

**Family Council**

**Development and strengthening of Family Education  
through a Life-course Family Education approach to address the  
needs of family members at different stages of life**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the measures undertaken by various government Bureaux and Departments to develop family education, and invites Members' views as to how this area of work may be further strengthened.

**Background**

2. At the third meeting of the Family Council on 26 June 2008, Members agreed that continuous life education and courses to equip family members with better skills and knowledge to cope with changes at different stages of life was crucial to better preparing them to live up to critical transformations in different stages of life, for example, marriage, parenthood, etc. Members also agreed that instead of using a legislative approach, relevant Bureaux and Departments should, by way of administrative measures as far as possible, facilitate and encourage more family life education. In particular, Members opined that there would be merits in encouraging couples to participate in courses on marriage and divorce, and that the elements of interpersonal and conflict resolution skills should be strengthened and incorporated into family life education. Members considered that more efforts should be provided by relevant Bureaux and Departments in reaching out to the needy families where appropriate.

## **Progress of Measures**

3. To provide Members with an overview of the latest progress of measures implemented by various Bureaux and Departments in promoting family life education, a checklist on progress of measures is consolidated at Annex for Members' information.

4. In particular, Members may wish to note that Bureaux and Departments concerned have been proactively promoting parenting education by identifying the needy families through various service agents and referring them to more focused parenting programmes. Work has been done at the district level to promote parenting and raise awareness. The Family Council may explore with the relevant parties possible areas of further collaboration to promote parent education.

## **Advice Sought**

5. Members are invited to note the measures undertaken by various government Bureaux and Departments to develop family education and comment on how this area of work may be further strengthened.

Family Council Secretariat  
September 2008

**Checklist on Progress of Measures**

**To develop and strengthen family education through a  
Life-course Family Education approach to address the needs of family members  
At different stages of life**

**A. Pre-marriage education**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	A wide range of FLE programmes are provided by the Family Life Education Units (FLEUs) and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) / Integrated Services Centres (ISCs) under the SWD. FLEUs / IFSCs / ISCs may develop more focused programmes and activities to meet the different needs of couples-to-be subject to funding availability.	LWB SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FLEUs have enhanced collaboration with local organisations such as churches in providing focused programmes to better prepare couple-to-be for marriage.</li><li>• SWD's Family Life Education Resource Centre (FLERC) will continue to develop training packages for the service units (including IFSCs / ISCs / FLEUs) to organise tailor-made programmes for couples-to-be.</li></ul>

## **B. Parenthood**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	The Committee on Home-School Co-operation (CHSC) under the EDB, the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Federations of PTAs (FPTAs) will continue to collaborate with various sectors to organize seminars, talks and activities to step up parent education.	EDB	Schools and PTAs are provided with grants to organise activities to promote home-school cooperation and to enhance parent-child relationship. As participation of parents is on voluntary basis, schools may not be able to reach the "hidden" families which are in need of such services. It is quite beyond schools' capacity and capability to reach out to these "hidden" families. Other relevant bureaux and departments (e.g. LWB, SWD, FHB, DH) may also have a role to play over their service platform.
2.	FLEUs / IFSCs / ISCs / Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) organise programmes on the physical and psychological development of children, parenting skills, communication skills, emotional and stress management, behavioural problems of children,	LWB SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFSCs / ISCs / FLEUs / ICYSCs organise programmes and activities on effective parenting from time to time.</li> <li>• The FLERC of SWD will continue to develop training packages for service units (including IFSCs / ISCs / FLEUs / ICYSCs) to organise tailor-made parenting</li> </ul>

<u>No.</u>	<u>Measures</u>	<u>Relevant B/D</u>	<u>Latest Progress/Development</u>
	etc. for families with children at different developmental stages. These programmes may be stepped up subject to funding availability.		programmes, especially for the needy families.
3.	<p>A territory-wide parenting education initiative has been launched since 2002 to promote parenting education—</p> <p>(a) through the various channels and workshops to all-parents-to-be and parents of children of 0-5 years attending Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs);</p> <p>(b) through the “Positive Parenting Programme” (Triple P) for parents who have children aged 2-5 years with early / mild behaviour problems or those who encounter parenting difficulties;</p> <p>(c) The Student Health Service (SHS) provides pamphlets, health talks and workshops of harmonious parent-child relationship;</p> <p>(d) Leaflets are available for grandparents on</p>	DH	<p><b>Services for reaching out to needy families</b> to promote parent education are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the phased implementation of the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS), at-risk pregnant women e.g. those with drug abuse, teenage-pregnancy and mental health problems, are identified by health /social workers and a comprehensive individualized management plan will be arranged and monitored by a designated case manager. These women will be invited to attend the existing parenting programme provided by MCHC or other service sectors. DH is now exploring the possibility of collaborating with other community partners in developing special/specific programmes on parenting targeting these at-risk groups.</li> </ul>

<u>No.</u>	<u>Measures</u>	<u>Relevant B/D</u>	<u>Latest Progress/Development</u>
	<p>parenting grand children. Grandparents are also welcome to attend parenting programmes in MCHCs.</p> <p>Subject to the availability of funding, the DH will convert all printed materials on parenting into audio-visual form.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again, under the CCDS, a referral – reply system has been devised to facilitate workers of preprimary institutions to identify and refer children with physical, developmental and behavioural problems as well as parents with parenting problems to MCHC for further assessment and management. The service will be extended to all districts in Hong Kong by Oct 2008 when a training kit for preprimary educators is being launched. Briefing for preprimary educators, including provision of information on referral to the appropriate parenting programme, will be given then.</li> <li>• DH plans to invite preprimary institutions to recruit parents to attend an introductory positive parenting talk in order to raise parents’ awareness and to enhance their accessibility for the service.</li> <li>• DH is considering the incorporation of the antenatal parenting workshop into the current routine antenatal talk series so as to enhance the attendance of pregnant women.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DH has already produced a VCD on the preparation of parenthood “快快樂樂做父母” which can be loaned to parents-to-be who cannot attend the parenting workshop during the antenatal visit. The VCD can also be viewed on the FHS website.</li> <li>• DH will distribute all health education resources on parenting to antenatal clinics and postnatal wards of public and private hospitals in order to facilitate the delivery of parenting messages to mother who may not attend MCHC for antenatal or postnatal care.</li> <li>• DH also contributes articles on parenting issues to the print media routinely to promote positive parenting and the parenting programme.</li> </ul>

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
4.	The Women's Commission (WoC) has initiated the Quality Parenting Pilot Project to promote caring families, quality parenting and instill core life values in younger generation. District Councils provides funding to district organizations for offering various parenting programmes. The commission plans to promote the project in other districts.	WoC, in collaboration with Kwun Tong District Council and North District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kwun Tong District Council and North District Council provided funding to a total of 24 projects under the Pilot Project.</li> <li>• WoC plans to organise a sharing session on Quality Parenting in November 2008 to promote parenting education and core life values to Parent Teacher Associations, NGOs and District Councilors.</li> </ul>
5.	Targeted parent education programmes, including preventive education programmes and research projects targeted at parents, have been launched to address youth problems, in particular youth drug abuse.	Narcotics Division of SB, EDB, District Fight-Crime Committees etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the meeting of the Family Council on 26 June 2008, Members agreed that family life education in general was important in addressing youth drug abuse and there was also room to explore with the Security Bureau (SB) to support or collaborate in specific family education programmes for the anti-drug cause. A representative of SB has joined the Working Group on Promotion of Family Core Values of the Family Council in attendance.</li> <li>• Separately, SB is enhancing efforts on targeted parental education programmes. Production of a resource kit</li> </ul>



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			<p>for parents is underway for completion by end 2008. Parents are also a major target of the two-year Territory-wide Campaign Against Youth Drug Abuse launched in mid-2008.</p>

### **C. Adjustment to Marital Status**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	<p>IFSCs / ISCs / FLEUs organise programmes to help couples handle changes in their marital status including recent marriage, separation, divorce, re-marriage, etc., so as to facilitate their smooth adjustment to changes in marital status. Focuses of the programmes include communication skills, self-understanding, conflict management, empowerment programmes for single parents, emotional and stress management, etc.</p>	SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFSCs / ISCs / FLEUs have enhanced collaboration with schools and local organisations to identify couples in need with a view to enhancing their ability to adjust to changes in their marital status.</li> </ul>

#### **D. Adjustment to Changes in Family Composition**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	IFSCs / ISCs / FLEUs organise programmes to help family members cope with changes in family composition such as reunion with family members from the Mainland, arrival of new born babies, in-law relationship, death in the family, etc. Focuses of the programmes include effective communication among family members, conflict management, enrichment programmes, emotional and stress management, etc.	SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FLEUs have been working closely with various hospitals and MCHCs to conduct pre-natal programmes.</li> <li>• Districts with a higher concentration of new arrivals, including Kowloon City / Yau Tsim Mong, Tsuen Wan / Kwai Tsing, Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong and Eastern / Wan Chai, have been allocated with additional resources in 2008-09 to organise more focused and targeted programmes for new arrivals.</li> </ul>

**E. Caring for aging family members and care-givers**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	Elderly centres throughout the territory provide information / training and counseling services to carers. For elders who have long-term care needs, subsidized centre-based and home-based community care services are provided. For those who cannot be adequately taken care of at home, we provide subsidized residential care services.	LWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elderly centres continue to provide information, training and counselling to carers to relieve their pressure and enhance their capacity. Under the District-based Trial Scheme on Carer Training, about 450 individuals have been trained as of May 2008. Many of them have made use of their skills to provide centre-based or home-based elderly sitting services.</li> <li>• In 2008-09, an additional 172 subsidised centre-based day care places and about 800 additional places of subsidised home-based community care services will be provided for elders who have long-term care needs. Also, an additional 107 subsidised residential care places has been provided.</li> <li>• In 2008, additional recurrent funding of \$42 million was allocated to 156 elderly centres to enhance their outreaching efforts to hidden and singleton elders and</li> </ul>

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			to provide assistance to those who are in need; and additional recurrent funding of \$18 million was allocated to 41 District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) to enhance their counselling, referral services and processing of applications for long-term care services.
2.	The Opportunities for the Elderly Project (OEP) adopts intergenerational integration to involve young people in activities in order to promote a sense of worthiness amongst the elders and to advocate a community spirit of care for the elders.	SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>273 applications for OEP have been approved in 2008-09. These projects will be launched from May 2008 to January 2009 territory-wide.</li> </ul>
3.	Elderly Health Service (EHS) delivers health education programmes in collaboration with various elderly service providers. The service employs an array of media channels to increase its publicity on elderly health and active ageing;	DH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From January to June 2008, EHS has, in collaboration with various elderly service providers, organized over 5000 health talks with more than 160 000 attendances. Radio and television interviews have been conducted on various topics to promote elderly health and active</li> </ul>

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	and produces DIY (do-it-yourself) health education kits for self reference and use by elderly service providers.		ageing. Currently, 10 health education kits are available for downloading from the homepage of EHS for self reference and use by elderly service providers.
4.	A pilot Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients was launched to help elderly dischargees remain in the community after being discharged from hospitals, and relieve the burden of their care-givers.	LWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first and second pilots have respectively been launched in Kwun Tong and Kwai Tsing in March and August 2008, with the third pilot scheduled to be launched in the third quarter of 2009. It is estimated that 3 000 elders and 1 000 carers can be served under each pilot per annum.</li> </ul>
5.	A Home Environment Improvement Scheme was launched to provide elderly households with minor home maintenance and improvement services as well as essential fittings based on a home environment assessment.	LWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 5-year Scheme has been launched since June 2008.</li> </ul>
6.	The Elder Learning Scheme was launched in early 2007 to promote active aging. Efforts have been made to extend the concept of Elder	LWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the second round of invitation coordinated by EC and LWB, around 78 Elder Academies are expected to commence operation in 2008-09, offering around</li> </ul>

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	Academies to the tertiary institutions.		<p>10 000 places to elders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 tertiary institutions, including the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the Hong Kong Shue Yan University, the Lingnan University, the Open University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong together will offer around 1 000 places for elders.</li> </ul>
7.	The 2-year Pilot Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project aims to promote the concept of active ageing through neighbourhood platforms. The Project is expected to cover about 32 000 elders.	LWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 district projects have been launched over the territories in first half of 2008.</li> </ul>
8.	The 2-year Pilot Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project-Caring for elders aims to promote care for elders and tackle elder abuse through neighbourhood platforms. The Project is expected to cover about 82 000 elders and their family members.	LWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 district projects will be carried out in 2008-09.</li> </ul>

**F. Caring for family members including members with special needs e.g. members with disabilities and care-givers**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	A wide range of services are available for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their families / carers, including day care, community support services, residential services, resource centre for parents and relatives, community mental health link, etc. to improve their quality of life and to relieve the caring burden of the carers.	LWB/SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These are ongoing measures. Subject to the availability of resources, various services for PWDs and their families / carers can be strengthened.</li> </ul>
2.	A district-based community support centres will be set up to provide one-stop support services for PWDs and their families / carers	LWB/SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for the establishment of the 16 district centres is underway. They are tentatively scheduled for opening in the fourth quarter of 2008-09.</li> </ul>
3	The Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) plans to promote the	HAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPCE organised a civic education exhibition at the Hong Kong Book Fair in July 2008 to promote, among</li> </ul>



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	<p>development of a personal system of core values. "Developing a healthy family" (共建健康家庭) is one of the five domains recommended. It is envisaged that CPCE will organise public education programmes to promote this theme.</p>		<p>others, the "development of a healthy family" through instilling the values of "love and care, responsibility and respect, communication and harmony".</p>

**G. Caring for younger members of the families during their troubled times (e.g. substance abuse) and the care-givers**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	Established in October 2007, the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse is spearheading cross bureaux and inter-departmental collaboration against youth drug abuse, with a view to drawing up long-term, sustainable and comprehensive strategies.	SB	The Task Force is planning to sum up its work with a Report in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008. Early identification and intervention of young drug abusers is a mainstay of our strategy. We are stepping up measures to equip parents and teachers with skills and knowledge in this regard.

## **H. Support for high-risk / needy families**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Relevant B/D</u></b>	<b><u>Latest Progress/Development</u></b>
1.	School placement service is provided to the newly-arrived children (NAC) upon their arrival in Hong Kong. Additional support measures are also provided to help these children integrate early into the community and education system. EDB plans to enhance the course content of Initiation Programme and Induction Programme to cover NAC up to the age of 18 years.	EDB	The Programmes have been extended to cover NAC up the age of 18 years.
2.	IFSCs and ISCs provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and therapeutic welfare services for individuals or families in need to enhance their capacity in problem solving and facing life's challenges. A continuum of preventive, supportive and developmental programmes to meet the multifarious needs of children and youth aged 6 – 24 is also provided	SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFSCs / ISCs will continue to provide proactive outreaching services and strengthen network with relevant stakeholders in the community including District Councillors, Estate Management Advisory Committees, mutual aid committees, the police, school personnel, etc. for early identification of high risk / needy families and early intervention.</li> </ul>

<u>No.</u>	<u>Measures</u>	<u>Relevant B/D</u>	<u>Latest Progress/Development</u>
	<p>under the neighbourhood-based ICYSCs. These programmes may be further stepped up subject to funding availability.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SWD has allocated additional resources to strengthen the manpower and supervisory support of IFSCs according to district needs with a view to continuously enhancing service provision in response to the changing needs of the community. SWD will closely monitor the service need and explore new resources to further strengthen the manpower where necessary.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>To increase contacts with needy families who are reluctant to seek help.</p>	SWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To actively reach out to vulnerable families who are reluctant to seek help, SWD has launched the Family Support Programme (FSP) in IFSCs / ISCs / Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) and Medical Social Services Units (MSSUs) since early 2007. Through telephone contacts, home visits and other outreaching programmes, families in-need are introduced to appropriate support services.</li> <li>Under FSP, a total of 12 270 individuals / families were connected to IFSC / ISC / FCPSU or community services in 2007-08. Besides, MSSUs had handled a</li> </ul>

<u>No.</u>	<u>Measures</u>	<u>Relevant B/D</u>	<u>Latest Progress/Development</u>
			total of 208 cases under FSP.
4.	<p>By using MCHCs and other service units as a screening platform, the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) aims to identify at-risk pregnant women, mothers with post-natal depression, families with psychological needs and pre-primary children with health, development and behavioural problems at an early stage.</p> <p>The CCDS currently covers six districts and will be further extended to Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing this year.</p>	SWD / DH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extension progressed smoothly. The CCDS was fully extended to South Kwai Chung in July 2008 and will reach North Kwai Chung, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan by the end of 2008.</li> </ul>

**Family Council Secretariat**  
**September 2008**