

For discussion
on 11 January 2010

LegCo Panel on Education
Review of Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme

This information note appraises Members of the setting up of a Working Group on Review of Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme.

Background

2. The Administration undertook to kick start the review of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme (PEVS) before the end of 2009.

Setting up of a Working Group under the Education Commission

3. Following consultation with the Education Commission (EC) in October 2009, the Education Bureau has decided to establish a working group (WG) under the EC to take forward the PEVS review. The Working Group is chaired by Professor Edmond KO Inq-ming, with EC members¹ from different sectors of the community who are experienced in their respective fields, including Miss Gloria LEUNG Chi-kin, Ms Shirley Marie Therese LOO, Professor LEE Wing-on, Professor WONG Po-choi and Mr CHEUNG Yung-pong.

4. The Terms of Reference of the WG include collecting the views of stakeholders on the implementation of PEVS and making recommendations to the Government via the EC for the improvement of PEVS. The WG will review the effectiveness of PEVS having regard to its background, policy objectives, implementation strategy and current operation, and will make recommendations on the way forward.

5. The WG is aware of the concerns and requests of the public and LegCo regarding PEVS-related issues, including subsidies for whole-day nursery school places, and teachers' salaries, workload and pressure encountered when pursuing further studies.

¹ Mr Tang Kwai-tai was Member of the Working Group until 31 December 2009 when his term of office as EC member expired.

Commencement of the Review Process and Way Forward

6. Following its first meeting in November 2009, the WG has started focus group discussions with various stakeholders to gauge their views and invite their written submission on key issues of concern. Views will be collated for deliberation by the WG, which will consider holding further focus group sessions to sound out key stakeholders to inform its review. The WG plans to submit a report to the EC by the last quarter of 2010, after which recommendations would be submitted by the EC to the Administration. The Administration will seek the views of the Education Panel on the EC's recommendations in due course.

Education Bureau

January 2010