

To: Panel on Health Services, Legislative Council

Date of Meeting: 12/3/2007

Subject: Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS

Paper Submitted By: The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong

“Draft Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011” was released by the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) in early January 2007. We appreciate the good effort paid by the ACA and Department of Health during the preparation and consultation process. For effective prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, we envisage that the government can take a leading and more proactive role, especially in cross-bureau coordination. Here we would like to provide our viewpoints about “Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS” for your attention:

(1) AIDS Preventive Education for Youth

The AIDS Trust Fund (ATF) has always been funding many projects with the vulnerable groups, but usually neglects the youth as the potential main target. Actually, for effective control of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong, AIDS preventive education for youth should not be left behind. We eagerly hope that the funding allocations will be increased to step up education for youth to prevent from HIV infection.

(2) Inclusion of sex education as a compulsory formal curriculum in primary and secondary schools

The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) has provided guidelines for the implementation of sex education in both primary and secondary schools. However, level and content of sex education delivery to students are based on individual school decisions. We anticipate that the government would included sex education as a compulsory formal curriculum in both primary and secondary schools, topics are suggested to include HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and sexuality, to enhance the children and youth have enough sexual health knowledge to protect themselves.

(3) Implementation of the HIV/AIDS Strategies

The Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) has worked out the HIV/AIDS strategies for the years 2007-2011. The next step required is to convert the strategies into concrete and effective actions. We are looking forward to the government, the ACA and ATF taking the lead proactively, and joining hands with the NGOs, to implement the action plans.

(4) Representation of ACA

The Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) has not included frontline AIDS workers or people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) to sit on its main committee. Besides, its appointment process is lack of transparency. We strongly request the government to get the involvement of PHAs or frontline AIDS workers in the ACA on planning and policies matters, so as to effectively implement HIV/AIDS preventive work.