

**For meeting on
4 July 2011**

Paper FC 8/2011

Family Council

Family Perspectives in the Policies of the Home Affairs Bureau

Introduction

Family policy, sets out at **Annex A**, is to recognize and promulgate that the family is the cornerstone of our society. This paper briefs Members on how the family perspective has been taken into consideration in the formulation of civic/public education and youth development policies; as well as culture and sports policies under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau (“HAB”).

Civic/Public Education and Youth Development Policies

2. Amongst others, the major responsibilities of HAB are to foster a caring culture in society, promote civic education and national education, social harmony and youth development. Recognizing that family plays a pivotal role in the healthy development of young people, additional resources of \$10 million has been provided for the 10 subvented youth uniformed groups (“UGs”) to enhance their effort in promoting pro-family values among youngsters and their parents. With the new resources, the UGs are capable of launching new programmes that would enhance communication and understanding among family members under the banner of “Happy Family Campaign”. Through the series of activities ranging from family outing and exchange, education workshops to family day performance, to name a few, family harmony is enhanced through mutual appreciation and expression of love towards each other. With the love for youngsters reinforced in the family context, youngsters would become more capable of loving others in the society, planting seeds for a society with mutual love and respect. A list of activities planned or organized by the UGs in 2011-2012 is at **Annex B**.

3. Apart from the UGs, the Commission on Youth also promotes family harmony through its territory-wide activities and those organized in the districts. One of these would be the territory-wide football competition for youths cum carnival to be held in October 2011. The competition and carnival welcome families to participate. Booths promoting family harmony would be set up. Games that provide an opportunity for family members to participate together would also be arranged.

4. Many of the core values that we cherish point to a common root, which is love. The theme adopted by the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education for 2011-2012, namely “Cherish yourself and your family. Love Hong Kong and your country” (“愛自己 • 愛家人 • 愛香港 • 愛國家”) uses love as the common anchor in promoting core values which has the effect of promoting family harmony. Many programmes sponsored under the scheme have put particular emphasis on promoting love for family. Such examples are at **Annex C** for reference.

5. The 18 District Offices under the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) also play an important role in helping to foster family harmony and family core values through various civic/public education and community programmes/activities.

6. HAB, as the licensing authority for horse race betting in Hong Kong, has urged the licensee, namely the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) to take into consideration its social responsibility of promoting family culture when drawing up its schedule for local race meetings. We encourage the Club to arrange weekend race days on more Saturdays instead of Sundays, and to avoid arranging local race meetings on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day in order to facilitate greater opportunities for family gatherings on conventional family days.

7. Since 2009, we have launched the Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme to provide sponsorship to community organizations to organize public education projects/activities to prevent and alleviate gambling-related problems. Starting from 2010, priority was given to projects with families as the target audience.

8. Last but not least, in respect of support for new arrivals from the Mainland who settled in Hong Kong to re-unite with their family members, HAD publishes the “Service Handbook for New Arrivals” and

provides adaptation courses to facilitate their understanding of Hong Kong and early integration into local life. HAD will ensure that the above services suit the needs of the new arrivals.

Culture and sports policies

9. HAB is responsible for formulating policies and programmes on culture, the arts as well as further development of sports in Hong Kong. In the course of formulating related policies, services and programmes, HAB is always mindful to take family perspectives into account.

Public Museums

10. Considerations have been given to the application of family perspectives in provision of public museum services with a view to creating a pro-family environment. Public museums organize a wide range of exhibitions and activities throughout the year, such as “River of Wisdom – Animated Version of the Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival” held in October 2010 and “Pixar: 25 Years of Animation”. On every Sunday, the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware organizes “Sunday Heritage Activity for Family: Flagstaff House through the Ages”. Hong Kong Museums of Arts has been organizing a variety of Family Workshops throughout the year which is fee-charging and usually associated with the thematic exhibitions. “The Kids’ Lab” at the Science Museums, “Astro-Marine Summer Tour” and “The World under Lens” at the Space Museum are activities encouraging family participation. Public museums will continue to enhance its exhibition programmes and organize extension activities to further promote a pro-family environment.

Public Libraries

11. The Hong Kong Public Libraries of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department aims to provide free public library services for all walks of life and ages, to meet the community’s needs for information, lifelong learning, research and the profitable use of leisure , and to promote reading and literary arts in Hong Kong.

12. Both new and renovated libraries are enhanced in the design of physical environment and space to provide comfortable reading area and picture book corners so as to incubate reading interests and facilitate family reading. Public libraries also organize a balanced mix of activities throughout the year as an integral part of library services. Library activities such as storytelling programmes, book displays, exhibitions and subject talks are designed for different age groups including families. Examples including the “Reading Programme for Children and Youth”, “4.23 World Book Day” and “Family Reading Clubs” are reading-related activities with family perspectives. Hong Kong Public Libraries will continue to enhance provision and organize outreach programmes to enhance/reinforce family value, members’ relationship as well as communication amongst family members.

Sports and Recreation

13. In organizing sports and recreation programmes, Leisure and Cultural Services Department is always mindful of the importance of applying family perspectives and enhancing family participation. It has been organizing tailor-made physical and sports activities for parents and children to participate. Since August 2010, LSCD has launched a series of parent-child activities, including badminton, social dance and ultimate for family participation.

Secretariat Support for Family Council

14. HAB provides secretariat support to the Family Council. In support of the work of the Family Council, HAB continues to help promulgate family core values, and to foster a pro-family environment through the “Happy Family Campaign” and the “Happy Family Info Hub” as well as other programmes. As the programmes are organized under the auspices of the Family Council, they are not detailed in this paper.

Advice sought

15. Members are invited to note how the family perspectives have been taken into consideration in the policies, services and programmes under HAB.

**Family Council Secretariat
June 2011**

Family Policy in Hong Kong

The fundamental principle of HKSAR's family policy, as evident in past Policy Addresses, is to recognize and promulgate that the family is the cornerstone of our society. The objective of our family policy is to enhance family harmony with a view to building a harmonious community and alleviating social problems. This objective may be further elaborated as promoting family core values, engendering a culture of loving families and creating/supporting a general pro-family environment. The objective of our family policy is to be manifested in different policy areas which take into account the family perspectives. These policies together help address the multifarious needs of families. To achieve the objective of the family policy, the key policy measures adopted by the government include the following –

- (a) Setting up of the Family Council to provide a cross-sector and cross-bureau platform to study and address family-related problems with a view to providing high-level steer and advice, and fostering effective coordination and collaboration;
- (b) Fostering cross-sector and cross-bureau collaboration to maximize efforts and achieve synergy; and
- (c) Inspiring policy makers to take into account “family factors” in the policy formulation process.

2. With the setting up of Family Council, a set of family core values have been identified to provide the pillar for reference in the formulation of strategies and policies on family-related matters. The Family Council has been actively promoting these family core values. Policy-makers are requested to pay due regard to possible implications their policies may have to the family, and they should in their respective policy and service areas help create, support and sustain a pro-family environment.

Annex B

Family-related activities planned/ organized by UGs in 2011-12 (as at May 2011)

Serial No.	Uniformed Group	Project Title
1	HK Red Cross	「從家開始」@紅十字青少年綜合計劃
2		愛家、愛校、愛自己
3		「家+紅十字@東九龍」 青年社區服務體驗計劃
4		全家出動，推動志願服務精神
5		『家』不歧視—愛滋病
6		家 team 新力量
7		世界精神健康日-開心家庭工作坊暨社區服務
8		"家" 年華
9	HK Sea Cadet Corps	開心家庭運動 - 家·添愛
10	HK Adventure Corps	香港少年領袖團開心家庭運動
11	HK Air Cadet Corps	開心家庭運動 - "飛"仔"飛"女一家親
12	St John Ambulance Brigade	關愛家人急先鋒計劃(延續篇)
13	Boys' Brigade, HK	「愛·家庭」運動
14	Girls' Brigade, HK	長幼有序·關愛無限
15		愛無限·「家」力量嘉年華會
16		「一家人·自然愛多 d!」系列
17		愛家庭·自然樂
18		『愛的橋樑』服務實踐
19		存文字·送愛意

Examples of projects sponsored under the Community Participation Scheme 2011-12 with family theme

	Activities	Name of Organisations
1.	《凝聚·愛·力量》慧妍大使計劃	工聯會元朗地區服務處 慧妍社
2.	第二十屆香港兒童金口獎比賽	北區青年商會有限公司
3.	這裡是我家 (Hong Kong Is My Home)	匡智會
4.	行愛彰義－全方位關愛行動	勞聯智康協會有限公司 長沙灣麗閣邨地區服務中心
5.	愛·無限社區關懷計劃	香港中華基督教青年會 佐敦會所
6.	「熱熾傳城」譜愛計劃	香港青少年發展聯會有限公司
7.	「我的夢想·我的舞台」兩岸四地青年學生夢想追逐賽	香港青年交流促進聯會有限公司
8.	義路由我創－青動關愛大使計劃	香港青年動力協會有限公司
9.	青聯賢慧愛家日	香港青年聯會有限公司
10.	愛在社區·發放義彩：義工培訓及服務計劃	香港紅十字會 青年及義工事務部新界西總部
11.	一家一「寶」返嚟喇	香港基督教女青年會 秀群松柏社區服務中心
12.	「愛己·愛家·愛港」義工關愛行動	香港基督教女青年會 沙田綜合社會服務處
13.	家庭"童"起動	香港基督教協基會有限公司 沙田家長資源中心
14.	「責任與承擔」道德及公民教育推廣計劃	柴灣區街坊福利會有限公司 漁灣綜合服務中心
15.	「CARE」小記者之「童心愛社區」計劃	基督教香港信義會 屯門青少年綜合服務中心

	Activities	Name of Organisations
16.	愛國愛家心連心	基督教香港崇真會社會服務有限公司 福康長者中心
17.	『家+有愛』活動計劃	基督教聯合醫務協會 基督教聯合那打素社康服務倡健學校計劃
18.	「耆義·綠洲」	救世軍 大窩口長者中心
19.	葵青「綠壯士」生命教育推廣計劃	救世軍 大窩口青少年中心
20.	「家·國」濃情顯關懷計劃	新界社團聯會婦女中心有限公司
21.	「愛伴同行·推己及人」公民教育系列活動	新界青年聯會
22.	「同牽手 讓愛點亮生命」	聖保祿天主教小學
23.	「家在香港」社會服務計劃	瑪利諾修院學校 中學部