

**For discussion on  
26 January 2017**

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services**

**2017 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 2017 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 foster a pro-family environment. The development of SEs 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 36 assistance programmes, involving a total commitment of over \$7 billion, to identify groups of people who cannot benefit from the existing social safety net or the Government's short-term relief measures and provided them with assistance. As at end December 2016, about 1.49 million person-times had benefited from the 35 rolled-out programmes. In addition, the CCF may consider implementing measures on a pilot basis

to help the Government identify those initiatives that have been proven effective for incorporation into its regular assistance programmes. So far, the Government has incorporated 11 programmes under the CCF into its regular assistance programmes.

4. The CCF Task Force will continue to draw up new programmes in collaboration with other Task Forces under the Commission on Poverty to assist more people-in-need. In the 2017 Policy Address, the Government invites the CCF to consider launching a number of new assistance programmes including-

- (a) providing drug subsidies for eligible patients with uncommon disorders (e.g. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria);
- (b) providing subsidies for eligible public hospital patients to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures;
- (c) providing subsidies for eligible low-income women to receive cervical cancer screening and education on prevention to reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer;
- (d) providing transitional care and necessary support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment to avoid their premature admission into elderly homes;
- (e) providing home care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment to encourage ageing in place; and
- (f) providing a special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families to purchase medical consumables.

## **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 policies which may affect families.

6. In 2017, we will continue to work with the Council to ensure that family perspectives are duly considered in the policy making process. The Council has commissioned a consultancy study through the Central Policy Unit to evaluate the effectiveness of the assessment framework and develop a more elaborated checklist as the basis for assessing the impact of public policies on families. The study commenced in June 2016 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

#### *Advocacy for cherishing the family*

7. In 2017, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Council will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders to organise programmes and activities relating to the promotion of family core values with a view to reaching out to different sectors of the community and benefitting the entire community.

8. The 2015/16 “Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme” was successfully concluded in October 2016 with a total of 2 555 corporations, small and medium enterprises and organisations from different sectors being commended as family-friendly employers. To continue to widely publicise the family-friendly employment practices (FFEPs), we will promulgate good FFEPs through a series of short videos broadcasting on different media and experience sharing sessions to be conducted by the outstanding awardees in the second quarter of 2017.

9. With the aim of creating a pro-family environment, HAB and the Council launched a two-year Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives (Pilot Scheme) in March 2016. The Pilot Scheme provides one-off sponsorship to support non-profit making and worthwhile family-related initiatives under specific themes. The themes for 2016/17 are “parent education” and “divorce education”. Four projects with a total sponsorship of about \$3 million were approved and are expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2018. We will invite applications for the 2017/18 Pilot Scheme in March 2017 and preparation work is underway.

10. In 2017, we will also continue with the implementation of other publicity programmes, including the production of a pre-marital family education package and a territory-wide publicity campaign to encourage inter-generational communication and harmony, and promote extended family support.

#### *Family-related research work*

11. To foster a better understanding of the issues relating to family, the Council has been engaging tertiary institutes or research organisations to conduct researches and surveys. Apart from the study on “Family Impact Assessment” as mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the following survey and researches will be commissioned in 2017 –

- (a) Family Studies in Hong Kong : A Summary Analysis and Annotated Bibliography – to identify the existing research gap and build up a more comprehensive database of family-related studies; and
- (b) Family Survey 2017 – to collect updated and empirical information on families of Hong Kong; and
- (c) Further Study on the Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong – to gather more quantitative and qualitative data to examine various issues relating to marriage and divorce.

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

#### *Social Enterprises*

13. The Government is committed to promoting the development of SEs and the sector has been growing steadily. The number of SEs increased from about 260 in 2008 to more than 570 in 2016, 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.

14. In October 2016, HAB rolled out a trial scheme in partnership

with 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. We have engaged three non-governmental organisations to provide general training, arrange on-site training at social enterprises, and provide counselling and support services for job seeking to the participants.

15. 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. These include:

*(a) Providing funding support for individual SEs*

16. 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 \$249 million for 198 SEs projects since its launch in 2006. More than 4 700 persons have been directly employed by the funded SEs and 80% of those employed were socially disadvantaged. Around 80% of the SEs remains in operation after completion of the funding period. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) will continue to implement the ESR Programme with enhancement measures to benefit a wider range of SEs and encourage greater participation of the business sector in SE development.

*(b) Supporting capacity building of SEs*

17. Since 2008, HAB has been providing support to the Center for Entrepreneurship of the Chinese University of Hong Kong for 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 6 700 students have participated in the programme. Of the 50 grand finalists, 23 have established their own SEs which are in active operation. In 2017, 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*

18. 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 been well received by the public. We will continue to identify suitable opportunities for further enhancing the publicity work.

*(d) Promoting cross-sectoral collaboration for SE development*

19. Since 2008, HAB has been providing funding support for the organisation of the Social Enterprise Summit (the SE Summit), which is an important platform for facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration for SE development. The SE Summit 2016 was one of the three major events of the first Hong Kong International Philanthropy and Social Enterprise Week, which provides a great occasion for SEs to promote exchanges and build up collaborative relationships with participants from all over the world. To step up the efforts in promoting SEs at the district level, the SE Summit in 2016 organised community forums, district workshops and walking tours in Central and Western District, Sham Shui Po District, Tuen Mun District and Southern District. Leaders from the business and SE sectors in each district joined hands with the local community bodies to set up exchange platform for SEs, with a view to promoting the culture of "Business for Good" and a caring community. We will continue to support cross-sectoral collaboration for SE development in 2017.

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

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

**Home Affairs Bureau  
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