

## **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 of all backgrounds. The constant changes in drug abuse patterns and the emergence of new substances necessitate continuous refinements and improvements to the service approach. Therefore, since 1997, the Narcotics Division (ND) has work with stakeholders in the anti-drug field in formulating three-year plans setting out the priorities and strategies on 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 and 2012. This is the seventh of such Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (The Three-year Plan) and will cover the period 2015 to 2017.

#### **(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 direction to which T&R should take between 2015 and 2017.

#### **(C) Consultation process**

- 1.4 The formulation of the Three-year Plan is a consensus building process among stakeholders. ND has engaged different parties and coordinated inputs. Dr Ben Cheung, then Chairman of the Subcommittee of Treatment and Rehabilitation (T&R/SC) of the Action Committee Against

Narcotics (ACAN), led a Working Group (WG) which comprised representatives from T&R agencies, counselling centres, academic, the medical services and government departments 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 As part of the process of formulating the Three-year Plan, ND solicited views from the social welfare sector through group discussions and consultation sessions organised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in July and August 2014. Moreover, between June 2014 and February 2015, ND representatives made more than 30 visits to individual counselling centres for psychotropic substance abusers (CCPSAs), drug treatment and rehabilitation centres (DTRCs), youth outreaching teams and overnight outreaching services for young night drifters (YOT/YND teams), public bodies and relevant government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) or meet with the representatives of these organisations to hear their on-the-ground experience and had some useful exchange on areas of focus. The framework and drafts of the Plan were reviewed by ACAN, its T&R Sub-committee, and the Drug Liaison Committee (DLC).

#### **(D) Overview**

- 1.6 The Three-year Plan first presents the different treatment services operated by various government and non-governmental agencies and summarises the major developments as well as achievements since the previous Three-year Plan. Then, it provides an account of the drug abuse situation in Hong Kong as recorded by the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA) and revealed by researches and stakeholders. Finally, the Plan addresses the major issues of concern that were identified during the consultation with the anti-drug sector and stakeholders, and recommends the strategic direction for the period from 2015 to 2017.

#### **(E) Implementation and monitoring**

- 1.7 ND will work closely with stakeholders, including concerned government bureaux and departments (B/Ds), the Hospital Authority (HA) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and regularly report the progress to the ACAN T&R/SC and DLC.