For discussion
11 January 2010

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

Work Progress of the Family Council

Purpose

  This paper reports progress of work of the Family Council (the "Council").

Background

2. In October 2009, we informed the Panel that a territory-wide "Happy Family Campaign" will be launched to appeal to the public to build families that Hong Kong people treasure. Furthermore, we will liaisie with the relevant stakeholders in setting up a multi-sectoral and cross-disciplinary "Happy Family Info Hub", and build an e-platform collating family-related reference and educational materials, as well as disseminating information on family related activities, promoting family core values, introducing family education and support services.

Happy Family Campaign

3. The objective of the campaign is to encourage the community to attach importance to the family, and to foster a culture of loving and happy families. The Council will mobilize and encourage various stakeholders in the community, including Government departments and advisory bodies, as well as the education, business and non-government organizations, in promoting family core values. The relevant stakeholders will implement and be in charge of respective measures and programmes for their respective sectors/clientele so as to maximize the impact of the promotion effort, and to appeal to the Hong Kong people to build families that we all share and treasure (which essential values include Happiness, Kindness, Supportiveness, Appreciation and a sense

of Responsibilities).

Happy Family Info Hub

4.   The Happy Family Info Hub aims to provide an online platform collating useful information for the family, and provide a channel for various stakeholders to share with the public information about the family. Hence, the Info Hub will serve as a one-stop platform allowing easy access to a wide range of information, including -

   (a) Family Education
   (b) Family Support Services
   (c) Family Friendly Employment Practices
   (d) Family Related Research
   (e) Family Core Values Promotional Activities
   (f) Other family-related information e.g. suggestions for family day events

5.   The Info Hub will comprise links to the websites of various services for the family, and will also comprise an event calendar listing out various activities for families, such as activities, workshops or seminars organized by Government departments, local organizations or NGOs.

6.   Another important feature of the Info Hub is to facilitate sharing of family-related information and family core values, which can serve as a useful tool and a focal point for inspiring visitors' thinking and reflections on their views about the happy family. The Info Hub will help promote family solidarity and engender a loving family culture through the internet by allowing easy access to information for the families and facilitate sharing of family-related issues in the internet (e.g. through various technical means such as blog, discussion forum, facebook, twitter, etc).

Other on-going initiatives

7.   Apart from the above, the Family Council will also take forward the following initiatives –

(a) To continue to advise on the overall direction and launching of promotional activities.

(b) To advise the Government on policies and strategies concerning strengthening of families, supporting of families in need, promoting of a pro-family society and conducting family-related research.

(c) In collaboration with the relevant bureaux/departments and stakeholder, to continue to promote family education, strengthen support for the family and enhance the role of the family as a main driver for social harmony.

(d) In consultation with the Council, the Home Affairs Bureau has encouraged bureaux/departments to consider family perspectives in the policy formulation process.

(e) The Council will, in collaboration with other stakeholders including the Central Policy Unit, commission researches to be conducted on family-related topics.

Family Council secretariat
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