

For discussion
on 7 September 2021

Legislative Council Panel on Security

Youth Engagement Work of Disciplined and Auxiliary Services Departments

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the youth engagement work of disciplined and auxiliary services departments under the Security Bureau.

Background

2. Youth development is one of the priorities of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”). We hope that young people can develop a positive outlook on life, commitment to society, a sense of national identity, love for Hong Kong and an international perspective. The HKSAR Government established the Youth Development Commission (“YDC”) in 2018. Chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and with eight directors of bureaux as ex-officio members¹, the YDC aims to enable more effective and holistic examination of and discussion on issues of concern to young people, especially those related to education, career pursuits and home ownership; encourage young people’s participation in politics as well as public policy discussion and debate; and drive cross-bureau and cross-departmental collaboration in the implementation of policy initiatives agreed by the YDC.

Youth Engagement Work of Disciplined and Auxiliary Services Departments and Latest Development

3. The Security Bureau and its six disciplined services and two auxiliary services departments have been, on top of their regular work, promoting youth development with a view to helping young people cultivate positive thinking, aspirations to serve the community, law-abiding awareness, discipline and team spirits, while covering the development of ethnic minority youths as well.

¹ Including the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Secretary for Education, Secretary for Food and Health, Secretary for Home Affairs, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Secretary for Security and Secretary for Transport and Housing. The Home Affairs Bureau provides secretariat support to the Youth Development Commission.

Through an array of activities, including Mainland exchange programmes, the disciplined and auxiliary services are also committed to helping young people understand our country, as well as understand the National Flag, the National Emblem, the National Anthem and the Basic Law, with a view to enhancing their sense of national identity. In addition, such work can enhance young people's appreciation of these departments and their law enforcement work, contribute to the fight against false information that smears the Government and the disciplined services departments, and nurture quality talents for the disciplined services, allowing young people interested in a career in these departments to equip themselves at an earlier stage. To achieve these objectives, the Security Bureau provides policy and resource support to their youth engagement work, and coordinates their relevant liaison and collaboration with other bureaux and departments as and when necessary.

4. The various disciplined and auxiliary services also actively work with other bureaux and departments (notably Education Bureau ("EDB"), Home Affairs Bureau and Labour and Welfare Bureau) in organising youth engagement activities. For many years, Hong Kong Police Force, Fire Services Department, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department and Civil Aid Service have collaborated with EDB in implementing the Enhanced Smart Teen Project and organising Smart Teen Challenge Camps to provide disciplinary, physical, team-building and leadership training for Secondary 2 to Secondary 5 students. Moreover, the six disciplined services departments also participate in the job-tasting programme under the Life Buddies Mentoring Scheme organised by the Commission on Poverty to provide senior secondary students with first-hand experience in real-life work settings during the summer holiday.

5. Apart from working with other departments or organisations to promote youth development, the disciplined and auxiliary services departments also organise youth programmes relating to their areas of work. Most of them have set up their own youth uniformed groups to nurture young people's sense of social responsibility, enhance law-abiding awareness and develop leadership skills through a series of classroom and physical training. Details of their youth engagement work are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

The Hong Kong Police Force

6. The Hong Kong Police Force has all along been actively promoting youth development. With the mission of nurturing fight crime partners and future leaders, it founded its flagship youth organisation, the Junior Police Call ("JPC"), in July 1974. JPC members are divided into three categories, namely Member, Leader and Advanced Leader. While currently only Advanced Leaders and members of JPC Leader Corps who join foot drill training are uniformed, Leaders

will also be provided with uniforms in foreseeable future to inculcate a stronger sense of belonging. As at July 2021, JPC has over 170 000 members, making it one of the largest youth organisations with strong Police ties in the world. A JPC Central Advisory Board has been established in JPC Headquarters while JPC Honorary President Councils are set up in police districts. Comprising ardent community personalities, these bodies provide views and suggestions on the development strategy and activities of JPC.

7. On top of organising regular leadership camps to build up young people's resilience, team spirit and leadership skills, JPC has also launched new programmes in recent years to enhance its appeal to young people. Among them is the STEM-Up HK Innovation and Technology Competition held in February 2021, where primary and secondary school students across the territory were invited to propose innovative and feasible solutions by integrating and applying their STEM knowledge and skills to enhance the effectiveness of city management and uplift people's quality of living under the "Smart City" concept. The competition was a big hit with applications from over 160 schools and 1 000 students.

8. Echoing the Government's call to promote social integration of ethnic minorities, JPC and other disciplined forces take the initiative to jointly organise the Training Programme for Ethnic Minority Youth regularly. The programme promotes interaction with ethnic minority children and youth through disciplinary, physical and team-building training. Besides, JPC launched the Certificate of Knowledge in Policing Programme in 2019. Participants of the Programme will be awarded corresponding hours of Other Learning Experiences under the New Senior Secondary Curriculum. The Programme is also accredited at Level 3 of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework.

9. To strengthen communication with existing members as well as recruitment of new members, JPC introduced the Junior Police Call Mobile Application ("JPC App") in April 2021 for reaching out to young people more effectively and directly. Through the JPC App, young people can apply for membership any time anywhere with their mobile phones. As at July 2021, which is just three months since its release, the JPC App has already recorded over 6 000 downloads and brought in over 1 900 new members.

10. Looking ahead, JPC will offer youth exchange opportunities in the Greater Bay Area to let participants gain first-hand experience of the opportunities in the Greater Bay Area. In addition, JPC has implemented a new youth engagement strategy under the acronym "IDEAS" to highlight the elements of JPC's activities, namely "Innovation", "Discipline", "Exposure", "Adventure" and "Synergy". With this new strategy, JPC is also launching a new awards scheme, with a view to enriching members' learning experience systematically.

Fire Services Department

11. The Fire Services Department (“FSD”) has all along been organising activities, including the Path-finding Adventure Project and the School-based Education Programme, to nurture young people to become responsible citizens. Launched in 2012, the Path-finding Adventure Project is jointly organised by FSD and the Centre for Health Behaviours Research of the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. At present, more than 170 volunteers from FSD join as mentors of the participants. Through various life skills and career-oriented workshops, outdoor training and visits, participants are able to enhance their resilience and reinforce positive values.

12. Moreover, FSD will set up a youth uniformed group serving as an extended platform to the Enhanced Smart Teen Project and the Path-finding Adventure Project. Participants of these two Projects may join the uniformed group to reinforce their learning experience, strengthen and sustain their positive development and achieve career orientation effects. FSD aims at recruiting about 200 students for the uniformed group in the 2021/22 school year.

13. FSD plans to arrange regular foot drill and various training programmes for the uniformed group, including basic first aid training, courses on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator, and basic training on fire-fighting and rescue techniques. Members of the uniformed group will have opportunities to assist in organising fire drills or fire safety seminars in schools, participate in public education programmes on community emergency preparedness, take part in the sports and recreational activities organised by the Hong Kong Fire Services Sports and Welfare Club and engage in meetings and discussions with community leaders.

Immigration Department

14. The Immigration Department (ImmD) established its uniformed group known as Immigration Department Youth Leaders Corps in 2013 to provide disciplinary and leadership training to local students at Secondary 3 to Secondary 6 levels in Hong Kong. The training programme covers knowledge about immigration matters, national education, foot drill, physical fitness, community services and outdoor training. It aims at developing members’ sense of discipline and team spirit, enhancing their sense of national identity, and instilling positive thinking and values through group activities. Members will receive training in the Immigration Service Institute of Training and Development (ISITD) and visit immigration facilities so as to deepen their understanding of ImmD’s work and prepare those who are interested in joining the Department in future. Starting this year, the uniformed group has been extended to Secondary 1

and Secondary 2 students to benefit more young people. Moreover, a management committee comprising community leaders from various sectors has been formed this year to advise on the continuous development of the Youth Leaders programme. As at July 2021, the programme has provided training for some 370 students from 26 secondary schools.

15. Looking ahead, ImmD will continue to strengthen its Youth Leaders programme. On top of the existing regular bi-weekly meetings at the ISITD in Tuen Mun, dedicated instructors will host school-based meetings, with a view to building closer rapport with members, as well as developing them as team leaders to train their schoolmates on campus so as to cover more young people. Moreover, ImmD plans to arrange visits to the Hong Kong offices of Mainland institutions and Mainland exchange programmes for members, with a view to enhancing their understanding of and sense of belonging to our country.

Customs and Excise Department

16. The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) launched the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme in 2016 with the aim of raising young people's awareness of respecting and protecting intellectual property rights. In view of the good response to the Programme, C&ED expanded the scope of its youth work and introduced the education-oriented programme "Customs YES" in 2021 for young people aged between 12 and 24. Groups, schools and non-government organisations interested in supporting and promoting youth development can also join as organisation members. The "Customs YES" programme aims at enhancing young people's appreciation of C&ED's work and fostering their positive values and sense of belonging to the society. Its activities include –

- (a) Customs Job Orientation Experience Camp: Through simulation of real situations, members can experience the daily work of different Customs nexus;
- (b) Career Development Workshops: These theme-based (e.g. legal profession, innovation & technology, and logistics) life planning and career development workshops aim to help members understand the situation and development of various sectors through interactive activities such as site visits and sharing by sector specialists;
- (c) Summer Internship Programme: This programme offers qualified members internship places in C&ED on the one hand, and internship placements in different sectors through C&ED's counterparts on the other;

- (d) Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme: It seeks to broaden members' horizon and deepen their national identity; and
- (e) Other thematic activities, such as adventure training, leadership training, thematic courses and site visits.

17. C&ED has established an Executive Committee comprising enthusiastic community personalities to provide advice on the strategies for the sustainable development and activities of the "Customs YES" programme. As at July 2021, the "Customs YES" programme has over 900 youth members and 20 organisation members.

18. Under the framework of diversified activities of "Customs YES", C&ED has formed a new youth uniformed group called "Customs Youth Leader Corps", which aims at nurturing members into distinguished youth leaders. Apart from participating in "Customs YES" activities, members are required to attend regular assemblies and disciplinary training to acquire various skills and learn about C&ED's work. The first Customs Youth Leader Corps Summer Training Camp was held at the Hong Kong Customs College on 26-31 July 2021. A total of 57 youth members have completed the training and become the first batch members of the "Customs Youth Leader Corps".

Correctional Services Department

19. The Correctional Services Department ("CSD") has been implementing the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project since September 2008 to disseminate the message of "leading a law-abiding and drug-free life as well as supporting offender rehabilitation" to secondary school students and young people. Project activities include education talks in schools and organisations; visits to correctional institutions and experience sharing by persons in custody to enable participants to understand the consequences of committing crimes; and summer tours to large-scale infrastructure as well as rural schools and families in the Mainland in order to deepen participants' understanding of national affairs.

20. Meticulously-designed programmes including the Mission in Prison and the Reflective Path have been organised under the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project. Based on escape room and detective games, the Mission in Prison programme turns a real prison into a unique "classroom", allowing participants to act as CSD officers and grasp the positive message of abiding by the law through the unique learning experience. As regards the Reflective Path programme, it aims at increasing young people's understanding of Hong Kong's criminal judicial system and correctional services. Participants experience a mock-up process of imprisonment – from trial, conviction, admission, custody, correctional training

to release. Participants also meet and chat with persons in custody, through which they would appreciate the serious consequences of breaking the law.

21. In July 2018, CSD established its uniformed group, Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders, targeting secondary school students. Participants attend regular meetings twice a month at venues such as the Staff Training Institute and Ma Hang Prison for foot drill, teamwork and physical training, as well as join a wide range of activities such as life planning interviews and Training on the Operation of Online Channel. The aim is to broaden their horizons, foster discipline and promote law-abiding and inclusive values. CSD has invited community personalities to be executive directors/commanders of the Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders programme to provide advice on its development. As at July 2021, CSD has a total of 174 Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders. It will expand the recruitment exercise in the next school year.

Government Flying Service

22. Over the years, the Government Flying Service (“GFS”) has established various collaboration arrangements with different youth uniformed groups (such as the Scout Association, the Girl Guides Association and the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps), including organising visits and talks for members aged 16 or above to promote their understanding of GFS and their interest in the aviation industry. GFS also regularly opens up its Headquarters at Chek Lap Kok for visit by schools and organisations through prior application, and gives outreach talks on topics like mountain safety and career orientation to young people. Subject to resource availability and service exigencies, GFS also arranges flying experience for large-scale annual events of youth uniformed groups.

23. Moreover, in recent years, GFS has arranged summer experiential activities for young people to learn about the work of Pilots, Air Crewman Officers, Aircraft Engineers, Air Medical Officers and Air Medical Nursing Officers. GFS has already reached out to the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps (“HKACC”) to explore the possibility of deepening mutual collaboration, such as appointing senior GFS officers to sit in HKACC meetings to provide timely advice on its administration and overall operations, arranging GFS officers to take part in HKACC’s leader training programme and provide professional coaching for HKACC members aged 16 or above to enable them to know more about different facets of GFS’s work.

Civil Aid Service

24. Founded in 1968, the Civil Aid Service (“CAS”) Cadet Corps has an establishment of more than 4 000 cadets. Committed to promoting youth work, CAS encourages young people to learn practical skills and develop leadership

abilities, thereby building up self-confidence, sense of responsibility, self-discipline and the spirit to serve others. Cadets also take part in community service such as countryside conservation work, tree planting and visits to the elderly to prepare themselves to become responsible citizens.

25. CAS provides a diversified array of training and activities for its cadets including life-saving, first-aid, foot drill, hiking, boating, sailing, outdoor programmes and national education courses, etc. Exchange programmes for cadets to meet with young people in the Greater Bay Area have been organised in order to deepen their understanding of the development of the Greater Bay Area. In addition, CAS is planning to enhance its School Partnership Scheme, e.g. developing activities and training on virtual reality and unmanned aircraft in support of STEM education, to encourage cadets to explore in various dimensions. Starting from April 2021, in order to help cadets to transfer to adult members seamlessly, serving cadets reaching the age of 16 are invited to attend the Certificate in Auxiliary Forces Basic Training Programme (Civil Defence), which has been accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications as a Qualifications Framework Level 3 programme, in order to encourage cadets reaching age 18 to continue to serve the community as an adult CAS member.

26. Apart from operating the Cadet Corps, CAS has collaborated actively with various government departments, non-government organisations, primary and secondary schools in recent years to promote public education. Efforts in this regard include implementation of the Youth Potential Development Scheme and the Special Talent Scheme targeting young people and ethnic minorities. These schemes provide free activities such as introduction of mountain/outdoor safety, team building games, a taste of bush fire-fighting experience and flag-raising training. In spite of the pandemic, this year up to the end of July, CAS's Public Education Section has conducted over 60 promotional events, seminars and training programmes for primary and secondary school students, as well as other service targets including community organisations, ethnic minorities, the Hong Kong Jockey Club and charitable school sponsoring bodies, with an attendance as high as 2 200.

Auxiliary Medical Service

27. The Auxiliary Medical Service ("AMS") established its Cadet Corps in 2011 to encourage young people to acquire practical skills and develop their leadership abilities by taking part in healthcare training and activities. To enhance its training programmes holistically, the Cadet Corps launched a training programme known as Health Awareness and Promotion Programme for Youth ("HAPPY") in July 2021 to impart professional knowledge and skills on healthcare, public hygiene and health. On completion of specific training, cadets

will receive certificates and become health ambassadors representing the Cadet Corps to promote health and hygiene messages to the public. Major areas of HAPPY training include –

- (a) knowledge, infection control, prevention and handling of communicable and chronic diseases;
- (b) prevailing public hygiene and health issues, such as staying away from drugs, tobaccos and alcohols, emotional and mental health, video gaming and Internet addiction, as well as drug abuse;
- (c) promotion of healthy youth development through leadership training, basic etiquette training and civic education;
- (d) conventional first aid and health-check training, coupled with practical opportunities in institutional services, first aid bicycle services and wilderness first aid activities; and
- (e) information relating to the healthcare profession to increase cadets' understanding of various healthcare career roles.

28. Apart from receiving healthcare training, cadets also take part in a wide range of events, such as first aid competitions, foot drill training, community service and national education exchange tours, etc. As at July 2021, the Cadet Corps has a total of about 2 130 members. Same as CAS, AMS has since April 2021 introduced a Cadets Conversion Programme for cadets reaching the age of 16 to attend specific training and examinations to encourage them to continue to serve the community as an adult member upon reaching age 18.

Way Forward

29. To enhance the effectiveness of youth engagement work, Security Bureau has set up a central platform in 2021, comprising representatives of the disciplined and auxiliary services departments. The purpose is to promote exchanges and cooperation in youth engagement work, so that they can benefit from each other's experience and insights. The platform is currently exploring the possibility of establishing linkages among various youth uniformed groups, in order to strengthen communication, sharing and collaboration among them, enrich the learning experience for young people, bolster their understanding of the society and the nation, and cultivate the aspiration to serve the community. Besides, Security Bureau is considering establishing an elite youth leadership corps by selecting outstanding members from various uniformed groups. More diversified and valued events, such as training camps specially designed for elite

youth leaders, becoming work shadows of government officials or summer internship opportunities, will be provided to them, with a view to grooming them to become the pillars of our future society.

30. Looking ahead, the Security Bureau will work with various disciplined and auxiliary services in continuing to strengthen youth engagement work. Through activities and courses that cater for their development needs and interests, we hope to nurture young people into a new generation with social commitment, a sense of national identity, passion for Hong Kong as well as international perspectives.

Security Bureau
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