

Family Council

**Health Promoting School Programme
of the Department of Health**

PURPOSE

This paper provides background information to facilitate Members' discussion of the presentation to be made by the Department of Health (DH) on Health Promoting School (HPS) Programme.

BACKGROUND

2. HPS is a concept promulgated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which aims to strengthen a school's capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working through a concerted effort of all its members and the community. The Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion (CHEHP) of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has been promoting HPS in Hong Kong and found the HPS could improve students' health and promote quality school development.

3. According to the WHO's suggestions, the HPS framework covers six key factors, namely healthy school polices, a school's physical environment, a school's social environment, community links, action competencies for healthy living, and school health care and promotion services. In the DH's pilot Programme, mental health, psychosocial health, physical activity and healthy eating are the four priority areas for the schools to promote the health and well-being of the students and school personnel under the HPS framework.

4. The Government in 2018 announced the "Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Hong Kong" to reduce the burden of NCDs on society, in which the transformation of schools into HPSs was one of the new strategic directions. The Mental Health Review Report announced by the Food and Health Bureau in 2017 also recommended exploring the feasibility of adopting the HPS model

in Hong Kong, with a view to building a more caring and supportive environment where school-aged children and adolescents can learn, grow and flourish.

5. In May 2018, the DH set up a Working Group on Health Promoting School comprising representatives from the DH, the Education Bureau and CHEHP of CUHK, as well as school principals and parents to explore the feasibility of extending HPS framework in Hong Kong.

6. The DH has invited 30 schools, including 18 primary, 11 secondary and one secondary-cum-primary school to participate in the pilot HPS Programme in 2019/2020 and 2020/21 school years.

7. The DH has developed a checklist for the participating schools to conduct regular self-assessments and review their health promotion measures in a systematic manner. The self-assessments will help the schools set priorities according to their specific circumstances and students' health needs, and develop school-based strategies and action plans on health development. The DH will provide professional support to help these schools to become HPSs.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to note the content of DH's presentation and provide views on the HPS Programme.

**Family & Student Health Branch
Department of Health
December 2019**