

**For meeting on  
26 October 2010**

**Paper FC 7(1)/2010**

## **Family Council**

### **Initiatives in the 2010-11 Policy Address with Family Implications**

#### **Introduction**

This paper invites Members' views on initiatives which feature in the Chief Executive's 2010-11 Policy Address and the Policy Agenda booklet, in the sections relevant to Family Harmony, Population Policy Review, Ageing Population, Women's Issues, Youth Development, Child Care and Housing as summarized below. Whilst the section on Family Harmony summarizes the work of the Family Council which directly relate to promotion of family core values, the implementation of other initiatives also has an impact on families and relevant policy bureaux will be invited to take into account family perspectives in the formulation and launching of these initiatives.

#### **Family Harmony** (*paragraph 145 of the Policy Address refers*)

2. The Family Council conducted a series of studies on social problems. To tackle these problems, we have to start from the family and adopt a multi-pronged approach. The Family Council will organize a series of family education activities, and continue to actively mobilize all sectors of the community through the "Happy Family Campaign" and "Happy Family Info Hub" to jointly promote family core values and foster an environment conducive to harmonious family relationships. It will launch a "Family Friendly Company Award Scheme" to recognize family friendly companies, with a view to encouraging the business sector to promote family core values.

#### **Population Policy Review** (*Paragraph 69 of the Public Address refers*)

3. The Steering Committee on Population Policy has been closely monitoring the latest population projections and co-ordinating the efforts of

various bureaux to formulate related measures. The Chief Executive has tasked the Committee to focus its study on two topics. First, it will examine ways to facilitate and support our elderly people to settle in the Mainland after retirement if they so wish. Second, the approximately 30 000 children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women annually in recent years are Hong Kong permanent residents, although most of them live in the Mainland after birth. The Committee will study in detail the ramifications of these children returning to Hong Kong to study and live.

**Ageing Population** (*Paragraphs 65 to 74 of the Policy Address and relevant bullets in the Policy Agenda booklet refer*)

4. The population aged 65 or above is expected to surge from about 900 000 at present to 2.1 million by 2030. This increase will be equal to 90% of the net increase in total population over the same period. The rapidly ageing population will bring challenges to the elderly services.

5. In the short to medium term, the Government will increase the supply of various subsidized elderly care services to cope with a surging elderly population and will jointly examine with the Elderly Commission how new thinking may be applied to map out the service and financing modes for elderly care in the future, including ways to enhance support for elderly people to age at home. In the long term, the Government will study from the perspective of regional integration ways to assist people who wish to retire in the Mainland. Other new initiatives includes the following-

- Increase the provision of subsidized places in existing and new residential care homes for elderly (RCHEs)
- Provide additional higher-quality subsidized places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme
- Fully implement the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients and provide additional subsidized home care and day care places for the elderly
- Enhance the support for demented elders by providing or increasing relevant supplements for subsidized RCHEs and day care centres/units for the elderly
- Relax the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong for Old Age Allowance, so that recipients can receive a full-year allowance if they reside in Hong Kong for no less than 60 days a year.

**Women's Issues** (*relevant bullets in the Policy Agenda booklet refer*)

6. In so far as women's issues are concerned, the Government will continue to provide support to the Women's Commission in promoting the interests and well-being of women through the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women, including the Capacity Building Mileage Programme, and public education. Besides, the Government will continue to apply the Gender Mainstreaming Checklist in different policy areas progressively and work with the Women's Commission to further promote gender mainstreaming.

**Youth Development** (*Paragraph 140 of the Policy Address and relevant bullets in the Policy Agenda booklet refer*)

7. The Government plans to form a "Service Corps" in the coming year to recruit and provide financial support for senior secondary school leavers, tertiary students and working youths aged between 18 and 29 to serve in underprivileged areas in the Mainland for 6 to 12 months by providing training on, for example, education, hygiene and environmental protection. Other new policy initiatives are in the pipeline-

- Enhance support to youth development activities, including enhancing district network of the Commission on Youth with a view to helping youths cultivate a positive approach to life and fulfill civic duties
- Enhance communication with youths and encourage them to participate in community affairs, including organizing more exchange sessions with them

**Child Care** (*Paragraphs 90 and 91 of the Policy Address refer*)

8. The Government will further enhance the child care services and support for families and children in need by regularizing the pilot Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project and extending its geographical coverage to all 18 districts. Besides, the Government plans to extend the Comprehensive Child Development Service (the identification of pregnant

women, mothers and children in need, and their referrals to suitable health or welfare service units for follow-up and support services) to all 18 districts.

**Housing** (*Paragraphs 25 to 29 of the Policy Address refer*)

9. The Government will, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Housing Society, introduce an enhanced scheme of subsidized housing known as the “My Home Purchase Plan”. Under this plan, the Government will provide land for the Hong Kong Housing Society to build no-frills small and medium flats for lease to eligible applicants at prevailing market rent. Within a specified time frame, tenants of the plan may purchase the flat they rent or another flat under the plan at prevailing market price, or a flat in the private market. The plan reflects Hong Kong people’s spirit of self-reliance by enabling them to make their home purchase wish come true in a practical and step-by-step manner.

**Advice Sought**

10. Members are invited to give views on the consideration of family perspectives in implementation of the above initiatives, in particular on the ways to facilitate and support the elderly people and the ramifications of the children born in Hong Kong by Mainland women in the context of the population policy review.

Family Council Secretariat  
October 2010