

Family Council

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

PURPOSE

This paper invites Members to note the progress of work of the 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 held a meeting on 9 January 2014. In brief, the Sub-committee further deliberated the related issues arising from the preliminary discussion of the “Population Policy” public consultation document at the Council meeting held on 21 November 2013, discussed the possible production of baby journal to families with newborn babies as well as progress of the “2013/14 Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme”.

“Population Policy” public consultation document with a view to proposing implementable measures to foster a supportive environment to form and raise families and encouraging elderly volunteering

3. The Sub-committee had further deliberated the “Population Policy” public consultation document and proposed various measures to foster a supportive environment to form and raise families as well as encouraging elderly volunteering. A submission will be made to the Steering Committee on Population Policy before the end of the consultation period on 23 February 2014.

Production of Maternity Packs for Newborn Babies

4. With an aim to building a caring culture in the community, Members considered that it was worth exploring to produce a baby journal

as gift from the Council to families with newborn babies. The Secretariat would seek the views and receptiveness of Members as well as stakeholders before deciding on the way forward.

“2013/14 Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme”

5. The response of the “2013/14 Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme” (the Award Scheme) was encouraging. By the close of application deadline on 17 January 2014, a total of 1,814 companies/organisations had enrolled. The breakdown is as follows –

- SMEs 1,450
- Corporations 222
- Organisations/NGOs 142

Adjudication interviews will be conducted in early April 2014. Upon the completion of the adjudication process in April 2014, the prize presentation ceremony is scheduled to be held on 19 June 2014 (Thur) at Kowloonbay International and Trade Exhibition Centre.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FAMILY SUPPORT

6. The Sub-committee on Family Support met on 19 December 2013 and 22 January 2014. The Subcommittee gave its advice on “Legislative Proposal on Paternity Leave” and “Proposed Amendments to Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Ordinance and Chinese Permanent Cemeteries Rules”. Besides, the Sub-committee also discussed the findings of “Study on the Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong” (the Study) and “Family Survey 2013” (the Survey).

Study on the Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong

7. The Sub-committee discussed the preliminary findings of the Study at its meetings in December 2013 and January 2014. Amongst others, Members concluded that the Study set a benchmark for future studies on divorce in Hong Kong and provided evidenced-based data for the formulation of policies and strategies for supporting and strengthening the family by relevant bureaux and departments. The research team will incorporate comments of the Sub-committee into the final report for endorsement by the Council in March 2014.

Family Survey 2013

8. While Members expressed appreciation to the comprehensive and detailed coverage of the Survey which covered some 2,000 households, larger sample size was considered advisable for future surveys to facilitate in-depth analysis of specific groups, such as New Arrival families, in the future. Policy 21 would present the final report to the Sub-committee for further deliberation at its March meeting.

WAY FORWARD

9. 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
February 2014**