

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 6 June 2019 to discuss the progress of the Inter-school Colouring Competition for Kindergarten Students and the Picture Composition Competition for Primary School Students (the Competitions) as well as the framework of 2019/20 Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme.

Inter-school Colouring Competition for Kindergarten Students and Picture Composition Competition for Primary School Students

3. To encourage parent-child interaction and promote the family core value of “Love and Care” to kindergarten and primary school students and their parents, the Promotion Sub-committee endorsed the organisation of the Competitions. The Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education and Services (HKCECES) is the implementation agent of the Competitions and has invited a total of 1,038 kindergartens and 545 primary schools to join the Competitions and submit their entries within the enrolment period from 15 May 2019 to 14 July 2019.

4. The Promotion Sub-committee noted through the presentation made by the HKCECES the progress and publicity plan of the Competitions at its meeting held on 6 June 2019 and that the HKCECES has been promoting the

Competitions through various means, including releases of promotional materials at different printed and social media and intensive follow-up with schools. To further boost the number of entries for the Competitions, the Promotion Sub-committee suggested sending a certain number of hard copies of the colouring and composition writing sheets to the schools so as to facilitate their distribution to students for completion. The HKCECES has committed to follow up on this accordingly.

2019/20 Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme

5. The Council has been organising the biennial Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme (Award Scheme) since 2011. In view of the encouraging responses from companies, organisations and government bureaux/departments to join the previous Award Schemes, it is planned to launch the fifth Award Scheme in late 2019.

6. The proposed framework of the 2019/20 Award Scheme, including the composition of the Organising Committee, adjudication, types of awards, publicity arrangements and workplan was discussed at the meeting of the Promotion Sub-committee held on 6 June 2019. While the Promotion Sub-committee agreed with the proposed framework of the 2019/20 Award Scheme which was more or less the same as the framework of the last Award Scheme held in 2017/18 as well as the launch of the 2019/20 Award Scheme at the publicity event-cum-award presentation ceremony for the Competitions tentatively scheduled for November 2019, it considered that the existing outreaching measures should continue to encourage participation by different sectors, in particular those Small and Medium Enterprises. The Promotion Sub-committee also recommended media interviews of the awardees to maximise the publicity impact of the Award Scheme.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FAMILY SUPPORT

7. The Sub-committee on Family Support (the Support Sub-committee) met on 30 May 2019 to discuss the commission of a Consolidation Exercise of the findings of Family Surveys conducted since 2011, and the implementation of two sponsored projects under the 2017-18 Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives.

Consolidation Exercise for Family Surveys

8. The Council first conducted the Family Survey (the Survey) in 2011 with a sample size of 2,000 respondents and agreed at its meeting on June 2012 to carry out similar surveys on a biennial basis to keep track of the changes and development of Hong Kong families in terms of family structures, attitudes and values, etc. Up to present, a total of four Surveys were conducted, including the second Survey in 2013 with the same sample size of 2,000 respondents, the third Survey in 2015 with an increased sample size of 3,000 respondents, and the fourth Survey in 2017 with a sample size of some 3,000 respondents. While it was intended to increase the targeted number of respondents of the 2017 Survey to 4,000 in order to cope with the expanded scope and to facilitate in-depth analysis, only 3,027 respondents were successfully interviewed which represented a response rate of 57%, i.e. the lowest among the four Surveys. Coupled with the demand for data on specific areas arising from structural changes and new development in the society, it is considered opportune to wrap up the findings of the previous Surveys and to consider the suitable way forward for future family surveys.

9. The Support Sub-committee endorsed commissioning a Consolidation Exercise of the Surveys conducted since 2011 and discussed the proposed objectives, scope, work plan and deliverables of the Consolidation Exercise during its meeting on 30 May 2019. As agreed, the objectives of the Consolidation Exercise are to –

- (a) conduct in-depth comparisons and analyses of the raw data collected in the four Surveys conducted in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 in order to ascertain the attitude of respondents on various aspects of family over the years;
- (b) identify any trends, observations (including limitations and gaps) and findings from the previous four Surveys; and
- (c) provide clear and practical recommendations on how future Surveys should be positioned and conducted.

The Council Secretariat will invite proposals in the second half of 2019 with a view to commissioning the Exercise by end 2019 tentatively. The Exercise will be completed in 6 months and the final report is expected to be ready by mid-2020.

2017-18 Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives

10. 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. For the 2017-18 Pilot Scheme with the themes of “Step and Split Families” and “Support for Carers”, four projects were approved and three of them had been completed in April 2019. The remaining one would be completed in June 2019.

11. The Support Sub-committee noted through the presentations made by Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council and The Society for Truth and Light at its meeting held on 30 May 2019 that the projects done by these two sponsored organisations had achieved the objectives of understanding better the inner feelings and needs of parents as well as children of step and split families. The Support Sub-committee considered that the services covered by the projects, such as counselling services and training workshops were helpful to users. The results of the research conducted should also be more widely disseminated through various channels so as to raise public awareness on the needs of step and split families.

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
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