

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the special meeting on 19 November 2013**

**Drug treatment and rehabilitation services**

**Purpose**

This paper gives a brief account of past discussions of the Legislative Council and its committees on the provision of drug treatment and rehabilitation services.

**Background**

2. The Administration's anti-drug policy is embodied in a "five-pronged" approach, namely, law enforcement and legislation, treatment and rehabilitation, preventive education and publicity, research and external cooperation. It has been drawn up on the advice of the Action Committee Against Narcotics ("ACAN") and its sub-committees.

3. Under the lead of Narcotics Division ("ND") of the Security Bureau, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"), together with other departments/bureaux, provides drug treatment and rehabilitation services for drug abusers. The overall objective of the services is to help drug abusers to abstain from their drug-taking habits and re-integrate into the community. This is achieved through both community-based and residential services by means of individual and group counselling, vocational training, social skills training and after-care services, etc.

**Members' deliberations**

Rehabilitation and support services for young drug abusers

4. In discussing issues relating to the problem of youth drug abuse, members

of the Panel on Security and the Panel on Welfare Services took the view that the existing support services for young drug abusers were far from adequate to address the increasing severity of the problem. They called on the Administration to enhance inter-departmental efforts to improve the rehabilitation and support services for young drug abusers.

5. The Administration advised that it attached great importance to anti-drug work, and had invested significant resources in helping high-risk youth. For example, funding in the region of millions of dollars was provided each year through the Beat Drugs Fund ("BDF") to non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") for launching anti-drug publicity programmes. A two-year pilot collaboration scheme seeking to provide early intervention to young drug abusers was also launched in 2007-2008 to strengthen co-operation between social workers and private medical practitioners. Under the scheme, youngsters and occasional abusers were given medical treatment and advice, or offered counselling or other services at an early stage.

6. According to the Administration, with an injection of \$3 billion into BDF in 2010, more resources had been allocated under the Fund for anti-drug measures, which included upgrading the facilities of drug treatment and rehabilitation centres and other supporting projects for enhancing the treatment and rehabilitation services as well as research studies. Family-focused strategies were also adopted to tackle youth drug abuse through nurturing family relations and organizing anti-drug seminars for parents.

#### Inter-departmental co-operation and assistance for ex-drug abusers

7. At meetings of the Panel on Security and the Panel on Education, members were advised that in response to the aggravating problem of youth drug abuse, the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse ("the Task Force"), set up in 2007 under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Justice, published a detailed report in November 2008 with a host of recommendations and formulated well-defined strategies and measures. On this basis and following extensive consultation with the anti-drug sector, the Administration developed three-year plans, which set out anti-drug strategic action plan and work in the short to medium term, and would be reviewed regularly to respond to the needs of the latest drug scene. In regard to the implementation of the related plans and measures on drug treatment and rehabilitation services, members raised concern about inter-departmental co-operation, follow-up work on rehabilitated drug abusers and measures to assist ex-drug abusers to reintegrate into the community such as employment assistance after rehabilitation.

8. The Administration advised that for anti-drug measures in 2012-2014 as set out in the "Sixth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong", it would continue to closely involve other sectors,

such as the medical services sector, in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, hence calling for better coordination among various service modes and across sectors. In response to members' concern about the waiting time for a drug abuser to receive counselling and rehabilitation service, the Administration advised that over 80% of probationers seeking residential drug treatment and rehabilitation service were allocated a place within two weeks.

9. Regarding its follow-up work on rehabilitated drug abusers, the Administration pointed out that there were many factors leading to the relapse of drug taking. ND recognized the importance of follow-up service after successfully quitting drugs. The "Sixth Three-year Plan" had highlighted the need to further develop educational and vocational training as a necessary means to ensuring sustained efforts in helping those who had completed drug treatment programmes to stay away from drugs. ND would therefore explore opportunities for enhancing educational and vocational training, and job replacement for the rehabilitees with the support of the anti-drug sector, education and training institutions, and the business community.

10. The Administration further advised that a pilot project on enhanced probation service ("EPS") was introduced in two Magistrates' Courts in 2009 providing more focused, structured and intensive treatment for young drug offenders aged under 21 pursuant to the Probation of Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 298). According to a review of the pilot project in 2012, EPS was more effective in deterring the young offenders from abusing drugs again. Early discharge of the probation order for rewarding good performance also served as an effective incentive for the probationers. In view of the positive results, the Administration planned to extend EPS territory-wide to all seven Magistrates' Courts for three years starting from the 2013-2014 financial year.

#### Assisting teenagers in rehabilitation from drug addiction

11. Members expressed concern about the effectiveness of the existing supporting measures, including the policy on rehabilitation centres-cum-schools, for assisting teenagers in rehabilitation from drug addiction.

12. According to the Administration, for youngsters who had drug dependence and required residential drug treatment service, their most pressing needs were kicking the habit, rebuilding confidence and setting new life goals. As an appropriate arrangement in the best interest of young drug abusers, the service provided should also help young drug abusers resist the temptation of drugs and prepare them to return to schools or reintegrate into society. In this regard, gathering student drug abusers in one school might give rise to concerns by some students and parents that this might bring an adverse labelling effect on students. Notwithstanding this, there had been treatment and rehabilitation centres which successfully provided treatment service to drug-abusing students

in a similar mode. The Administration would therefore continue to provide the necessary assistance to various treatment programmes which had proved to be effective, regardless of whether the services were religion-based, education-based or otherwise, to enrich the service content and offer more options for youngsters who were willing to receive drug treatment services and their parents.

### Reprovisioning of Christian Zheng Sheng College

13. Noting that the reprovisioning of the Christian Zheng Sheng College ("CZSC") had taken a very long time, some members of the Panel on Security held the view that the Administration should provide strong support for improvements to CZSC on a long-term basis.

14. The Administration explained that two members of the Panel on Education and representatives of relevant policy bureaux and government departments visited CZSC in April 2011 and agreed that the facilities at Ha Keng should be improved as an interim measure. ND had since then been assisting CZSC in going through the necessary procedures required by the relevant government departments to take forward the proposal of in-situ upgrading of its facilities as an interim measure for long-term reprovisioning. Upon deciding on the footprint of the land planned for the in-situ upgrading and finalizing the design of the new structures, CZSC would seek funding support from BDF for the upgrading works. ND always stood ready to help CZSC and also wished to see the improvement works finished as soon as possible. As to the long-term reprovisioning of CZSC to a school, discussion with the relevant policy bureaux would be required.

15. Noting that the court might not have full knowledge about the service provided by CZSC, some members suggested that the Administration should provide the court with relevant information to facilitate the referral of youth drug abusers to CZSC for rehabilitation. The Administration advised that SWD had organized sharing sessions for probation officers to understand the types and characteristics of various drug treatment and rehabilitation services.

### **Relevant papers**

16. A list of relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

**Relevant papers on  
Drug treatment and rehabilitation services**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Panel on Welfare Services	3 July 2007 (Item II)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Security	2 December 2008 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Security	5 May 2009 (Item VIII)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Education	29 May 2009 (Item I)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Legislative Council	10 March 2010	<a href="#">Official Record of Proceedings</a> <a href="#">Pages 15 – 25</a>
Panel on Welfare Services	12 March 2012 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Security	5 April 2013 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Security	5 November 2013 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a>

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