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**Evaluation on the Implementation of the Review  
Report on Children and Youth Centre Services:  
Full Report**

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**PART VI : COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE  
SCHEME**

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## 28. Introduction

2801 The Review Report suggested to set up a Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) to help the youths at risk. According to the suggestion, this Scheme provides services to children and youths who have infringed the law, through structured programmes and intensive supervised activities, in settings such as children and youth centres or community centres. Subsequently, three CSSSs started to operate on an experimental basis in the late 1994. The research team also conducted a two-year evaluation on the implementation and overall treatment effect of these service projects. The evaluation combines two parts, namely (a) Operational Analysis of CSSS, and (b) Study on Service Effectiveness of CSSS. In Part VI, data of the Operational Analysis and results of the Study on Service Effectiveness of CSSS will be presented.

2802 In order to facilitate readers' understanding of our discussion, the objectives and suggestions on the implementation of the CSSS as documented in the Review Report and Information Paper on CSSS are outlined as follows:

### The Rationale

2803 Given the existing resources and focus of work of children and youth centres, the Working Party contends that the establishment of the CSSS is an alternative approach to keep children and youths who have infringed the law out of custodian institutions and to reduce their likelihood of re-offending in future (Review Report, p. 48, paragraph 10.2).

### Specific Objectives

2804 The CSSS aims to re-integrate children and youths who have infringed the law into main-stream education or initiate their entrance into the work force; develop acceptable behaviour and redirect their energies into constructive and legitimate channels; reduce their likelihood of being drawn back into the criminal justice system, divert them from the need for residential or custodial care; and help them re-integrate

into the community if they have been institutionalised (Review Report, pp. 48-49, paragraph 10.3.1).

### Target Groups

2805 For the CSSS run by the NGOs, the Scheme would receive referrals from selected services. Suitable cases could be referred to the Scheme from the following sources (Information paper on CSSS, p.2-4):

- (a) Police Superintendents' Discretion Scheme, Royal Hong Kong Police Force
- (b) School dropout units, Education Department
- (c) Family services centres, Social Welfare Department
- (d) School social work units, outreach social work teams, and children and youth centres of the NGOs.

2806 For the CSSS run by SWD, the Scheme would provide services to children and youths who are placed on probation orders without residential requirement; discharged from probation homes under the supervision of probation officers; and discharged from reformatory schools under the supervision of aftercare officers (Review Report, p.49, paragraph 10.3.2, and Information Paper on CSSS, p.3).

### Manpower

2807 The staff team should consist of a greater percentage of professional staff. It was estimated that a group of seven full-time and ten part-time staff attached to four centres will be able to serve a total of 600 to 900 youths per year (Review Report, p.50, item e).

### Operational Model

2808 The CSSS is to be operated as a separate service component inside a children and youth centre or a community centre with additional staffing provision.

2809 Programmes at the centre should be clearly and tightly structured. Community service projects should be organised to help these young people develop a sense of self-worth and responsibility. Social group work with therapeutic objectives should be

provided for parents or carers experiencing difficulty in supervising their children who have offending behaviour (Review Report, p. 49, paragraph 10.3.3).

#### Service Contents

2810 Intensive social work oriented group programmes/activities will be organised by the Scheme, for example:

- a) Counselling or supportive groups
- b) Job training and placement
- c) Skill learning classes
- d) Adventure and outdoor activities
- e) Volunteer and community service projects
- f) Programmes for parents/guardians (Information Paper on CSSS, p. 3)

2811 The above outline is a summary of the proposed model of CSSS. In the following discussion, we will make reference to these ideas to see whether the suggestions have been carried out.

2812 We have to stress that although the experimental projects commenced in the late 1994, the research team did not measure the effectiveness of the CSSS until the projects had run for a certain period of time. Based on the agreement with the three CSSSs, the evaluation period lasted from 1 May 1995 till 31 August 1996. Except for presenting information related to the team formation stage, the research team will mainly present the data of the evaluation period.

2813 The observations on the operational analysis of the CSSS are based on the analysis of self-reported materials from staff members, relevant data and documents collected on various evaluation visits to the teams and on discussion meetings held in the City University of Hong Kong during the period of September 1995 to November 1996. For the results of the Study on Service Effectiveness, findings are generated from the self-administered questionnaires of the pre-test and post-test, and the focused interviews with service users and their significant others.

2814 Lastly, we must stress that as the NGOs and the SWD play different roles in the provision of community support services, although the data are concurrently presented, the research team does not aim to compare the services provided by them.