

Family Council

Progress Report on Implementation of New Family-related Initiatives by the Commission on Youth, the Elderly Commission and the Women's Commission

PURPOSE

This paper presents progress on implementation of new family-related initiatives by the Commission on Youth, the Elderly Commission and the Women's Commission under a common theme to promote harmonious family relationship.

BACKGROUND

2. Members in a family play different roles in contributing to the well-being of the family and of the society. Harmonious family relationship is built on respect and love. Members of different generation and gender may contribute to harmonious family relationship in their own way, and extend their love and care to benefit other families. It would be to the benefit of the society in general if members of a family put their strengths and wisdom collaboratively into good use.

3. While there can be many ways to express respect and love, one basic manifestation is for each member of the family to play his/her role in the family diligently through sharing of family responsibilities. While a senior member of the family may typically be perceived as a care recipient, he/she can contribute by taking up his/her family responsibility, for example, through taking care of the infant of the families, or even stretching beyond his/her care-giving ability to benefit other elderly members in the neighbourhood. While a housewife may typically be perceived as a care-giver and shoulder great responsibilities in managing

housework, other members of the family can support her by sharing out the housework. While children or youngsters may typically be perceived as a care recipient, they may also contribute by helping other members of the family in adapting to technological advancement. These are just some examples of the sharing of responsibilities amongst family members. The collaborative act of sharing can be sustainable if underpinned by mutual care and a strong sense of filial piety, a powerful cultural value governing the function of family. This is particularly relevant to the younger generation.

PROGRESS

4. Towards this end, the Family Council, at its meeting on 4 July 2011, agreed to launch new initiatives (亮點) to echo the common theme “Sharing family responsibilities in love and filial piety”(“人人就位 孝愛互傳”). The three Commissions will launch various initiatives that subscribe to this common theme.

5. A progress report prepared by the Commission on Youth, the Elderly Commission and the Women’s Commission are at **Annexes A, B and C** respectively, which are highlighted below –

- (a) **Commission on Youth:** to launch a project to assist young people in re-establishing their respect and filial piety towards senior members of the family;
- (b) **Elderly Commission:** to launch a new phase of the “Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project” to promote harmonious family relationship, and to enhance neighbourhood support network; and
- (c) **Women’s Commission:** to introduce a new module in relation to gender equality and sharing of family responsibilities under the “Capacity Mileage Programme”, and promote relevant messages through public education activities.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to note the progress of work of the three Commissions as set out in Annexes A to C.

**Family Council Secretariat
October 2011**

**Progress Report of the New Family-related Initiatives
of the Commission on Youth**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the progress of implementing the new family-related initiatives by the Commission on Youth (CoY) to assist young people in re-establishing their respect and filial piety towards senior members of the family.

PROGRESS

Study to promote filial piety among the youths

2. The CoY will fund a study comprising questionnaire and group discussion/role play with a view to developing a module to promote filial piety among the youth. The study will collect the views of youths aged between 15 and 24 on what they consider as filial piety. They will have to complete a questionnaire on filial piety and the difficulties in practising it. The parents of these youths will also be invited to complete a questionnaire to find out what they expect from their children as filially pious. The youths will then participate in group discussion and/or role play with trained team leaders on issues on filial piety and identify practical way to adjust their behaviour and improve communication with their family with a view to reinforcing the value of filial piety among the youths.

3. On completion of the group discussion, the young participants will have to complete the same questionnaire again with a view to finding out if their views on filial piety would change after deliberation. A report analyzing the results of the questionnaires will be prepared and the effectiveness of the group discussion/role play in promotion of filial piety will be assessed with other recommended measures. The report will set up a framework for promotion of filial piety which would then be turned into a module for promotion of filial piety.

4. To encourage concerted effort in promotion of filial piety among the youths across the community, youth and district organisations will be invited to participate in the promotion of filial piety by encouraging them to adopt the developed module. It is expected that the module be developed by Q3 2012.

Engagement of youth and district organizations

5. To encourage youth and district organisations to organise more activities and programmes relating to the promotion of filial piety, we would put forward to the Youth Programme Co-ordinating Committee of the CoY to consider adopting the promotion of filial piety as one of the core values to be promoted in 2012-13. 18 District Youth Programme Committee will also encourage district organisations to support activities relating to the promotion of filial piety in the coming year.

Commission on Youth Secretariat
October 2011

**Progress Report of the New Family-related Initiative of
the Elderly Commission**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the progress of the new family-related initiative of the Elderly Commission (EC), the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project (NAAP) 2011, which subscribes to the common theme of “sharing family responsibilities in love and filial piety” (人人就位 孝愛互傳).

PROGRESS

2. As mentioned in the 13th meeting of this Council on 4 July 2011, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and the EC have jointly implemented the NAAP since 2008 to promote active ageing and mutual help in the neighbourhood for elders’ well-being. NAAP 2011 is a new phase which has two themes, namely “enhancement of neighbourhood support networks” and “promotion of family responsibility”. Organisations which provide elderly services may apply for funding to organise relevant district projects. Each approved project will be granted a subsidy of \$100,000 for operation over two years.

Symposium on Active Ageing 2011

3. To promote NAAP 2011, LWB, EC, this Council, Radio 5 of Radio Television Hong Kong and Sau Po Centre on Ageing of The University of Hong Kong jointly organised a Symposium on Active Ageing on 11 July 2011 at Youth Square. The Symposium featured presentations by academics from Taiwan and Singapore on the experience of these two places in promoting active ageing through neighbourhood support networks. It also provided a platform for experience-sharing among participating organisations of the pilot phase of the NAAP, with awards of appreciation

presented to active elderly volunteers. Around 250 social workers and elders attended the Symposium.

Latest position

4. Funding application for NAAP 2011 closed on 23 September 2011. By the deadline, 61 elderly centres submitted applications to organise a total of 70 projects throughout Hong Kong. The Working Group on Active Ageing under the EC will meet in October 2011 to consider the applications. Approved projects will be implemented from early 2012 to early 2014.

**Elderly Commission Secretariat
October 2011**

**Progress Report of the New Family-related Initiatives
of the Women's Commission**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the progress of implementing the new family-related initiatives by the Women's Commission (WoC) in promoting the spirit of equal sharing of family responsibilities, which subscribe to the common theme of "Sharing family responsibilities in love and filial piety"(人人就位 孝愛互傳).

PROGRESS

2. WoC believes that equal sharing of family responsibilities between men and women would not only provide room for women to fully develop their potential, but also help build up harmonious families and society. In this respect, WoC has planned to develop a module in relation to gender equality at home and sharing of family responsibilities under the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) and launch publicity and public education programmes related to the theme.

Developing a module in CBMP

3. CBMP courses are currently offered by the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) through different modules with focuses on interpersonal relationships, health, personal finance and other practical issues in daily life. After carefully reviewing the modules, WoC considers that the message of gender equality at home and equal sharing of family responsibilities can be suitably incorporated into the existing module of "共建和諧家庭", which is a popular module with a relatively high subscription rate. Under this module, relevant message including, for example, the importance of gender equality, benefits of equal sharing of responsibilities among family members, as well as techniques to effectively

encourage equal sharing of responsibilities among family members, etc, would be incorporated into different existing and new courses. Taking into account the preparation time required, relevant courses with the desired theme will be available starting from the 2012-13 academic year. Detailed course materials will be developed by OUHK with the assistance of the Family Council as appropriate.

4. In addition, WoC will collaborate with OUHK in organising activities on equal sharing of family responsibilities during semester breaks. Experts on family relationships would be invited to conduct sharing with CBMP students and alumni.

Public education and publicity

5. On public education and publicity activities to enhance public awareness of the importance of equal sharing of family responsibilities, as well as the community's appreciation for the contributions made by women towards families, WoC has worked with Radio Television of Hong Kong to produce a television drama series, *Women with Dreams IV*. The series aim to portray the common experiences of Hong Kong women across different age groups in the 21st century. In particular, two episodes featuring husband and wife taking up different roles in a family are included, with a view to stimulating the audience to reflect upon the problem of gender stereotype at home and the effects of an unhealthy distribution of family responsibilities on men and women. The TV series will be launched from October to December 2011.

6. Moreover, we will publish a series of newspaper articles to echo the topics of the TV series. Two articles on themes related to equal sharing of family responsibilities have been arranged so as to stimulate public discussion of the issue.

**Women's Commission Secretariat
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