

**For information
on 6 January 2000**

**Legislative Council
Panel on Security**

Development in Rehabilitation Services for Offenders

Purpose

This paper reports on the development of rehabilitation services for offenders under the custody of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) since the formation of its new Rehabilitation Division in January 1998.

Background

2. The Research Report on the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Programmes for Young Offenders, which was endorsed by the Fight Crime Committee (FCC) on 2 August 1997, recommended the splitting of rehabilitation matters from operations in CSD for better co-ordination of rehabilitation policies and programme development. Accordingly, a new Rehabilitation Division was established in January 1998 through internal redeployment of one Assistant Commissioner and 370 staff members. The Division has since striven to strengthen rehabilitation programmes and develop rehabilitation services in eight strategic areas.

Development of Rehabilitation Services

3. New development of rehabilitation services in eight strategic areas are summarized below :

a) Providing new specialized services

New programmes have been developed to meet the rehabilitation needs of different types of offenders. The Sex Offenders Evaluation Treatment Unit was set up in September 1998 to provide comprehensive evaluation and treatment services for sex offenders. A Rehabilitation Unit was introduced on a trial basis in October 1999 for the management

and transitional adjustment of offenders recovering from mental problems.

For young offenders, the Rehabilitation Centres Bill was introduced into the LegCo on 10 November for implementation of a short-term residential programme to fill a service gap for those whose crimes are not serious in nature but call for a short-term custodial sentence other than a Detention Centre or Training Centre.

b) Gaining accreditation for vocational skills

Vocational training for young offenders on "old" trades (e.g. garment making and carpentry) have been replaced with courses which would better meet the market demands (e.g. commercial skills training, house decoration carpentry). Enhancements are also being made for 17 vocational training courses with a view to bridging with technical institute courses (the details of which are being discussed with the Vocational Training Council (VTC)). The objective is to enable young offenders to gain external accreditation such as Pitman or City and Guilds qualifications. These qualifications will facilitate their job seeking upon discharge. In addition, various types of Intermediate Trade Tests administered by the VTC or Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA) have been introduced to prisoners and arrangements are being made to conduct certificate construction labour courses at adult institutions by CITA commencing January 2000.

c) Revamping education & structural review of teaching staff

As requested by the FCC at its 162nd meeting in March 1998, CSD is reviewing the structure of its teaching staff in consultation with the Education Department (ED) to bring in new skills and initiatives. The first report recommended four directions of modernizing correctional education, i.e. shift of focus from primary to secondary education; a move towards mainstream education; adaptation with modification of ED's curriculum guides for maladjusted children; and the setting up of an inspectorate system. The review also recommended that more graduate posts and senior rank posts be established to support these initiatives. The recommendations will be considered in detail by a working group.

A number of other initiatives have also been taken. For example, a teachers exchange programme has been arranged with an aided school, and visits have been made by ED inspectorate to classes at correctional institutions, etc. Consultancy input will also be injected through the running of a tailor-made training course for teachers and in the design of a new social and self-development course for young offenders.

The curriculum is also being revised based on ED's syllabus. We hope that in 2001, a good portion of our inmates will attain Form 3 level upon discharge to enable them to apply for continuous training in related trades at the technical institutes.

d) Promoting 'beat drug' education

To combat the increasing prevalence of substance abuse among youngsters, beat drug education has been reinforced in Training Centres, Drug Addiction Treatment Centres as well as Half-way Houses. Plans are in hand to extend the beat drug education to adult institutions and impose relapse prevention strategies on inmates with previous addiction history.

e) Enlisting family support

To enlist family support in the rehabilitation process of young offenders, much effort has been made to enhance parent-inmate communication and relationship through the introduction of parent-inmate programmes, educational booklets and quarterly newsletters for young offenders and families.

f) Promoting cultural activities among adult offenders

Cultural activities such as pop bands, essay competition, remedial education and hobby classes are being promoted among adult prisoners. A newsletter aiming to enhance communication between the prison management, professional staff and the inmates will be published in early 2000. The newsletter will provide a useful channel for prisoners to air their sentiments while at the same time enhance their writing skills.

g) Widening network with professional bodies/Non-Government Organization (NGOs)

Professional skills and initiatives have been brought into various rehabilitation services through building up work relationships with professional bodies e.g. ED, VTC, Hong Kong Christian Service, Caritas Lok Heep Club (on 'beat drug') and Hong Kong Young Women Christian Association (Employee Service Scheme, on placement facilitator training). Regular workshops are held with NGOs to explore networking of rehabilitation services. At present five joint projects with NGOs/religious bodies are being run.

h) Reaching out for community support

An "Opportunities for Rehabilitated Offenders" publicity campaign has been launched for the first time in November 1999. A progress summary of the publicity campaign is at **Annex A**.

An advisory committee with mostly unofficial members has been formed to develop long-term strategies on gaining community support in helping discharged offenders reintegrate into the community. The terms of reference and membership of the advisory committee is at **Annex B**.

Way Forward

4. Efforts made since the establishment of the Rehabilitation Division in early 1998 have laid a solid foundation for the way forward. In the coming year, the Rehabilitation Division aims to :

- a) for young offenders –
 - i) subject to passage in the LegCo, implement the new Rehabilitation Centres Ordinance;
 - ii) revamp education and vocational training programmes as planned; and
 - iii) continue to enhance parent-inmate relationship;

- b) for adult offenders –
 - i) enhance vocational training and skill accreditation opportunities; and
 - ii) promote cultural activities;
- c) extend beat drug education from young to adult offenders;
- d) forge close links with professional bodies and NGOs for more joint-venture projects; and
- e) formulate long term strategies to gain community support for the rehabilitation of offenders.

Advice Sought

5. Members are invited to note the different aspects of rehabilitation services presented in this information paper.

Security Bureau
January 2000

Progress Summary
“Opportunities for Rehabilitated Offenders” Publicity Campaign
(Position as at December 1999)

Item	Current Position / Target Date for Launching	
API	The API has been broadcasting on TV from December 1999 to April 2000.	
Music CD	Production completed and will be issued to public at various charitable and promotional events.	
Round-the-territory Exhibition	<p>Exhibition boards being produced. Suitable exhibition sites being identified.</p> <p>A TV variety show to kick off the round of promotions will be produced.</p> <p>Selected NGOs have been invited to send representatives to introduce the subject of rehabilitation of offenders to spectators.</p>	January to April 2000.
Poster	<p>Design has been worked out.</p> <p>Information Services Department (ISD) and Home Affairs Department (HAD) have agreed to display or distribute posters.</p>	December 1999 to April 2000.
Involvement of DFCCs	All Chairmen of DFCCs have been briefed in September 1999 and agreed to give support for the exhibition. Further liaison with DFCCs will be made through HAD for the details.	Early 2000.