

Family Council

Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the progress of work of the two Sub-committees under the Family Council (“the Council”).

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF FAMILY CORE VALUES AND FAMILY EDUCATION

2. The Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education (“the Promotion Sub-committee”) met on 7 November 2017 to discuss the publicity plan and family education package for 2018-19.

2018-19 Publicity Plan

3. The Promotion Sub-committee agreed that the 2018-19 publicity plan should aim to expand the base of the Council’s followers on social media so as to build up the Council’s reach-out capability in the longer run. It endorsed that the 2018-19 publicity plan should comprise the following–

- (a) launching, in collaboration with the Radio Television Hong Kong, a territory-wide publicity campaign that comprises a publicity event with no less than 200 participants in May 2018, radio programmes and video programmes throughout the year and tailor made workshops for family audience during the summer holiday period;
- (b) launching in the last quarter of 2018 a revamped website and facebook page of the Council which would be featured by a specially-designed icon with a view to disseminating the Council’s image in a lively manner;

- (c) collaboration with various social enterprises in organising tailor-made family activities as gifts for game posts launched in the Council's facebook page; and
- (d) production of a new family education package, with the aid of four-panel comics on the Council's facebook page if feasible, for launching in the last quarter of 2018.

4. As various publicity platforms are covered by the publicity plan, the Promotion Sub-committee agreed to reinforce the family core value of "Communication and Harmony" as the theme of the publicity campaign in 2018-19 and the preliminary thought of slogan would be "從心出發 全家合拍".

Family Education Package

5. The Promotion Sub-committee agreed to produce a new set of education package on the family core value of "communication and harmony" which would comprise a series of eight to ten episodes on communication problems encountered by family members in different scenarios. The stories should cover different family relationships other than the nuclear families with reference to the latest demographic situation, e.g. single-parent families cross-border families, ethical minority families. Stories in relation to inter-generation communication, extended family relationship and support to family carers are preferred. Moreover, the messages to be conveyed may cover the "dos and don'ts" in communicating with family members by social media, the art of thinking in the shoes of others, etc.

6. The education package is planned to be launched in the last quarter of 2018 and the Promotion Sub-committee will work out the social media publicity plan for the package in due course.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FAMILY SUPPORT

7. The Sub-committee on Family Support ("the Support Sub-committee") met on 16 November 2017 to review the progress of two successful projects under the 2016-17 Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives and progress of the proposed "Further In-Depth Study on Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong".

2016-17 “Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives” (2016-17 Pilot Scheme)

8. With a view to creating a pro-family environment and supporting family-related initiatives, the Support Sub-committee agreed at its meeting on 17 November 2015 to launch a two-year pilot scheme to provide one-off sponsorship to registered organisations, statutory bodies or recognised community organisations to support non-profit making and worthwhile family-related initiatives. The Home Affairs Bureau has set aside a total of \$6 million (i.e. \$3 million per year) for the Pilot Scheme. The themes for the 2016-17 Pilot Scheme are “Parent Education” and “Divorce Education”, and a total of four projects were approved for sponsorship totaling \$2.97 million. Commenced in November 2016, the projects had run for around one year and two of the sponsored organisations, i.e. Hong Kong Family Welfare Society and the Society for Truth and Light and Missionary Alliance Church group based Kei Yum Family Service Centre, presented the progress of their respective projects “Sweet Home Sweet Child - Child Parent Relationship Enhancement Project”¹ and “Lifelong Parenthood: One More Step for Children after Divorce”² at the Support Sub-committee’s meeting on 16 November 2017.

9. Members noted that both organisations had exceeded their performance targets and received positive responses to their programmes. There were discussions on the way forward in consolidating their successful experience for sharing with other service providers.

Update on the Further In-depth Study on Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong (Divorce Study)

10. Since the Support Sub-committee endorsed the framework of the Divorce Study at its 27th meeting on 15 March 2017, there have been new development in matrimonial and family matters such as the signing of the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Civil Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases by the Courts of the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region between Hong Kong and the Mainland on 20 June 2017. Besides, the Council Secretariat has collected views of different

¹ The project promotes Child Parent Relationship Therapy by training parents to be the therapeutic agents for their children. They will be equipped with the knowledge and skills of child-centred play therapy to conduct play sessions with their children where they could experience a more intimate parent-child relationship and better understand their children’s inner feelings and needs.

² The project includes provision of counselling services and peer groups for couples to support their emotional, social and financial needs. Support to divorcees’ children, include counselling services which are available by referral and short videos to help them tackle their emotional needs. There are workshops and talks for students to reinforce the concept of family and marriage and encourage them to support friends who undergo family difficulties. Besides, the project organises public education programmes to raise public awareness.

stakeholders and government bureau/departments on the scope of the study. Based on the comments received, the proposed scope and framework of the Divorce Study have been refined. The major amendments, as endorsed by the Support Sub-committee, are –

- (a) in addition to that of the United Kingdoms, the consultant is invited to consider conducting literature review on the system of recovery of maintenance payments and enforcement of maintenance orders in other overseas jurisdictions, including USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Norway, Sweden and Singapore as appropriate;
- (b) the consultant is required to conduct analysis on the following –
 - difficulties faced by maintenance payees of different demographic and social economic background;
 - the phenomenon of nominal maintenance of \$1; and
 - the critical factors that encourage timely and responsible compliance of maintenance orders; and
- (c) the consultant is required to engage divorced families of different demographic and socio-economic background, divorcees who do not apply for maintenance order or opt for nominal maintenance of \$1 and Judges of Family Courts when conducting surveys, consultative interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholders.

11. Invitation of quotations for the Divorce Study would be issued within December 2017 with a view to commissioning the consultancy study in the first quarter of 2018. A Working Group to be chaired by the Council Chairman will be formed to monitor the progress of the study.

ADVICE SOUGHT

12. Members are invited to note the progress of the Sub-committees. The Sub-committees will continue to oversee their respective programmes and activities. Members are welcome to convey their comments and suggestions to the Secretariat.

**Family Council Secretariat
December 2017**