

### *Service Planning & Development*

1. **Forum on NGOs' Preparedness for Influenza Pandemic**

In response to the global concern of threat of influenza pandemic, the captioned forum was held on November 17, 2005 to facilitate NGOs to share their organization strategies in handling this possible crisis. Enthusiastic response was received with more than 150 participants attending the event. A website under the Council, <http://www.hkcss.org.hk/flu/> had been constructed to maintain a platform for agencies' sharing and information exchange.

2. **Survey on Residential Needs of People with Mildly Mental Handicap**

A press briefing was held in mid November to publicize the findings of the Council's "Survey on Residential Needs of People with Mildly Mental Handicap". The survey revealed that 24% of the mildly MH population, or 28,000 mildly MH persons, are in need of residential facilities with different support levels in the long run. The government was urged to envisage this upcoming demand, expand the provision of self-financed hostels and develop other viable residential modes, and strengthen the community support services for mildly MH persons especially enhancement of their independent living skills.

3. **Integrated Education Programme**

The Council made a presentation on the implementation and effectiveness of the "whole-school approach" integrated education programme in early November at a specialized LegCo's Subcommittee meeting. Also invited for presentations were parents and educationists. All requested the EMB to allocate more resources to support those schools enrolling children with special needs, provide adequate and comprehensive training for teachers and re-establish a monitoring mechanism with participation of various stakeholders to steer the future development of integrated education.

4. **Services and Support to Victims of Sexual Violence**

The Council, after consultation with its member agencies, submitted and presented the sector's views over the need of a 24-hour specialized one-stop service for victims of sexual violence in Hong Kong, at the Panel on Welfare Services of the Legislative Council on Nov 14, 2005. The sector disagreed that the Integrated Family Service Centre, in its existing form, could integrate the specialized service for victims of sexual violence by strengthening training to its staff.

5. **Seminar on Judiciary Intervention and Community Prevention of Domestic Violence, the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, United Nations**

Mr. Dick Lee, Commissioner of Police and Mrs. Sophia Leung, Chairperson of the Women's Commission were invited as keynote speakers for the captioned Seminar held on Nov 25, 2005, the UN International Day of Elimination of

Violence Against Women. Representatives from the concerned government departments and professions, including the Department of Justice, Hong Kong Police, The Law Society of HK, HKU, Department of Health, Hospital Authority, Social Welfare Department and Legislative Councilor, were invited to share their views at the Seminar.

**6. Meeting with Labour Department on Accrediting YPTP Courses**

The Council met with Labour Department to discuss about the impact of implementing Quality Framework on the operation of YPTP. LD is examining the possibility of accrediting YPTP courses such that young people can get recognized qualification after attending them. Representatives of NGOs supported the direction, but were concerned that the basic concepts of YPTP, such as 'enhancing youth employability' and 'responding to the training needs of the low academic achievers' should be maintained. The accreditation should not result in the courses being too rigid that they could not respond to the needs of the youth and the market. Moreover, NGOs were very concerned with the cost involved. The LD agreed that the mission of YPTP would be upheld and would consult and involve NGOs in the discussion process.

**7. Additional Places in Small Group Homes**

At the Council's network meeting in April 05, SWD informed NGOs that there would be additional resources allocated to Small Group Homes for emergency cases. The Department's initial proposal was to provide 52 ordinary placements with about \$2,300 recurrent subvention per placement per month.

Later on, SWD further consulted NGOs and suggested to provide 45 emergency placements instead. Discussion meeting was held on Nov 22 among all existing service providers and further meeting would be held with SWD on Nov 30, 2005.

**8. Discussion with SWD on the Demand for Integrated Home Care Service**

In response to our figures provided about the long waiting list of ordinary Home Care service, SWD has recently agreed to inject more resources to meet the needs. To have a better understanding on the service needs, a mutually agreed initial assessment form has been prepared for the sector's use in early November. A meeting with the sector would be held on December 1, 2005 to discuss the proposal on meeting the new demands.

**9. Rice distribution during the Yu Lan Festival**

In response to the public concerns about the safety of the rice distribution events during the Yu Lan Festival, Home Affairs Department has called a meeting to consult the Council and the NGOs on the assistance that could be offered by NGOs to these rice distribution bodies. In general, NGOs can assist in identifying needy elderly persons, assist in distributing to the elderly persons being identified and mobilizing volunteers to help bringing the rice to the elderly persons' homes if necessary.

## *Promotion of Good Practice*

### **10. 2005 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare**

The Awards presentation ceremony was successfully held at the 58th AGM on 10th November, 2005 with Dr. York Chow, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, as the Officiating Guest. To salute outstanding performance of the social welfare sector, a synopsis of the 12 winning projects was published. The details of these winning projects, together with the 8 outstanding projects had also been uploaded to the website <http://www.hkcss.org.hk/cb2/bp> to further promote mutual learning and consolidate local practice experience.

## *User Participation and Public Education*

### **11. Youth Forum and Youth Summit 2005**

The Youth Summit 2005, organized by the Commission on Youth and co-organized by the Council, is scheduled to be held on 10 December. Themes of summit will focus on youth poverty, youth participation in government constitution and the continuous development of youth in informal education. In the summit, the Chief Executive of HKSAR will formally announce the establishment of the Constitution of Youth Forum and seven districts will then start their election during January to February 2006 to form the platform on pilot basis. 11 district youth summits had already been organized during October to November to encourage discussion and to collect more views from youth.

### **12. Senior Citizens Day**

A Ceremony on SCD2005 has been held on November 5, 2005 in East Point City, Tseung Kwan O. Appreciation certificates were presented to 54 companies in appreciation of their elderly-friendly actions. Many of these companies have special measures to celebrate the Senior Citizens' Day ,e.g. almost all the public transport have offered free ride on the Day, discounted service/products were offered by airline, traveling companies, restaurant, etc. Two newspaper supplements were published to inform the public about these companies' elderly friendly actions. Besides, the winning products of "E-card design campaign" (「親親長者」心意卡創作比賽) were made into electronic cards and uploaded on Council's web and ESD (生活易) for the public to send greetings to their seniors.