Notes of the Twenty-third Meeting of the Commission on Children

Date : 21 November 2024

Time : 3:00 p.m.

Venue : Conference Room 6, G/F,

Central Government Offices, Tamar

Present

Chairperson

Mr KK Chan Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)

Vice Chairperson

Mr Chris Sun Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW)

Ex-officio Members

Dr Christine Choi Secretary for Education (SEd)

Mr Raistlin Lau Under Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

(for Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism)

Mr Clarence Leung Under Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

(for Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs)

Mr Raymond Siu Commissioner of Police (CP)
Mr Eddie Lee Deputy Secretary for Health 2

(for Secretary for Health)

Dr Chuang Shuk-kwan Consultant Community Medicine

(Family and Student Health) (for Director of Health)

Dr Iona Sham Assistant Director of Home Affairs (4)

(for Director of Home Affairs)

Ms Wendy Chau Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)

(AD(FCW))

(for Director of Social Welfare)

Ms Melissa Kaye Pang Chairperson of Family Council

Dr Eliza Chan Chairperson of Women's Commission

Non-official Members

Ms Karin Ann

Mr Chan Kin-ping

Miss Anna May Chan Mei-lan

Mrs Jennifer Cheng Yu Ngar-wing

Ms Kathy Chung Lai-kam Ms Heidi Hui Sim-kiu Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang Ms Joyce Lee Yuen-sum Ms Yolanda Ng Yuen-ting Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung

Dr Rizwan Ullah

Mr Gary Wong Chi-him Ms Donna Wong Chui-ling Miss Koby Wong Lok-yin Ms May Wong May-kwan Ms Grace Yu Ho-wun

Secretary

Ms Jeanne Cheng Principal Assistant Secretary for

Labour and Welfare (Children)

In attendance

Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office

Mr Sammy Leung Administrative Assistant to CS

Mr Nick Choi Press Secretary to CS Ms Joyce Li Political Assistant to CS

Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Alice Lau Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr David Leung Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1

Chief Executive Officer (Children) Ms Terry Cheung

Department of Justice

Ms Eva Tse Senior Government Counsel/Human Rights

Education Bureau (EDB)

[For item 3 only]

Ms Candy Chan Principal Education Officer (Special Education) 2

(PEO(SE)2)

Senior Specialist Ms Michelle Chan

(Educational Psychology Service/Kowloon 1)

(SS(EPS/K1))

Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)

Ms Yolanda Yu Chief Superintendent of Police

(Crime Support)(Crime Wing)

Mr Stephen Liauw

District Commander (Wan Chai District) (DC(WCH))

[For item 4 only]

Members absent with apologies

Non-official Members

Prof Eric Chui Wing-hong Ms Winona Lo Oi-ling Dr Tang Chun-pan Mr Tony Tse Tsz-fung Mr Alan Tsoi Ka-lun

Item 1: Confirmation of the Notes of the Twenty-second Meeting held on 4 September 2024

The draft notes of the 22nd meeting were circulated to Members on 1 November 2024 and no comment was received. The notes were confirmed without any amendment.

Item 2: Matters Arising

- 2. Two stakeholder engagement events under the "Walk with Kids" thematic campaign were held to promote positive parenting and family bonding (14 September 2024) and enhance public awareness on the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance and child protection (16-17 November 2024). Video highlights of both events were played at the meeting.
- The Convenor of the Working Group on Promotion and Public Engagement thanked the support of CS and relevant Government bureaux/departments as well as the efforts made by the Secretariat in staging the two events, and appealed for CS' support in stepping up the publicity and promotion efforts in 2025 to prepare for the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance. The Convenor of the Working Group on Child Protection suggested that the Commission should consider organising an engagement activity at CS' official residence at an appropriate juncture to reinforce the positive feedback and support from children and stakeholders. CS supported the Commission in sustaining the engagement and publicity efforts to raise public awareness on child protection, and asked the Secretariat to follow up the idea of arranging suitable activities at his official residence as part of the overall plan.

Item 3: 4Rs Mental Health Charter [Paper No. 16/2024]

4. On CS' invitation, <u>SEd</u> and <u>SS(EPS/K1)</u> of EDB briefed members on the "4Rs Mental Health Charter" (the Charter) implemented by EDB in

the 2024/25 school year.

- 5. Members appreciated EDB's continuous effort in promoting students' mental health. Their views and suggestions were summarised as follows
 - (a) The display of roly-poly doll (不倒翁) in mega size as the mascot of the Charter on school campuses had attained a positive promotional effect and was well received by students. EDB could consider producing roly-poly dolls in smaller size for placing in classrooms to achieve a greater effect.
 - (b) Parent education was of utmost importance as parenting had a major influence on students' mental health. EDB could consider enhancing the home-school cooperation under the Charter and include the element of "train-the-trainer" in the parent education programmes in the long run.
 - (c) Schools which adopted good practices and provided positive feedback in taking forward the Charter should be identified to encourage more schools to join the Charter.
 - (d) The use of technologies, such as artificial intelligence and mobile applications, could be explored to facilitate early detection of the signs of mental health issues among students.
- 6. <u>CS</u> was concerned about the stress borne by students which would adversely affect their mental health, and advised EDB to consider implementing measures, e.g. presenting awards to compliment exemplar schools and share their good practices with other schools, to attract more schools to participate in the Charter.
- 7. <u>SEd</u> said that EDB had been encouraging schools to take part in the Charter on a voluntarily basis. To reach out to more parents, EDB adopted a motivational approach such as organising district-based film gala presentations and thematic parent education programmes, distributing souvenirs with parenting tips, and issuing parenting guidelines to meet the

needs of different developmental stages of children. EDB would take into consideration CS' advice and Members' suggestions in promoting student's mental health.

Item 4: Briefing on the Work of the Police on School Crisis Handling [Paper No. 17/2024]

- 8. On CS' invitation, <u>DC(WCH)</u> of HKPF briefed Members on the initiatives undertaken for the provision of appropriate intervention and support services in handling school crises, including the prevention of suicide and intervention of attempted cases.
- 9. Members showed appreciation to the professional support services provided by HKPF. Their views and suggestions were summarised as follows
 - (a) The seminars and workshops to build up the capability of school personnel to handle crises were highly useful. HKPF should consider creating a formal mechanism or dedicated platform to facilitate schools to approach them when they needed such information/service.
 - (b) Police should consider deploying big data analysis to identify high-risk schools so that priority would be accorded to equip their staff with the crisis handling skills through seminars or workshops.
 - (c) Refresher training could be provided to reinforce the crisis handling skills of school personnel. Online sharing or provision of training videos could also be explored to benefit more stakeholders.
 - (d) Apart from students, the mental well-being of teachers should also be attended to in view of their heavy workload.
 - (e) The relevant training materials and resources should also be made

available in English so that they could be accessed by international schools.

- 10. In response to Members' views, <u>DC(WCH)</u> said that the Police Negotiation Cadre had been engaging school-sponsoring bodies and making use of Teachers' Development Days to reach out teachers and school representatives. Whenever crises happened, the Police emergency control centre would deploy all necessary service units, including fire service, ambulance service, negotiation service, etc. to provide immediate on-site support to school personnel.
- 11. <u>CP</u> supplemented that HKPF would consider the production of educational videos on different themes for screening by schools for relevant stakeholders, such as students and school personnel. HKPF would also consider the provision of online training.

Item 5: Progress Reports of the Working Groups [Paper No. 18-19/2024]

12. The progress reports of the Working Group on Child Protection and the Working Group on Promotion and Public Engagement were circulated to Members for information prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any view on the reports from Members.

Item 6: Any Other Business

- 13. A Member raised concerns on the safety pre-cautionary measures in residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) to prevent the residents from sexual abuse and asked for more information on this front.
- 14. In response, <u>AD(FCW)</u> briefed the meeting that the Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) issued by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had stipulated the requirements for the operation and management of RCHDs. The Code of Practice was updated in October 2024 to enhance the monitoring of CCTV surveillance

and viewing CCTV footage of RCHDs, and organised a sharing session for RCHD operators and staff to enhance their vigilance on any suspected abuse cases. SWD would also conduct inspections at the RCHDs and random checks on CCTV footages to monitor the operation and services of RCHDs. SWD would provide more detailed information to Members in response to the concerns.

15. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Commission on Children Secretariat December 2024