

HISTORY

In 1960, George Stokes was sent to Hong Kong by the British Christian Welfare Council to develop local youth services. He founded The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, which was then established under the provisions of the Societies Ordinance in 1962 and incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance in 1970.

In the early days of its development, the Federation's aims were to promote youth services by liaising with other youth organisations and by setting up youth centres in public housing estates. In the mid to late 1960s the Federation began to expand its own services to meet the changing and specific needs of young people. In 1967, a pioneer project known as "Detached Work" was set up to help young people who were unwilling to participate in centralised activities. This was the forerunner of today's Outreaching Social Work.

In the 1970s, a Pilot Youth Guidance Project began to offer advice to young people with emotional or adjustment problems. This has expanded into the Youth Counselling Service. The Service March Project was also started at that time, aimed at promoting community service among youngsters. The School Social Work and Family Life Education services began by the late 1970s.

In 1981 the Federation revised its Constitution and set up a Service Unit to provide training for staff and members. It continued to expand, introducing new services and co-ordinating the development of premises. Youth exchange projects were initiated in the mid 1980s and study tours were arranged to a number of countries. With the setting up of the Lee Shau Kee Youth Exchange Fund in 1995, an increasing number could benefit from long-term exchange programmes in varying formats. With the change of sovereignty in 1997,

ties between Hong Kong and the Mainland became more frequent and close, and the Federation began to strengthen its dialogue with Mainland colleagues through regular exchange and training programmes.

For two decades, systematic research on youth issues and concerns has been a part of the Federation's increasing programme portfolio. The monthly *Youth Poll Series* and the in-depth *Youth Study Series* were first published in early 1993. The Youth Research Centre opened in May 1996, to extend in-depth and scholarly resources to better provide targeted services.

In September 1998, special resolutions were passed again revising the Federation's Constitution to include all necessary mandates pertaining to the operation of a school. September 2000 marked the Federation's first step into the field of education with the establishment and operation of the HKFYG Lee Shau Kee Primary School in Tin Shui Wai. In September 2006 the Federation went one step further with the HKFYG Lee Shau Kee College, a Direct Subsidy Scheme Secondary School, opening its doors in the same district. A third kindergarten was set up in 2013 in addition to the two previous day nurseries, established in 1997 and 1999.

In April 2000, Leadership 21 was set up by the Federation as a centre for the training of the city's future leaders. As a long-term investment, the Federation's vision of setting up a Leadership Institute in Hong Kong slowly took one step forward with a special purpose company incorporated on 19 June 2013 under the name of "The HKFYG Institute for Leadership Development Limited". The Institute will be located on the site of the Former Fanling Magistracy and will continue its systematic and comprehensive leadership training for Hong Kong's young people.

The Federation began a process of performance pledges in July 1997 and has published an Annual Plan since 2001 aiming to make its work both more transparent and accountable to the public. It has also formulated a Strategic Plan for the evaluation of services and budgeting.

In 2002 the Youth Centres changed their name to Youth S.P.O.Ts (Space for Participation, Opportunities and Training). Together with u21.hk, set up in the same year, the Federation's presence in the community increased and became more.

The Youth Employment Network was started in October 2002, offering job placements, training and counselling to school leavers and school dropouts. The purpose is to nurture employability and offer practical guidance.

Set up in July 2003, the Partnership and Resource Development Office, focuses on seeking out corporate partners and sponsorship, both financial and in kind.

To facilitate a better understanding of young people across the border, the Federation and Peking University joined forces to set up the Youth Development Research Centre in April 2004. The Centre has so far produced six comparative studies on youth behaviour, social relationships and values and will continue to do so.

In 2004-05, the Federation re-focused its services and a new implementation structure was set up to facilitate the delivery of ten Core Services. These Services were: Multimedia Services, Employment Services, Leadership Training, Volunteer Services, Youth at Risk Services, Counselling Services, Education Services, Parenting Services, Creativity Education and Youth Exchange and Leisure, Cultural and Sports Services. In 2009, the Core Services were expanded to 12, by including all the

Youth S.P.O.Ts, as well as Research and Publications with the original ten. In early 2013, the Federation's unique flagship multimedia hub, The HKFYG Jockey Club Media 21 (or M21) was established for young people to explore their creativity and innovation through new media.

February 2008 marked a milestone for the Federation with the moving of all the administrative departments, and some service units into The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building on 21 Pak Fuk Road, North Point. Included in the new headquarters are Youth S.P.O.T. 21, the HKFYG Continuous Learning Centre, as well as Café 21, the first of a series of Youth Social Enterprise projects undertaken by the Youth Employment Network. The HKFYG Museum was set up on the 5th floor of the Building in May 2013 and displays Chinese artefacts, pottery, ceramics and other art works.

The Federation set up an Organic Farm in 2010. The aim is to promote, practically and through example, the importance of healthy living, sustainable development and environmental conservation. The Jockey Club Student Support Centre and the Youth Wellness Centre were both set up in January 2011. The Student Support Centre tackles the developmental needs of students, while the Youth Wellness Centre provides a one-stop clinical assessment and treatment to young people with addictive behaviour.