

**For discussion
on 10 April 2000**

**LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Fundamental Expenditure Review on Youth**

Purpose

This paper outlines proposals for redeployment of resources following the completion of the Fundamental Expenditure Review on Youth (FER on Youth), including –

- (a) redeployment of resources from children and youth centres to the school social work service;
- (b) redeployment of resources to HAB for youth development programmes; and
- (c) transfer of management of and subventions to uniformed groups and related services from SWD to HAB.

Background

2. The purpose of the FER on Youth was to study how existing resources on youth services could be redeployed to maximise efficiency in government spending and to meet the changing needs of young people. In this exercise, we focused on three major services, viz., residential homes, school social work service, and children and youth centres services.

Redeployment of resources from children and youth centres to the school social work service

3. The initiative to provide one school social worker for each existing secondary school will entail the creation of 152 school social worker units (SSWU), at a cost of about \$97 million. These additional

SSWUs will be created in stages starting in September 2000 by redeploying resources from existing children and youth centres (CYCs) run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

4. SWD has been maintaining a close dialogue with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and individual NGOs on the redeployment package. With the support and co-operation of the NGO sector over the school social work proposal, SWD has invited all the 49 NGOs involved in youth welfare services to pledge the number of new SSWUs to be created in the next two years by redeploying resources from their existing CYCs and study and reading rooms (SR rooms).

5. SWD has consulted the social welfare sector, the education sector and the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services on the implementation of the proposal to improve manpower provision for school social work service. Specifically, on 26 November 1999, 7 December 1999 and 10 February 2000, SWD discussed with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the NGOs concerned on this resource redeployment proposal. On 8 January 2000 and 31 March 2000, SWD explained this initiative to principals, teachers, parents and frontline social workers. SWD also reported progress of this initiative to the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services on 14 February 2000. On 18 February 2000, SWD further discussed the resource redeployment proposal with the "Fighting for Social Welfare Alliance". On 3 March 2000, the proposal was discussed at the Steering Committee on School Social Work Service. The Social Welfare Advisory Committee was consulted on this resource redeployment proposal on 30 March 2000.

Redeployment of resources to HAB for youth development programmes

6. Youth development entails promoting positive values among young people, increasing their understanding of the history and cultural heritage of the Mainland, widening their international perspective encouraging young people to participate in voluntary work and enhancing their leadership skills.

7. HAB has drawn up a recurrent spending programme for youth development activities and programmes to be operated under HAB in 2000-2001, which requires funding of \$19.6 million as follows -

Activities	\$m
Research, development and promotion	1.0
International youth exchange programme	1.6
Mainland study tours	6.0
Promotion of volunteerism	5.0
Youth leadership training and other youth development projects	6.0
Total :	19.6

8. Details of the spending programme are outlined below –

(a) Research, development and promotion

Expenses of \$1 million, supported by existing recurrent funding, are for funding ongoing activities organised by the Commission on Youth, mainly on promotion and research work and surveys on various youth-related issues.

(b) International youth exchange programme

The International Youth Exchange Scheme, which aims to broaden the international perspective of young people through overseas goodwill visits, is supported by recurrent funding of \$1.6 million.

(c) Mainland study tours

The Mainland Study Tours Funding Scheme was started in 1998-99 to enhance young people's understanding of the Chinese history and cultural heritage. For the past two years, we have been relying on non-recurrent funding and charitable donations to operate the Scheme. We urgently need recurrent provision in 2000-01 to continue this Scheme.

(d) Promotion of volunteerism

In 1998-99, Education and Manpower Bureau provided a one-off sum of \$10 million to enable HAB to promote volunteerism which is an important element of youth development. Accordingly, a funding scheme was set up for NGOs to organise volunteer work projects. The provision has by now been exhausted. \$5 million would be required in 2000-01 to continue this worthwhile scheme.

(e) Youth leadership training and other youth development projects

In 1999-2000, HAB started the Youth Development Projects Funding Scheme with a capital provision of \$5 million. The objective is to encourage NGOs to organise various youth development activities that are in line with our policy objective in general and youth leadership skills training in particular. We need \$6 million to further promote the Scheme in 2000-01.

9. In the past, the bulk of the expenses for youth development under the HAB Head of Expenditure were provided on the capital account. On the recurrent account, only \$2.6 million is available in 2000-2001. HAB therefore needs an additional recurrent provision of about \$10 million in 2000-01 to maintain youth development programmes and activities at the present level. Accordingly, and with the agreement of Finance Bureau, we have proposed to transfer a sum of \$10.27 million tentatively earmarked for 3 planned CYCs to HAB. The 3 CYCs yet to come on stream would be operated through reprovisioning existing under-utilised or over-provided CYCs in accordance with a continuing programme. SWD has already started discussion with the NGOs of the 3 CYCs concerned on the logistical arrangements.

Uniformed groups and related services

10. HAB has been the policy bureau for uniformed organisations (UFOs) while SWD has been responsible for the management of the subventions to the eight UFOs, the Hong Kong Award for Young People and the miscellaneous group and community work services of the Agency of Volunteer Service. Arising from the FER on Youth, the

Administration has taken a view that HAB should take up direct responsibility for the management of the subventions to the above organisations effective from 1 April 2000.

11. This proposal involves the transfer of \$43,181,000 from SWD to the HAB Head of Expenditure. We have consulted the agencies concerned and all parties are positive towards this arrangement.

Residential Homes

12. Since 1994, SWD has been reviewing correctional/residential homes service. In 1998, SWD commissioned the Management Services Agency (MSA) to conduct a comprehensive review. SWD has set up a Steering Group to examine the feasibility of the improvement proposals recommended by MSA and will continue to implement a series of improvements to the homes.

13. After rationalisation of residential services, SWD has secured \$5 million savings through amalgamating residential homes and revising staff structures. Accordingly, SWD has deployed the savings to finance the Department's 1999-2000 new initiatives as pledged in the 1998 Policy Address.

Consultation

14. The Commission on Youth and the Social Welfare Advisory Committee have been consulted, and have endorsed the above three resources redeployment proposals. Proposals involving transfer of resources are being dealt with in the context of the draft Estimates 2000-01.

Home Affairs Bureau
March 2000