

**For discussion on
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Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

2016 Policy Address Policy Initiatives of the Home Affairs Bureau

INTRODUCTION

This paper briefs Members on the new and on-going policy initiatives in respect of the Community Care Fund (CCF), the Family Council (the Council) and social enterprises (SEs) in the Chief Executive's 2016 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

OUR VISION

2. Cherishing the family is a core value of our society. We strive to collaborate with various sectors in the community to create a pro-family environment. On SE, its development is primarily community-driven with the Government playing a supporting role. We will continue to support the diversified development of SEs and promote cross-sectoral collaboration. As regards the CCF, it will take account of the needs of different groups and launch more assistance programmes to support the underprivileged and low-income families.

NEW INITIATIVES

Community Care Fund

3. Since its establishment in 2011, the CCF has launched 30 assistance programmes, involving a total commitment over \$6.237 billion, to identify and provide assistance to those who fall outside the existing social safety net or the coverage of the Government's short-term relief measures. As at end December 2015, over 1.22 million people have benefited under these programmes. In addition, the CCF may consider implementing measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify initiatives that may be considered for incorporation into its regular assistance and service programmes. So far, 11 CCF programmes have been regularised, involving an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$720 million.

4. The CCF Task Force will continue to draw up new pilot programmes in collaboration with other Task Forces under the Commission on Poverty to assist people-in-need. In the 2016 Policy Address, the Government invites the CCF to consider launching a number of new assistance programmes including:

- (a) implementing a pilot scheme to provide free cervical cancer vaccination for teenage girls from eligible low-income families;
- (b) implementing the pilot schemes recommended by the Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance co-ordinated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau:
 - (i) providing living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities; and
 - (ii) raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings for disabled Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients, and providing additional allowance for disabled recipients of Higher Disability Allowance who are engaged in paid jobs subject to the fulfilment of criteria such as working hour requirement and income limit, in order to further encourage persons with disabilities to secure employment;
- (c) implementing a programme to provide a one-off grant for kindergarten students from needy families in the 2016/17 school year to cover their school-related expenses before the implementation of the free quality kindergarten education policy in the 2017/18 school year; and
- (d) implementing a two-year pilot scheme, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Social Welfare Department (SWD), based on a medical-social collaboration model to provide dementia care services to the elderly persons with mild or mild to moderate dementia in the community through the District Elderly Community Centres with a view to shortening the waiting time of patients for diagnosis and specialist services of the HA and enhancing the dementia care services in the community.

ON-GOING INITIATIVES

Family Council

Family perspectives in policy formulation

5. With effect from 1 April 2013, a mandatory assessment of family implications has been introduced for all policies. Bureaux and departments (B/Ds) are required to use the three sets of family core values (i.e. “Love and Care”, “Respect and Responsibilities” and “Communication and Harmony”) as identified by the Council, as well as the impact on family’s structure and functions, as the basis for assessing the impact of the relevant policies on families. They are also encouraged to consult the Council on new policies which may affect the family.

6. In 2016, we will continue to work with the Council to ensure that family perspectives are duly considered in the policy making process. The Council will commission the Central Policy Unit to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the “Family Impact Assessment” framework and to develop a more elaborated checklist as the basis for assessing the impact of various policies on families. In reviewing the assessment framework, the researcher will organise focus groups and related activities on training and experience sharing with relevant stakeholders including civil servants. The study is expected to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2016 for completion in the third quarter of 2017.

Advocacy for cherishing the family and research on family

7. In 2016, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Council will continue to advocate a pro-family environment and encourage the community to attach importance to the family. Riding on the success of the previous two “Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme” (the Award Scheme) organised in 2011 and 2013/14, attracting over 1 100 and 1 800 enrollments respectively, HAB and the Council launched the third Award Scheme on 15 December 2015. The deadline for enrollment is 14 April 2016 and the results will be announced in October 2016.

8. Regarding the promotion of positive messages and values on family formation, we have produced a family education package¹ for families with newborn babies. Education videos have been broadcast

¹ The package comprises nine 3-minute education videos and an education kit, covering common daily problems faced by families with newborn babies and expert advice.

in Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs) under the Department of Health and Integrated Family Services Centres under SWD. As part of our publicity efforts, we have distributed more than 18 000 baby journals² to mothers-to-be registered at MCHCs for ante-natal services from June 2015 to December 2015. Around 600 parents-to-be have attended related workshops during the same period. In 2016, we will continue to promote positive messages and values on family formation through distribution of baby journals and organisation of workshops.

9. To foster a better understanding of the issues relating to the family, the Council has been engaging tertiary institutions or research organisations to conduct researches and surveys. Apart from the study on “Family Impact Assessment” framework as mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the following researches/survey are in the pipeline:

- (a) Study on Parenting Practices in Hong Kong – to identify the impact of different parenting practices on family life;
- (b) Study on Family Mediation Services in Hong Kong – to review the provision of family mediation services in Hong Kong; and
- (c) Family Survey 2015 – to collect updated and empirical information on families of Hong Kong.

The findings of these researches/survey will be shared with relevant B/Ds when available to facilitate their formulation of policies and strategies for supporting and strengthening the family.

Social Enterprises

10. The Government is committed to promoting the development of SEs and the sector has been growing steadily. The number of SEs has increased from about 260 in 2008 to more than 520 in 2015, and there is now a greater diversity in terms of scope of services provided and service targets. The number of SE platforms and supporting organisations is also growing and there are now over 30 of them.

11. In 2016, HAB will roll out a new scheme in partnership with SEs and non-governmental organisations to offer on-site training places in SEs for persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and the elderly so as to enhance their employment prospect.

² The baby journals aim to provide tips to parents of newborn babies and record important milestone events of the newborn babies.

12. The Government will continue to facilitate the development of SEs through a range of support services, including funding support for individual projects, capacity building for the sector, publicity efforts to raise public awareness of SEs and promotion of cross-sectoral collaboration involving SEs. These include:

(a) Providing funding support for individual SEs

13. The Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme (the ESR Programme) provides grants to eligible organisations for setting up SEs targeting at the socially disadvantaged to enhance their self-reliance and integration into the community. It has approved grants of around \$207 million for 176 SEs projects since its launch in 2006. More than 4 000 persons have been directly employed by the funded SEs and 80% of those employed were socially disadvantaged. Around 80% of the SEs remain in operation after completion of the funding period. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) will implement an enhanced ESR Programme with effect from 2016-17 with a view to benefitting a wider range of SEs and encouraging greater participation of the commercial sector in SE development.

(b) Supporting capacity building of SEs

14. Since 2008, HAB has been providing funding to the Center for Entrepreneurship of the Chinese University of Hong Kong every year to sponsor the organisation of the Hong Kong Social Enterprise Challenge, a training-cum-competition on SE business plan writing for tertiary students. So far, more than 6 100 students have participated in the programme. Of the 42 grand finalists, 20 have established their own SEs which are in active operation. In 2016, we will continue to support this programme to promote SE as a sustainable solution to social challenges and help nurture young social entrepreneurs.

(c) Enhancing public awareness and support of SEs

15. To enhance the public's recognition of SEs and encourage more people to patronise and support them, HAD promotes SEs through a wide range of channels and platforms to showcase their quality products and services as well as their social benefits. For example, it has launched a Government SE website, arranged SEs to participate in popular trade and food fairs, publicised SEs through a wide range of media and online platforms. These publicity measures have generated

good responses from the public. We will continue to identify suitable opportunities for further enhancing the publicity work.

(d) Promoting cross-sectoral collaboration for SE development

16. Since 2008, HAB has been providing funding support for the organisation of the Social Enterprise Summit (the SE Summit) to enhance public awareness of SEs. The SE Summit has become an important platform for facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration for SE development. To step up our efforts in promoting SEs at the district level, community forums, district workshops and walking tours were organised in Kowloon City, Sham Shui Po, Tuen Mun and Southern districts in 2015. Leaders from the business and SE sectors in each of the four districts joined hands with local community bodies to set up a sharing platform for SEs, with a view to promoting the culture of “Business for Good” and a caring community. HAB also supported the production of Good Maps (available at <http://ses.org.hk/gm/>), promoting SEs and good deeds in districts.

ADVICE SOUGHT

17. Members are invited to note the initiatives in respect of the CCF, Family Council and SEs as set out above.

**Home Affairs Bureau
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