

Overview on Youth Services, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services and Community Development Services in Hong Kong

Service Direction

- To address the multifarious and changing needs of young people, we adopt a **holistic and integrated mode** of service.
- The Social Welfare Department subvents and monitors Non-governmental Organisations to run a wide range of **preventive, developmental and remedial services** for young people, to help them become mature, responsible and contributing members of society.

A. Major Youth Services in Hong Kong

Early Identification and Intervention

Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres

- Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres (ICYSCs) are set up to serve children and youth aged between 6 and 24 in the neighbourhood. Services are provided in a holistic manner. Through the flexible application of social work intervention strategies (including casework, group work and community work) in different platforms (i.e. centre, school, or community), forging strategic alliance and making use of information technology (wherever appropriate), a variety of programmes including guidance and counselling, supportive programmes, developmental and socialisation programmes as well as community engagement programmes are provided by ICYSCs. For list of ICYSCs, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

School Social Work Service in Secondary Schools

- School Social Work Service is implemented in accordance with the policy of “**two school social workers for each school**” in secondary schools. Each secondary day school is provided with two full-time stationing social workers to identify and help needy students with academic, social or emotional problems. Please approach respective school for enquiries.

After School Care Programme

- After School Care Programme (ASCP) aims at providing **supportive services for primary school students (including those being diagnosed with special educational needs (SEN) or suspected of having SEN who are waiting for medical assessment), who are Hong Kong residents.** Their parents are unable to provide proper care for them during **after-school hours** owing to work, job search or other reasons. Services include homework guidance, parent guidance and education, skill learning and social activities. For list of centres, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.
- ASCP Centres are operated on a **self-financing and fee-charging** basis. Under the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme, SWD provides full fee-waiving, half fee-reduction or one-third fee-reduction subsidies for children of low income families to attend ASCP. Needy and eligible families can direct approach centres concerned for making applications.
- To strengthen the support to those parents working on longer/irregular hours, at weekends, or those intending to join the work force, starting from December 2014, SWD has implemented the Enhanced ASCP by extending the service hours on weekday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays in some ASCP centres and providing additional fee-waiving/ reduction quotas.

Timely Support

District Youth Outreaching Social Work Service

- District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams are provided on a territory-wide basis to **reach out and provide counselling and guidance** to those young people aged between 6 to 24 who normally do not participate in conventional social or youth activities and are vulnerable to undesirable influences. The service is effective in addressing the needs of high-risk youth and tackling juvenile gang problems. For list of teams, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

Overnight Outreaching Service for Young Night Drifters

- Overnight Outreaching Service for Young Night Drifters is provided on a territory-wide basis to reach out to **high-risk young night drifters** exposed to possible moral danger. For list of teams, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at

www.swd.gov.hk.

Cyber Youth Support Teams

- Cyber Youth Support Teams provided professional social work intervention for **at-risk and hidden youths** including online and offline counselling and group/programme services. They will form partnership with other community stakeholders and organisations to foster cross-sectoral collaboration to address the needs of at-risk and hidden youths. For list of teams, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

Hotline Service for Youth- at-Risk

- Hotline service runs by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (**2777 8899**) is to offer immediate counselling to youth-at-risk facing crisis through **telephone contact**. Services provided to the callers include telephone guidance and counselling, face-to-face counselling for immediate intervention and referrals to other appropriate service units.

District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development

- The targets of the Scheme are children and youth aged 24 or below who are financially deprived or under disadvantaged circumstances in the districts. The resources are distributed as **direct cash assistance** to subsidise the expenses on individual items for the children and youth to meet their developmental needs. Needy customers receiving casework services may approach their responsible social workers for details.

Steering Young People back to the Right Course

Community Support Service Scheme

- Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) aims at providing supporting services to children and youth cautioned under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme, the arrested youth and their peers so as to assist them to re-integrate into the community, eliminate their deviant and unlawful behaviour and to reduce their likelihood of law infringement. Services include individual and family counselling, therapeutic groups, skill training/educational groups, community services, crime prevention programmes, etc. For better service synergy, the CSSS teams are each attached to an Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres. For list of teams, please refer to the website of

the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

B. Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

Counselling Centre for Psychotropic Substance Abusers

- Counselling Centre for Psychotropic Substance Abusers aims at providing counselling and assistance to **habitual/ occasional/ potential psychotropic substance abusers and to young people at risk** with a view to assisting them to abstain from psychotropic substance abuse and develop healthy life style. Services include (i) case and group counselling for psychotropic substance abusers and their family members; (ii) peer support service; (iii) regular preventive education programmes for students of secondary schools, post-secondary institutions, and vocational training organisations, and the general public at community level; (iv) professional training for allied professionals; and (v) on-site medical support service for needy people to early identify and motivate them to seek early treatment and rehabilitation services. For list of centres, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

Residential Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres and Halfway Houses

- Residential Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres and Halfway Houses cater for those drug abusers who wish to **seek voluntary residential drug treatment, rehabilitation and social integration**. With a continuum of services and aftercare provision, it aims to help the drug abusers quit the drug taking habit, attain positive change in behavior, develop a new direction in life and re-integrate into the community. For list of the subvented centres, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

Centre for Drug Counselling

- Centre for Drug Counselling aims at helping **drug abusers** abstain from drug abuse, assisting **ex-drug abusers** to maintain abstinence and assisting **family members of drug abusers and ex-drug abusers** to deal with problems resulting from drug abuse. Services include (i) individual and group counselling; (ii) group activities; (iii) peer support service; (iv) preventive education services to various target groups; and (v) on-site medical support service to early identify and motivate drug abusers to seek early treatment and rehabilitation services. For list of centres, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

C. Community Development Services

Community Centre

- Community Centre is a **focal point for all age groups** in a locality which promotes social relationships and mutual support; develops a sense of self-reliance, social responsibility and cohesion within the community; and empowers individuals and families in solving community problems and improving the quality of community life. For list of centres, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project (NLCDP)

- Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project (NLCDP) is to serve the **deprived and transient communities** where the provision of welfare services and facilities is inadequate or non-existence. NLCDP service is anticipated to be phasing out with the provision of more community based services to serve the vulnerable groups in the community and the drop in clearance programmes of temporary housing areas, squatter areas and public housing estates etc. For list of teams, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

Care and Support Networking Team (CSNT)

- Care and Support Networking Team aims at assisting mainly the **ex-offenders, ex-mentally ill persons and street sleepers in West Kowloon** to reintegrate into the community through provision of outreaching, support, casework and group work services. For list of teams, please refer to the website of the Social Welfare Department at www.swd.gov.hk.

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March 2021