

**Sub-Committee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of  
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment  
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

**Review on the Provision of Boarding Services  
for Students with Physical Disability**

**Purpose**

This paper informs members of the proposal arising from the review on the provision of boarding services for students with physical disability (PD) in special schools.

**Existing Arrangement**

2. The objective of boarding services in PD schools is to facilitate PD students to receive school education during school days and are not meant for respite purpose. The provision of boarding places is planned on a territory-wide basis.

**Review**

3. In response to Members' request at the meeting on 27 June 2005 for a review of the provision of boarding services for students with PD, we have examined the demand and supply as well as the geographical distribution of the residential area of existing boarders of PD schools. As at 15 September 2005, a total of 170 boarding places (80 on Hong Kong Island and 90 in Kowloon) were available for PD students and 160 places were filled. Distribution of the residential areas of these 160 boarders is as follows: 39 on Hong Kong and Islands, 53 in Kowloon, 25 in New Territories East (NTE) and 43 in New Territories West (NTW).

4. Overall, there are sufficient boarding places in PD schools to meet demand. Adequate resources have also been provided to ensure the smooth operation of these boarding sections and student safety. Nonetheless, there is scope for re-distributing and extending the boarding services to some PD schools in the New Territories.

**Proposal**

5. Against this background, we propose to set up two boarding sections, one in

the NTE region and another in the NTW region, to cater for the specific boarding needs arising from the physical conditions of PD students of different regions. To allow room for future expansion to cope with the additional demand arising out of the new senior academic structure, the planning capacity of these two new boarding sections is about 60 each. Sites adjacent or close to the two existing PD schools in NTE and NTW have been initially identified.

### **Consultation**

6. We have approached prospective school sponsoring bodies to run the boarding sections as an extension of their schools. We have also sounded out our proposal to the parent representatives of the seven PD schools. Generally speaking, they raised no objection to the proposal of setting up one boarding section in NTE and another in NTW. However, some suggested to have boarding facilities in all PD schools. This is impracticable.

### **Way Forward**

7. We will follow up with relevant departments in respect of site acquisition. Should site acquisition and technical feasibility of the proposed construction be cleared before mid-2006, we will proceed to bid funds in the 2006 Resource Allocation Exercise and complete the project as soon as possible. Assuming a smooth progression, we estimate that the date of completion of the two boarding sections would be around 2010.

8. During the interim before the completion of the new boarding sections, the existing PD boarding sections will continue to admit students with long term boarding needs. Students who are not able to take up places in the two existing boarding sections for PD students will be offered placement in the boarding sections of other special schools in the NT regions.

9. We shall continue to liaise with parties concerned on the implementation of the proposal and the interim measures to meet the boarding needs of PD students.

### **Advice Sought**

10. Members are requested to note the content of this paper.