

For information

**Legislative Council House Committee
Subcommittee on Children's Rights**

Rehabilitative Programmes for Young Offenders in Correctional Institutions

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the rehabilitative programmes provided by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) for young offenders.

Background

2. CSD is committed to ensuring a safe and humane environment and providing appropriate rehabilitative programmes for persons in custody (PICs) in order to facilitate their rehabilitation and re-integration into the society after discharge.

Pre-sentence Assessment

3. After convicting a young offender, a judge / magistrate may, instead of passing a sentence immediately, request background and suitability reports from CSD and / or the Social Welfare Department (SWD), to assist him / her in making a decision on sentencing. In addition, the judge / magistrate may refer a case to the Young Offender Assessment Panel jointly operated by CSD and SWD to provide coordinated professional views to the court on the most appropriate rehabilitation programme for the offender.

Sentencing options for young offenders

4. Other than non-custodial sentences such as Probation Order and Community Service Order, sentencing options for young offenders include a term of imprisonment, or as its alternative, a detention order in a drug addiction treatment centre (DATC)¹, a training centre (TC), a detention centre (DC) or a rehabilitation centre (RC), which are all administered by CSD.

Rehabilitative Programmes for Young Offenders

5. CSD currently runs four rehabilitative programmes for young offenders, namely DATC programme, TC programme and RC programme for young offenders

¹ Young and adult offenders may be ordered to be detained at a DATC in accordance with the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance (Cap. 244). The legislation does not prescribe an age limit.

between the age of 14 and 20, and DC programme for young male offenders between the age of 14 and 24. A summary of these programmes is at Annex. CSD uses an integrated risks and needs evaluation protocol to provide suitable rehabilitative programmes for the offenders.

During detention

Education

6. CSD provides formal education classes at junior and senior secondary levels to eligible young offenders. The classes are taught by qualified teachers. Young offenders may enroll in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. In 2016, 19 sat for it. They took a total of 90 examination papers and obtained level 2 or above in 79 of them, representing a qualifying rate of 87.8%, with one of them obtaining level 5* in Economics. One candidate has successfully enrolled in a bachelor's degree course through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System. CSD believes that education is of vital importance to nurture positive values and restore self-esteem of the young offenders, thus facilitating their rehabilitation and re-integration into the society. CSD will continue to strengthen education support for young offenders to equip them academically and assist them in attaining accredited qualifications.

Vocational Training

7. In 2016-17, CSD provided a total of 20 vocational training courses for young offenders, covering a wide range of subjects such as office and business operations, mechanical skills, catering, elementary Chinese culinary, hairdressing and beauty care. To facilitate their future job hunting and further study, they are arranged to sit for examinations organised by accreditation authorities.

Inmate-Parent Programme (IPP)

8. IPP aims to help young offenders revive and consolidate relationships with their parents. It helps parents stay positive and prepares for their children's potential rehabilitation issues upon discharge. It also helps boost the determination of young offenders to stay away from crimes upon discharge. The Programme consists of activities such as visits by parents of newly-admitted young offenders, birthday celebrations to enhance parent-child relationships and seminars offered by clinical psychologists.

Upon discharge

Supervision Services

9. To ensure continuous care and guidance, statutory supervision is provided for

young offenders released from DATC, TC, DC and RC, or in accordance with section 109AA of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221)².

10. The primary objectives of supervision services are (i) to facilitate offenders' rehabilitation and their subsequent reintegration into the community through fostering rapport among offenders, their families and the supervising officers; and (ii) to help offenders lead a law-abiding and industrious life after release.

11. CSD rehabilitation officers formulate, modify and implement a tailor-made rehabilitation plan for each young offender. They provide assistance to supervisees and their families regarding post-discharge adaptation to the society, family relationship and employment issues. Through frequent visits to supervisees' homes or places of work throughout the supervision period, the officers ensure supervisees' compliance with the requirements of supervision orders, help them re-integrate into the society, and stay away from drugs and crimes.

12. Rehabilitated young offenders who have completed statutory supervision may be referred to appropriate government departments (such as SWD and Labour Department) or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for follow-up according to their needs and wishes under the "Continuing Care Project". Since 2004, over 2,800 referrals have been made under the Project.

13. In 2015, CSD launched the "Positive Energy Map", a comprehensive database of community resources by districts and types of services provided by NGO in the community. Supervisees may be referred to district NGOs for enrollment in various community activities, and are encouraged to establish healthy hobbies, sustain the positive values developed and build a new social circle.

14. CSD will continue to review and enhance its rehabilitation services and programmes in the light of social changes and needs to facilitate rehabilitation of young offenders.

Advice Sought

15. Members are invited to note the content of the paper.

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² According to section 109AA, young offenders convicted between the age of 14 and 20, discharged before attaining the age of 25 and sentenced to a period of imprisonment of 3 months or above are subject to statutory supervision of one year upon discharge.

Rehabilitation Programmes for Young Offenders provided by CSD

Programme	Gender	Duration of Detention	Age	Main features
Drug Addiction Treatment Centre³ Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance (Cap. 244)	Female and Male	2 to 12 months	14 and above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic treatment for drug withdrawal symptoms • Work programme, individual and group counselling • Specially designed relapse prevention programme • Statutory supervision of one year after release
Training Centre⁴ Training Centres Ordinance (Cap. 280)	Female and Male	6 to 36 months	14-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-day education classes and half-day vocational training • Character development programmes, such as scouting and outward bound courses • Statutory supervision of three years after release
Detention Centre⁵ Detention Centres Ordinance (Cap. 239)	Male only	1 to 6 months	14-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme emphasising strict discipline, hard work, physical training and foot-drill, supplemented by remedial education and counselling • Statutory supervision of one year after release
		3 to 12 months	21-24	
Rehabilitation Centre⁶ Rehabilitation Centres Ordinance (Cap. 567)	Female and Male	3 to 9 months	14-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase I (2 to 5 months): residential training • Phase II (1 to 4 months): half-way house setting where persons in custody go to school / work outside correctional institutions in day time • Statutory supervision of one year after release

³ Drug Addiction Treatment Centres include Lai Sun Correctional Institution, Lai King Correctional Institution, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution. The latter two institutions are for adults aged 21 and above only.

⁴ Training Centres include Cape Collinson Correctional Institution and Lai King Correctional Institution.

⁵ Detention Centre includes Sha Tsui Correctional Institution.

⁶ Rehabilitation Centres include Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre, Lai Hang Rehabilitation Centre, Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre and Wai Lan Rehabilitation Centre.