

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

(A) Anti-drug Work in Hong Kong

- 1.1 The Government adopts a multi-pronged anti-drug strategy, comprising preventive education and publicity (PE&P), treatment and rehabilitation (T&R), legislation and law enforcement, external cooperation and research.
- 1.2 PE&P is the first line of defence against drug abuse. Anti-drug education and publicity activities raise public awareness of the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of staying away from drugs. To ensure that PE&P initiatives could respond swiftly and effectively to the latest drug scene, the Narcotics Division (ND) reviews and formulates strategic directions and work plan for PE&P initiatives in consultation with the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) on an annual basis.
- 1.3 Drug T&R services help those who have fallen prey to drug abuse to quit drugs, achieve abstinence and reintegrate into society. A variety of T&R services are available to drug abusers with different backgrounds and different treatment needs. Details on the multi-modality approach to T&R services in Hong Kong are set out in this Three-year Plan.
- 1.4 As regards research work which help support evidence-based anti-drug initiatives, the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF), ND and ACAN have from time to time commissioned or supported various research projects or conducted drug related surveys¹. The research findings are put on ND's website to facilitate public access with the T&R related research findings proactively shared with anti-drug T&R sector. More information on research work is given in this Three-year Plan.
- 1.5 On the fronts of legislation, law enforcement and external cooperation, the Government monitors the changing drug scene closely and review and amend the laws regularly to address any emerging threats. Law

¹ A full list of research projects funded or conducted by the BDF, ND or ACAN can be found on https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/research_reports.htm.

enforcement agencies combat drug supply at source through stemming illegal import and export of dangerous drugs, strengthening patrol of black spots and conducting online patrol, etc. Liaison and intelligence exchange with regional and international counterparts are also maintained to combat drug trafficking.

- 1.6 The fight against drugs is a long-term haul requiring continuous and concerted efforts under the multi-pronged approach to respond to the latest drug trend. To keep the public abreast of the drug situation and the Government's anti-drug work, ND reports on the annual drug situation in Hong Kong and the Government's anti-drug efforts to the Legislative Council Panel on Security every year².

(B) Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

- 1.7 Since 1997, ND has worked with stakeholders in the anti-drug sector in formulating Three-year Plans on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (Three-year Plans). A Three-year Plan aims to set 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.

- 1.8 The objectives of this 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 2021 and 2023.

² In 2020, ND reported the drug situation in Hong Kong in 2019 to the Legislative Council Panel on Security on 7 July 2020. The paper and minutes of the panel meeting can be found on <https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/panels/se/papers/se20200707cb2-1286-2-e.pdf> and <https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/panels/se/minutes/se20200707.pdf> respectively.

- 1.9 Three-year Plans were issued in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2018. This is the ninth Three-year Plan and it covers the period from 2021 to 2023.

(C) Preparation of Three-year Plan for 2021-2023

- 1.10 The formulation of the Three-year Plan is a consensus building process among stakeholders in the anti-drug sector, and ND has engaged different parties, solicited their views and co-ordinated inputs. Dr Ben CHEUNG, the then Chairman of ACAN for the period of 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020, led a Working Group (WG) comprising members from T&R agencies, counselling centres, the medical sector and relevant government parties to advise on the formulation of the Plan. The membership list and terms of reference of the WG are at **Annex A**.
- 1.11 Between May and September 2020, ND representatives met with representatives of more than 70 parties, including counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers, centres for drug counselling, drug treatment and rehabilitation centres, substance abuse clinics of the Hospital Authority (HA), youth outreaching teams and overnight outreaching services for young night drifters, grantees of BDF and relevant government departments, to listen to their frontline experience and exchange views on areas of focus.
- 1.12 The consultation framework as well as the draft of the Three-year Plan were discussed and reviewed by ACAN, its T&R Sub-committee and the Drug Liaison Committee (DLC).

(D) Implementation and Follow-up

- 1.13 The Three-year Plans serve as useful references for the anti-drug sector to plan and adjust their services from time to time. As in the last exercise, ND will widely promulgate this Three-year Plan to stakeholders, including relevant government bureaux and departments, HA and non-governmental organisations. The Three-year Plan will also be put on ND's website for public access. Views received during the consultation that have gone beyond the scope of drug T&R services will be conveyed to relevant parties

through the established mechanism for consideration and follow-up as appropriate.

- 1.14 ND will maintain close liaison with the stakeholders to follow up on the implementation of the recommended strategic directions, and report progress to ACAN, its T&R Sub-committee and DLC as necessary.