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21 April 2008

Clerk to Panel on Security  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
(Attn: Mrs Sharon Tong)

Dear Mrs Tong,

**Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Security**  
**Youth Drug Abuse**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Security on 10 April 2008, Members requested information on the pilot scheme to enhance collaboration between medical practitioners and social workers on the provision of body checks and motivational interviews to young drug abusers.

2. I enclose the details of the pilot scheme at the Annex for Members' reference please.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Candy Lau'.

(Ms Candy Lau)  
for Secretary for Security

**A Pilot Scheme on Enhancing Collaboration  
between Medical Practitioners and Social Workers**

Following the advice of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) and with the support from the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF), a two-year pilot scheme on enhancing collaboration between medical practitioners (MPs) and social workers on the provision of body checks and motivational interviews to young drug abusers will be launched in June 2008.

2. The scheme involves social workers referring drug abusers to designated MPs who provide body check service and motivational interviews\*. The aim is to alert the abusers to any signs of health deterioration arising from drug abuse and to heighten their awareness to seek treatment early.

3. The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals CROSS Centre (CROSS) has accepted a grant of \$1.8 million from BDF to coordinate the pilot scheme entitled "Project MAC" (M - Motivation; A - Action; and C - Check-up). Starting from June 2008, CROSS will accept referrals from anti-drug agencies and provide the service in designated centres and the clinics of the participating MPs in the territory.

4. It is expected that around 10 to 20 MPs will participate in the scheme and around 300 to 400 abusers will benefit from it. Briefings and training on drug knowledge and motivational interviewing will be provided to MPs and social workers beforehand so that they have a better understanding of the roles they play under the scheme. In general, MPs are

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\* Motivational interviewing is a directive, client-centered counselling style for eliciting behavior change by helping clients to explore and resolve ambivalence (Stephen Rollnick, Ph.D., & William R. Miller, Ph.D.).

required to explain the body check results to the clients, enhance their awareness of the damage caused by drug taking on their health, motivate them for behavioural change and treatment and make referrals to further treatment if necessary. Social workers will follow up on the clients throughout the process.

5. Progress of the scheme will be reported to ACAN and its Subcommittee on Treatment and Rehabilitation. We will assess the effectiveness of the scheme and consider the way forward in the longer term.