

For Information on 26 February 2007

**Sub-Committee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

Boarding Service for Students with Special Educational Needs

Purpose

This paper is to update Members on the latest development of the boarding service for students in special schools, in particular those students with physical disability (PD).

Background

2. The objective of boarding service in special schools is to cater for the long-term needs of students with severe disabilities and to facilitate them to receive school education during school days. The provision of boarding places is planned on a territory-wide basis. At present, twenty special schools, including schools for the visually impaired, hearing impaired, physically disabled and intellectually disabled, are provided with boarding sections.

3. Currently, there are two PD schools with boarding sections, one in Kowloon and the other on Hong Kong Island. PD students with boarding needs who reside in the NT and are unwilling to be enrolled in these two schools can be admitted to the boarding section of other special schools in the NT. Staff members of these special schools are experienced in taking care of PD students as these schools have admitted multi-disabled students including those with PD in recent years.

4. In response to Members' request at the meeting on 27 June 2005 for a review of the provision of boarding service for PD students, we examined the demand and supply as well as the geographical distribution of the residential areas of existing boarders of PD schools and reported in LC

paper No. CB(2)687/05-06(01) of 16 December 2005 that two new 60-place boarding sections in the New Territories (NT), one each in the NT East and NT West regions, were under planning. The aim is to extend and redistribute the boarding service to some PD schools in the NT. We informed Members that sponsors of the PD schools, parent representatives and concern groups raised no objections to the aforesaid plan vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1107/05-06(01) of 17 February 2006.

Latest position of the two new boarding sections

5. The new boarding section in the NT East will be set up at Jockey Club Elaine Field School, The Spastics Association of Hong Kong, a PD school in Tai Po, while the one in the NT West will be at the Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School, a PD school in Tuen Mun.

6. To ensure that the two projects can proceed soonest possible, funds have been earmarked in the 2006 Resource Allocation Exercise. The Technical Feasibility Statements of the two projects have been duly completed and approved. The projects have now been awarded Category B status, scheduled to be upgraded to Category A status in mid 2008. Should everything go smoothly, works can start in late 2008 and be completed for use in the 2010/11 school year. Upon their completion, there will be a total of four boarding sections to cater for PD students with long-term boarding needs, one in each of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, NT East and NT West regions.

Respite Service

7. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides residential respite services for people with disabilities aged 15 or above in some of its subvented rehabilitation residential homes. SWD also provides holiday care and family-based respite services for temporary day care of children with disabilities after school or during public holidays and long school holidays.

8. Respite service is not a core service of the Education and Manpower Bureau. However, if special schools with unfilled boarding capacity are willing to provide respite service on a self-financing mode to meet temporary or contingency needs of students, we would normally have no objection.

Way Forward

9. We will continue to monitor the progress of the two projects of new boarding sections and the provision of boarding service to cater for students' long-term boarding needs.

Advice Sought

10. Members are requested to note the contents of this paper.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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