

Proposal for Welfare Priorities Setting for 2007/08 and Beyond

A submission to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau



The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

July 2006

Table of Contents



Summary of Major Recommendations	Page i-iii
Preamble	Page 1
Integrated and Forward-looking Planning Framework	Page 2
Preparing for the Ageing Community	Page 3 - 5
Supporting Family Functioning	Page 6 - 9
Responding to Youth Mental Health Issues	Page 10 - 11
Tackling Drug Abuse	Page 12
Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities	Page 13 - 15
Conclusion	Page 16

Proposal for Welfare Priorities Setting for 2007/08 and Beyond
A submission to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Summary of Major Recommendations

Integrated and Forward-looking Planning Framework

1. the Government to **make it a priority to work, in partnership with the sector and in consultation with concerned stakeholders, on a comprehensive plan for social welfare, including (para 2.1 – 2.4)**
 - (1) **the long term strategic goals;**
 - (2) **mid term plan on different programme areas, with elderly services as a priority;**
 - (3) **the annual welfare plans; and**
 - (4) **territorial mapping and coordination of central and district planning to meet changing community needs**

Preparing for the Ageing Community

2. the Government to conduct a **comprehensive review on the community support service system** and remove unfriendly measures; the review is suggested to look into the speeding up the assessment and placement process, improvement of day care centres and application of the concept of 'continuum of care' in community support services (para 3.1 – 3.3)
3. **to ensure sufficient supply of nurses** and to have better **manpower planning for long term care services** (para 3.4 – 3.5)
4. to strengthen **casework capacity** of District Community Centres for the Elderly (para 3.6)

Supporting Family Functioning

5. to promote **Family Friendly Society**, including the formulation of family friendly checklist, establishing a platform for cross-sector collaboration on family friendly society, launching of Family Friendly Awards, and setting up of Stronger Family Fund (para 4.1)
6. to strengthen childcare support by supporting more **diversified modes of childcare** and ensuring **service quality**, such as exploring the feasibility of voluntary registration of neighbourhood child minder service, day foster care, and day small group home (para 4.2)
7. to provide **Stationing social work service in child care centres, kindergarten and Mother-Child Health Clinic** to reach out to the families facing more risk factors at an early stage, organize parent mutual help networks, support groups, parent education and provide early intervention for families with special needs and problems (para 4.3)
8. to formulate **co-ordinated child policy** to address the developmental and caring needs of children and to further develop **family risk assessment tool** (para 4.4)
9. to develop **specialized service** to supplement integrated family service and explore the feasibility of forming Housing Social Service Teams to deal with large number of cases with housing related issue, such as split tenancy, eviction order & etc. (para 4.5)
10. to establish a **HK-Mainland platform to discuss ‘cross-border families’** issues and develop cross-border supportive service and resource centre for Hong Kong linked families and cross-border employees (para 4.6)

Responding to Youth Mental Health Issues

11. to **focus the Community Support Project for Child and Adolescent Mental Health on secondary prevention**, including consultation to youth workers and acting as a bridge between the social welfare services and the medical/psychiatric services for timely and outreaching services (para 5.1)
12. to fund **special youth mental health project teams attached to ICYSCs in selected districts** to provide a range of services including reaching out services, case management, community integration programmes, mutual help and support groups, parents support groups, ‘back to work’ and ‘back to school’ support, as well as teachers’ training (para 5.2)

Addressing Substance Abuse Issues

13. to provide designated resources to NGOs to **purchase medical support from both public and private sectors for community-based health check-ups** for young drug abusers and enhance their motivation to seek treatment at an early stage (para 6.1)
14. to re-confirm **roles of the Substance Abuse Clinic** to facilitate multi-disciplinary collaboration in the war against drugs (para 6.2)

Promoting Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities

15. to set an **indicator on a manageable employment rate of PwDs** and to require public bodies to follow suit, with reports announced publicly and periodically; and to **support the development of social enterprises**, as well as outsourcing work to social enterprise through restricted tender (para 7.1 – 7.2)
16. to set up **district based outreaching teams** to provide social work service, such as therapeutic work, para-medical support, community education, and networking, **to those suffering from mood disorders** (para 7.3)
17. to further develop **home care and community support services** for people with severe disabilities, and provide **support to family members and carers**, including considering the introduction of carer allowance (para 7.4)
18. to increase **pre-school places** so that services can be available within 6 months after child is diagnosed with disabilities or developmental delay (para 7.5)
19. to expedite the process of legislation for **licensing of private hostels** and to increase the number of scheduled and ad hoc inspection visits to private hostels to ensure the service quality; and to encourage **alternative residential modes**, such as self-financed homes by provision of suitable sites and other facilitating measures (para 7.6)
20. to develop a **long term plan on the development of subvented residential services** for PwDs, adopting the concept of **ageing in place** (para 7.7 – 7.8)
21. to formulate **concrete measures and time schedule to accomplish the objectives of the “Transport for All” policy**, and continue to take a lead in developing realistic strategy for introduction of concessionary fare for PwDs (para 7.9)
22. to **ensure effective implementation of the integrated education policy**, to extend to secondary schools, and provide training to teachers of integrated schools (para 7.10)