

CHAPTER 3

PROGRESS SINCE THE FIFTH THREE-YEAR PLAN

(I) Major Developments

(a) CE's Anti-drug Campaign

3.1 In July 2009, the Chief Executive (CE) announced the stepping up of the anti-drug campaign along five directions, namely community mobilisation, community support, drug testing, rehabilitation and law enforcement. Under CE's anti-drug campaign, a number of new initiatives, such as a trial scheme of school drug testing in Tai Po and introduction of hair drug testing technology, have been launched. Existing anti-drug measures and services have also been significantly enhanced by new resources. The Government injected \$3 billion capital to the BDF providing new impetus to community projects and capital works for residential DTRCs to fulfil licensing requirements. More importantly, CE's anti-drug campaign has significantly enhanced the awareness of the community. Various sectors in the community were engaged to fight against drug abuse together.

(b) Report No. 55 of the Director of Audit

3.2 The Audit Commission and subsequently the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examined the adequacy and efficiency of the residential DTRCs services for drug abusers and published their reports in October 2010 and February 2011 respectively. The recommendations provided good food for thought and a steer of direction for future improvement of voluntary residential services in Hong Kong, which are summarised in **Annex X**. The Administration is committed to implementing the recommendations as appropriate.

(II) Implementation of the Fifth Three-year Plan

3.3 With the rollout of the Fifth Three-year Plan, considerable progress has been made in the drug treatment and rehabilitation sector. Most of the major recommendations and key initiatives in the last Three-year Plan are completed or on-going whilst a small number of recommendations are still in the developmental stage. Due to the space

constraint, we will highlight major activities led by the Government or sponsored by BDF below.

(A) Strengthening Surveys and Studies for a Better Understanding of the Drug Abuse Situation

(a) CRDA and the Survey of Drug Use among Students

CRDA

3.4 ND has introduced a series of measures to improve CRDA since 2009. First, a new form without personal identifiable information has been developed for collecting data from reporting agencies on drug abusers who were not reported to CRDA for various reasons. The information collected is used to examine under-reporting. Second, a series of visits, briefing sessions and promotional seminars for existing / potential reporting agencies were conducted from May to September 2009 to enhance the reporting efficiency to CRDA and to widen the reporting network. Third, a new simplified data input procedure has been adopted since late December 2009 to reduce data input effort of the reporting agencies in providing previously captured data. Fourth, five more reporting agencies have been included in the Fourth Schedule to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) following the introduction of a subsidiary legislation in June 2011.

Survey of Drug Use among Students

3.5 The findings of the 2008-09 Survey of Drug Use among Students were released in February 2010. Following the recommendation of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse, future rounds of the survey will be conducted more frequently at three-year intervals in order to monitor more closely the drug abuse situation among students. The new round of survey was conducted in the school year 2011/12.

(b) Number of Drug Abusers

3.6 To accurately measure the number of drug abusers, a research study on reviewing the various methodologies is underway. Results are expected to be available by end of 2012.

(c) Studying the drug abuse situation of non-engaged youth

3.7 With the support of BDF, ND has commissioned a research team in June 2010 to conduct a research study on the drug abuse situation of non-engaged youth and their service needs. Results are expected to be available by end of 2012.

(d) Qualitative module of the Supplementary Drug Abuse Monitoring System

3.8 ND has accorded priority in the BDF Annual Funding Exercises to research into a qualitative module.

(B) Early Identification of Youth at Risk and Intervention

(a) Schools and parents

3.9 In school years between 2009 and 2011, School of Professional and Continuing Education of The University of Hong Kong, Community Drug Advisory Council (CDAC) and Cheer Lutheran Centre of Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service were commissioned to provide professional training for teachers. In addition, the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups was commissioned in August 2009 to provide telephone support service manned by social workers for teachers. This service has been continued by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) CROSS Centre since February 2011. A resource kit for school sector was launched in March 2010 to help schools formulate a Healthy School Policy (HSP) with an anti-drug element and to equip teachers and student guidance personnel/ social workers with practical guidelines and protocol on the early identification of student drug abusers for appropriate intervention, and to help students develop a healthy lifestyle and positive values. Following that, a series of briefing sessions were organised for school heads, teachers and school social workers on the use of the resource kit. In the 2011/12 school year, about 92% of local schools had participated in the HSP.

3.10 For parents, a resource kit to enhance their anti-drug knowledge, attitude and skills to prevent, identify and handle youth drug problems was released in June 2009. Anti-drug educational materials were published and anti-drug seminars for parents were organised in 18 districts. A series of “train-the trainer” workshops and demonstrations were arranged for teachers, parent education service units and parents on

using the resource kit. An online website was also launched. Moreover, TWGHs CROSS Centre has been commissioned to provide district-based parent talks and telephone support services manned by social workers for parents since August 2009.

(b) School social work service

3.11 The CE announced in his 2010-11 Policy Address to enhance the school social work service for secondary schools by a 20% increase in manpower (i.e. an increase of 96 social workers) to help prevent and tackle student drug abuse and related problems. New resources have been allocated to the operating NGOs since September 2011. The enhanced school social work service not only helps early identification of students to provide timely support, but also engages parents of students at risk in extending help, so as to bring positive change in students and sustain their healthy development.

(c) Family doctors

3.12 Under BDF sponsorship, the Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA) organised a certificate course on the Management of Drug Abuse Patients for Family Doctors in May 2009 to enhance family doctors' interests, awareness and knowledge on the problems of drug abuse. A total of 120 family doctors enrolled in the course. A CD-ROM containing the training materials and a manual was produced and distributed to all doctors since March 2011. The training materials were also available on the Internet for public access.

3.13 With the sponsorship of BDF, HKMA organised five training sessions on Management of Substance Abuse Patients in different districts between 2010 and 2012.

3.14 Moreover, the Project MAC, which was funded by the BDF and operated by TWGHs CROSS Centre, organised a series of training for a total of 100 medical practitioners.

(d) Outreaching service

3.15 Since December 2010, new resources have been injected into the 16 District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams (YOTs) to provide each with one additional social worker at the Assistant Social Work Officer rank to tackle the upsurge in youth drug abuse.

(e) Voluntary drug testing service

School drug testing

3.16 ND has launched the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District (the Scheme) in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years, which has been smoothly completed. This is a key initiative of the CE's anti-drug campaign. ND commissioned a research organisation to comprehensively assess the design, implementation and effectiveness of the Scheme, to study other local and overseas experiences in school drug testing and to suggest refinements and revisions to the Scheme, so as to consider how the Scheme could be gradually rolled out to other schools or districts.

3.17 The research report for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years confirmed that the Scheme has achieved its dual objectives: (1) strengthening students' resolve to stay away from drugs; and (2) enhancing the motivation of students troubled by drugs to seek treatment and assistance. The research found no evidence to establish previous concerns such as possible labelling effect and adverse impact on the parent-child relationship, and parents' and students' trust in schools. The study recommended that school drug testing scheme should be further developed in Hong Kong. It should follow a voluntary, school-based, student-oriented approach with the participation of the community.

3.18 In light of the experience gained in the Scheme over the past two school years and recommendations on the Scheme by the research organisation, the Government has started to encourage schools from other districts to implement the Healthy School Programme with a drug testing component (HSP(DT)), to foster a drug-free culture on campus. The programme has been designed according to the needs and development of schools, aiming to promote students' well being. The HSP(DT) consists of the school drug testing component whereby participation is voluntary, and a series of anti-drug educational, counselling and supportive services. These activities aim to help students develop healthy habits, positive attitudes and values towards life, so as to enhance students' resilience and resolve to stay away from drugs. The BDF is open to joint application by interested schools and their NGO partner. As at May 2012, the BDF Association has approved funding applications by 45 schools to launch the HSP(DT) for the 2011/12 school year. A total of \$15.5 million has been granted.

Hair testing

3.19 As part of the CE's anti-drug campaign, the Government Laboratory has successfully developed the hair drug testing method which was accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service. It launched a pilot scheme providing free hair testing services for a range of treatment and rehabilitation service units (CCPSAs, DTRCs, SACs, and outreaching teams, etc.) as an alternative drug testing method in June 2010.

Drug testing in CCPSAs

3.20 Voluntary drug test packaged with motivational interview and basic body check has been forming part and parcel of the On-site Medical Support Service (OSMSS) at the CCPSAs since October 2009.

(C) Enhancement of Downstream Programmes in Terms of Capacity and Sophistication

(a) CCPSAs

3.21 To enable timely and early medical intervention to drug abusers who require elementary medical treatment, CCPSAs launched OSMSS in October 2009. This comprises the deployment of a Registered Nurse (Psychiatric) [RN(Psy)] on site and the provision of resources for procurement of medical support services from the community including body checks, drug tests, motivational interviews and drug-related consultation to PSAs.

3.22 In October 2010, four new CCPSAs were set up in Central and Western/Southern/Islands, Shamshuipo, Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing districts, making a total of 11 CCPSAs over the territory. This aimed to strengthen further district-based collaboration amongst various stakeholders and enhance service synergy in each of the 11 administrative districts of SWD.

(b) Rehabilitation of drug offenders

Probation service

3.23 A Pilot Project on Enhanced Probation Service has been implemented in October 2009 in the two Probation Offices serving the

Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts and Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts respectively. The project aims to provide more focused, structured and intensive treatment programmes for young offenders aged below 21 and convicted of drug-related offences, who are put on probation pursuant to the Probation of Offenders Ordinance (Cap 298). Services of the Pilot Project include probation supervision with more frequent progress reports to court, more frequent urine tests and curfew checks, intensive counselling programmes, therapeutic groups, employment assistance, school guidance, etc. The project would be extended for one year in 2012-13 financial year. As at 30 April 2012, 234 young offenders have been placed on the Pilot Project by the Courts.

3.24 A preliminary evaluation conducted in 2011 indicates that the project has been welcomed by the magistrates, parents of the probationers and probation officers as it provides more in-depth and intensive counselling and treatment to probationers and also helps probation officers build up a better working relationship with the parents. SWD is conducting a final review to assess the overall effectiveness of the Pilot Project with a view to deciding the way forward.

DATCs

3.25 CSD has taken a series of steps to re-organise institutional regime and redeploy resources in a bid to tackle the problem of youth drug abuse. Lai Sun Correctional Institution (LSCI) has been converted from a pre-release vocational training centre for male adult prisoners into a DATC for male young inmates in early 2010. It not only helped alleviate the overcrowding of Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre, but also enhanced rehabilitative services and vocational training for young drug abusers through utilisation of existing facilities in LSCI. Besides, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre (Annex) was renamed to Nei Kwu Correctional Institution with extension of accommodation places from 140 to 180 for female drug abusers in February 2010.

3.26 CSD has also incorporated structured counselling and psychological programmes into the daily DATC programme. To uplift the competitiveness in open job market, DATC inmates have been arranged to attend vocational training courses. Half-day market-oriented vocational training programmes are provided for young abusers whereas voluntary part-time vocational training programmes are provided for adult abusers.

(c) DTRCs

3.27 The Government has made strenuous efforts to assist DTRCs in meeting the licensing requirements. Since publication of the Fifth Three-year Plan, eight DTRCs operating under Certificates of Exemption have obtained licence.

3.28 To ensure that young drug abusers promptly receive appropriate treatment, the Government has continued to encourage the treatment and rehabilitation sector to provide different models of service to address more effectively the various needs of young drug abusers. In 2010-11, the capacities of two DH-subvented DTRCs were further increased. Also, SWD has completed the allocation of 101 subvented DTRC places with resources approved in 2008-09.

3.29 In 2009, BDF supported a one-year pilot project by the Mission Ark in providing short-term residential programme of one to two months for young male drug abusers. The application by Mission Ark for extension of the project for one more year was approved in 2010. The project includes trainings on Neuro-linguistic Programming, war games and outdoor activities. As at 31 August 2011, 289 man-times of services have been provided to young drug abusers under the two projects.

(d) SACs

3.30 In 2009-10, HA made an additional provision of \$12.5 million to enhance the services of its seven SACs by increasing consultation sessions to cope with the anticipated increase in demand for services. The SAC at Kwai Chung Hospital has started the operation of day sessions for substance abusers.

3.31 In 2010-11 financial year, HA further injected \$10 million to cope with the demand for an increase in clinic sessions. HA has also provided adequate treatment capacity in SACs by working towards a median waiting time of around two weeks for first attendance. New Territories East Cluster has expanded its substance abuse service and added more sessions dedicated to the treatment of patients with substance abuse in North District Hospital in September 2009 and Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital in Tai Po in August 2010.

3.32 HA's Substance Abuse Service Working Group regularly reviews and enhances the service provision of SACs. Taking the SAC in Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital in Eastern District as an example, its day rehabilitation services have been enhanced in 2010-11 to include motivational interviewing, relapse prevention, activity of daily living training, leisure time management, and community orientation.

(e) Training for Anti-drug Workers

3.33 We continued to make efforts to strengthen the role of family doctors as the first point of contact for a person who starts to develop or has developed various symptoms associated with drug abuse. HA organised a seminar on substance abuse in May 2010 to enhance understanding on various treatment strategies of substance abusers and the importance of community partnership. Over 130 participants attended, including doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, social workers, etc.

3.34 With the support from BDF, Caritas Lok Heep Club has launched a series of training and exchange activities under the "Drug Knowledge Project", of which drug workers including the medical profession are the targets. The project was kicked off in December 2010.

Social workers

3.35 Provision of structured training is one of the priority areas for the 2010 BDF Funding Exercise. With the funding support from the BDF, Caritas Hong Kong organised a certificate course for social worker in August 2011. 31 out of 34 participants were awarded certificates.

3.36 SWD organised 20 anti-drug programmes between 2009 and 2011. A total of 749 frontline social workers have participated in the programmes.

Teachers

3.37 For teachers, ND has commissioned NGOs to provide on-site training programmes for teachers of primary and secondary schools since 2008/09 school year. As at end August 2011, 364 programmes were provided by the service providers since 2008/09 school year.

(f) Reintegration of Abusers into Society

Strengthening the service

3.38 Since October 2010, SWD has enlisted assistance from 11 CCPSAs to provide after-care services for discharged residents from non-subsented DTRCs without such services.

3.39 A two-year project funded by BDF, namely “Stand Up, No Drug”, was launched by Hong Kong Christian Service in October 2010 targeted at young drug service users. This project aimed at building up a connection with the community and soliciting support from the public for drug abusers. Job and social skill training, job placement for drug abusers, anti-drug ambassadors training, mentor matching, volunteer work and anti-drug campaign for students and members of the public were some of the elements in this project. Key factors in successful community mobilisation are being investigated and results will be available when the project concludes in late 2012.

3.40 In November 2010, with the support of BDF, the St. Stephen’s Society launched a one-year residential programme “High Flyers” targeted at drug abusers aged from 18 to 30 living in the treatment centre of the grantee. The project aimed to provide opportunities for residents to receive career trainings on areas like information technology, design, health and beauty, and renovation and decoration. They would then choose one of the areas to develop a career path and receive more in-depth training. The project has benefited 90 participants.

Support from the community

3.41 We have continued to make use of the “Path Builders” initiative launched in September 2008 to support drug abusers in their treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration processes. Organisations including corporations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies and NGOs were encouraged to offer internships, visits, vocational training or job opportunities to rehabilitated abusers. Individuals were invited to become mentors of the young people or shared with them their professional knowledge and life experience.

Reintegration into schools

3.42 As regards educational programmes provided by DTRCs to school-aged young drug abusers, Education Bureau (EDB) has increased the level of subvention by some 40% per programme since the 2010/11 school year. EDB inspectors have also paid advisory visits to the DTRCs operating subvented educational programmes^{Note} for professional support and quality assurance of the programmes. Furthermore, EDB has organised workshops and professional networking activities for the teaching staff of the educational programmes to facilitate professional dialogues and sharing of good practices.

Support from family

3.43 With the support of BDF, the Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service ran a project named “LOVE HOME · LOVE LIFE” to provide emotional support service to the family members of unmotivated PSAs and to encourage the abusers to receive treatment through their family members. Project activities included family visits, one-to-one family counselling, supportive groups to the family members of drug abusers, and preventive programmes to parents.

3.44 Funded by BDF, Caritas Hong Kong launched the Project “Muguet” to help young drug abusers who are also mothers and their families understand how to make use of different social services to support their needs.

(D) Continuum of Service by Different Sectors/ Modalities

(a) Tiered, Multi-modality Framework

3.45 To conceptualise the broad array of services in the current landscape in a more systematic manner, ND, after several rounds of consultation with the anti-drug sector, published the first edition of a tiered, multi-modality approach of treatment and rehabilitation services for drug abusers in Hong Kong in December 2010 as a reference for the service sectors, service users and the public. It embodies a continuum of service from identification, treatment, rehabilitation to reintegration and sets out a direction for all concerned parties to work together to achieve the collective goal of a holistic service.

^{Note} In the 2011/12 school year, the number of DTRCs operating subvented educational programmes is 14.

(b) Collaboration between CCPSAs and SACs

3.46 CCPSAs and SACs have established collaboration through meetings and cross-referrals on a cluster basis. The first collaboration meeting was held in June 2009. Individual clusters have organised joint programmes and counselling groups, and provided outreaching service to CCPSAs. CCPSAs have also actively made case referrals to SACs for more intensive and specialist treatment since the launch of OSSMS in October 2009. CCPSAs and SACs will continue this collaboration in providing timely services to drug abusers.

(c) Other forms of multi-disciplinary collaboration

3.47 To promote multi-disciplinary collaboration in the treatment and rehabilitation sector, ND has invited representatives of YOTs and Overnight Outreaching Services for Young Night Drifters (YNDs) to DLC to widen the spectrum of representation there.

3.48 SWD has proactively organised visits and exchange activities amongst organisations in different modalities to facilitate deeper understanding of each other's services and enhance case referral.

3.49 SACs has collaborated with relevant organisations in the community to facilitate the provision of medical services, including assessment, consultation, outreaching service, and relapse prevention. The services were provided to a range of clients, from high risk youths to in-patients.

3.50 In addition, individual HA service clusters have established fast track referral between different specialties for urgent cases. There was also collaboration between SACs and academic institutions for the provision of alternative therapy, for example, narrative therapy.

3.51 Anti-drug workers from different disciplines have joined hands to enhance multi-disciplinary collaboration. At district level, multi-disciplinary collaboration on anti-drug work has been actively pursued through a wide range of activities organised, co-organised and/or funded by the district social welfare offices of SWD during the years.

(E) Sustained Service Improvements

3.52 Efforts have been made in facilitating the treatment and rehabilitation agencies to re-engineer their services to meet the increasing needs of PSAs.

3.53 SWD and the five CCPSAs established before December 2008 (viz. TWGHs CROSS Centre – Eastern and Wanchai Office, Evergreen Lutheran Centre, Cheer Lutheran Centre, Caritas HUGS Centre, and PS33 Tsimshatsui Centre) have, under the Funding and Service Agreement renewal in October 2010, agreed to increase the coverage of their respective school drug programmes from 75% to 80% of the secondary schools in their catchment areas and to provide drug preventive education and publicity programmes to the general public at community level.

3.54 Separately, SWD has reviewed and/or enhanced the performance targets of its subvented day and night youth outreaching service and community support service scheme as well as drug treatment and rehabilitation services to tie in with respective service needs and proportionate to the additional resource provisions.

3.55 In 2011, DH has agreed with Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA) under its subvention on setting and updating performance targets, such as detoxification rate, rehabilitation rate and occupancy standards, for enhanced monitoring of its performance.

3.56 ND has reviewed the Pilot Scheme of the “Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Service Information System” (the System), and found it useful in simplifying data collection and information management. The System also enabled a more systematic manipulation of statistical data and better monitoring of the effectiveness of drug treatment and rehabilitation services. ND is in the process of fine-tuning and upgrading the software of the System taking into account feedback from the five subvented DTRCs participating in the Pilot Scheme, and from SWD, DH and EDB. ND aims to promote the System to all subvented DTRCs starting from end 2012, and encourage voluntary adoption of the System by non-subvented DTRCs. The extension of the System to a wider use would be conducive to the continuous improvement of services.

(F) Resource Alignment

Beat Drugs Fund

3.57 The Government has injected \$3 billion into BDF since mid 2010, enabling more income to be generated to better support, among others, treatment and rehabilitation projects run by NGOs, as well as capital works to help the DTRCs to fulfil the licensing requirements and continuously improve their services. Subsequent to the capital injection, BDF launched a second round of funding exercise in 2010.

3.58 To attach greater importance to the treatment and rehabilitation projects, the 2011 Funding Exercise has given priority consideration to treatment and rehabilitation projects or projects involving treatment and rehabilitation components. The target funding ratio was 50% for projects in respect of treatment and rehabilitation. ND has also made effort to invite more applications by projects in this respect.

3.59 Since publication of the Fifth Three-year Plan, three rounds of funding exercise have been held. In total, 45 projects at a worth of about \$47.1M comprise treatment and rehabilitation elements. A full list of projects is set out in **Annex XI**.

NGOs' Efforts

3.60 To serve more PSAs, SARDA has launched a new programme, entitled "Project SARDA", targeting at PSAs aged between 21 and 35, at Shek Kwu Chau (SKC) Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre since August 2010. The programme aimed at making early and better use of the existing resources of the SKC Centre to cater for PSAs and improving the utilisation of the centre.

(G) Continuum and Complementary with Efforts in Other Prongs

(a) Cross-boundary drug abuse and external cooperation

3.61 As part of the People Republic of China's delegation, ND, SWD, DH, Customs and Police attended the annual United Nation's Commission on Narcotics Drug to keep abreast of the international development and exchange views with other jurisdictions. At the regional level, the Administration attached great importance to the communication and co-ordination among Guangdong, Macau and Hong

Kong in respect of combating drug abuse and trafficking. Police have stepped up cooperation with the Mainland authorities.

3.62 In order to tackle the problem of cross-boundary drug abuse, particularly on young people from Hong Kong taking drugs on the Mainland during festive holidays, the Administration has also stepped up joint operations and publicity efforts at boundary control points in order to deter and detect cross-boundary drug abuse and trafficking.

3.63 HKCSS organised the “7th Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau Conference on Prevention of Drug Abuse” in 2011, with the support of BDF. The conference aimed to promote cross-sectoral exchange and communication among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau on drug issues. Elements included conference, workshop, and visit to anti-drug service organisations.

(b) Research

3.64 Several drug-related research studies were completed in 2010-11. They have looked into, namely, Nepalese drug abusers in Hong Kong; impact of ketamine on monkeys and mice; ways to dispel misunderstandings about psychotropic substances among young people; comparison between conventional and new technologies in Substance Abuse Clinics; and impact of ketamine on urological sequelae. Other ongoing projects, such as the longitudinal study on socioeconomic and health impacts of psychoactive drug abuse, and drug abuse situation and service needs of non-engaged youth are underway and are expected for completion in 2012-13. The research findings of physical harms caused by ketamine has also been reported to the World Health Organisation and the United Nations as supporting evidence in a bid to seek international control of ketamine.

(c) Law enforcement

3.65 Since summer vacation in 2009, law enforcement departments have been spearheading major enhancement of enforcement efforts specifically for the summer vacation in 2009 and beyond by conducting territory wide anti-drug operations in order to combat the problem of youth drug abuse at the supply side and to ensure no efforts are spared.

3.66 The abuse of new synthetic substance has become a new trend worldwide. In recent years, ND, in collaboration with the Government Laboratory, DH and law enforcement agencies, has taken a more

proactive approach in monitoring the threat of emerging drugs, both in the international and local scene. The effort has resulted in the amendment of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance and the Control of Chemicals Ordinance in April 2011 which imposed control on three types of synthetic drugs and a precursor chemical.

3.67 In view of the psychotropic substance abuse problem in recent years, where ketamine in particular was prevalent among the young abusers, combating youth drug-related offences was the major focus and enforcement priority. More resources has been dedicated to tackle the problem of youth drug abuse. Additional manpower has been allocated to the Police School Liaison Programme and Juvenile Protection Section. A cyber patrol team has also been formed in the Police Narcotics Bureau, and the number of drug detector dogs for both the Customs and Excise Department and the Police were substantially increased.

(d) Preventive education and publicity

3.68 ND has made it easier for the public to obtain anti-drug information through a hotline “186 186”, which also provides a directory of treatment and rehabilitation services.

3.69 To raise community awareness and mobilise community support on anti-drug works, we launched the territory-wide campaign “Stand Firm! Knock Drugs Out!” in 2010. Annual large-scale publicity events followed by a series of anti-drug programmes have been organised to raise awareness of serious consequences of drug abuse and mobilise the community to fight against drug abuse. Home Affairs Department also launched the “Community Programmes Against Youth Drug Abuse” to support organising anti-drug programmes in the 18 districts.

3.70 An Announcement in the Public Interest to promote the important role played by the drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities (including DTRCs) and call for local support for setting up these facilities in the neighbourhood was launched in June 2011.