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政府總部 勞工及福利局

> 香港添馬添美道 政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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29 April 2019

Ms Wendy JAN Clerk to Panel Panel on Welfare Services Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms JAN,

## Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services Follow-up Actions for Meeting on 12 March 2018

At the meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services on 12 March 2018, Members requested the Government to provide the following information –

- (a) the distribution of the additional recurrent provision of around \$56 million in 2018-2019 among the setting up of five specialised co-parenting support centres and strengthening the manpower of Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s Integrated Family Service Centres and Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs); and
- (b) the total target number of service users of co-parenting support centres and FCPSUs in a year.

The information is provided as follows. The Government has provided an additional recurrent provision of about \$56 million in 2018-19, and another \$13 million in 2019-20, totaling about \$69 million, for setting up 5 Specialised Co-parenting Support Centres (SCSCs) and increasing the manpower of the SWD, to strengthen the support for separated/divorced parents and their children.

Starting from the third quarter of 2019-20, the SWD is going to set up 5 SCSCs to be operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in five clusters over the territory (namely Hong Kong Island, Kowloon East, Kowloon West, New Territories East and New Territories West) to provide one-stop co-parenting support services to separated/divorced parents and their children. Services include co-parenting counselling, parenting co-ordination service and children contact service, structured co-parenting groups or programmes as well as child-focused intervention, groups and programmes. Each SCSC should have at least 7 registered social workers and 4 clerical and supporting staff. Under the lump sum grant subvention system, service operators have the flexibility to deploy subvention provision and manpower to meet the requirements set out in Funding and Service Agreements. Each SCSC will be allocated with an annual subvention of around \$6.23 million by the SWD. If the SWD is unable to identify suitable premises for the SCSC within its service region for long-term use, as a short to medium term measure, the operating NGOs may consider renting leased commercial premises for service operation during the transitional period. The SWD will provide additional funding to cover the related rental expenses.

In addition, in 2018-19, the manpower of Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) operated by the SWD, FCPSUs and Family and Child Welfare Branch has increased by 31 Social Work Officers to enhance the services for separated/divorced parents and their children. The SWD estimates that the SCSCs and FCPSUs will provide co-parenting support services to at least 450 and 220 cases in a year respectively.

Yours sincerely,

(Karen SHING) for Secretary for Labour & Welfare

c.c. Director of Social Welfare

(Attn: Ms PANG Kit-ling)