Minutes of the 48th Meeting of The Committee on Services for Youth at Risk (CSYR)

Date: 28 July 2022 (Thursday)

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room 918, 9/F, Wu Chung House,

213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Mr KOK Che-leung, (on behalf of Mr Gordon Leung, JP)

(on behan of wir Gordon Leding, 31)

Social Welfare Department

Mr TO Wing-hang, Edward, JP

Education Bureau

(Vice-chairperson)

(Chairperson)

Mr LEUNG Ka-lok, Sammy Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Miss WONG Tsz-ning, Tiana Security Bureau

Ms WONG Siu-ing, Ivy Education Bureau

Ms TSANG Shuk-yin, Karen Hong Kong Police Force

Dr CHUNG Wai-hung, Thomas Department of Health

Mr CHAN Wing-kin Action Committee Against Narcotics

Mr FONG Yick-jin, Eugene Committee on Home-School Co-operation

Mr TSO Tat-ming Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council

Ms YIU Kit-ling, Karen
The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr CHEUNG Tat-cheong St. James' Settlement

Ms HSU Siu-man Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups

Ms HUI Wah-ying. Joelle S.K.H. All Saints' Middle School

Miss NGAN Tsz-ching, Bridget Youth Representative

Mr WONG Kwok-chun, Alex Social Welfare Department

Miss Miss CHOW Yuet-ming, Mina Social Welfare Department

Mr Ricky CHUN Wai-kwong, Ricky Social Welfare Department

(Secretary)

In-attendance (for Agenda Item 3 only)

Mr CHAU Yui-chi, Eugene Hong Kong Children & Youth Services

Ms YEUNG Lai-lai, Lily Hong Kong Children & Youth Services

Mr CHAN Wai-leung, Charlie Caritas - Hong Kong

Ms WONG Ching-yi Caritas - Hong Kong

In-attendance (for Agenda Item 4 only)

Ms WONG Yuen-yung, Belinda Security Bureau

Mr CHAN Pak-lam, Ashley Security Bureau

Dr LI Yeuk-goat, Billy Security Bureau

Miss Winnie ZHENG Security Bureau

In-attendance

Mrs Fanny CHEUNG Social Welfare Department

Ms Blanche POON Social Welfare Department

Ms Fanny LO Social Welfare Department

Ms May TANG Social Welfare Department

Absent with apology

Ms CHENG Kin-ying, Jeanne Labour and Welfare Bureau

Professor Victor WONG Hong Kong Baptist University

Welcoming Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed all members to join the meeting and in particular, those who joined the meeting for the first time.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the last meeting was confirmed with no amendment.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Re: Para. 5-10 Child Development Fund (CDF)

3. <u>Miss Mina CHOW</u> updated Members that more than 25 000 underprivileged children had benefitted from CDF projects. They came from nine batches of altogether 200 projects run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with beneficiaries over 20 700 children, as well as eight batches of altogether 88 school-based projects with beneficiaries over 4 700 children. Invitation for application of the ninth batch of CDF school-based Projects was launched in April 2022. 24 applications from 30 schools, which was the highest number of applications among nine batches, were received upon closing in June 2022. Among the 24 applications, 18 applications (75%) from 24 schools including five joint applications, were new to CDF. Vetting of applications was completed in mid-July 2022, and SWD targeted to announce the

results in August 2022 so that successful applicant schools could recruit CDF participants in September 2022 and the projects could commence in December 2022.

Re: Para. 11-23 Review of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs)

- 4. <u>Miss Mina CHOW</u> reported that upon the completion of last service review of ICYSC in 2018, the new Funding and Service Agreement (FSA) had been implemented with effect from 1 April 2018. The last service review was a cost-neutral administrative review on service objectives, strategies, target users (included special target group and affiliated family membership) and performance standards in the FSA for meeting the changing needs of contemporary children and youth (i.e. aged 6 to 24). It was planned to revisit the review after one year of implementation.
- 5. Owing to the outbreak of pandemic since early 2020, the welfare services were scaled down intermittently. The service review of ICYSC initially scheduled in the year of 2019-20 had to be rescheduled. Some projects initiated by Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT), such as YouthCreate (2017-21), LevelMind (2019-24) and 21st Century ICYSC (2022-26) were implemented in some ICYSCs. The project of 21st Century ICYSC would involve over 36 ICYSCs (about 25% of the total number). The service review of ICYSC would be conducted at a later stage upon the projects of HKJCCT completed while the effectiveness / impact on future service development would be evaluated. It was worthy to take reference from outcome of the projects before conducting the review.

Re: Para. 24-34 – Cyber Youth Support Team (CYST)

6. <u>The Chairperson</u> remarked that CYST would be discussed under agenda item 3 with Paper CSYR 1/2022 and invited representatives of operating organisations to join the meeting at this juncture.

(Mr CHAU Yui-chi, Eugene (周裔智先生), Social Services Coordinator, and Ms YEUNG Lai-lai, Lily (楊麗麗女士), Team Leader of CYST (NTE) of the Hong Kong Children and Youth Services (HKCYS); and Mr CHAN Wai-leung, Charlie (陳偉良先生), Service Head, Youth and Community Service, and Ms WONG Ching-yi (黃靜怡女士), Social Work Supervisor of Caritas Infinity Teens – CYST(EK), Caritas – Hong Kong, together with Ms Blanche POON, S(Y)5, joined the meeting at this juncture.)

Service Development and Collaboration: Cyber Youth Support Teams (CSYR Paper 1/2022)

7. As invited by the Chairperson, Miss Mina CHOW presented the paper of "Service Development and Collaboration: Cyber Youth Support Teams" (Paper CSYR 1/2022). SWD, after the successful implementation of the pilot projects, secured recurrent resources for subventing NGOs to operate five CYSTs serving five regional clusters including Hong Kong Island, East Kowloon, West Kowloon, New Territories East and New Territories West since December 2018 to address the problems and changing needs of contemporary youths, in particular vulnerable youth at-risk and

hidden youths, in the cyber world.

- 8. As revealed from the achievements of the five CYSTs in the past three years from April 2019 to March 2022, cyber outreaching was proved to be an effective means to reach out those at-risk/hidden youths while forming partnership, strategic alliance and cross-sectoral collaboration with other community stakeholders and organisations became a strategic approach to address the needs and problems of the atrisk and hidden youths.
- 9. For providing a better environment for service operation, SWD permitted CYSTs to rent premises in the private sector for service delivery. Starting from October 2021, SWD had also strengthened the supporting manpower of the five CYSTs so as to enable the social workers to have more time to provide professional services for the needy youths.
- 10. Three areas were to be explored for further service development, (1) how the online services could be integrated with offline services effectively to achieve greater synergy; (2) further strengthening the service networking and collaboration; and (3) advocating cyber wellness among children and youth as well as their parents on correct discernment of online information and beware of online strangers for avoiding their being fall prey to internet traps, such as "cyber bullying", "internet pornography", "internet gambling", etc.
- 11. <u>The Chairperson</u> invited <u>Mr Eugene CHAU</u> and <u>Ms Lily YEUNG</u> from HKCYS; and <u>Mr Charlie CHAN</u> and <u>Ms WONG Ching-yi</u> from Caritas to brief Members on the service content, local collaboration and service development of CYSTs.
- 12. Mr Charlie CHAN gave a brief introduction on the subject. Ms Lily YEUNG shared that all five CYSTs, under the impact of COVID-19 in recent years, had been working on the mental health issues through online and offline services. She highlighted the use of "Discord", a voice channel and instant messaging social platform, for the early identification and intervention when suicidal ideas were found online. She gave some examples of crisis intervention with strategic alliance and collaboration with other welfare services and highlighted the present ratio of online and offline services as 3:7. For service collaboration and development, Ms WONG Ching-yi shared different training activities for the community stakeholders including teachers, and partnership with various stakeholders such as ICYSCs, LevelMind@JC (賽馬會平行間計劃) and Open Up (Open 噏) which provided young people with round-the-clock online emotional support through the internet, social media and text messages. In the past two years, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and Caritas had developed a Messenger Bot (聊天機械人) with Facebook. She added that a Chinese version of "Chatsafe", brief assessment and message icons had been developed with Meta to provide support to teenagers to share or respond online on suicide-related content.
- 13. <u>Miss Bridget NGAN</u> enquired whether CYSTs would extend the online platform from Facebook to other social media such as Instagram (IG), as youth under 24 usually used Facebook for obtaining information while they used IG for sharing personal feelings and life. <u>Ms Lily YEUNG</u> responded that in these two months they

had just developed the use of IG for Messenger Bot and would strengthen the promotion of such development.

- 14. Mr Eugene FONG enquired if there were any difficulties encountered by CYSTs in service implementation. Mr Eugene CHAU responded that during the COVID-19 pandemic situations, the service demand was immense. He pointed out that to bridge the services from online to offline, social workers relied on the trust built up with the youth. There were also some concerns that social workers' personal information would be doxxed. As youth nowadays were active online round-the-clock, it was a challenge for social workers to serve them for day and night when CYSTs' services closed at 2:00a.m. Mr Charlie CHAN added that the service collaboration with other services such as the "Open Up" and ICYSCs was important.
- Mr Alex WONG shared that the needs for online services were recognised. CYSTs were originally planned to provide services by attachment to Centre. In view of the importance of providing both online and offline services, resources had been secured for CYST teams to rent appropriate premises. Three teams had rented private premises at commercial rent, while two teams were seeking appropriate sites. Besides, SWD was planning with the Hong Kong Jockey Club for a pilot scheme for more than 30 ICYSCs to identify and engage youth online with reference to the experiences and wisdoms of CYSTs. It was hoped that online services could be extended to all ICYSCs in the future.
- 16. Ms Karen YIU appreciated the rapid development of the services of CYST and SWD's policy to have expanded the number of service teams from three to five, as well as the resources for enhanced clerical support. She observed that the use of information technology (IT) to provide services was included in the revised Funding and Service Agreement for ICYSC since 2018. She raised the concern that when the project "Open Up" ended, there might not be any service after 2:00 a.m. Under COVID-19 epidemic situations, ICYSCs had made good use of IT and online means to provide services and might be further encouraged to have more interfaces with CYSTs, if the effort could be better measured to recognize it.
- 17. Mr Charlie CHAN supplemented that we should be proud of our online outreaching services and appreciated for SWD's foresight in setting up CYSTs. He shared that CYSTs were successful in engaging youth online. Among the service users, over 60% were aged 18 or above. They were referred to offline mainstream services, such as volunteer services, life planning, etc. Since the online population was big, the present outreaching effort would need to be strengthened and continue to be focused to serve those youth in need.
- Ms HSU Siu-man shared that her organisation was also a CYST operator. She observed that it was common among service operators to focus on mental health issues. She elaborated that cyber youth seemed to be more willing to reveal their feelings through online means. Hence, to connect those youth-at-risk identified online to receive offline services and to triage them to other appropriate services such as ICYSCs were important in the service development and collaboration for CYSTs to

achieve synergy.

- 19. Mr TSO Tat-ming agreed to SWD's direction to develop online services and was glad to know the service development of CYSTs over the years. He would like to obtain the latest information on the services for dissemination and promotion of the services to teachers and the needy youth. In addition, he shared his participation in the Advisory Committee on Mental Health and his concern over mental health issues of the youth. He would like to have the means such as hotline for relaying the youth-at-risk to appropriate services.
- 20. <u>Ms Lily YEUNG</u> responded that CYST(NTE) operated by HKCYS had organised groups and programmes, as well as promotion activities for school personnel and the Heads of Secondary Schools. Moreover, service information could be readily available from school social workers through the existing collaborative network. <u>Ms WONG Ching-yi</u> added that CYST(KE) operated by Caritas-HK had networked a list of schools in Kowloon East and sent out leaflets to the schools periodically for service promotion. To facilitate the youth to receive services, a button at the Messenger Bot was available for the youth to choose if they were ready to be approached by social workers. The service team was also planning for more tailor-made services such as information on hotline services to cater for those youth who did not choose to be approached by social workers.
- Mr Charlie CHAN shared that the sense of ownership and autonomy were crucial for youth to be active online. They could reach the information or services more efficiently via artificial intelligence online than hotline services. They could choose to quit the chat at any time without feeling embarrassed. To engage and motivate them to receive offline services, CYSTs was trying to build up the sense of ownership and autonomy for the youth in both the online and offline services which would optimise the mobilisation of community resources for the youth in need. Besides, Mr Eugene CHAU also supplemented that while there was general information available online for service users and parents, CYSTs were aware of the needs for developing specific services to cater for the cyber culture and youth's preferred social platforms for the social identities.
- Mr CHEUNG Tat-cheong, whose organisation was also a CYST operator, shared that the services of CYSTs particularly essential during the COVID-19 epidemic situations. He appreciated SWD's policy and the support from stakeholders including Members of the Meeting to the services of CYSTs. Regarding the mental health issues of the youth, he shared his observations that though the hidden youth were not engaged in education, employment and training, they were still active online. While the online population was huge, the five teams of CYST hardly had enough manpower in identifying and engaging the hidden youth with mental health problems and suicidal ideas. Besides, he pointed out that more parents had become active in seeking services online and suggested closer service collaboration with EDB and schools in providing services to the parents.
- 23. Ms Joelle HUI appreciated the services of CYSTs which were especially

important when schools were closed under the COVID-19 epidemic situations. She shared that students had spent more time online during the period of half-day schooling. Regarding service collaboration, school personnel and school social workers might share the burden of CYSTs to help organise ad hoc programmes and activities in schools, when a hot topic such as cyber bullying and emotional health issues were identified online. On the other hand, school might refer cases to CYSTs when necessary. For young parents who were more active online, school could also assist in organising parent work online.

- 24. <u>Dr Thomas CHUNG</u> considered that there might be referrals from Student Health Services to CYSTs, as online services would be preferred by students. He raised if referrals from Student Health Services would thin out the limited resources for the hidden youth.
- 25. <u>Mr Charlie CHAN</u> and <u>Ms ONG Ching-yi</u> responded that CYSTs welcomed referrals from schools and the Department of Health, as well as service collaboration with them. Information on correspondences of CYSTs could be sent to Members after the Meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The contact means of the five CYSTs were shared with Members via email on 15.08.2022).

- 26. Mr Eugene FONG appreciated SWD's idea to develop cyber youth support services and the five Teams' very good service collaboration. He shared that he would promote the service to the Committee on Home-School Cooperation. Regarding the integration of online and offline services, he raised the issues of personal data privacy in information sharing with schools.
- 27. <u>MsWONG Ching-yi</u> and <u>Ms Lily YEUNG</u> responded that online youth seeking help were concerned about privacy. Their consent would be sought for case checking to avoid overlapping of service provision among service teams. After a period of engagement, they would be encouraged to receive offline services, such as school social work service. However, some of them were worried that school social workers might inform their teachers or parents. Besides, some of them might worry about the stigmatisation of having an interview with the school social worker at school. In this connection, it might take some time to refer online youth to school social work service.
- 28. Mr Alex WONG appreciated the achievements of CYSTs in particular the identification and engagement of needy youth online, as well as building up trust with them for follow-up services. He considered that students could share their issues more comfortably online and therefore further promotion of the services could be conducted via online platforms. Besides, sharing of the services to potential partners such as schools could help further enhance the service collaboration.
- 29. <u>The Chairperson</u> appreciated the strenuous effort devoted to develop online services. He observed that provision of online services was not only an effective way to engage the youth, but also other service users. The epidemic situations had led to the development and wider use of online platforms as a new service mode. Other

than CYSTs, he expected that online services could be applied to other existing services. He looked forward to wider use of cyber means for cross-sector service collaboration to enable service integration and promotion of person-centered service approach.

- 30. Mr TSO Tat-ming shared about the cross-sector collaboration between schools and the Police, and the Education Bureau's policy under "Information Literacy" to help students handle bullying and internet traps. He elaborated that the Police had developed useful educational videos to facilitate teachers and students to understand recent crimes. Since the videos lasted for several minutes, they were feasible to be used in the morning assembly.
- 31. Ms Karen TSANG supplemented that although there was an overall decrease in crime rate, there was an increase for teenagers to be involved in internet crimes such as naked chat, compensated dating, criminal damages, scams and drug trafficking. Episodes of the anti-drug videos from Hong Kong Police Force were shared. She shared that there were nine teenagers aged around 13 to 14 in the past six months having been arrested for drug trafficking. The 14-year-old girl was sentenced to imprisionment for 17.5 years. The Commissioner of Police had met the Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools and the Parent-Teacher Associations of 18 districts, as well as 20 school sponsoring bodies for promotion of brief educational videos which would be implemented from August 2022. The Police had arranged production house for producing short videos of around one to 1.5 minutes with succinct and down-to-earth information to help prevent teenagers from violation of laws due to ignorance or misunderstanding.
- 32. <u>The Chairperson</u> appreciated the available opportunities for service collaboration and remarked that the next agenda item was related to drugs.

(Ms YEUNG and Mr CHAU of HKCYS and Ms WONG and Mr CHAN of Caritas-HK left the meeting at this juncture.)

(Ms Belinda WONG, Mr Ashley CHAN, Dr. Billy LI and Miss Winnie ZHENG of the Security Bureau, together with Mrs Fanny CHEUNG, SS(Y)2, joined the meeting at this juncture.)

Correct Understanding of Drug Harms (CSYR Paper 2/2022)

- 33. The Chairperson invited Mr Ricky CHUN to present the paper of "Correct Understanding of Drug Harms Service Collaboration for Youth-at-risk". Mr CHUN briefly reported some of the figures of the Central Registry of Drug Abuse. He also briefed a continuum of services for at-risk youths and young drug abusers, targeting to early identification and timely intervention to steer them back to the right course, with multi-disciplinary and cross-sector collaboration.
- 34. <u>The Chairperson</u> welcomed <u>Ms Belinda WONG</u>, <u>Mr Ashley CHAN</u>, <u>Dr Billy LI</u> and <u>Miss Winnie ZHENG</u> of the Security Bureau and invited them to brief Members on the topic. <u>Ms Belinda WONG</u> introduced the scope of their presentation and highlighted the strategic focus on preventive education and publicity, as well as the

proposed new provisions relating to cannabis in the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance.

- Mr Ashley CHAN shared that in 2021, 56% of the reported drug abusers were under 21 years old. The number of reported drug abusers reduced by around 50% from 11,106 in 2012 to 6,019 in 2021, but the number of reported drug abusers who were under 21 increased significantly from 477 in 2018 to 873 in 2021. The most common drug reported by first time drug abuser was cannabis. While other drugs such as heroin and "ice" were on the decreasing trend among reported drug abusers, cannabis was on a rising trend from 524 in 2019 to 994 in 2021, and cocaine was also observed to rise again from 727 in 2020 to 1074 in 2021. For persons arrested for drug offences in 2021, cannabis was the most common drug across all ages.
- Mr Ashley CHAN highlighted some observations from the "2020/21 Survey of Drug Use among Students". He raised that out of all age groups, the percentage of reported drug abusers aged under 10 increased from 1.2% in 2017/18 to 2.1% in 2020/21. Out of all the drug-taking students, around 60% reported that they took drugs at their own home or friends' home and around 86% of the drug-taking students reported that they had never sought help from others, as they did not think they were addicted. Besides, cannabis was reported as the most common type of drug taken among students.
- 37. Having pointed out the latest drug trends, Mr Ashley CHAN introduced the strategic direction for the preventive education and publicity plan (PE&P) including production of animated infographic videos, cooperation with key opinion leaders (KOL) to produce videos of anti-drug content, new logo, mascots and slogan, as well as antidrug television programme. He highlighted the help-seeking hotlines and instant messaging service and further introduced that the revamping of Hong Kong Drug InfoCentre to be completed in 2022 would have additional multi-media interactive facilities and features supported by HKJCCT to allow more modernised, digitallyconnected and appealing delivery of anti-drug education to the students, families and other members of the public. While schools remained as an important platform for PE&P, there were significant increase of schools participating in the Healthy School Programme (HSP) amounting to about 40% of the total number of schools in Hong Kong. Besides, he also shared the collaboration with other Government Departments such as the Police, as well as the community stakeholders through the Beat Drug Fund Regular Funding Scheme (BDF) projects for NGOs to achieve synergy in anti-drug efforts.
- 38. <u>Mr Ashley CHAN</u> shared that Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau (ND/SB) planned for legislative control of Cannabidiol (CBD). He further shared a video on the proposed legislative control on CBD and another one with KOLs delivering ways to say no to drugs. Lastly, he highlighted the slogan, "Let's Stand Firm. Knock Drugs Out!" and the IG of ND/SB for more information and resources. <u>Ms Belinda WONG</u> rounded up the presentation and welcomed feedback from Members.
- 39. <u>Mr Edward TO</u> appreciated the presentation and inquired about the number of drug-taking students identified and the distribution of these students among schools participating in the HSP.

- 40. <u>Ms Belinda WONG</u> responded that there were two sources of information on drug abuse in Hong Kong collected from self-report and kept in the Central Registry of Drug Abuse, as well as the Survey of Drug Use among Students conducted once every three years. She invited <u>Dr Billy LI</u> to analyse the findings and <u>Mr Ashley CHAN</u> to share the observations.
- 41. <u>Dr Billy LI</u> shared that in the 2020/21 Survey of Drug Use among Students, about 50% of drug-taking students in secondary or above levels claimed that the drugs they took were "free of charge". The most common reported source of money for buying drugs was "pocket money". About 35% of drug-taking upper primary students reported that the most common suppliers of drugs were "strangers/ others". The districts with the three highest number of drug-taking students were Yuen Long, Shatin and Kwun Tong. He highlighted the prevalence of drug-taking continued to exist across various education levels from upper primary to post-secondary.
- Mr Ashley CHAN added that schools participating in the HSP had their mechanism to handle any identified drug-taking student and did not need to report to SB. The HSP aimed at helping students cultivate positive attitudes, consolidate and reinforce the determination to quit drug-taking as well as delivering anti-drug knowledge, instead of drug testing. It was observed that the number of drug-taking students identified in HSP was very small.
- 43. <u>Ms Karen YIU</u> suggested that the duration of projects approved under the BDF be extended from three years to five years, as more time was needed to engage and motivate the drug abusers, as well as sustaining their changes.
- 44. <u>Mr Ashley CHAN</u> responded that there was no continuity issues for projects which were often extended to Phases II & III and some of them to Phase IV. The assessment of projects would not be tightened for those applications for extension. He noted and understood NGOs' concern on the duration of three years for a project.
- 45. <u>Ms HSU Siu-man</u> echoed the suggestion of <u>Ms Karen YIU</u> and proposed to extend projects in Phase II from three years to five years, if the evaluation had proven the projects effective. Moreover, <u>Ms HSU Siu-man</u> shared her observations over the changes of drug taking trend and considered it worthy to increase the awareness of and participation in anti-drug activities to stakeholders like parents and teachers, especially when CBD might be easily found in coffee, scented tea and essential oil of aromatherapy.
- Ms Belinda WONG responded that the BDF was inviting applications for the 2022 Funding Exercise. SB would consider maximising effectiveness and minimising administrative cost. Regarding CBD consumer products, SB had always been proactive in the PE&P in all aspects. In response to the increased number of young people who fell prey to earning money through drug trafficking, tremendous effort had also been paid to enhance the education on the penalty, so as to raise the awareness of the young people.

- 47. Mr TSO Tat-ming supplemented that longer duration of projects under BDF would also help reduce the administrative work of schools, as schools also applied for BDF. Also, he agreed to enhance PE&P. He appreciated the Police's provision of current information and prompt responses to address to the schools'/ teachers' / parents' needs. He shared that through instant messages with other Principals / Headmasters of secondary / primary schools, information could be quickly disseminated to teachers, parents and students.
- 48. <u>Mr Ashley CHAN</u> responded that SB would consider the suggestion to extend the duration of projects. Regarding PE&P, continued effort would be paid to reach out to the frontline personnel through the website of the Education Bureau and Social Welfare Department. Enhanced effort would also be made for parents and the public in tackling the CBD problems through the BDF.
- 49. <u>The Chairperson</u> (Mr KOK) apologised for having to leave early for chairing another meeting and <u>Mr Alex WONG</u> stood in as the Chairperson.

(Mr KOK left the meeting at this juncture.)

- 50. Mr TSO Tat-ming supplemented that more PE&P work might be necessary to prevent students from bringing illegal drugs to Hong Kong after their exchange trips overseas. Ms Belinda WONG responded that since some dangerous drugs were not illegal overseas, the Customs and Excise Department was well aware of the situations and the related PE&P.
- Ms Karen TSANG shared that more effort had been made by the Police for publicity in cinema for very precise messages of around 30 seconds for the target audience to watch before the start of a movie, since many young people did not watch the conventional television channels. If budget was available, public education through idols might also be considered. She also shared a video about the girl, aged 14, who was found guilty of drug trafficking and sentenced to imprisonment for 17.5 years.
- 52. Mr TSO Tat-ming agreed that online information for fighting crime and anti-drug was passive and could only appear when searching for them. One to 1.5 minute of message via WhatsApp might be more effective. He appreciated the strategy suggested by the Police to publicise educational messages in cinema where more target audience could be reached.
- 53. Mr Alex WONG considered the video of the girl and her mother useful to share in different platforms of Principals / Headmasters and Parent-Teacher Associations. Ms Karen TSANG responded that the video broadcasted could be shared with Members by the Secretary of this meeting.
- Mr Edward TO appreciated the production of the video depicting the girl fell prey to earn money through drug trafficking. He remarked that her sharing in first-person would help young people to understand the serious legal consequences. Ms Karen TSANG responded that there were five to ten more videos of around one minute for Members to share for wider publicity. She would provide them to the Secretary

after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The videos were shared with Members via email on 15.8.2022.)

Any Other Business

55. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:10 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

56. The meeting would be held on a need basis and Members would be informed of the date of the 49th meeting in due course.

Social Welfare Department February 2023