

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Progress Report (Service Development)
October - November 2010

1. Premises Planning

A focus group on maximizing the welfare premises provision via re-development projects of NGOs was arranged on Nov 3, 2010. Seven NGOs attended the group and shared their concerns and experiences. Their views would be consolidated and channeled to the Bureau in the proposed meeting on the issue in early December, 2010.

2. Youth Creativity Development Seminar and Visits

A series of seminar and visits on Youth Creativity Development were successfully held in October to November, 2010. Speakers from 6 Creativity Industries, Academia and NGOs were invited to discuss and share how to use creative methods for youth participation with the youths and youth workers in the seminar on October 23, 2010. Three visits were arranged to the HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity, SKYHIGH Creative Partners and Infinito Education Studio of Hong Kong in the early of November. Over 80% of the participants found the seminar and visits could improve their understanding in using creative methods for youth participation. Speakers also showed appreciation in having a good chance to exchange experience with different creative industries, academic and NGOs partners as well as participants.

3. Development of New Youth Participation Platform

A new youth participation platform would be established, namely Youth Power project. It would be launched in early 2011. A series of youth and youth worker trainings and youth participation platforms in district and territory-wide level would be organized. The platform would collect the concern of youth and channel to the Government, corporate and non-governmental organizations leaders to encourage dialogues and mutual understanding.

4. Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) of District Youth Outreaching Social Work Service

With regard to the additional manpower on District Youth Outreaching Social Work Service in combating the youth drug issue, the Social Welfare Department have a direct discussion with the sectors on 15th October 2010 and accepted the proposal from the Council's Network of Youth Outreaching Services on output and outcome indicators of new FSA.

5. Report back session of Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) National Conference 2010 and Agencies Visit (7th June to 11th June 2010)

The report back session on “Residential Child Care Services – Challenges and Moving Forward”, was held on September 17, 2010. Besides sharing of the delegation’s observation, Mr. Ivan Yau, Instructor of Hong Kong Polytechnic University was invited to share his observation on the development of Residential Child Care Services in Hong Kong. The participants with some from Social Welfare Department expressed the sharing and discussions in report back session were fruitful and stimulating.

6. Sharing session on Child Development Fund

The Council joined hand with Labour and Welfare Bureau and Social Welfare Department to organize a sharing session for second round operators of Child Development Fund and Caring Companies on September 13, 2010. More than 60 corporates and operators attended the sharing session. Through the session, more than 200 mentors were recruited for the projects.

7. Presentation at Panel on Welfare Services (Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly)

The Council made a presentation and expressed the concerns on Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for the Elderly Services, SCNAM(ES) and Provision of Support Services for Demented Elders at LEGCO respectively on October 6 and November 12, 2010. Since the implementation of SCNAM(ES) in 2000 and up to mid-2010, a total of 165,034 assessments had been completed. The Council urged the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Social Welfare Department to release the assessment statistic for long term care planning use. We also promoted the development of a comprehensive dementia care policy which covered: 1) Early identification of onset; 2) Short-term and long-term care for elders suffering from dementia; 3) Specialized treatment and rehabilitation /prevention of impairment; 4) care-givers support; 5) Dementia population and its service resource implication; 5) Public education, in the meetings

8. Happy Family Kitchen Project

The steering group comprised of representatives of 22 participating service units of NGOs and SWD across different services in Yuen Long district was formed. Fifty frontline workers will be nominated to attend a two-day professional training on positive psychology and family-centred program design on November 19 and 23. The launching ceremony would be held on December 18, 2010, with around 800 participants to join.

9. Mainstreaming of Ethnic Minorities

To promote racial harmony and encourage NGOs to provide support measures in serving ethnic minorities, a good practice guideline was drafted and the concept would be shared among different specialized committees and service networks. Concurrently, feedback would be collected on the proposed guideline from different service networks, with the aim to understand their concerns and difficulties. Training would be organized to introduce existing support services and supportive materials.

10. Follow-up of Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) Review

To follow through the HKU consultants' recommendations on IFSC review, the SWD's Task Group on Implementation of IFSCs was revamped to Committee on IFSCs with participation of representatives of the Council and NGOs. Three working groups were formed under the Committee, to follow up specific issues namely, review on the funding and service agreement (FSA), review on the service operation, and addressing concerns in handling housing assistance case. Council's Network on IFSCs will work closely with SWD.

11. Report-back on Study Tour on Joint Parental Responsibility Model in Australia

The report-back seminar was held on September 29, 2010 with 40 participants attended. Guest speakers from academic, legal profession and Australian practitioner were invited to share their insights on the concerned model. Participants of the seminar in general supported the rationale of the model but remarked that success factors for smooth implementation had to be put in place, which included comprehensive policy review and adequate provision of supportive service (such as post-divorce family support and family mediation etc). More discussion on the applicability of the model in Hong Kong context would be initiated in the sector.

12. Follow-up Meetings on Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness

Subsequent to the service commencement of the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness in October 2010, the Council had regular meetings with relevant service operators discussing their shared concerns and difficulties in identifying premises for service, staff recruitment and other operation matters. The group would meet the Social Welfare Department on November 24, 2010 to exchange views and identify long and short term solutions.

13. Data Collecting on Shortage of Paramedical Staff in rehabilitation sector

In October 2010, the Council collected data on the shortage of different paramedical staff, including educational psychologist, clinical psychologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech therapist and nurse in the rehabilitation sector. Findings and recommendations would be shared with the concerned government bureaux and departments, and relevant parties for possible follow up.

14. 爭取資助院舍聯席 Advocacy Action Taken Outside the Legislative Council

爭取資助院舍聯席 (The Alliance) with the aim at arousing the public awareness and urging the Government response on the urgent need of subvented residential services for persons with disabilities and the elderly, the Alliance stayed overnight outside the Legislative Council from September 18-19 for pushing the Government to shorten the waiting queue and formulate a long term plan on subvented residential services.

15. Communication Meeting with Legislative Councilors on Residential care Homes (People with Disabilities) Bill and Code of Practice

The Network on Persons with Intellectual Disability had held a communication meeting with Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che and Hon. WONG Shing-chi on October 25, 2010 to reflect the sector's concern on Residential Care Homes (People with Disabilities) Bill and Code of Practice. There was a shared view among the ten participated agencies that the staffing and spacing requirements for the Homes should keep at the standards as agreed in 2002 .