

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB367

(Question Serial No. 4050)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the details of the community education work of the Correctional Services Department in the past 3 years, including the numbers of activities organised, the numbers of organisations approached, the numbers of participants as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 117)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) implements the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project (RPP) with the objective to convey the messages of leading a law-abiding, drug-free life and supporting offender rehabilitation to students and young people through a wide range of activities.

RPP includes the following activities:

- (i) Education Talks brief participants on the objective of RPP and details of the activities. The talks also provide basic information on Hong Kong's criminal justice system and CSD's custodial and rehabilitation services, etc. Participants are inspired to ponder on the undesirable consequences of committing crimes and adverse effects of drug abuse with a view to reinforcing anti-crime awareness;
- (ii) Under the Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme, young students are arranged to visit correctional institutions and meet with persons in custody (PICs) for experience sharing to understand the consequences of committing crimes. Participants will visit a correctional institution to see the correctional facilities and understand the life of PICs;

- (iii) The Green Haven Scheme promotes anti-drug messages and the importance of environmental protection among young people. Participants will meet with young PICs at Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre and visit the Green Haven Scheme Resource Centre for promoting anti-drug education on the island to understand the detrimental effects of drug abuse;
- (iv) Visits to the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum foster participants' understanding of the development of correctional services and the importance of public support for offender rehabilitation. Guided Tours are provided to participants by museum staff to enable them to understand the development of correctional services. To facilitate participants' efforts to explore the importance of community support for rehabilitation more effectively, more interactive elements are introduced in the museum annex to help visitors understand the serious consequences of committing crimes, community support for PICs as well as the achievements on rehabilitation, etc.;
- (v) The Student Forum is another crime prevention programme. The forum has been held in the form of a musical drama since 2018. Students are invited to participate in a role play on the stage to share their views in making choices and to determine the development of the story, thus inspiring them to discuss about the struggles faced by the characters of the drama. Rehabilitated persons will also share their experience with students, enabling them to have a deeper understanding of anti-crime and rehabilitation messages;
- (vi) The Extended Training Camp, which lasts for 3 days and 2 nights, is a discipline-based training activity. It aims to boost participants' confidence, develop their positive values, enhance critical thinking and build up team spirit through strict discipline training, including a wide variety of activities such as foot drill practices, orienteering skills exercises, team building activities, scenario training, adventure skills exercises and leadership training exercises;
- (vii) CSD organised the first visit of secondary school students to Stanley Prison in April 2013 to attend the drama and music performance of "Creation and Rehabilitation". They watched an inspiring drama created, directed and performed by PICs and listened to PICs sharing their personal experience. The aim of the activity is to facilitate students' understanding of CSD's diversified rehabilitation services and their effects, while offering students another perspective to understand rehabilitated persons so as to instil in them the importance of supporting offender rehabilitation and the meaning of social inclusiveness;
- (viii) The Reflective Path is a new educational initiative under the RPP launched in September 2015 to offer simulated imprisonment experience. It aims to give students a first-hand experience of PICs' life behind bars through the simulation of the actual environment of a correctional institution to prompt them to reflect on the price of breaking the law. By enhancing students' understanding of the criminal justice system and the work of correctional services, young people will understand the heavy price of committing crimes;
- (ix) Different competitions targeting young people are organised by CSD every year to disseminate the messages of leading a law-abiding and drug-free life as well as

supporting offender rehabilitation. Prize winners of the competitions are invited to join a study tour during the summer vacation for free. The tour includes visits to large-scale infrastructure in the Mainland and tutorial activities facilitating exchange with poor students in the locations visited, with a view to effectively enhancing participants' understanding of our country and fostering the development of positive values and attitudes; and

- (x) To enhance the effectiveness of community education, Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders, a uniformed group, was formally established by CSD in July 2018. The objective is to bring together young people with leadership potential and offer them diversified training with a view to broadening their horizon, developing their potential and discipline as well as strengthening a sense of social responsibility. They are also encouraged to actively contribute to the society in future by helping to promote law-abiding and inclusive values for a better Hong Kong.

The numbers of activities organised under RPP, the numbers of organisations approached, the numbers of participants, the numbers of full-time staff in the establishment and the average expenditure involved between January 2016 and December 2018 are tabulated below:

	2016	2017	2018
Number of activities	554	552	559
Number of organisations/schools approached	270	297	294
Number of participants	38 882	39 648	48 093
Number of full-time staff in the establishment	8	9	14
Expenditure	an average of around \$910,000 a year		

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