilities will be provided by the end of 1998.</p>

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Vocational/pre-vocational training			
(5)	409	The development of both work habits and vocational skills should be emphasized in the residential homes/institutions of SWD and CSD.	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>The development of both work habits and vocational skills are emphasized in the regime for young offenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Inmates in training centres are required to attend half-day education and half-day vocational training whilst those in the detention centre and prisons are engaged in work every day except public holidays. b) CSD has been providing inmates with useful vocational training courses which meet the demands of society and have gained accreditation, e.g. Air-conditioning & Refrigerator, Food & Beverage, Pipe-fitting & Plumbing etc. CSD is currently running a total of 26 courses. c) A display area for finished products and information on the training programme is set up in each workshop to promote pride and interest in the trade, and work spirit among inmates. d) Inmates also produce various items for sale at the annual Autumn Fair, thus contributing to the charity cause. e) Inmates under supervision after release are required to either work or attend school for which guidance and assistance is given by the aftercare teams. The supervision programme is particularly intensive for those residing in half-way houses to ensure that they maintain good work or school habits. <p><u>SWD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Community Support Service Scheme is running regular employment guidance groups for residents of Begonia Road Boys' Home, Castle Peak Boys' Home and Fanling Girls' Home, and is planning for similar programmes for residents of O Pui Shan Boys' Home. For Begonia Road Boys' Home, the programme also includes training groups for parents to strengthen parents' skills and support in employment guidance for the residents. b) For Kwun Tong Hostel, an employment package is being used to strengthen residents' job-seeking abilities as well as to help them develop good work habits. c) Additional subjects such as hairdressing and catering have been introduced in Begonia Road Boys' Home since 1997.
(6)	410	"Modernization" similar to that in O Pui Shan Boys' Home should be introduced in other SWD residential homes in the near future.	<p><u>SWD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improvements have been planned for the new Shatin Boys' Home to equip it with up-to-date training facilities in workshops in terms of space, workshop safety and equipment/machinery. The workshop, planned to be completed by the end of 1998, includes metalwork, woodwork, electrical and electronics, air-conditioning and refrigeration engineering, and printing facilities. b) A review will be conducted to consider measures for modernizing training facilities in other residential homes. SWD will be seeking professional advice from the Vocational Training Council on improvements to the training facilities and better integration with other industrial training centres on the discharge of residents from the residential homes.

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Vocational/pre-vocational training (Cont'd)			
(7)	411 & 412	<p>CSD should expand training courses that are more appropriate to the demands of society, with the emphasis on modern technology and practical skills to be taught in a standard, well-equipped workshop by qualified professionals. Efforts should be taken to ensure that the training programmes can be accredited by other vocational authorities, such as the Vocational Training Council.</p> <p>More resources should be allocated to improve the current facilities and equipment in the SWD and CSD institutions, and to develop new courses that can meet the demands of society, and to employ qualified instructors.</p>	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>CSD proposes to secure resources to develop new courses that can meet the demands of society, and to enhance the quality of vocational training programmes, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) replacing courses of old trades with more popular and modern courses such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) replacing conventional carpentry programmes at Cape Collinson Correctional Institution, Lai King Training Centre, Pik Uk Correctional Institution (PUCI) and Lai Sun Correctional Institution (LSCI) with house decoration carpentry programmes; ii) transforming the existing radio and TV repair programme in PUCI into an electronics servicing programme which covers other common domestic electronic products, such as VCR, LD players and hi-fi equipment, and, depending on the skills of inmates, computer servicing;_and iii)replacing the garment programmes in Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution (TGCI), PUCI and LSCI with commercial skill programmes to help inmates develop commercial skills in areas such as office equipment operation, word processing, bookkeeping, office and telephone reception etc. iv)introducing a new course in hairdressing/beauty services at TGCI. b) transforming all the 27 existing and proposed courses into compatible City & Guilds/Pitman craft level programmes, aiming at acquiring C&G/Pitman qualifications which are internationally recognized by over 80 countries; c) providing the necessary standard workshops/equipment and qualified professionals for the above programmes; and d) extending the current bridging/exemption arrangements to other disciplines, including construction and electronics engineering with the Vocational Training Council on top of the Air-conditioning & Refrigeration and Plumbing & Pipe-fitting trades. <p><u>SWD</u></p> <p>Expert advice is being sought through SWD's Departmental Computer Unit regarding the upgrading of computer facilities in all SWD residential homes, so that residents can benefit from up-to-date training programmes offered through computers.</p>

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Working with family			
(8)	416	<p>Officers of both SWD and CSD should continue to strengthen or rebuild the relationships between young offenders and their families. Programmes, such as family re-union outings/camps and family volunteer services (i.e. the whole family is involved in providing community services), would provide proper channels for enhancing communication and understanding among family members under a free and relaxed atmosphere. Officers of residential homes/institutions should continue to give regular and periodic feedback to residents/inmates' parents on their children's performance in the homes/institutions</p>	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Introduced in 1974, Never Again Association (a forum for aftercare officers, inmates and their family members) has been an effective means to bridge the gap between offenders and their families, and to give feedback on their children's performance to parents. It was extended to discharged offenders under aftercare supervision and their families after the opening of the Eastern District Counselling Centre in 1995. The Centre's services include hot-line, counselling and psychological services to supervisees as well as family education sessions for parents. CSD will continue to encourage more inmates/supervisees and their families to participate in such forums, and to keep the parents informed of their children's progress through more home visits and telephone contacts, and during familiarization visits to institutions by family members. b) CSD plans to develop audio-visual packages to enhance families' understanding of and support towards the inmates. The packages would include pamphlets to be given to parents during their visits and videos shown at the parenting programmes held at the institutions, the Eastern Counselling Centre as well as the Parent-inmates Centre at Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution (TGCI) upon its completion. c) A Parent-Inmate Centre at TGCI to provide a venue for enhancing communication among inmates, family members and aftercare staff is to be completed by August 1998. The feasibility of setting up similar facilities at other institutions for young offenders is being studied. <p><u>SWD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SWD homes will continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) organize programmes (e.g. camps, volunteer service) involving parents and their children at least once every quarter, which should be reflected in individual homes' yearly work plan before the end of March each year; ii) organize parents' groups with a view to enhancing parent-child communication and parenting skills. b) The number of family visits has been reviewed with a view to increasing the frequency of and encouraging more visits. c) Caseworkers will continue to give regular and periodic feedback to parents on residents' performance at least once a month. Such contacts should be recorded in the case file and submitted to the Superintendent once a month for monitoring. d) SWD will consider improving staff at the Social Work Assistant and Senior Welfare Worker rank for residential homes so that the staff can spend more time and effort in working with residents' families. e) Subject to the availability of funds for upgrading and creating posts, aftercare service for residents and their families will be improved in terms of quality and quantity. f) Each member of social work staff in residential homes will be enrolled in at least one training course per year on counselling skills. g) Service from Clinical Psychologists for residents and their families are available to all residential homes on either visiting or referral basis. Extension of the service to include therapeutic groups for residents and their families will be carried out as soon as resources permit.

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Working with family (Cont'd)			
(9)	417	<p>A) To achieve a high quality of family work, manpower resources should be improved.</p> <p>B) More opportunity for staff development on family counselling should be provided.</p>	<p>A) <u>CSD</u> 14 Officer and 10 Assistant Officer I posts will be created in October 1998 to strengthen aftercare teams, hence enhancing quality of family work.</p> <p><u>SWD</u> Service from Clinical Psychologists for residents and their families are available to all residential homes on either visiting or referral basis. SWD will continue to review the level of staffing required in the residential homes and will consider seeking additional manpower resources as appropriate.</p> <p>B) <u>CSD</u> Seminars and workshops for aftercare officers to keep them abreast of the latest skills and knowledge for working with inmates/supervisees and their families are organized from time to time. For example, three seminars and four workshops on themes including family therapy and helping substance abusers etc. were held in 1997/98. CSD and the School of Professional Continuing Education, University of Hong Kong, jointly organize a certificate course in social work for Correctional Services officers. CSD will continue to make efforts to provide more training opportunities to enhance aftercare officers' competence in working with offenders' families.</p> <p><u>SWD</u> Each member of social work staff in residential homes will be enrolled in at least one training course per year on counselling skills.</p>
Community reintegration			
(10)	419	<p>Community reintegration programmes should be organized extensively, and residents/inmates should be given a chance to receive such training whenever possible. Even for settings such as institutions for young prisoners where community reintegration is not so emphasized at the moment, these programmes should be adopted as part of the training towards the end of the detention after consideration of security measures.</p>	<p><u>CSD</u> Pre-release Reintegration Orientation Courses have always been part of the training centre programme for inmates since its inception in 1953. Scouting, guiding, DEA Orientation (now known as the Hong Kong Award for Young People Scheme) are also organized to facilitate their community reintegration. Continued efforts are being made to involve more training centre inmates in these activities. Young prisoners are not involved in these programmes because of their varying length of sentences and the varying degree of security requirements. Participation in these activities requires the inmate to proceed on temporary leave of absence but in the case of young prisoners, the law does not permit such leave.</p>

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Community reintegration (Cont'd)			
(11)	421	Pre-requisite community reintegration programmes should be arranged for young offenders at the pre-release stage at each and every long-term residential institution other than institutions for young prisoners, with regard to their programme objectives, availability of resources and consideration of security factors.	<p><u>CSD</u> Programmes will be strengthened to give inmates/residents (except those found unsuitable on medical or security grounds) opportunities to participate in and to enhance the quality of community reintegration activities, subject to the availability of resources.</p> <p><u>SWD</u> Expansion of the Community Support Service Scheme to operate on a regional basis is being considered so that discharged residents can benefit from reintegration programmes offered by the Scheme in the area they reside.</p>

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Community reintegration (Cont'd)			
(12)	422 to 424	<p>In organizing community reintegration programmes, more personalized social services (i.e. with direct personal contact), rather than simple manual work, should be introduced so that young offenders can have more contacts with other community groups. In particular, providing volunteer services to groups such as the mentally handicapped children and the elderly people would enhance their self-growth, social awareness and responsibility. NGOs should be encouraged to help provide the placements. Manpower resources should be added to the current staff establishment to deal with the increasing workload. Staff supervising these kinds of activities should be social work trained.</p>	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>CSD has been arranging for most inmates/residents before discharge to take part in personalized social services for the elderly, the mentally or physically disabled etc. Depending on the needs of the service recipient organizations, about four visits a month are arranged.</p> <p>a) To further expand these types of service opportunity, CSD has sought the Hong Kong Council of Social Services' assistance to identify more interested welfare agencies.</p> <p>b) To reinforce rehabilitative impacts, CSD plans to equip the inmates/residents with basic skills for dealing with and taking care of their service targets.</p> <p><u>SWD</u></p> <p>SWD homes will continue to organize personalized social services for residents' participation at least twice a year. This should be reflected in the yearly work plan of individual homes before the end of March each year. Home staff will liaise closely with welfare agencies in the vicinity for more opportunities for residents to perform personalized social services.</p>
Through-care			
(13)	427	<p>In-centre cases should be included in the stipulated caseload of CSD aftercare team, i.e. one aftercare team to 70 cases (for the effective implementation of the through-care concept).</p>	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>As mentioned in item (9) above, 14 Officer and 10 Assistant Officer I posts will be available by October 1998 to strengthen aftercare teams. To fully implement the recommendation of 1 aftercare team to 70 cases inclusive of in-centre cases, additional staff would be sought in 1999/2000.</p>

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Probation services			
(14)	431	SWD should examine how to release probation officers' time for counselling.	<u>SWD</u> To improve supervision services and case management (including time management) skills, Lady Trench Training Centres of SWD will organize relevant training courses for probation officers. Each probation officer will be enrolled in at least one related training course per year.
(15)	431	Probation officers should make use of the Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) more frequently.	<u>SWD</u> a) Probation officers will closely co-ordinate with the staff of the Community Support Service Scheme in organizing joint activities and working out how the CSSS would be better utilized to help the probationers. b) SWD has secured funds for the CSSS of SWD to operate on a permanent basis effective from April 1998. c) Further extension of the CSSS service will be subject to availability of resources.
Community Service Order			
(16)	432	SWD should continue to organize discussion to promote mutual sharing among probation officers on the roles and functions of the Community Service Order (CSO).	<u>SWD</u> a) Discussion sessions with each probation office have been arranged since June 1997. b) A checklist for assessment of offender's suitability for CSO has been developed. A reference kit on streamlining of preparation for CSO suitability report to court was issued in December 1997. On-going sharing between CSO and probation office on mutual co-operation and the streamlining exercise at regular intervals have been arranged.
(17)	433	Serious consideration should be given to providing the necessary resources for the extension of CSO to district courts.	<u>SWD</u> CSO will be extended to district courts, the Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal effective from May 1998.
(18)	434	The types of community services should be further extended to cover a wider spectrum of "personalized social services".	<u>SWD</u> The proportion of personalized social service has been increased to 30% of the total number of projects with reference to the needs and characteristics of community service workers.

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Community Service Order (Cont'd)			
(19)	434	Studies on the inter-relatedness of variables like nature of work placement, methods of supervision, perception of subjects of CSO, feedback from work-providing organizations, quality of site supervisors etc. are encouraged so as to pin down on conditions most conducive for the implementation of CSO.	<u>SWD</u> Studies on quality of service and work attitude of CSO subjects etc. in the form of questionnaire will be designed and sent to work-providing organizations to collect feedback.
(20)	435	Consideration should be given to amend the law to stipulate minimum hours of unpaid work.	<u>SWD</u> The Chief Magistrate has been consulted. The existing arrangement with flexibility allowed for the sentencing court is considered agreeable.
Half-way house			
(21)	436	More group discussion and sharing among the residents should be organized.	<u>CSD</u> To strengthen group counselling, which is already being conducted in five sessions a week by aftercare staff, divisional staff (all have undergone social work training courses organized by local academic institutes) have been deployed to increase counselling to eight sessions a week so that each resident can participate in at least one session a week. This is on top of their existing practice of rendering on-spot individual guidance and small group sharing.
(22)	438	The number of home leaves allowed should be increased and flexibly arranged in order to facilitate family reunions. Home leaves should not be deducted as a form of punishment for violation of regulations.	<u>CSD</u> Home leaves are flexibly arranged to strike a balance between fostering family reunion and facilitating participation in in-house activities and community reintegration programmes. Home leaves are not deducted for breach of rules, but may be suspended when the management has good reasons to believe that the resident concerned is likely to use home leave not for the intended purpose, e.g. taking the leave opportunity to mingle with undesirable peers. Should that happen, family members would be encouraged to visit the resident at the half-way house.

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Half-way house (Cont'd)			
(23)	438	Many residents expressed difficulties in looking for jobs due to the locations of half-way houses, which might be too remote from their work places. CSD should look into this.	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>The existing half-way houses (Bauhinia House at Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital in Chai Wan, and Phoenix House at Lung Cheung Road, Tai Wo Ping) are within a wide coverage of public transportation network. A new half-way house is being constructed in situ to replace the subsidized New Life House in Tai Lam. Aftercare officers will continue to assist those with difficulties to get a job in the vicinity or in areas that have good transport linkage with the half-way house's location. Accessibility has always been a key factor in CSD's planning for new half-way houses.</p>
Split of Operations and Rehabilitation in line management			
(24)	444	The whole area of rehabilitation should be placed under a new Rehabilitation and Development Division headed by a new post of Assistant Commissioner (Rehabilitation) so that better co-ordination of policies and programme development related to rehabilitation can be achieved.	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>A new Rehabilitation Division, headed by a new post of Assistant Commissioner (Rehabilitation), has been established to formulate strategies for the long-term development of rehabilitation programmes and aftercare services, and to better co-ordinate the provision of these programmes and services.</p>

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Greater use of the Community Support Service Scheme			
(25)	505 & 507	<p>The current experimental projects on the Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) should be further supported and transformed into permanent projects. If resources are available, the CSSS services should be expanded to serve more young offenders under the supervision of the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme (PSDS). Three more CSSSs run by the NGOs should be formed, one in Kowloon and two in other parts of the New Territories without CSSS. Evaluation of these schemes should be conducted two years after their operation. For the NGO schemes, CSSS should be refocused to target only those youth-at-risk under the supervision of the PSDS.</p>	<p><u>SWD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The two pilot CSSS projects operated by NGOs will be turned to government subvention effective from October 1998. b) SWD will seek new resources to create more teams of CSSS to be run by NGOs to cover the whole territory. c) The existing two CSSS/NGOs projects are already focusing their services on the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme (PSDS) cases. In 1997, 98% of the cases served were PSDS cases.

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Greater use of the Community Support Service Scheme (Cont'd)			
(26)	508 & 509	CSSS centres should be established as soon as possible in the New Territories and the Hong Kong Island so that more young offenders under open supervision can use the services. In the long run, CSSS centres or sub-offices should be gradually set up on a regional basis. In the meantime, their workers should consider reaching out to organize programmes in the community centres near the young offenders' residency. For the NGO schemes, the current CSSS centres should be supported with the possibility of setting up sub-team bases in remote areas.	<p><u>SWD</u></p> <p>a) SWD will bid resources to create more teams of CSSS/SWD to establish the service on regional basis. The new teams will coordinate with local bodies interested in the scheme to enhance the CSSS services to young offenders.</p> <p>b) The two CSSS/NGOs projects are in the course of identifying suitable premises within their service areas. The centres are expected to be established in the last quarter of 1998/99. SWD will provide further assistance to the operating agencies if necessary.</p>
(27)	510	Financing CSSS of the NGOs, which will serve PSDS supervisees only, should be the responsibility of the Government. A sound referral and co-operation system between PSDS and NGOs should be established.	<p><u>SWD</u></p> <p>a) Funds have been sought, as part of its programmes for helping the youth at risk, for SWD and the NGOs to operate the two currently pilot CSSS teams on a long-term basis in April and October 1998 respectively.</p> <p>b) The two CSSS/NGOs projects are providing services in the Police Regions of Hong Kong Island, New Territories North and New Territories South. A good referral system has been established between the NGOs and the Police Regions concerned.</p>

Item	Paragraph in Summary Report	Recommendations	Actions taken/Proposed actions
Greater use of the Community Support Service Scheme (Cont'd)			
(28)	511	In addition to organizing counselling groups and guidance programmes, each CSSS worker should serve at least 30 clients at any one time, with at least 16 successful and terminated cases each year.	<p><u>SWD</u></p> <p>The Community Support Service Scheme of SWD provides services only through counselling group and guidance programmes. At present, each CSSS worker serves 67.25 young offenders through groups and programmes. Most of them can complete at least one counselling group or guidance programme. In 1997, the average caseload per worker per month of the two CSSS/NGOs projects was 35. The total number of cases closed for the same period was 288. To prepare for full subvention of both projects in October 1998, SWD is now working with the operating NGOs for setting output indicators for the service.</p>
(29)	512	CSD should consider running a programme similar to CSSS, on a trial basis, to serve those young offenders under the supervision of aftercare officers.	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>CSD has made familiarization visits to SWD's CSSS centres, and plans to include a scheme similar to CSSS, with modifications to suit the special characteristics of CSD's clients, in the strategic planning of its Town Centre for the Youth Group under the redevelopment project of Chai Wan Community Centre to be completed by 2000.</p>
Another form of short-term Rehabilitation Programme			
(30)	516, 519 & 520	<p>Government should consider appointing a working party to look into the service gaps. Consideration should be given to setting up a short-term residential treatment programme (with a six-month maximum period of detention), for:</p> <p>a) girl offenders who are regarded, after social enquiry, as being in no moral danger; and</p> <p>b) physically unfit males aged 14-21, as an alternative to the Detention Centre programme.</p>	<p><u>CSD</u></p> <p>We are considering a detailed proposal for setting up a short-term residential programme for:</p> <p>a) young female offenders not in moral danger; and</p> <p>b) male offenders aged 14-21 who are physically unfit to participate in the existing Detention Centre programme.</p> <p>We aim to introduce legislative proposals in the 1998/99 legislative session to provide for the new short-term residential training programmes.</p>