

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

(A) Background

- 1.1 Hong Kong adopts a multi-modality approach in providing drug treatment and rehabilitation (T&R) services for abusers. The changing drug abuse patterns and the emergence of new psychotropic substances suggest that continuous efforts to refine and improve the service approach are necessary. Therefore, since 1997, the Narcotics Division (ND) has worked with stakeholders in the anti-drug sector in formulating three-year plans setting out the priorities and strategies for T&R services as a reference for service providers to review and develop their plans and programmes in light of the latest drug scene.
- 1.2 Three-year plans have been issued in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. This is the eighth Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (the Three-year Plan) and covers the period from 2018 to 2020.

(B) Objectives

- 1.3 The objectives of the Three-year Plan are –
 - (a) to evaluate the effectiveness of existing T&R programmes in Hong Kong in responding to the characteristics and needs of current drug abusers;
 - (b) to identify areas for adjustment and enhancement of existing T&R services; and
 - (c) to advise on the strategic directions to which T&R should take between 2018 and 2020.

(C) Consultation Process

- 1.4 The formulation of the Three-year Plan is a consensus building process among stakeholders in the anti-drug sector. ND has engaged different parties and coordinated inputs. Dr Ben Cheung, the Chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), led a Working Group (WG) which comprised members from T&R agencies, counselling centres, the medical sector and relevant government parties to advise on the formulation of the Plan in accordance with its objectives. The membership list and terms of reference of the WG are at **Annexes A and B**.
- 1.5 Between June and October 2017, ND representatives met with representatives of more than 60 parties, including counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs), drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs), substance abuse clinics (SACs), youth outreaching teams and overnight outreaching services for young night drifters (YOT/YND teams), grantees of the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF), public bodies and relevant government departments, to listen to their frontline experience and exchange views on areas of focus. The framework and drafts of the Three-year Plan were reviewed by ACAN, its T&R Sub-committee, and the Drug Liaison Committee (DLC) respectively.

(D) Overview

- 1.6 In Chapter 2, this Three-year Plan outlines the different existing T&R services, and summarises the major developments and achievements since the last Three-year Plan for 2015 to 2017. Chapter 3 provides an account of the drug abuse situation in Hong Kong as revealed by the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA), stakeholders and drug-related researches. Chapter 4 sets out stakeholders' views on the major issues of concern as identified in the consultation and their proposed ideas to respond to these issues. Based on these views and ideas, Chapter 5 recommends the strategic directions of T&R services for the period from 2018 to 2020.

(E) Implementation and Follow-up

- 1.7 ND will work closely with stakeholders, including relevant government parties, the Hospital Authority (HA) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to follow up the implementation of the recommended strategic directions and report progress to ACAN, its T&R Sub-committee and DLC as necessary.