

**Notes of the  
Third Meeting of the Commission on Children**

**Date : 22 February 2019**  
**Time : 2:30 p.m.**  
**Venue : Training cum Lecture Room, 5/F, West Wing,  
Central Government Offices**

**Present**

**Chairperson**

Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung	Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)
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**Vice-chairperson**

Dr Law Chi-kwong	Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW)
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**Ex-officio Members**

Prof Sophia Chan	Secretary for Food and Health
Dr Christine Choi	Under Secretary for Education (for Secretary for Education)
Mr Jack Chan	Under Secretary for Home Affairs (for Secretary for Home Affairs)
Miss Rosanna Law	Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (1) (DS(CMA)1) (for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs)
Dr Constance Chan	Director of Health
Ms Pang Kit-ling	Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare) (for Director of Social Welfare)
Mr Howard Yam	Assistant Director (3) (for Director of Home Affairs)
Ms Chan Yuen-han	Chairperson of Women's Commission

## **Non-official Members**

Mr Peter Au Yeung Wai-hong  
Miss Bakar Fariha Salma Deiya  
Ms Kathy Chung Lai-kam  
Dr Patrick Ip  
Dr Sanly Kam Shau-wan  
Mr Edwin Lee  
Mrs Priscilla Lui Tsang Sun-kai  
Ms Shalini Mahtani  
Mr Kenny Ng Kwan-lim  
Ms Susan So Suk-yin  
Ms Michelle Tam Chi-yun  
Dr Sandra Tsang Kit-man  
Mr Gary Wong Chi-him  
Dr Lilian Wong Hiu-lei  
Ms Kathy Wong Kin-ho  
Dr Wong Kwai-yau

## **Secretary**

Ms Vivian Ko	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1
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## **In attendance**

### **Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office**

Ms Candy Lau	Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration
Ms Kathy Siu	Political Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration

### **Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Ms Chang King-yiu	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)
Miss Leonia Tai	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DS(W)1)
Ms Karen Shing	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1A
Mr Joseph Yu	Chief Executive Officer (Commission on Children)

**Education Bureau (EDB)**

Mr Godwin Lai	Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education)
Ms Louise So	Principal Education Officer (School Administration)

**Food and Health Bureau (FHB)**

Miss Linda Leung [For item 5 only]	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health) 2
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**Department of Health (DH)**

Dr Thomas Chung	Consultant Community Medicine (Student Health Service)
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**Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)**

Mr Edward Tse [For item 4 only]	Project Director 3 (PD3)
Mr Raymond Lau [For item 4 only]	Senior Project Manager 332 (SPM 332)

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)**

Mr Horman Chan [For item 4 only]	Chief Leisure Manager (Land-based Venues) (CLM(LV))
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**Hospital Authority (HA)**

Dr Tony Ko [For item 5 only]	Director (Cluster Services) (D(CS))
Dr T L Lee [For item 5 only]	Hospital Chief Executive of Hong Kong Children's Hospital (HCE(HKCH))
Ms Vivian To [For item 5 only]	Senior Executive Officer (External Relations & Donation Management), Hong Kong Children's Hospital

**Member absent with apologies**

Prof Daniel Shek Tan-lei

Miss Cheng Hui-kiu

Ms Janus Cheng

Mr Chow Wai-chung

Mr Dennis Ho Chi-kuen

Dr Halina Poon Suk-han

Chairperson of Family Council

**Item 1: Confirmation of the Notes of the Second Meeting held on 30 October 2018**

CS and Members confirmed the notes of the second meeting without any amendment.

**Item 2: Matters arising**

2. CS advised that (i) the relative priority of issues to be covered by the Working Group (WG) on Children with Special Needs and the WG on Children Protection; (ii) the consultancy study on the design of children play space carried out by ArchSD; and (iii) the progress of work of the WG on Research and Public Engagement and the WG on Promotion of Children's Rights and Development, Education and Publicity would be discussed under agenda items 3, 4 and 6 respectively.

**Item 3: Priority and Agenda Arrangements for the Working Group on Children with Special Needs and the Working Group on Children Protection  
[Paper No. 01/2019]**

3. CS invited DS(W)1/LWB to brief Members on the proposed priority and agenda arrangements for the WG on Children with Special Needs and the WG on Children Protection.

4. Members' views and suggestions were summarised as follows –

- (a) Regarding the timeframe for the Commission on Children (the Commission) to discuss the issues, the following suggestions were made by individual Members –
  - (i) It might be helpful to group inter-related issues for discussion at the same Commission meeting. If an issue to be discussed by the Commission would involve other statutory or advisory bodies, the Commission might consider according the item a lower priority;
  - (ii) When discussing the issue on “child assessment”, the needs of ethnic minorities (EM) children should also be addressed. It might facilitate Members' discussion if “early childhood intervention and development”, “child assessment” and

“enhanced support for children with special needs” were put for discussion at the same Commission meeting;

- (iii) Noting that the Advisory Committee on Mental Health would conduct a territory-wide survey on mental health of children and adolescents this year, the Commission might consider discussing “children’s mental health” earlier so that Members’ views could be incorporated into the survey. Consideration might also be given to put this issue for discussion together with “prevention of student suicide”;
  - (iv) As users of residential child care services could also be children with special needs, consideration might be given to discuss “enhanced support for children with special needs” together with “review of residential child care services”;
  - (v) There might be the need to advance the discussion on “child abuse prevention mechanism and the notification and immediate response mechanism for child abuse cases” in view of its complicated nature. For similar reasons, the discussion of “children at risk and school social work service at primary schools and kindergartens” and “enhancing education and inclusion of EM children” might be given early slots; and
  - (vi) On “reduce inter-generational poverty” which should cover children poverty, the proposed timeframe for discussion in November 2019 was acceptable.
- (b) It would be helpful if a timetable showing the agendas of the four WGs could be prepared so that Members could have a full picture on the overall work plan.
- (c) Regarding the WG on children with special needs, the following suggestions were made by individual Members –
- (i) While there was a suggestion to revise the name of this WG to “children with specific needs” to better reflect the target groups of this WG, there were also views that the current name of the WG was not inappropriate;
  - (ii) Consideration might be given to include discussion topics on support for children of divorced families, support of children taken care by grandparents/domestic helpers and students with

special educational needs in mainstream schools; and

- (iii) For issues to be discussed under the WG on children protection, some of the issues, such as mechanism for dealing with absentee students, parent education, etc., should also be relevant to EM children, while the issues on design of children play space and Hong Kong Children's Hospital could be relevant to all children in Hong Kong.
- (d) Regarding the WG on children protection, the following suggestions were made by individual Members –
  - (i) Consideration could be given to working out an overarching framework on children protection for further discussion. A Member tabled the documents viz. “Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development” and “Inspire: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children” and suggested that these might serve as useful references for considering the framework; and
  - (ii) For “parent education and family support for children”, consideration could be given to including support for parents as well. “Child abuse prevention mechanism” might also cover “forced marriage of EM children” and “keeping EM girls at school”.

5. In response, SLW said that –

- (a) When formulating the proposed priority and timeframe for some of the issues for discussion, the latest development of these issues, including the progress of follow-up action being undertaken by other advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs), had been taken into account. For example, a Poverty Situation report for 2018 would be issued in around Q3/Q4 2019 and a report on the survey on mental health of children and adolescents by the Advisory Committee on Mental Health might be available later this year. It would put the Commission's discussion of these issues in a more informed context after these reports were available.
- (b) The Commission Secretariat had been facing staffing constraints as the directorate post to lead the Secretariat was yet to be considered and approved by the Legislative Council. The Commission Secretariat would see how the discussion timetable on certain priority

issues and other inter-related issues could be re-arranged with a view to working out a more practicable agenda arrangement.

- (c) As regards the request for an overarching framework on children protection, it could be for the WG on children protection to discuss and consider to what extent such a framework should be adopted, and if so, the categorisation, priority and agenda arrangement for the subjects to be discussed by the WG under the framework. The Commission's views should also be sought to endorse the WG's proposed work priorities.

6. PSLW said that the Commission would need to first focus on the many priority issues entrusted to it by the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of a Commission on Children. The development of any framework or arrangement of agenda items should give due regard to these priority issues. The Secretariat would take into account Members' views and re-arrange the Commission's priority agenda as appropriate.

7. To conclude, CS said that –

- (a) The Commission should take a smart approach in according priority to issues which were not being followed up by other ASBs to avoid duplication of effort and time.
- (b) While Members in general agreed with the priority items to be handled by the WG on children with special needs and the WG on children protection, after taking into account Members' views on the arrangement of items for discussion, the Commission Secretariat would revise the proposed work plan of these two WGs together with that of the other two WGs on Research and Public Engagement, and Promotion of Children's Rights and Development, Education and Publicity and circulate to Members.

**Item 4: Consultancy Study on the Design of Children Play Space in Venues under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
[Paper No. 02/2019]**

8. Ms Kathy Wong declared interest for this item as her organisation's Inclusive Play Space Guide was listed as one of the references in the consultancy brief. Besides, her organisation had participated in two of the public engagement sessions of the consultancy study.



9. CS invited PD3/ArchSD to brief Members on the key issues from the consultancy study on the design of children play space in venues under LCSD conducted by ArchSD.

10. Members' views and suggestions were summarised as follows –

- (a) As the definition of children covers the age cohort from birth to 18 years old, the future design should also cater for the needs of the more elder children, such as sports play space.
- (b) The consultancy study reviewed only the safety standards of the play space but not the design standard. Hong Kong could make reference to overseas examples and consider adopting a risk-benefit assessment in the design process of play space. In engaging the community, in particular children, in the design process, it would be helpful to have a set of guidelines and practice to effectively collect the views from children of different backgrounds. It was important to set up a hierarchy of play space and the play facilities should be properly maintained.
- (c) Overseas examples in the design of play space commensurate with the surroundings were encouraged to be used as references. The children play space should have elements of living science and incorporate green and low carbon design. The design of the children play space should not focus too much on safety as it would defeat the purpose of fun and stimulation in the play process.
- (d) There should be a corresponding change in the mindset, management culture, and provision of sufficient resources to tie in the development and maintenance of new design play space. As parents played an important role in the growth and development of children, the Government should strengthen parent education about quality play and not wary of taking suitable challenges during play.
- (e) Cross-bureaux/departments' collaboration was important on the management and planning of the new design play space. The proposed hierarchy and other recommendations in the consultancy study should be applicable to other children play spaces in particular those managed by Housing Department (HD).
- (f) There was a need to conduct an analysis on children play space in different areas to cater for local needs and characteristics. Consideration should be given to include information on the ratio of children to play space in the central databank on children to be

explored. It was also important to provide diversified play experience in districts where many grassroots children lived.

- (g) The Commission should also follow up on the relevant findings of the review on Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines as the standards of recreation facilities could serve as useful references for developing children play space with new design.

11. In response, PD(3) and SPM 332 of ArchSD advised that –

- (a) ArchSD had sorted out with LCSD on the maintenance and management of the Tuen Mun Park Inclusive Playground. They would continue to work with LCSD and other departments in continual improvement of local public play space.
- (b) ArchSD would aim to add more creative and diversified elements into the design of children play space in the new projects as far as possible.
- (c) Though the consultancy study only focused on the play space managed by LCSD, the recommendations could be applicable to other children play spaces not managed by LCSD. The design guide would be promulgated in ArchSD's website for knowledge sharing. Members' views on application of the consultant's recommendations to play spaces under HD were noted.

12. CLM(LV)/LCSD said that LCSD would draw the management and maintenance experience from the pilot project of the Tuen Mun Park Inclusive Playground when providing more children play spaces with new design in future.

13. CS said that –

- (a) Changes in the culture and mindset on the design, development and management of children play space was important for providing more quality children play spaces in future. More publicity to promote these new play spaces should be conducted at district level.
- (b) ArchSD should consider arranging a briefing session for the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies, with a view to sharing the findings and recommendations of the consultancy study with the property management companies.
- (c) The Secretariat should obtain information from the Transport and

Housing Bureau on the design and management of children play space managed by HD and share the information with Members.

14. After discussion of this item, CS briefed Members on an upcoming exhibition on “Pleasure and Leisure: A Glimpse of Children’s Pastimes in Hong Kong” to be held at the Hong Kong Public Records Building. The exhibition would showcase play facilities and toys for children in the past.

**Item 5 : Hong Kong Children’s Hospital**  
**[Paper No. 03/2019]**

15. Ms Kathy Wong declared interest for this item as her organisation was the play consultant of the main contractor to review the safety of the outdoor playgrounds at Hong Kong Children’s Hospital (HKCH) and was one of the community partners that would provide hospital play service at HKCH. Dr Patrick Ip declared that he was an official member of the Ethics Committee of HKCH and had more than 20 staff from his team stationed in the Bioinformatics Office and laboratory there.

16. CS invited SFH and D(CS)/HA to brief Members on the phased service commissioning of HKCH.

17. Members’ views and suggestions were summarised as follows -

- (a) HA might strengthen publicity to enhance public understanding on the positioning of HKCH as a tertiary referral centre for complex, serious and uncommon paediatric cases and there was no accident and emergency (A&E) department in HKCH. On the other hand, consideration should be given to set up an A&E department in HKCH in due course.
- (b) HA might strengthen the protocol of patient transfer from private hospitals to public hospitals and provide training to paediatric medical staff to handle children patients with a children-oriented approach.
- (c) The governing board of HKCH could have representatives from parents, children concern groups, children professional bodies as well as children themselves as far as possible.
- (d) HA might formulate information and data research on early identification of serious and uncommon paediatric cases for

prevention of disease purpose. HKCH could share its cutting edge patient care with the paediatric departments of other hospitals.

- (e) HA might consider to have colourful paintings on the ceiling of the patient rooms to improve the environment for children who were critically ill and bed-ridden. The language of promotional videos in hospitals should cater for the needs of EM patients.
- (f) There was a need for HA to address the issue of children born with drug addiction symptoms and offered assistance to these cases. Given its unique characteristics, HKCH might make special arrangement to its rules and protocol for visits to critically ill children from the perspective of the child patients and their peers.
- (g) The eight standards recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO) for improving health care services for children and adolescents could be a good reference for the further development of HKCH and paediatric service in Hong Kong.
- (h) As HKCH had an important role in research and training, consideration should be given to extend the scope of service of HKCH to cover subspecialties.

18. In response, D(CS) and HCE(HKCH) of HA advised that –

- (a) HA would strengthen publicity on the positioning of HKCH. HKCH would further strengthen strong partnership with current relevant non-governmental organisations and patient groups for supporting child patients and their families. HKCH would first focus on the commissioning of HKCH before following up on the interface between public and private sectors. For the governing board of HKCH, there would be participation from various stakeholders similar to the governance boards of other HA hospitals.
- (b) For bed-ridden patients in Intensive Care Unit, HA would offer sensory or audio simulations, put decorations on the ceilings and install each bed with a television set to support their leisure needs.
- (c) Currently there were programmes put in place for newborns and pregnant women for early identification of serious and uncommon paediatric cases. As far as sharing of information was concerned, HKCH operated under a hub-and-spoke model that was a well-coordinated network for exchange of knowledge with the paediatric

departments in other public hospitals. For drug-addicted mothers and their children, while clinical services would be provided to them as necessary, it was more important to render support at the district level to cater for their social needs.

- (d) As HKCH was a referral centre taking care of complex and serious paediatric cases, there was a dedicated patient transfer team in HKCH for arranging patient transfer.
- (e) Measures had all along been put in place to allow visits to child patients in critical condition without affecting other patients in the HA hospitals. HKCH would adopt similar visit arrangement as appropriate.
- (f) The standards as recommended by WHO could be a good reference for further development of HKCH. HA would attach importance to the standards and study the applications of these standards to cater for circumstances in Hong Kong as appropriate.

19. SFH said that FHB strongly supported the research work in hospitals. There was a research office in FHB with resources for open call. Paediatric research was one of the key areas highlighted for applications in the open call. Research space was available in HKCH with a view to achieving excellence in paediatrics.

20. At the request of Members, CS advised that HA should arrange a visit to HKCH for Members.

**Item 6 : Reports of the Working Group on Research and Public Engagement and the Working Group on Promotion of Children's Rights and Development, Education and Publicity [Paper No. 04/2019]**

21. On the proposed consultancy study for developing a central databank on children, Members had the following views –

- (a) A Member proposed some textual comments regarding the objectives and deliverables of the consultancy study for possible incorporation into the consultancy brief.
- (b) The consultancy study might work on the establishment and

operation of a central databank on children ready for use rather than just the framework and other general issues. It was preferable to have a work plan in quantitative and qualitative terms. Immediate, mid-term and long-term plan might be worked out so that there could be different degrees of improvement in the collection, analysis and use of the children-related data.

- (c) A Member considered that the time required for completing the study, which was expected to take 18 months, was too long. At the same time, some Members considered that the timeframe was realistic, given the complexity and scale of the study.
- (d) There was a question on how the “big databank” currently developed by the Government could support the central databank on children. There was suggestion that consideration might be given to start the stock-taking of the existing data held by bureaux/departments (B/Ds) as early as possible to facilitate the conduct of analysis on certain priority children-related issues on the basis of these data.

22. In response, SLW advised that—

- (a) The so-called “big databank” that some Members have referred to could be the Government’s open data plan and the introduction of the platform “DATA.GOV.HK”, as co-ordinated by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. The new initiative involved the participation from different government departments and public/private organisations to disseminate various types of public sector information for free use by both commercial and non-commercial purposes. Nevertheless, it was not a central databank per se.
- (b) Upon completion of the study, the consultant would make recommendations on the resources and time required, as well as other related issues for building a central databank on children. The Government would then consider the implementation steps accordingly.

23. PSLW gave further responses on the following –

- (a) As set out in paragraph 9 of Enclosure 1 to Paper No. 4/2019, the consultant would be required to report their findings after “stock-taking and reviewing the local database, including those managed by B/Ds, and overseas experience within four months after

commencement of the consultancy agreement”. Therefore, the requested “stock-taking exercises” had been factored in and the findings would be presented in the first part of the consultancy study.

- (b) As development of a central databank would involve many complicated legal, interface and technical issues, the consultant would need sufficient time for conducting the important study properly.

*[CS left the meeting at 5:50 p.m. and SLW took over to chair the meeting at this juncture.]*

24. After deliberation, Members endorsed the proposals on the consultancy study for developing a central databank on children, establishment of a Funding Scheme for Children’s Well-being and Development and the publicity strategy and plan for promoting children-related matters.

25. In response to an enquiry on the timeframe on reporting to the United Nations on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, DS(CMA)1/CMAB said that CMAB had not yet received the notice or timeframe for submission of the report.

#### **Item 7: Any Other Business**

26. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:10 p.m.

**Commission on Children Secretariat  
April 2019**