



KK Women's and
Children's Hospital
SingHealth



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New Multi-Layered Pilot Programme to Optimise Developmental Potential in Children from Vulnerable Families

Singapore, 30 October 2014 - For the first time in Singapore, mothers from vulnerable backgrounds and their children will be provided a comprehensive spectrum of care – physical, social, psychological and educational - through a multi-layered and integrated community health and social care support system.

2 Temasek Cares, KK Women's and Children's Hospital ("KKH") and AMKFSC Community Services Ltd ("AMKFSC"), today announced the launch of the Temasek Cares Kids Integrated Development Service 0-3 ("Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3") programme.

3 Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 is a pilot programme to provide integrated community-based care, aimed at optimising the developmental potential of children from vulnerable families, starting from pregnancy up to the age of three years.

4 The services will be coordinated by a team of Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 professionals among a network of community partners including government agencies, health agencies, child development and education centres, voluntary welfare organisations, family service centres and neighbourhood organisations.

5 A purposeful, cross-sector, multi-disciplinary team comprising paediatricians, obstetricians, therapists, nurses, social workers, community health visitors, and other professionals will work closely with the mother and family, providing holistic support that not only enables the healthy development, early stimulation and development of learning skills of the child, but also looks into the well-being of the mother. The programme also includes home visitation by trained personnel who will provide education about child health, development and care, and offer support to the families.

6 For instance, with the integrated care, the mother and child will benefit from having a recommended prenatal care plan from the obstetrician, and a trained, experienced midwife from the Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 team will educate the mother on breastfeeding and care for the baby. After birth, the nurse and a Community Health Visitor, along with the relevant allied health specialists will support the mother, enabling her to provide for the proper nutrition, up-to-date immunisation, timely developmental screening, and adequate early stimulation for her child. Medical Social Workers and Community Social Workers will also come alongside the family to manage challenges and improve family functioning.

7 The Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 programme is expected to reach out to 300 expectant mothers from diverse backgrounds in Ang Mo Kio over a three-year period, and will follow-up with them till their children are three years of age.

8 The programme model was developed based on evidence from early childhood learning and intervention programmes, and reviews of successful models of support, in other countries. It also draws on findings of a study on families in Singapore with challenging socio-economic backgrounds, commissioned by KKH and funded by Temasek Cares. An overall assessment found that:

- Effective support for vulnerable families should adopt a systematic approach to include the involvement of multiple community-based agencies.
- A significant number of children from challenging socio-economic backgrounds have developmental delays.
- An integration of medical, health, social and community services using scientific and evidence-based approaches is required to support the optimal growth and development of children from vulnerable families, who have complex and varied needs.
- Support for mother and child should begin from the pregnancy stage and should continue for the child up to the age of three years, covering the critical formative years.

9 The pilot programme aims to validate the type and quality of early intervention, and nature of engagement with vulnerable mothers and children, in Singapore's cultural and socio-economic context.

10 A Temasek Cares KIDS Centre will also be set up to complement the home-based services with resources, parent education classes and training for mother and child. The Centre will be managed by AMKFSC and supported by visiting healthcare professionals from KKH.

11 With a seed funding of \$2.3 million from Temasek Cares, Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 hopes to establish a new, sustainable, community-based model of care that is scalable to the national level in the long term. Such a model is envisaged to build community capabilities to support vulnerable families and optimise healthy growth and development for every child.

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About Temasek Cares

Temasek Cares CLG Ltd is a Temasek funded non-profit philanthropic organisation that aims to help improve the lives of underprivileged individuals, families and communities in Singapore; and to build the capability and capacity of all people in Singapore to be prepared for emergencies.

Set up in 2009 as an Institution of a Public Character, it works in partnership with various voluntary welfare organisations, non-profit organisations, government agencies, Ministries and other institutions to support programmes that contribute to the well-being, dignity, livelihood, and emergency preparedness of its beneficiaries.

For more information, please visit www.temasekcares.org.sg.

About KK Women's and Children's Hospital

KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) is a leading healthcare centre for Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Neonatology. Founded in 1858, the 830-bed JCI accredited hospital is a referral centre providing tertiary services to manage complex conditions in women and children. More than 400 specialists adopt a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach to treatment, and harness the latest innovations and technology for the best medical care possible.

As an academic and research institution, KKH is a major teaching hospital for Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. The Hospital also runs the largest specialist training programme for Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Paediatrics in Singapore. Both programmes are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International (ACGME-I), and are highly rated for the high quality of clinical teaching and the commitment to translational research.

For more information, please visit www.kkh.com.sg.

About AMKFSC Community Services Ltd.

Since 1978, AMKFSC Community Services Ltd (AMKFSC) has been committed to providing community-based social services to families and individuals in need. Through a full spectrum of developmental, preventive and remedial services, AMKFSC is committed to providing comprehensive support and intervention that is responsive to the community's changing needs. An approved Institute of Public Character and a full member of National Council of Social Service, AMKFSC provides quality social services across 16 Centres in Central and North-East Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.amkfsc.org.sg.