

Family Council

Support for Families with New Arrivals from the Mainland

Purpose

This paper invites Members to note the initiatives and improvements to the existing measures to support families with new arrivals from the Mainland, and seeks Members' advice on possible ways to further strengthen support for these families.

Background

2. At the second meeting of the Family Council on 28 March 2008, Members were briefed on the services provided by Bureaux and Departments for families with new arrivals from the Mainland. At the meeting, Members indicated that enhanced counseling services should be provided to assist families with new arrivals to gain better understanding of the socio-economic situation in Hong Kong before they decided to permanently reside in Hong Kong. Members also suggested that the relevant Bureaux and Departments could adopt a more integrated approach in providing assistance to these families.

3. In the course of deliberation of the Race Discrimination Bill in the last legislative session, Members of the Bills Committee on the Race Discrimination Bill examined a paper setting out the range of services provided by the Government for families with new arrivals from the Mainland and the future direction of further enhancing the provision of these services in May 2008. The paper is at *Annex A* for Members' reference. In response to Members' suggestion that the support services for new arrivals from the Mainland should be stepped up, the Administration re-affirmed our continued commitment to providing appropriate services to facilitate their integration and would identify ways to strengthen existing measures for families with new arrivals from the Mainland.

Enhanced Services for Families with New Arrivals

4. Over the past two years, the Administration has received views and suggestions from LegCo Members, concern groups, new arrival groups, and the community on how enhanced services and resources should be provided for the new arrivals. *Annex B* sets out the response of the relevant bureaux and departments, and some of the services are highlighted below for Members' ease of reference. Resources will be targeted to priority districts with more pressing service needs, taking into account the distribution of new arrival population and other social factors.

(a) Coordination of Services for New Arrivals

5. Provision of services for new arrivals from the Mainland involves a number of government departments. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has assumed the role of coordinating service provision for new arrivals. In particular, HAD publishes and regularly updates a "Service Handbook for New Arrivals" to apprise the new arrivals of essential information about living in Hong Kong. HAD also conducts a questionnaire survey on the profile and service needs of new arrivals from the Mainland. Results of the survey are distributed to relevant Government departments and NGOs for reference on a quarterly basis.

6. In 2008-09, to strengthen the provision of dedicated counseling and support services to families with new arrivals from the Mainland, HAD will invite an NGO to organise counseling groups and integration programmes for new arrivals to facilitate their integration into the local community. At district level, HAD will also allocate resources to priority districts with higher concentration of new arrivals and the disadvantaged in the community to enable district organizations and local NGOs to organise programmes to assist those newly arrived in Hong Kong.

(b) Social welfare services

7. New arrivals in Hong Kong have access to an extensive network of Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and Integrated

Services Centres (ISCs) providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services. Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents on two-way permits who encounter family problems during their stay in Hong Kong can approach IFSCs/ISCs for assistance. They may also apply to join groups and programmes organised by the IFSCs/ISCs to help strengthen their family relations and better prepare them for adapting to life in Hong Kong. IFSCs/ISCs will assess the needs of individual applicants as well as the nature and quota of individual programmes, and arrange for them to join suitable groups and programmes.

8. To maximise the use of existing resources and achieve synergy, SWD plans to link up its Departmental Hotline with that of an NGO dedicated to serving the new arrivals in 2009-10. This is expected to facilitate access of new arrivals to information on the public services available to them.

9. Various day and residential child care services are provided to children who have genuine needs and meet the admission criteria. These services are also available to children whose parents are Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents coming to Hong Kong on two-way permits, to help provide better child care support for families with newly-arrived children.

(c) Educational Support

10. The Education Bureau (EDB) provides school placement service to newly-arrived students. Students may attend a six-month full-time Initiation Programme or a 60-hour Induction Programme that aim at helping them better integrate into the community and local education system. Starting from the 2008/09 school year, EDB has extended the coverage of the Programmes to newly-arrived children from the Mainland by raising the age limit from 15 to 18. This will allow more newly-arrived children to benefit from the Programmes.

(d) Employment assistance

11. The Labour Department (LD) currently offers a wide range of employment services through its twelve job centres, telephone employment service and interactive employment service website to

members of the public, including new arrivals from the Mainland. LD also organises large-scale job fairs from time to time to help job seekers find jobs. In July 2008, LD organised two large-scale job fairs in the Kwai Tsing district which attracted over 4,000 participants. LD also plans to organise another large-scale job fair in Tin Shui Wai in early 2009. Both Kwai Tsing and Tin Shui Wai have a relatively large population of new arrivals.

12. To provide more targeted services at priority districts, Employees Retraining Board will launch a pilot scheme of “Employment Set Sail” for new arrivals in Tin Shui Wai and the neighbouring areas (Yuen Long and Tuen Mun) in 2008-09 to enhance their job search skills. The programme focuses on the development of more generic skills to strengthen the ability of the new arrivals in their search for employment.

(e) Housing services

13. At present, about half of the new arrivals from the Mainland live in public rental housing (PRH). New arrivals with the right of abode in Hong Kong may apply, on the ground of family reunion, for inclusion into PRH tenancy if they are either the spouse/children aged under 18/dependent family members of the tenants; or the spouse and children of one of the tenant’s married children. An adult child of elderly tenants, together with his family members, can be included in the tenancy. New arrivals who want to apply for PRH flats under the Waiting List (WL) by themselves, they can register on the WL, subject to the requirements such as income and asset limits being met. Those who fail to meet the seven-year residence requirement but have grave difficulties in meeting their imminent housing needs may apply to SWD for PRH under the Compassionate Rehousing category through which the residence requirement can be waived.

14. To assist the newly-arrived residents in the PRH to better adapt to the new living environment, the Housing Department has introduced a pilot scheme of setting up a Housing Advisory and Service Team in Tin Shui Wai for two years since April 2008. The Team aims to reach out to the new PRH tenants from the Mainland more proactively to help them better settle in the new environment in Hong Kong.

Way Forward

15. The Administration will continue to closely monitor the service needs of new arrivals from the Mainland and ensure that the services provided by the government departments concerned meet their immediate needs during the adaptation period.

Advice Sought

16. Members are invited to note the content of this paper, and comment on possible ways to further strengthen support for families with new arrivals from the Mainland.

Family Council Secretariat
September 2008

Legislative Council Bills Committee on Race Discrimination Bill

Services for New Arrivals from the Mainland

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the services provided by the Government for families with new arrivals from the Mainland and the future direction of further enhancing the provision of these services.

Guiding Principles

2. The Government has been providing services for the new arrivals from the Mainland along the following guiding principles :

- (a) facilitating the integration of new arrivals into the local community;
- (b) providing timely services that suit the immediate needs of new arrivals; and
- (c) targetting resources to meet the most pressing demands.

3. The Government has all along adhered to the principle of fairness in the provision of public services for new arrivals. They are entitled to most of the public services available to other citizens, including a wide range of medical, social and education services. This approach avoids labeling effect and should help achieve objective of facilitating early and smooth integration of new arrivals into the local community.

4. On the other hand, we are conscious that some new arrivals may encounter difficulties during the adaptation period. The Government provides a wide range of timely services upon their arrival in Hong Kong.

Services for New Arrivals

5. Since most of the new arrivals from the Mainland come to Hong Kong for family reunion, most of them are female aged between 25 and 44. Almost one-third of the new arrivals are children aged under 15.

6. Our contacts with the new arrivals reveal that they have experienced adaptation difficulty in the areas of work, living environment, family finance and the education system in Hong Kong. The services that most new arrivals from the Mainland need immediately upon their arrival in Hong Kong are:

- (a) services that enable them to achieve self-reliance (i.e. employment assistance, vocational training and language courses);
- (b) children-related services (i.e. school placement and childcare services); and
- (c) services that address their basic needs (i.e. housing, medical and health services)

Coordination and information dissemination

7. The services for new arrivals from the Mainland involve a number of government departments. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has taken the role of coordinating the provision of these services. In particular, HAD publishes and regularly updates a "Service Handbook for New Arrivals" to apprise the new arrivals of essential information. This includes the wide range of public services available to new arrivals, basic information about living in Hong Kong (e.g. road safety guidelines, route map of public transport, personal hygiene guidelines, useful telephone number) and contingency measures to be taken during emergency (e.g. points to note during hoisting of typhoon signal).

Employment assistance and vocational training

8. Employment assistance tops the list of new arrivals' service needs. We understand that the kinds of employment most desired by new arrivals are wholesale, retail, import/export trade, restaurants & hotels, construction, and community, social & personal services.

9. The Labour Department (LD) provides comprehensive assistance and guidance in this regard for new arrivals through its 12 job centres, telephone employment service hotline and interactive employment service website. Information corner containing useful materials tailor-made for new arrivals is set up at each job centre.

10. LD's job centres also conduct regular tailor-made employment briefing sessions to enhance new arrivals' understanding of the local job market. New arrivals with special needs can enroll in a variety of employment programmes including Job Matching Programme, Employment Programme for the Middle-aged and Work Trial Scheme.

11. The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) offers full-time placement-tied training courses and part-time generic skills training courses to eligible trainees. Like other local residents, new arrivals may apply to enroll in these courses. ERB also offers a specially designed training course "Job Search Skills Course" for new arrivals to help them adapt to the local labour market and enhance their employability.

Educational support

12. Education Bureau (EDB) provides school placement service to the newly-arrived students. Students may attend a six-month full-time Initiation Programme that helps them integrate into our community and education system before their admission to the public sector schools.

13. For those newly arrived students who enter public sector schools direct, EDB provides schools with a School-based Support Scheme Grant to run support programmes for the students concerned. EDB also provides subsidies for non-governmental organizations to run a 60-hour Induction Programme which covers personal development, social adaptation as well as basic learning skills for these students.

Social welfare services and community projects

14. Social Welfare Department (SWD) and subvented non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operate 61 Integrated Family Service Centres to provide a continuum of preventive, supportive and therapeutic services for families with new arrivals from the Mainland and other families in need. These services include family life education, parent-child activities, enquiry service, volunteering training, outreaching service, various groups and programmes, and intensive counseling and referral service. Based on district needs, the 135 Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres also run various programmes to enhance the local knowledge of new arrival children and youth and facilitate their integration into the local community.

15. Apart from these service centres, community projects supported by various Funds set up by the Government are available to help families

with new arrivals and other families in need. They are :

- (a) the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged : the Fund seeks to help disadvantaged groups, including the new arrivals, in the community, by way of promoting the development of tripartite partnership among the Government, the business community and the welfare sector. So far, 26% of the projects approved by the Fund are targeted at the needs of new arrivals from the Mainland, such as prevention of family violence, establishment of local network, and provision of women and child support services. These projects have received \$11.2 million from the Fund and sponsorship of \$13 million by the business community; and
- (b) the Community Inclusion and Investment Fund (CIIF) : the Fund seeks to encourage community-driven initiatives that apply social capital building strategies to weave mutual help network and develop cross-sectoral partnerships. Many projects supported by the Fund seek to build up the capacities of new arrivals, raise their self-esteem, and promote their integration into the local community through playing contributive roles. Most of the CIIF funded projects help the disadvantaged groups, including the new arrivals, to engage with other members of the community to form mutual help networks or co-operatives. These provide a wide range of services such as childcare, catering, household maintenance, estate mentors, language tutors, etc., so that the participants may actively contribute to the community and become an integral part of their neighbourhoods. So far, about 70% of the projects approved involve new arrivals from the Mainland and their families, with the establishment of over 440 neighbourhood mutual help networks and over 20 work co-operatives.

Housing services

16. We understand the great majority of new arrivals are living with their family members; most of them live in accommodations rented by themselves or family members; and about half of them live in public rental housing (PRH).

17. If new arrivals want to apply for PRH flats under the Waiting List (WL) by themselves, they can register on the WL, subject to the

requirements such as income and asset limits being met. Allocation of a PRH flat to a WL applicant will only be made when his or her application is due for allocation and fulfill the seven-year residence requirement, meaning that at least half of the household members in the application must have lived in Hong Kong for at least seven years and are still living in Hong Kong. Families with new arrivals or other families which fail to meet the residence requirement but have grave difficulties in meeting their imminent housing needs may apply to SWD for PRH under the Compassionate Rehousing category through which the residence requirement can be waived

18. New arrivals with the right of abode in Hong Kong may apply, on the ground of family reunion, for inclusion into PRH tenancy if they are either the spouse / children aged under 18 / dependent family members of the tenants; or the spouse and children of one of the tenant's married children. An adult child of elderly tenants, together with his / her family members, can be included in the tenancy.

Way Forward

19. We shall continue to closely monitor the service needs of new arrivals from the Mainland and ensure that the services provided by the government departments concerned meet their immediate needs during the adaptation period.

20. The government departments concerned will explore room for further strengthening immediate support services for new arrivals along the following lines:

- (a) EDB will extend the initiation and induction programmes to cover new arrival students aged under 18;
- (b) ERB plans to introduce a pilot "Community Harmony Course" (CHC), which is an enhanced version of the current "Job Search Skills Course" in Tin Shui Wai. A youth version of the CHC will also be developed to cater to the training needs of young new arrivals;
- (c) SWD plans to seek additional resources to link up the hotline operated by SWD and those run by NGOs for new arrivals, so as to enhance the provision of information on welfare services as well as support for them. Those identified to be in need will

be referred to related services for appropriate follow up;

- (d) HAD will evaluate the effectiveness of a pilot project which seeks to provide pre-migration counseling and support services for Mainland residents who plan to reside permanently in Hong Kong in the near future.

21. The Government would target resources to priority districts with more pressing service needs, taking into account the distribution of new arrival population and other social factors (e.g. the number of battered spouse cases, low-income families, single parent families and unemployed parents). For example:

- (a) SWD plans to organize more targeted programmes for new arrivals, including mutual help groups, community education, family life education, etc in these districts;
- (b) LD plans to organize more job fairs in the priority districts to assist new arrivals in seeking employment;
- (c) ERB will provide more training places for part-time generic skills training courses in these districts.

22. We would also encourage the government departments concerned to collaborate in providing more cross-disciplinary one-stop services for families with new arrivals and other needy families, while providing their respective services.

Home Affairs Department
May 2008

Support for Families with New Arrivals

A. Social Welfare and Employment Support Services

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide support services for mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents who came to Hong Kong with two-way permits, and are experiencing family problems. • To provide more flexible arrangements for them to join subsidized activities and courses organized by welfare agencies and NGOs as these NAs on two-way permits have been turned down on the grounds that they did not have the Right of Abode in HK. The request has been raised repeatedly. 	<p>民間團體關注人口政策聯席 convened by the Director of Administration on 23 June 2008. (Representatives from CMAB, HAD, EDB, FHB, SB LWB and HD attended the meeting.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an extensive network of 61 Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and two Integrated Services Centres (ISCs) throughout the territory providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services such as family life education, parent-child activities, enquiry service, outreaching service, mutual help groups, volunteer training, counselling and referral service to individuals and families in need. • If Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents, who came to Hong Kong on two-way permits, encounter family problems during their stay in Hong Kong, they can approach IFSCs / ISCs for assistance. Social workers will assess the situation of individual cases and provide assistance as appropriate.

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents who came to Hong Kong on two-way permits may also apply to join the subsidised groups and programmes according to their needs, to strengthen family relationships and to better prepare them for their ability to adapt to life in HK. IFSCs / ISCs will assess the needs of individual applicants, the nature of the groups / programmes, quota for individual groups / programmes, number of applications received, and arrange for them to join suitable groups and programmes. Besides, in order to maximise the use of existing resources and achieve synergy, SWD plans to link up its Departmental Hotline and an NGO hotline serving new arrivals in 2009-10.
2.	To re-open the designated one-stop service centres for NAs.	-ditto-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On expiry of the time-limited service agreements of the Post Migration Centres (PMCs), and taking into account the objective to integrate services for new arrivals with mainstream IFSCs, subvention for the four time-limited PMCs ceased in April 2004 while the resources

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			<p>of the four PMCs (under recurrent subvention) were pooled to form IFSCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFSCs are best placed to provide more holistic and user-friendly services to families in need, including new arrivals from the Mainland. As compared with the four PMCs located in specific districts serving a much larger geographical boundary, the 61 IFSCs which are distributed throughout the territory are more accessible to service users and more effective in catering for community needs. • The new IFSC service model puts a premium on early prevention and intervention. It also offers additional services previously not available at PMCs, including intensive counselling, assessment for compassionate rehousing arrangement for clinical psychological services. With greater accessibility and the provision of a continuum of preventive, supportive and therapeutic services, IFSCs can better meet the varied needs of new arrivals. • Between April 2007 and March 2008, IFSCs

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
			<p>have organised about 198 groups specifically for about 2 202 new arrivals. New arrivals can also participate in other support groups or programmes to facilitate their early integration into the community through interaction with other families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration has no plan to re-open the PMCs, but will enhance support for new arrivals through more targeted services in priority districts with a higher concentration of new arrivals.
3.	To enhance the specially designed course on Job Search Skills for new arrivals.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A <i>Pilot scheme of "Employment Set Sail"</i> will be launched for new arrivals in Tin Shui Wai and the neighbouring areas (Yuen Long and Tuen Mun) in 2008-09. This pilot course is an enhanced version of the "Job Search Skills" Course offered by ERB, focusing more on generic skills development, and new elements will be added to help the NAs in their search for employment. LD organised two large-scale job fairs in the Kwai Tsing district in July 2008 and attracted

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			<p>over 4,000 visitors. Another large-scale job fair will be organised in Tin Shui Wai in early 2009. Both Kwai Tsing and Tin Shui Wai have a relatively large population of new arrivals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The job centres of LD stage district-based job fairs in the priority districts from time to time to help job seekers find jobs. New arrival job seekers are invited to participate in these district-based job fairs.

B. Housing Services

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
1.	To forge a closer and harmonious relationship among family members to help establish a family-based support network.	2006/07 Chief Executive Policy Address.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Authority (HA) has relaxed in May 2007 a five-pronged housing allocation policy to foster family cohesion and encourage younger families to look after their elderly parents in PRH. Subject to the fulfilment of requisite income cum asset limits and no breach of one-line continuation rule, adult NAs and their family members can now be added to the tenancy of their elderly parents for family reunion under the enhanced Addition Policy for Harmonious Families. • The HA has also shortened the minimum waiting time for elderly applicants and families with elderly members under the Waiting List from 24 months to 18 months.
2.	To outreach and identify new tenants to utilize NGO's services or join their functions to strengthen community building.	Views gathered from NGOs and service providers expressed at ad hoc meetings, including the special meeting of the LegCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot scheme of setting up a Housing Advisory and Service Team (HAST) in Tin Shui Wai for two years has commenced since April 2008 to help prospective and new tenants of PRH who

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureau/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
		<p>Panel on Welfare Services held on 30.10.2007 which was attended by 23 NGOs to explore measures to provide additional services to the residents of Tin Shui Wai".</p>	<p>are mostly NAs integrate into the new living environment. The additional resources required for implementation of the pilot scheme is \$2 million.</p>

C. Medical and Health Services

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
1.	<p>At present, the highly subsidized rates of public medical services are applicable to Hong Kong residents only. Non-Hong Kong residents are non-eligible persons (NEP) who should pay the higher charges for using public medical services. A new obstetric service package charge was introduced for NEPs on 1 February 2007, resulting in an increase in the service charge from \$20,000 to \$39,000 for cases with prior booking and to \$48,000 for cases without prior booking. A number of concerns groups and LegCo members have requested that the new service charge should cease to apply to those non-local women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents.</p>	<p>The request was raised on the following occasions:-</p> <p>(a) at the 民間團體關注人口政策聯席 convened by the Admin Wing on 23 June 2008;</p> <p>(b) at the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services held on 18 February 2008 (deputations present include the Population Policy Concern Group and the 準來港婦女關注組);</p> <p>(c) at the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services held on 30 April 2007^(Note); and</p> <p>(d) Petition to the CE and the POs on the polling day on 7 September 2008.</p>	<p>No comment at this stage, as there is a judicial review of the obstetric service charge for NEP.</p>

(Note : Deputations present include the 準來港婦女關注組, Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese, Hong Kong Women Christian

Council, Association for the Advancement of Feminism, New Women Arrivals League, Hong Kong Christian Institute, Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities, Student Christian Movement of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse.)

D. Education

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
1.	To extend the coverage of the Induction Programme and the Initiation Programme for newly-arrived children (NAC) from the Mainland	The LegCo meeting on 新來港青少年的政策事宜 on 7 January 2008 (with representatives from EDB, IMMMD, SB, SWD, and HAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As at present, NAC aged 15 or below will be eligible to attend the Induction Programme and the Initiation Programme. The age ceiling will be extended to 18 as from the 2008/09 school year onwards. • With the provision of free education to local children for 12 years starting from the 2008/09 school year, EDB has decided to extend the Initiation Programme and Induction Programme to cover NAC up to the age of 18 years. The estimated additional resources required for the extension of the Programmes is about \$1.7 million for the 2008/09 school year.

E. Child Care and Support

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
1.	To arrange child care support for children whose parents are mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents coming to Hong Kong on two-way permits or who are non-Hong Kong residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Office of Hon. Fernando Cheung, Legislative Councillor dated 21 April 2008 and 26 May 2008. • 民間團體關注人口政策聯席 convened by the Director of Administration on 23 June 2008. (Representatives from CMAB, HAD, EDB, FHB, SB LWB and HD attended the meeting.) • Closed-door case conference held on 18 July 2008 with LegCo members on 中港婚姻內地婦女來港定居事宜 (Representatives from SB, ImmD and SWD attended the case conference.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children with genuine needs and meeting the admission criteria can apply for the various child care services, both day and residential. This applies also to children whose parents are mainland spouses of Hong Kong residents, who are either coming to Hong Kong on two-way permits or are non-Hong Kong residents.

F. Counselling and Support Services

Serial number	Suggested improvement(s) / Recommendations	Proponents and occasions	Responses from Bureaux/Departments (including proposed new initiatives and work progress : reasons to be given for agreeing / disagreeing with the recommendations)
1.	More counselling and support services should be provided to families with new arrivals from the Mainland to help them gain a full understanding of the socio-economic situation in Hong Kong before they make the decision to come to live here, and to assist in their smooth integration into the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LegCo Members during the deliberations of the Race Discrimination Bill • Members of the Family Council at its meeting on 26 March. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAD plans to invite an NGO to organize integration programmes and provide various counselling and support services for the new arrivals from the Mainland during the period from late 2008 to early 2009.

**Home Affairs Department
September 2008**