

**Notes of the
Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Commission on Children**

Date : 6 March 2025
Time : 3:00 p.m.
Venue : 5/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, Tamar

Present

Chairperson

Mr KK Chan Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)

Vice Chairperson

Mr Chris Sun Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Ex-officio Members

Prof Lo Chung-mau	Secretary for Health (S for Health)
Miss Alice Mak	Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs
Mr Raistlin Lau	Under Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism (for Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism)
Dr Jeff Sze	Under Secretary for Education (USED) (for Secretary for Education)
Mr Raymond Siu	Commissioner of Police
Dr Ronald Lam	Director of Health
Mr Edward To	Director of Social Welfare
Mr Te Chi-wang	Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2) (for Director of Home Affairs)

Non-official Members

Mr Chan Kin-ping
Miss Anna May Chan Mei-lan
Mrs Jennifer Cheng Yu Ngar-wing
Prof Eric Chui Wing-hong
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
Mr Tony Tse Tsz-fung
Mr Alan Tsoi Ka-lun
Dr Rizwan Ullah
Mr Gary Wong Chi-him
Miss Koby Wong Lok-yin
Ms May Wong May-kwan
Ms Grace Yu Ho-wun

Secretary

Mr Kevin Li 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 (LWB)

Ms Alice Lau Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mr David Leung Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1
(DS(W)1)
Ms Terry Cheung Chief Executive Officer (Children)

Education Bureau (EDB)

[For item 2 only]

Ms Candy Chan Principal Education Officer (Special Education) 2

Health Bureau (HHB)

[For item 3 only]

Ms Chan Yuk-sim Head of Community Network, Primary Healthcare
Commission

Security Bureau

[For item 4 only]

Mr Kesson Lee	Commissioner for Narcotics (C for N)
Mr Gary Chow	Assistant Secretary (Narcotics) 2

Department of Health (DH)

Dr Chuang Shuk-kwan	Consultant Community Medicine (Family and Student Health)
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Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)

Ms Yolanda Yu	Chief Superintendent of Police (Crime Support)(Crime Wing)
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Social Welfare Department (SWD)

[For item 2 only]

Ms Wendy Chau	Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare)
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Hospital Authority (HA)

[For item 3 only]

Dr Raymond Cheung	Chief Manager (Patient Safety & Risk Management)
Dr Lee Tsz-leung	Hospital Chief Executive, Hong Kong Children's Hospital

Members absent with apologies**Ex-officio Members**

Ms Melissa Kaye Pang	Chairperson of Family Council
Dr Eliza Chan	Chairperson of Women's Commission

Non-official Members

Ms Karin Ann
Ms Winona Lo Oi-ling
Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung
Dr Tang Chun-pan
Ms Donna Wong Chui-ling

Item 1: Confirmation of the Notes of the Twenty-third Meeting held on 21 November 2024

The draft notes of the 23rd meeting were circulated to Members on 17 January 2025 and no comment was received. The notes were confirmed without any amendment.

Item 2: Matters Arising

2. On CS' invitation, DS(W)1/LWB updated Members on the progress of the Government's preparatory work for the commencement of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance) in January 2026 on various fronts. These included providing talks to the management of organisations in the social welfare, education and healthcare sectors in the first quarter of 2025 to apprise them of the key requirements of the new legislation, formulating a Guide for the 25 professions specified by the new legislation to report serious child abuses, conducting a series of briefings for mandated reporters and relevant stakeholders, increasing the number of residential places for children to cater for possible surge in child abuse reports, and enhancing support for child abuse victims and their families, etc. LWB would work with EDB, HHB and SWD to increase the participation of the specified professionals in online training to ensure their awareness of the new legislation.

3. A Member pointed out that of the 25 specified professionals, 18 professions were from the healthcare sector. The Member further suggested that in view of the large number of specified professionals in the healthcare sector and the diversity of these professions, LWB and HHB should consider reaching out to these healthcare professions through collaboration with relevant professional bodies.

4. CS said that all relevant policy bureaux and departments should continue to take concerted action in making full preparation for the commencement of the Ordinance, in particular on the engagement of the relevant professional bodies and stakeholders.

Item 3: Children's Healthcare Services
[Paper No. 2/2025]

5. On CS' invitation, S for Health and representatives of HHB, DH and HA briefed Members on the public medical and health services for children to cater for the needs and development of children at different stages of growth.

6. Members appreciated the comprehensive and quality healthcare services provided by the Government to children. Their views and suggestions were summarized as follows—

- (a) Collaboration among the medical, education, and social welfare sectors would be essential for effectively enhancing children's physical and mental well-being. District Health Centres could serve as the platform to synergise the efforts of schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Consideration might also be given to engaging the commercial sector to promote children's well-being.
- (b) The use of artificial intelligence (AI) and interactive digital applications should be explored to facilitate the early identification of mental health issues and/or risk of suicide among students, so that timely intervention and suitable support could be provided. Besides, the school-based health report under the Whole School Health Programme (WSHP) should, where appropriate, cover recommendations on enhancing students' mental health.
- (c) A Member enquired about the implementation of the Three-tier School-based Emergency Mechanism since its launch in late 2023, in particular the statistics on third-tier cases, and suggested the Government to consider expanding the Mechanism to primary schools.
- (d) The Government was invited to consider shortening the waiting

time for treatment of children diagnosed with rare diseases, and offering financial assistance to their families to alleviate their burden posed by high treatment expenses.

- (e) A Member enquired about the eligibility of the partial subsidies for private dental check-up services under the Primary Dental Co-care Pilot Scheme for Adolescents (PDCC).

7. In response to Members' views, S for Health stated that –

- (a) Children's suicide was a complicated issue attributable to multifaceted risk factors. Prevention would require cross-sectoral collaboration instead of a single-approach with the assistance of AI. The school-based health report of WSHP would facilitate collaboration between the medical professions and education sector in identifying students and schools with health issues, thereby enabling formulation of customised follow-up action plans.
- (b) Regarding the Three-tier School-based Emergency Mechanism, available data showed that the reported cases for the third-tier (i.e. students with severe mental health needs referred to the psychiatric specialist services of HA by school principals) far exceeded those of the other two tiers. However, only 3% among the referrals were considered by HA to be urgent cases, 40% were less urgent cases, while nearly 60% were non-urgent cases. The Mechanism would be extended to the end of 2025, with enhancement measures put in place to foster better use of the Mechanism and a more even spread of cases across the three tiers.
- (c) The Government would extend the genetic screening services to newborns at private hospitals to help identify rare hereditary diseases for early and appropriate treatment.

8. D of H supplemented that PDCC aimed to incentivise adolescents to seek dental check-ups at private dental clinics and establish regular oral

check-up habits by providing government subsidies with co-payment arrangements. All adolescents aged 13 to 17 were welcome to join PDCC on a voluntary basis.

9. USEd said that through the “Active Students, Active People” Campaign and the “4Rs Mental Health Charter”, EDB had been working closely with the sports sector and NGOs to help primary and secondary students develop an active and healthy lifestyle in schools. With regard to Members’ suggestion on the use of data and information technology, EDB had recently established the Steering Committee on Strategic Development of Digital Education to advise on the goals and strategies of the implementation of digital education development. In collaboration with HHB and DH, EDB would continue to foster cross-sectoral collaboration to enhance students’ healthy development.

**Item 4: Anti-drug Preventative Education and Publicity’s in Schools
[Paper No. 3/2025]**

10. On CS’ invitation, C for N briefed Members on the latest drug situation in Hong Kong and the Government’s anti-drug strategies, in particular the efforts to combat “space oil drug”.

11. In response to a Member’s enquiry on whether “space oil drug” would be included in the drug testing arrangement in schools in future, C for N said that it would be included in the “Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component” when the method and protocol of testing had been developed.

**Item 5: Progress Reports of the Working Groups (WGs)
[Paper No. 4-5/2025]**

12. The progress reports of the WG on Child Protection and the WG 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.

13. At the meeting, the Convenor of the WG of Child Protection reported that the stakeholder engagement event on “Launching Ceremony of the Child Protection Campaign” was held on 20 January 2025. The event marked the one-year countdown to the commencement of the Ordinance and demonstrated the Government’s determination to team up with relevant professional sectors and members of society to safeguard the well-being of children, and to promote the message of “child protection is the responsibility of all” to members of the public. She thanked CS for offering his official residence as the venue for the event and the Secretariat’s efforts in ensuring its smooth running. Noting that Module 2 of the Child Protection Online Training would be rolled out in July 2025, she encouraged Members to complete the Module 1 training as soon as possible.

14. The Convenor of the WG on Promotion and Public Engagement informed the meeting that the Secretariat had produced a promotional leaflet on the Ordinance and its electronic version was uploaded to CoC’s website for public information. To raise the awareness of ethnic minorities (EM) regarding the mandatory reporting regime for child abuse cases and the importance of child protection, CoC would organise a stakeholder engagement activity in collaboration with relevant bureaux/departments (B/Ds), to engage EM leaders, families and community. It was also suggested that HKPF and SWD might consider conducting joint visits to smaller mosques and madrasas to reach out to EM stakeholders at the district level. Furthermore, in the second quarter of 2025, the Funding Scheme for Children’s Well-being and Development would issue a special call for projects to facilitate interested NGOs in undertaking promotional and public educational projects specifically targeting EM communities.

15. CS encouraged all Members and B/Ds to actively support the various publicity initiatives to promote the Ordinance and child protection including the activities targeting the EM community, wear the “Child Protection” pin at suitable events, and adopt the “Child Protection” logo on their promotional materials to achieve a synergistic effect.

Item 6: Any Other Business

16. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:45 p.m.

**Commission on Children Secretariat
April 2025**