

For information on
14 March 2016

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

The Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the preparation work in respect of the Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents (the Pilot Project).

Background

2. To support women in fulfilling work and family commitments and further respond to community demand for child care services, the Government will launch a series of new initiatives to enhance child care services. In the 2015 Policy Agenda, it was promulgated that the Government would launch a pilot project to help grandparents become well-trained child carers in the home setting with a view to reinforcing support for nuclear families. In the 2016-17 Budget, the Financial Secretary announced that the Pilot Project would be implemented in the first quarter of 2016.

The Pilot Project

3. Between August and November 2015, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) consulted relevant advisory bodies, including the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, Manpower Development Committee, Elderly Commission, Women Commission and Family Council, on the design and framework of the Pilot Project. All these committees were in support of the implementation of the Pilot Project. Moreover, LWB and SWD consulted the Hong Kong Council of Social Services and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on the content and design of the Pilot Project. Having regard to the views collected from the consultations, the Government has finalised the details of the Pilot Project

as set out below.

(a) Objectives

4. The Pilot Project aims at strengthening family ties and relationship between generations, enhancing child care as well as reinforcing support for nuclear families by enabling grandparents to become well-trained child carers in the home setting. It also helps to promote active ageing of grandparents through life-long learning.

(b) Target Participants

5. The Pilot Project is primarily targeting grandparents of children aged from birth to under six or grandparents-to-be¹ with no specific requirements on their age and education level. The grandparents from whatever educational backgrounds will be given the same training opportunity under the Pilot Project.

(c) Training Bodies

6. The Pilot Project will provide a total of 540 training places. To ensure the service quality, nine NGOs, which are appointed as training bodies of the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) for the provision of their two part-time child care certificate courses² in 2015-16 and are receiving recurrent subventions from SWD, were invited by SWD to submit proposals for implementing the Pilot Project. Upon vetting and endorsement by SWD, all proposals were found to have met the requirements set out in the Service Specifications and the NGOs concerned were engaged as training bodies for implementing the Pilot Project. The list of the appointed NGOs, their responsible districts and the corresponding number of training places allocated for implementing the Pilot Project are set out at Annex. The service of these appointed NGOs will commence as early as possible within March 2016.

(d) Duration and Contents of the Training Course

7. Having regard to the physical and social conditions of grandparents, the training course will be run on a part-time basis. Each

¹ This refers to persons who will become grandparents in six months or so.

² The two certificate courses are (a) Foundation Certificate in Infant Care (part-time) on child care skills for infants up to the age of one; and (b) Foundation Certificate in Child Care (part-time) on child care skills for children up to the age of six.

training course will last for 60 training hours. The average class size is 20 trainees.

8. The Pilot Project will offer two types of training courses for the grandparent trainees to choose, one on the skills of taking care of babies from newborn to one year old, and the other on the skills of taking care of children aged under six. By making reference to the course materials of ERB's two part-time certificate courses on child care, the course contents of the Pilot Project are customised by the training bodies having regard to the objectives of the Pilot Project as well as the characteristics of the trainees.

9. Apart from equipping the trainees with contemporary child care knowledge and skills, the course content also covers training programmes focusing on family, such as preparation for grandparenthood, effective communication, and enhancing inter-generation relationship, etc. Also, self-help groups³/ family programmes⁴ will be organised by the training bodies for the trainees and their family members for strengthening inter-generational support and integration.

(e) Recognition for Trained Grandparents

10. To encourage grandparent trainees to have active participation in the training programme, those who have attained 70% attendance rate and would be accepted as having acquired the knowledge and skills on child care as assessed by the training bodies will be awarded certificates. The training bodies are required to conduct certificate presentation ceremonies at appropriate junctures and to invite the family members of trained grandparents to join the ceremonies.

(f) Follow-up Services by Training Bodies

11. To facilitate grandparent trainees and their family members to cope with the difficulties and problems encountered in child caring, the training bodies are required to provide follow-up services, including advice and individual/family counselling for the trainees during and upon completion of the training course. These follow-up services as well as the supportive programmes and certificate presentation ceremonies as

³ Each self-help group should have at least four sessions with eight members (four sessions or above are counted as two programmes). Each programme/activity should last for an hour and comprise at least eight participants.

⁴ The training bodies are required to organise at least two supportive programmes for each training class with 20 trainees.

mentioned in paragraphs 9 and 10 above should be conducted and supervised by registered social workers.

(g) Funding Source

12. The Pilot Project, to be implemented for two years, will be funded by the Lotteries Fund (LF). A LF grant of about \$3.30 million has been approved by the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee for implementing the Pilot Project.

(h) Project Monitoring

13. To facilitate project monitoring, the training bodies are required to submit statistical returns to SWD on a quarterly basis to report the progress of project implementation. They are required to conduct evaluation for each trainee before and after completion of the training course, regardless of their attendance rate. Besides, they have to keep track of trainees' child care practice and changes in family support and relationship upon their completion of the training course. An evaluation report will be submitted by each of the training bodies after the completion of the two-year Pilot Project.

Promotion of Key Messages and Way Forward

14. The Pilot Project aims to strengthen the messages of active ageing, inter-generational harmony and family-based child care support, etc. In addition to the effort to be made by individual training bodies to promote the pilot project at district level, SWD has produced a TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest (TV and radio APIs) as well as posters to promote, on a wider level, the key messages of the Pilot Project, namely "caring for the grandchildren brings about fun and satisfaction as well as fostering inter-generational harmony and family cohesion". The TV/Radio APIs will be broadcast within March 2016.

15. SWD will monitor the progress of implementing the pilot project, and measure its outcome, by setting the output indicators. SWD will also design and administer a standardised evaluation form to measure the effectiveness of the training course in meeting the objectives of the Pilot Project. Subject to the overall evaluation results, SWD will review the course design and take into account the experience of the Pilot Project in deciding the way forward.

Advice Sought

16. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
March 2016**

Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents

List of Appointed Training Bodies, their Responsible District(s) and Number of Training Places Allocated

Name of Training Body	Responsible District(s) <i>(no. of training places allocated)</i>	Total No. of Training Places Allocated
1. Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	Sham Shui Po (60)	60
2. Caritas – Hong Kong	Wong Tai Sin (20) *Promotion and recruitment also cover Sai Kung	60
	Kwun Tong (20)	
	Sha Tin (20)	
3. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Central & Western (20)	60
	Islands (40)	
4. ELCHK, Social Service Head Office	Yuen Long (60) *Promotion and recruitment also cover North District	60
5. Scout Association of Hong Kong	Yau Tsim Mong (60) *Promotion and recruitment also cover Kowloon City	60
6. Methodist Centre	Eastern (20)	60
	Wan Chai (40) *Promotion and recruitment also cover Southern	
7. Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre	Tsuen Wan (20)	60
	Kwai Tsing (40)	
8. Yan Oi Tong Limited	Tuen Mun (40)	60
	Tai Po (20) *Promotion and recruitment also cover North District	
9. Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	Wong Tai Sin (20) *Promotion and recruitment also cover Sai Kung	60
	Eastern (20)	
	Sham Shui Po (20)	
Total :		540