The Fifth Meeting of the Education Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund 25 November 2011

Summary of Discussion

The Education Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its fifth meeting on 25 November 2011. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- 1. Members noted the progress of the School-based Fund for Crossboundary Learning Activities (School-based Fund), and approved that special schools might use the additional 20% provision earmarked for subsiding accompanying carers of students; and that \$100,000 be granted for developing a computer system to verify whether students on transfer had been subsidised by the School-based Fund to prevent students from receiving duplicate benefit.
- 2. Members noted that a working group had been formed under the sub-committee to study the details of implementing the After-school Care Pilot Scheme. The working group had a meeting on 15 November 2011 with the representatives from some non-governmental organisations (NGOs), schools and school councils to collect their views on the proposed framework of the pilot scheme. Members discussed the following issues:
 - The scheme's objective should be coordinating resources from different channels to consolidate a personalised after-school timetable for students most in need.
 - Schools/NGOs with after-school care experience might be invited to attend briefings so that they might express their views and lodge "express-of-interest" (EoI) returns; thereby allowing refinement of the scheme details according to the views collected. Then proposals would be invited from schools/NGOs which had submitted EoI returns.

- 3. Members noted the existing situations on assistance provided for students from low-income families to attend sports/arts courses or purchase the relevant apparatus, and discussed the following issues:
 - There were various channels assisting students at present, but some needy students might be unable to obtain the required support in a comprehensive manner.
 - Since the potential number of beneficiaries and the possible amount of funds involved would be enormous, the scope of the proposed assistance programme should be carefully considered. Among others, priority might be given to subsidy for gifted students from low-income families and needy students with outstanding achievement to participate in overseas competitions, or additional resources for schools with needy students selected to represent Hong Kong in competitions held outside Hong Kong.