

Chapter 8 Observations In Relation to the Handling of the Case-in-question

Preparation for Setting Up Integrated Family Service Centre

8.1 The Panel appreciates that the International Social Service - Hong Kong Branch Tin Shui Wai North Integrated Family Service Centre has already made extra effort in the course of preparation in setting up the service unit, including arrangement of attachment to SWD TSW IFSC for sharing and learning, and deploying the agency's experienced social workers who had also received advanced training in counselling, etc. **The Panel considers service operators in setting up new service may draw reference from this experience and make similar effort.**

Social Enquiry Report for Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Cases

8.2 The Panel notes that a Multi-disciplinary Case Conference on suspected child abuse was conducted for the case-in-question and a social enquiry report was also completed. **The Panel considers that the format of the social enquiry report can be improved to clearly indicate the sources of information, results of risk assessment, and welfare plan with respect to current service developments (e.g. the role of IFSCs and other community resources).**

Co-ordination in Domestic Violence Cases Having Victim Admitted into Women Shelter

8.3 The Panel notes the complexity of domestic violence cases and the difficulty in the case handling. It is quite often that the victims, for one reason or another, wanting to leave the shelter quite out of sudden and at times insisting to go back home without any proper discharge or welfare plan. The Panel appreciates that the shelter staff had repeatedly advised the victim of the case-in-question to continue to stay in the shelter for safety reason but the victim apparently had other considerations which affected her decision. **The Panel considers it very important to ensure effective communication and co-ordination between the referring worker and the staff of the shelter in**

handling domestic violence cases. Further strengthening the professional support provided in the shelter could be a feasible solution.

Concern Outside The Panel's Terms of Reference

8.4 **While it is not within the Terms of Reference of the Panel to look into the professional conduct of the social workers of the Social Welfare Department and the International Social Service – Hong Kong Branch involved in handling the case-in-question, the Panel believes that in view of the grave public concern, it should warrant an investigation by the Social Workers Registration Board.**