

# 2025-2026 PLACEMENT BRIEFING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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# SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH IN HONG KONG

## Centre Services

- 139 Integrated Children & Youth Services Centers (ICYSC)
- 22 Children & Youth Centers (CYC)

## Youth At-risk Services

- 19 district youth outreaching social work teams (YOTs)
- 18 designated ICYSCs are provided with additional manpower and funding to provide Overnight Outreaching Services for Young Night Drifters (YNDs)
- 5 community support service scheme (CSSSs)
- Service for Drug Abusers
- Correctional and offender Services

## Residential Services

- Children's Homes (aged 6-21), Boys/Girls Home (aged 7 -21), Hostels (aged14-21), Small group homes/ Hostel (aged 4 to 18)



# INTEGRATED CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICE CENTERS (ICYSC)

- Report on the Review of Children & Youth Centre Services(1994)
- C&Y centre services+ outreaching social work + School social work service
- Target: aged **6-24 children** and youth/parents (age range: flexible)

# OPENING HOURS

- ICYSCs have different operating hours
- 3 types of sessions:
  - morning session (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
  - afternoon session (2 p.m. to 6 p.m.)
  - evening session (6 p.m. to 10 p.m.)
- Irregular shift on Saturday and Sunday

# SERVICES PROVIDED

- Core programs:
  - 1) Guidance and counseling;
  - 2) Supportive services for young people in disadvantaged circumstances;
  - 3) Developmental and socialization programs;
  - 4) Community engagement programs
- Non-core programs (drop-in service, interest groups, summer youth program and/or study/reading room service)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Mainly Group work (such as: volunteer training, social skills training), workshops and mass program (camps and adventured-based activities)
- Working with different colleagues and even outside organization (such as: Schools, IFSCs/ District Council etc.)
- School supportive work e.g. 「小學全方位輔導服務」、「成長的天空」、「共創成長路」、「區本及校本課後支援計劃」

# THINGS TO NOTE

- Casework is depending on Centre's characteristics
- Irregular working hours (am, pm & evening sessions, occasionally weekend and holidays)
- Drop-in service (it depends on the centers' policies) is not popular, usually provide school support service
- Need to be very proactive to recruit group members
- Not easy to contact adolescents, mainly are children
- High chance working with special groups: SEN children, children & youth of new arrivals & low-income families
- SCRC record checking is getting common since SW needs to visit schools for intervention



# **SERVICES FOR YOUTH- AT-RISK**

- District Youth Outreaching Social Work Service (YOTs)
- Overnight Outreaching Service for Young Night Drifters (YNDs)
- Community Support Service Scheme (CSSs)
- Service for Drug Abusers
- Correctional and Offender Services





## **OUTREACHING SERVICES (YOTS)**

- Target: 6-24 youth-at-risk
- Reach out to individuals and groups who use to hang around in public premises;
- Spot Works: possible working spots to engage users at football pitches, parks, game centers, fast food shops, street corners, shopping malls... all are unstructured sites.
- Common issues: drug abuse, triad society, truancy, sex-related issues, crime, emotional disturbances, family issues
- Irregular working hours and outdoor work
- Usually between 10a.m. to 10p.m.
- Overnight outreaching placement is possible, please carefully consider if you are available for work until 2a.m.
- Night shift is common (6p.m. onwards till 10p.m.)
- Casework and Mass program, groupwork is depend on clients' nature

# THINGS TO NOTE

- Acceptance and confidence in handling their testing behaviors and misbehaviors;
- Icebreaking & engagement skills are crucial; not afraid of being rejected
- Independent, mature, initiative, creativity, interest in working with these youngsters;
- Understanding natural group and gang dynamics;
- Very challenging and with frequent frustration, especially related with value and ethics

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# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE SCHEME (CSSS)

- Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) aims at helping children and youth cautioned under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme (警司警誡令) with a view to re-integrating them into the mainstream education or work force and reducing the likelihood of re-offending.
- Five CSSSs are attached to 5 ICYSCs
- Irregular working hours, sometimes need to accompany clients to Court or Police answering bail on public holiday

# SERVICES PROVIDED

- Casework
  - 1) Guidance and counseling;
  - 2) Supportive services for arrested youth and their families
  - 3) Noted that client can deny service once the Police Discretion is given
- Programmes e.g. Day camp, volunteer services, community education program with HKPF
- Group is arranged only on need based

# THINGS TO NOTE

- Primary clients are youngsters under Police Superintendent's Discretion; some clients are consented to receive service right after their arrest (i.e. Arrested Youth) and they can also refer their peers for service
- The continuity of case intervention is unpredictable
- Sensitive to multi disciplinary co-operation e.g. work culture of HKPF
- Very challenging and with frequent frustration, especially related with value and ethics



# **SERVICES FOR DRUG ABUSERS**

- Voluntary Residential Treatment and Rehabilitation Services (e.g. Hong Kong Christian Service Jockey Club Lodge of Rising Sun)
- Counselling Centers for Psychotropic Substances Abusers (e.g. TWHGs CROSS Centre, PS33)

## **COUNSELLING CENTERS FOR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ABUSERS**

- It aims at providing counselling and assistance to habitual/occasional/potential psychotropic substance abusers and to young people at risk with a view to assisting them to abstain from psychotropic substance abuse and develop healthy life-style.

# **SERVICES PROVIDED**

- case and group counselling for psychotropic substance abusers;
- counselling for their family members;
- regular preventive education programs/talks for secondary students and the community



# THINGS TO NOTE

- Mainly deal with unmotivated and involuntary clients (CSSSs, drug abusers...)
- Be familiar with the drugs effect and medical model on treatment
- Be initiative, good engagement skills
- Special talents to attract the youths to talk to you



## **CORRECTIONAL AND OFFENDER SERVICES**

- Secondary setting, service provided by Correctional Department, institutes usually located at remote areas.
- Dealing with clients who have committed criminal offences, clients' family support work may not be possible.

# THINGS TO NOTE

- Only for concurrent placement
- Pre-placement security vetting will be conducted by CSD which usually take time
- Working hours start from 8am to 5:30pm at restricted working conditions, with rare outside duties. E.g. when working inside the office, all personal mobiles or private computers need to be kept at the visitors' lockers. Internet service is not provided.
- Need to follow strict security requirement e.g. security check at every main-gate area, no mobile phone or internet services
- Require to be familiar with the rules and regulations of each institute.
- When performing case interviewing or group sessions or projects, additional staff would be placed in the room for security support reason.
- Placement supervisor may have limited on-site supervisions to placement students owing to the security reason, therefore, additional supervision meetings need to be arranged at HKU on non-placement days.

# RESIDENTIAL SERVICES



- Non-institutional Care

1) Ordinary Small Group Home: 4 to 18 years old

- for those needy families who could not take care of their children temporary, just like a home-like environment for the children until they can return to their families or a long-term alternative living arrangement is achieved

2) Integrated Small Group Home

- 7 children with ages of 4 to 18 and 1 mildly mentally handicapped child with ages of 6 to 18

# RESIDENTIAL SERVICES



- Institutional Care
  - 1) Boys' / girls' homes
    - for children or young persons aged 7 and under 21 with behavioral or emotional problems.
  - 2) Boys' / girls hostels - for young persons between 14 and under 21 years of age who are studying or working

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Engagement skills;
- Trust and attachment
- Daily operation in structured setting
- Case, group, programs
- Inter-disciplinary cooperation (such as: nurses, childcare workers, teachers);

# THINGS TO NOTE

- Working hours covers AM, PM and Night shifts, depending on agency's requirement; be prepared to work take up night shifts until 10p.m. to engage clients who return from school or work
- High sensitivity to protect client's privacy
- Clients usually develop strong attachment with student worker, be prepared for good termination
- Get ready to deal with SEN related behavioural problems



# POCKET TOOLS

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Risk assessment and social resources

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Sex education concepts

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Drug trends

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Self-understanding tools e.g. personality test, MBTI, VASK card etc.

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New expressive art means


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Newly emerged sports

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Strong physiques (Prepare walk a lot in the community, playing sports with youth etc.)





# OVERALL REMINDERS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

Learn the characteristics of youth and/or children (homogeneous Vs heterogeneous)

General developmental needs/ crisis

Multi-systems affecting their life choices

Requirements on worker: Outgoing, Creative, Sense of Humor, Easy going, Good communication skills etc.

Get prepared to re-visit your own childhood = Transference

## FROM YOUR 師兄師姐

- More patient to listen to their thought
- Have enough empathy to accompany them especially the hard time
- use strength base approach
- every child must have their unique talents or potential. It is unfortunate that their parents might not be able to help them explore their potential, but as a worker, we might have a chance to do so
- It's okay to eat lemon 🍋
- And be thick face skin to not be afraid of being rejected:>
- I find myself having really enjoyable moments engaging with the youth. I feel their energy and I've found that they all have personal struggles, which make them unique. This makes bonding with them incredibly valuable. Ps be ready to learn a lot boardgames!
- It is easier for youth to open up when they see you as a friend or a buddy.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

- <http://www.swd.gov.hk>
- <https://www.youthblueprint.gov.hk>
- <http://www.hkfyg.org.hk>
- <http://www.bgca.org.hk>
- <http://hkcs.org/gcb/ps33>
- <https://hksas.org.hk>
- <https://www.sbc.org.hk/service-units/sbcstc>
- <https://csss.hkpa.hk>
- <https://www.csd.gov.hk>
- <https://www.chsc.hk>



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