

## Existing referral services for offending youth between 10 and 17 under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme and unruly children aged below 10

	2004		2005		2006		2007 (Jan – Mar)	
	<10 years	10-17 years	<10 years	10-17 years	<10 years	10-17 years	<10 years	10-17 years
<b>Number of unruly children aged below 10 and offending youth between 10 and 17</b>								
Total Number of unruly children/offending youth <sup>Note 1</sup>	130	7 566	257	6 821	299	6 891	58	1 881
Number of offending youth handled under the Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme (PSDS) (and caution rate of the offending youth)	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	2 929 (38.7%)	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	3 026 (44.4%)	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	2 774 (40.3%)	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	717 (38.1%)
- Out of whom cautioned for the first time under PSDS	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	2 775	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	2 877	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	2 618	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	686
- Out of whom cautioned previously under PSDS	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	154	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	149	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	156	N.A. <sup>Note 2</sup>	31
<b>Referrals for service<sup>Note 3</sup> for offending youth between 10 and 17 under PSDS and unruly children aged below 10</b>								
- Juvenile Protection Section of the Police	0	1 572	0	1 871	1	1 481	0	490
- Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS)	N.A. <sup>Note 4</sup>	2 085	N.A. <sup>Note 4</sup>	2 162	N.A. <sup>Note 4</sup>	2 435	N.A. <sup>Note 4</sup>	357
- Social Welfare Department	4	56	17	20	6	26	0	40
- Education Bureau	0	17	0	3	0	8	0	17
- Serving Youth Services Information Leaflets	130	N.A.	257	N.A.	299	N.A.	58	N.A.
- Application for Care or Protection Order	1	N.A.	0	N.A.	4	N.A.	1	N.A.
- Family conference <sup>Note 5</sup> (number of cases where family conferences were conducted) <sup>Note 7</sup>	N.A. <sup>Note 6</sup>	72 (48)	N.A. <sup>Note 6</sup>	28 (15)	N.A. <sup>Note 6</sup>	14 (6)	N.A. <sup>Note 6</sup>	15 (11)

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> The unruly children/offending youth are mostly involved in cases of shop theft and miscellaneous theft. Of those (aged 10 and over) who were charged and convicted of criminal offences, the penalties included mainly Correctional Services Department rehabilitation detention order, detention order, probation order, community service order and fine.

<sup>2</sup> PSDS is not applicable to unruly children under 10 years as they are below the age of criminal responsibility (10 years).

<sup>3</sup> A cautioned juvenile offender or an unruly child aged below 10 may be referred to one or more schemes/departments.

<sup>4</sup> Community Support Service Scheme is designated for offending youth cautioned under the PSDS and is not applicable to unruly children aged below 10. The Police will, however, assess if any referrals to the Social Welfare Department and/or Education Bureau are required and make necessary arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>5</sup> Upon referral by the Police, Social Welfare Department may conduct a family conference (FC) for a cautioned juvenile when it is assessed that his/her problems need the intervention of three or more parties, or the juvenile has been cautioned under the PSDS twice or more. As FC is operated on a voluntary basis, the Police must first obtain the consent of the parents/guardians when making the referrals. In some cases, the parents/guardians do not see the need for FC service since they have already engaged in service of other departments/agencies for social services to follow up on their case.

<sup>6</sup> The Social Welfare Department plans to extend the FC arrangements to unruly children below the age of 10 starting from 2007-08.

<sup>7</sup> FC was not conducted in respect of some referral cases mainly because there were viable alternatives and the welfare plan had already been formulated for the juvenile concerned.