

**For discussion on
20 April 2007**

Sexual Minorities Forum

**Provision of temporary accommodation service for homosexuals
and the social work service to students
encountering sexual orientation discrimination in school**

Purpose

This paper seeks to brief members on the captioned issues raised by a member at the sixth meeting of the Sexual Minorities Forum on 1 December 2006.

Provision of temporary accommodation service

2. Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have a policy to provide service including temporary accommodation exclusively for homosexuals. For children or juveniles in need of temporary accommodation owing to various emotional, behavioural and family problems including bad relationship with their families, they may make use of the temporary accommodation and drop-in centre service detailed at **Appendix 1**. There may also be children and juveniles in need of care and protection. In pursuance of the Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance (Cap. 213), refuge service is also provided irrespective of their sexual orientation at designated places of refuge. A list of designated places of refuge is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Social work service in school

3. School social workers are required to observe the existing guidelines provided under “**A Guide on Multi-disciplinary Collaboration in School Social Work Service**” (the Guide). According to the Guide, school social workers have to observe the rules of

confidentiality and comply with the Code of Practice for Registered Social Workers as well as the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) that they should-

- (a) inform clients fully, as far as possible, about the limits of confidentiality in a given situation, and the purpose for which information is obtained, and how it may be obtained;
- (b) make necessary and responsible efforts to remove all identification information and to seek consent, as far as possible, from the client and the employing agency in publication of case material;
- (c) obtain the consent of the student if transfer of personal data to other professionals is involved, unless there is any specific exemption for collection and transfer of information such as prevention or detection of crime; and
- (d) only release information on a student's situation to concerned parties on a need-to-know basis.

4. Regarding training, school social workers may receive training organized by various bodies, including their employing agencies, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the tertiary institutes and the Lady Trench Training Centre of the SWD etc. Their training covers all aspects of social work practice and may touch on specific issues including problems related to sexual orientation, for instance, workshop on "Working with Clients with Sexual Orientation Issues".

Social Welfare Department
April 2007

**Temporary Accommodation and Drop-in Centre Service
For Children and Juveniles in Crisis or Distress**

Name of Service Unit	Services rendered
Caritas – Hong Kong Family Crisis Support Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term accommodation round-the-clock for individuals and family members in crisis or distress arising from family problems and requiring assistance, regardless of age or gender • Children admitted should be looked after by their accompanying adult family members • Teenagers, preferably aged 14 or above, capable of self care and with parental / guardian’s consent, can be considered for admission on their own
Youth Outreach Crisis Residential Service for Youth-at-Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary shelter for youth-at-risk aged 8 to 18, lasting from 1 day to 2 months with follow-up guidance and support for a period of 3 to 6 months after discharge
Hong Kong Student Aid Society Back-up Shelter Service for Young Night Drifters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary shelter up to 7 days for boys aged between 11 and 18 referred by Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres, District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams or other welfare units serving Young Night Drifters
Youth Outreach Hang Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop-in Centre for Young Night Drifters who may make use of the recreational facilities and receive counselling and guidance from the

	social workers of the Centre
Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Foster Care Service from 1 day to 6 weeks, providing immediate and short-term care to children aged under 18 in crisis situations and referred by social worker
Boys' and Girls' Club Association of Hong Kong Hong Kong Children and Youth Services Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Project Care Yan Chai Hospital International Social Service – Hong Kong Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency / Short-term Small Group Home Service for children aged 4 to 18. It serves similar purpose as that of Emergency Foster Care Service yet the children should be fit for small group living in a home-like environment, with 8 or 9 children living together under the care of house parents
Hong Kong Christian Service Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home Po Leung Kuk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies which provide both Emergency / Short-term Small Group Home Service and Emergency Foster Care Service

Appendix 2

Designated Place of Refuge to facilitate Care or Protection In pursuance of Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance (Cap 213)

Place of Refuge *	Admission criteria
Po Leung Kuk New Comers' Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normal and healthy boys and girls under the age of 12• Mentally and/or physically disabled boys and girls under the age of 8• Girls (aged 12 to under 18) without exhibiting behavioural problem• Boys slightly above 12 may also be considered on individual case merit, for example, admission together with a younger sibling
Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boys and girls aged 8 to under 18
Wing Lung Bank Golden Jubilee Sheltered Workshop & Hostel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentally and/or physically disabled boys and girls aged 8 to under 18

* Besides residential care, individual and group counselling service is provided by the Home staff who also formulate welfare plans according to the individual needs of children and juvenile in care, conduct training programmes/activities such as academic and trade training, social and recreational activities, community service projects and encourage families or guardians to contact the residents through the arrangement of guardian visits and family activities.