

## COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

### Consultancy Study on Sport for People with Disabilities in Hong Kong Follow-up Work Plan

#### **Purpose**

This paper reports to Members on the follow-up work plan formulated as a result of the Consultancy Study on Sport for People with Disabilities in Hong Kong (the Consultancy Study) and seeks their views and comments.

#### **Background**

2. In 2015, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) commissioned a consultant to conduct a study on how to support athletes with disabilities (AWDs) and promote sports participation by persons with disabilities (PWDs) in a more comprehensive manner. The consultant was required to provide recommendations on the following areas:

- o how to promote the further development of sports for PWDs with regard to the provision and management of facilities and organisation of training programmes and competitions;
- o how to enhance the level of support to AWDs, including the realisation of offering opportunities for full-time training;
- o how the structure of sports organisations and their mode of co-operation contribute to the development of sports for PWDs; and
- o other issues of concern.

3. The HAB launched a three-month public consultation on the consultancy report between August and November 2016 and organised briefings for relevant organisations to brief their 100 representatives on the consultancy report and seek their comments. Besides, in November 2016, the HAB briefed the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Home Affairs and the Community Sports Committee (CSC Paper 05/16<sup>1</sup>) respectively on the progress and sought their Members' views and comments.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/cscommittee/common/form/csc\\_paper\\_05\\_16\\_e.pdf](https://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/cscommittee/common/form/csc_paper_05_16_e.pdf)

4. Having considered the views and comments received from the public consultation, the HAB noted that most of the respondents generally agreed with the approach recommended in the report and some of them had put forward some concrete views. A summary of the views and comments received from the public consultation is set out in Annex.

### **Follow-up Work Plan**

5. Having considered the comments received during the consultation exercise, the HAB consulted the Working Committee on the Consultancy Study (the Working Committee) on the follow-up actions. A detailed work plan was then discussed, examined and endorsed by the Working Committee at a meeting held in June this year and details are set out below:

(a) Short-term measures

#### *Promoting sports participation by PWDs*

- (i) **Launching a dedicated webpage on recreation and sports for PWDs** – The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (the LCSD) is about to complete the dedicated webpage and will launch it as soon as possible. The dedicated webpage will provide enhanced search functions and include a section on “Frequently Asked Questions” with an aim to provide a one-stop information platform for PWDs to facilitate them in searching for the ancillary facilities at various venues and recreation and sports programmes which are suitable for them.
- (ii) **Dedicated column on recreation and sports activities for PWDs** – From the third quarter of 2017 onwards, the LCSD will include a dedicated column in the monthly “Community Recreation and Sports Programme” booklet listing out all the activities which are suitable for PWDs in 18 districts. The booklet is available for distribution to all members of the public.
- (iii) **Launching a pilot scheme for priority booking of venues** – The LCSD will launch a pilot scheme in 2017-18 on priority venue booking arrangements to allow relevant organisations to make priority bookings of facilities at designated sports centres of the LCSD (one designated sports centre in each of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories) during non-peak slots for organising sports activities suitable for PWDs, such as competitions, training courses and inclusive activities. As the current usage rate of the main arena in most of the LCSD sports centres exceeds 95% during peak hours, only non-peak slots will be available for booking under the pilot scheme at this stage. The LCSD

will also set up a focus group for the pilot scheme and invite representatives from relevant organisations to join and offer views on the pilot scheme, including arrangements for priority bookings, the provision of ancillary facilities for PWDs in sports centres, etc.

- (iv) **Introducing cross-district registration arrangements for recreation and sports activities for PWDs** – From April 2017 onwards, PWDs may enrol at any District Leisure Services Offices of the LCSD for recreation and sports programmes specially organised for them in all districts. In other words, they need not go to the District Leisure Services Office of the district where the programme will be held. Such arrangement obviates the need to travel and saves time.
- (v) **Optimising the planning of recreation and sports activities for PWDs** – Currently, the LCSD liaises with disability organisations of different districts and representative organisations for PWDs (including the Hong Kong Sports Association of the Deaf, the Society for the Welfare of the Autistic Persons, the Hong Kong Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied Association, the Hong Kong Blind Union, the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association and the Community Rehabilitation Network under the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation) every year to organise activities for PWDs which suit their needs and interests. To strengthen the planning and organisation of recreation and sports activities for PWDs, the LCSD will expand its liaison network to representatives of relevant “national sports associations” (NSAs) and special schools.
- (vi) **Providing more opportunities for PWDs to participate in sports competitions** – For the Hong Kong Games this year (2017), two new events specifically for PWDs are introduced, namely, the Wheelchair Basketball Challenge and the Swimming Invitation Competition for People with Intellectual Disabilities. The same arrangement will be considered in the next Games. In fact, the event “Vitality Run” had been available for participation by PWDs since the last Games.

#### *Development of Elite Sports*

- (vii) **Launching a full-time athlete system and Pilot Scheme for Elite Vote Support System (EVSS)** – Based on the views received from the public consultation, all respondents supported that the evaluation criteria for the existing Elite Vote Support System should be optimised to cover disability sports as well. Given that the development of disability sports varies among different events (e.g. there is a lack of junior athletes for some sports events), we will, after discussion with relevant NSAs, introduce a full-time athlete system and implement EVSS for

disability sports under a pilot scheme with the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games as the testing ground.

### *Capacity Building*

- (viii) **Organising thematic seminars for support groups** – In collaboration with relevant disability NSAs and organisations, thematic seminars or experience sharing sessions on sports will be organised for support groups of PWDs such as parents, friends, caregivers and volunteers. Through the sharing of relevant knowledge, practical skills or experience, we hope to better equip the participants with the techniques in supporting the PWDs around them and knowledge of the needs of different PWDs, which will in turn encourage PWDs, especially young ones, to participate in sports activities.

### (b) Medium and long-term measures

#### *At the community level*

- (i) **Launching outreach recreation and sports services** – In collaboration with relevant disability NSAs and organisations, outreach recreation and sports services will be launched by sending coaches or tutors to workshops or centres for PWDs to conduct sports activities in the physical setting of workshops or centres. Through the programmes, staff of the workshops or centres can also learn the basic techniques of healthy exercise which would facilitate them in assisting their PWDs members to exercise together regularly in an effective manner. The outreach services not only help PWDs develop a healthy sporting habit, but also obviate the need to transport to and from the sports venue and save time. We will also discuss with relevant NSAs about training the staff of workshops or centres to become tutors.
- (ii) **Training for the youth** – In collaboration with relevant disability NSAs, consideration will be given to launching a pilot scheme on training programmes for young PWDs by drawing reference from the existing feeder system for young athletes, with an aim to identify young athletes with good potential through systematic and progressive training.
- (iii) **A new customer-oriented intelligent booking system for sports and recreation services** – The LCSD will seek funding from the Legislative Council to develop a new system for booking venues and enrolling in recreation and sports activities, which will facilitate venue allocation, provide personalised search functions, allow personal settings, etc.. The new system will also facilitate members of the public (including PWDs) in booking the LCSD's sports and recreational facilities and

enrolling in activities, thereby encouraging them to exercise regularly and lead a more healthy lifestyle.

#### *Elite sports training*

- (iv) **Launching a full-time athlete system and EVSS for disability sports** – As mentioned in paragraph (a)(vii) above, a full-time athlete system and EVSS for disability sports will be devised in light of the experience of the Pilot Scheme.
- (v) **Considering the introduction of career programme for AWDs** – Among the views received from the public consultation, there is a suggestion of setting up an internship programme for serving AWDs which allows them to work on a flexi-time basis in order to match their training and competition schedules, and at the same time to equip them with practical work experience for their career development after retirement.

#### *Structure of Sports Organisations for PWDs*

- (vi) **Assisting the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee in becoming an independent body** – Among the views received from the public consultation, there is a suggestion of assisting the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee to become an independent body, the respondents (including the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled and the Hong Kong Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability) supported this suggestion. They consider that the proposed arrangement can support AWDs in a more focussed and systematic manner, including the handling of matters relating to the classification of para-sports, promotion and development of different kinds of para-sports, etc. A working committee will be set up to take forward the suggestion.

#### *Capacity Building*

- (vii) **Enhancing training for coaches and practicum opportunities** – To complement with the “Introductory Sports Coaching Course”, the “Foundation Certificate in Sports Coaching Theory” programme and the “Certificate in Advanced Sports Coaching Theory” programme provided by the Hong Kong Coaching Committee, there is a need to strengthen the current curriculum for coaches with a focus on the special needs of PWDs, covering aspects such as communication skills and behavioural management and practical skills of coaching PWDs. Furthermore, there is a need to increase the practicum hours for coach assistants in the two certificate programmes so as to strengthen the basic knowledge and

practical skills of front-line coaches. This would enable them to better meet the needs of PWDs when providing training for PWDs on sports activities at the community level.

### **Advice Sought**

6. Members are invited to note the progress on the follow-up action of the above Consultancy Study and comment on the proposed initiatives.

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Home Affairs Bureau  
August 2017

**Summary of views and comments received from the public consultation**

<b>Consultant's recommendation</b>	<b>Number of respondent(s) (as a proportion of the total number of respondent(s))</b>	<b>Major responses and other views</b>
<b>Promoting Sports Participation by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)</b>		
The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) should launch a pilot scheme in some of its venues for relevant organisations to make priority bookings for non-peak slots;	7 (25%)	Generally supported. Some respondents suggested that the pilot scheme should not affect the existing booking arrangement for "national sports associations" (NSAs).
LCSD should further upgrade the barrier-free access to and ancillary facilities in its public sports facilities;	11 (39%)	Agreed with the recommendation. Respondents generally considered that LCSD should continue to enhance the facilities at its venues and provide more ancillary facilities.
LCSD should develop a dedicated webpage on its website to provide a one-stop information platform on PWD ancillary facilities available at various venues;	8 (29%)	Supported by all respondents. Some respondents suggested LCSD to provide comprehensive information on sports activities and means to facilitate PWDs' access to such information via smartphones.
The Government should promote co-operation between schools and groups of PWDs by encouraging schools to open their sports facilities for PWDs to organise sports activities;	2 (7%)	Agreed.
LCSD should strengthen the on-the-job training for its venue management staff to understand better the needs of people with different types of disability to participate in sports activities;	4 (14%)	Supported.

<b>Consultant's recommendation</b>	<b>Number of respondent(s) (as a proportion of the total number of respondent(s))</b>	<b>Major responses and other views</b>
LCSD should strengthen liaison with special schools and the relevant NSAs and continue to enhance the content of the School Sports Programme implemented in special schools;	3 (11%)	Over half of the respondents suggested providing individualised sports development programmes which should match with the development potential of students.
The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) should work with both the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and relevant organisations to consider organising sports activities in a workshop-based or centre-based approach for PWDs, under the guidance of eligible coaches;	3 (11%)	Agreed. Some respondents considered that those organisations serving persons with intellectual disability should incorporate sports into their regular daily schedules with an aim to improve the physical fitness and health of persons with intellectual disability and help enhance their work performance.
LCSD should keep enhancing the provision of activities for PWDs in the Hong Kong Games and the Sport for All Day;	4 (14%)	Respondents agreed with the recommendation. Over half of the respondents suggested the Government to consider organising a territory-wide games for PWDs.
The Government should encourage more organisers of sports competitions to provide opportunities for PWDs to join by;	4 (14%)	Respondents generally considered that assistance should be provided to help Hong Kong athletes with disabilities (AWDs) participate in local international sports competitions.
HAB and SWD should consider enhancing further the co-ordination in the development of sports for the disabled and the funding support to disabled athletes;	1 (4%)	Agreed with the recommendation.
HAB should strengthen the liaison with the Labour and Welfare Bureau to help PWDs go out for sports activities and competitions easily;	3 (11%)	Respondents generally considered that HAB should co-ordinate with other parties in the Government to facilitate the access of PWD.



<b>Consultant's recommendation</b>	<b>Number of respondent(s) (as a proportion of the total number of respondent(s))</b>	<b>Major responses and other views</b>
<b>Enhancing support to high-level athletes with disabilities</b>		
To establish a corresponding system for disability sports with reference to the assessment criteria under the Elite Vote Support System (EVSS) and the performance of able-bodied and disabled athletes in high-level competitions;	4 (14%)	All respondents supported enhancing the existing assessment criteria under the EVSS. Some suggested the need to ensure adequate resources be provided to different elite sports.
Conduct a study on the establishment of a full-time athlete system for athletes with disabilities (for example, requiring full-time athletes with disabilities to, under the arrangements of their coaches, receive training not less than 5 days and 20 hours per week, including training related to sports science);	8 (29%)	Supported by half of the respondents (i.e. four respondents) and opposed by one respondent for reason that the majority of AWDs are amateurs having a job or studies going on. Two respondents supported in principle the recommendation but suggested that appropriate supporting measures (e.g. providing full-time coaches and training facilities) should be provided and the system should be run under a pilot scheme followed by a comprehensive review, before details of the full-time athlete system is formulated. One respondent wished to have more details about the initiative.
The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled (HKPC&SAPD) and relevant NSAs should consider developing programmes similar to the "Hong Kong Athletes Career & Education Programme" under the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China;	5 (18%)	All respondents expressed the need to provide AWDs with retirement support. Some suggested the Government to launch an internship programme specifically for serving AWDs which should match their training and competition schedules and long-term career planning needs.

<b>Consultant's recommendation</b>	<b>Number of respondent(s) (as a proportion of the total number of respondent(s))</b>	<b>Major responses and other views</b>
<b>Structure and Mode of Co-operation of Sports Organisations for PWDs</b>		
HKPC&SAPD should consider whether it is necessary to update its structure in light of the types of disabilities (i.e. different types of physical disabilities, sports for the blind and persons with ID) included by the International Paralympic Committee. This can also allay the concerns of some PWDs and groups over the dual roles of the HKPC&SAPD;	7 (25%)	All respondents expressed views on the structure, roles and work of the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee. Over half of respondents supported the recommendation for HKPC&SAPD to update its structure, and three of them suggested HKPC&SAPD be segregated into two independent bodies.
Relevant organisations should make reference to the strategic exchange experiences of and explore co-operation opportunities with their respective international associations;	9 (32%)	Respondents generally considered that liaison and co-operation between the Government and relevant NSAs, groups for PWDs, special schools and other stakeholders should be strengthened and more opportunities should be provided for PWDs to participate in sports and high-level sports activities.
<b>Capacity building</b>		
To examine ways to strengthen the awareness among coaches and tutors at various levels of PWDs' needs during sports participation, including provision of opportunities for trainees to participate in disability sports during the internship period;	8 (29%)	All respondents hoped that the training for coaches and tutors would be strengthened with enhanced training courses. Some suggested that training on management and leadership should be provided for frontline administrative staff of sports organisations.

<b>Consultant's recommendation</b>	<b>Number of respondent(s) (as a proportion of the total number of respondent(s))</b>	<b>Major responses and other views</b>
To hold seminars targeted at parents, friends, volunteers and caregivers of PWDs so as to enhance their understanding of the importance of sports on the health and overall development of PWDs; and	3 (11%)	The recommendation was supported. Some respondents suggested that members of the public should be encouraged to take part in various voluntary works of HKPC&SAPD during their spare time.
To consider absorbing parents, friends, volunteers and caregivers of PWDs to be tutors of some basic programmes.	1 (4%)	The respondent considered that support groups of PWDs could encourage PWDs to participate more in sports activities.