

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 10 May 2021, at 10:45 am**  
**in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

**Members attending** : Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP

**Public Officers attending** : Items III and IV  
Dr LAW Chi-kwong, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Ms PANG Kit-ling  
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)  
Social Welfare Department

Item III

Mrs Helen KWOK LI Mung-yee  
Assistant Director (Youth and Corrections)  
Social Welfare Department

Item IV

Mr David LEUNG, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)

Mr CHENG Ming-keung  
Principal Assistant Secretary (School  
Administration\_Special Duties)  
Education Bureau

**Clerk in  
attendance** : Ms Maisie LAM  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 3

**Staff in  
attendance** : Ms Catherina YU  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 3

Mr Roger CHUNG  
Council Secretary (2) 3

Miss Alison HUI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 3

Mr William LEE  
Legislative Assistant (2) 8

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Action

**I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

**II. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1048/20-21(01) and (02)]

2 Members agreed to discuss "Analysis of poverty situation in Hong Kong in 2019" and "Planning for social welfare facilities" at the next regular meeting of the Panel scheduled for 21 June 2021.

**III. Welfare initiatives and support services relating to the growth and development of children and youth**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1048/20-21(03) and (04)]

3 At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") briefed members on the major welfare and support services provided by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") for children and youth, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/20-21(03)).

4 Members noted the background brief prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat on the subject under discussion (LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/20-21(04)).

School social work services for children and youth

5 Mr Michael TIEN noted that the Administration had commissioned the City University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation study ("the evaluation study") on the three-year Pilot Scheme on Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions ("the Pilot Scheme") launched in the 2018-2019 school year, under which one social worker would provide support for two subsidized or aided pre-primary institutions. Pointing out that about 30% of the new child abuse cases reported each year involved children aged five or below and estimating that the expenditure of the Pilot Scheme was around \$240 million each year, he considered it worthwhile for the Administration to allocate an additional funding of around \$600 million each year to regularize the social work service for pre-primary institutions by deploying one social worker to each institution so as to facilitate early identification of and the provision of timely support for those pre-primary children and their families with welfare needs. SLW advised that the evaluation study would shed light on the way forward of the social work service for pre-primary institutions, including whether the Pilot Scheme should be regularized. Given that the number of students per pre-primary institution ranged from tens to more than a thousand, an issue the Administration had to consider was how resources could be better utilized.

6 Mr Michael TIEN and Dr CHENG Chung-tai suggested that during the interim when the evaluation study was underway, the Administration should allocate additional funding from the Lotteries Fund ("LF") to continue the Pilot Scheme for another school year. Dr CHENG Chung-tai stressed that there was a need to do so to avoid the some 400 social workers currently engaged by the 40 non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to provide stationing social work service under the Pilot Scheme from taking up other employment due to uncertainties of the way forward of the Pilot Scheme. SLW advised that in general, experimental projects funded by LF could be of a duration of not more than four years. To ensure seamless interface when the Pilot Scheme was to be regularized, it was expected that a decision on the way forward would be made this year. Dr CHENG Chung-tai urged the Administration to communicate with the service providers before the end of the current school year to ease their concern. SLW assured members that the Administration had all along maintained communication with the NGOs concerned.

7 Mr Michael TIEN expressed concern about the arrangement that the implementation of the Pilot Scheme in pre-primary institutions and the measure of "two school social workers for each school" in secondary schools fell within the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB"), whereas the implementation of the measure of "one school social worker for each school" in all public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme primary schools through a new funding mode was under the purview of the Education Bureau ("EDB"). He asked whether the Administration would consider placing the social work service for primary schools under the purview of LWB as there were concerns that the perceptions of school headmasters and headmistresses in respect of the roles and functions of school social workers might vary. SLW advised that EDB had, starting from the 2018-2019 school year, provided public sector primary schools with additional resources through a new funding mode to enable them to implement the policy of "one school social worker for each school" as soon as possible according to school-based circumstances. Majority of the public sector primary schools had employed school-based registered social workers to further enhance the overall quality of guidance services. He assured members that the two Bureaux would keep in view of the development and discuss the way forward.

8 Noting that SWD would strengthen the supporting manpower for school social workers in the 2021-2022 school year under the measure of "two school social workers for each school", Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the recruitment progress. SLW advised that the supporting manpower

would take up the clerical and administrative duties such that school social workers could focus on the handling of cases.

### Provision of child care services

9 The Deputy Chairman remarked that the paper provided by the Administration was too flimsy without any statistics and relative priorities of services for children and youth. Expressing concern about whether there was a service gap in child care services and the Administration's service provision target in this regard given the increasing number of working parents, he sought information on the breakdown of the number of Child Care Centre ("CCC") and Mutual Help Child Care Centres ("MHCCCs") by districts. Noting that a population-based planning ratio for aided CCC places had been incorporated into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines ("HKPSG") with a view to reserving suitable premises in housing development projects for CCC operations, Mr POON Siu-ping sought details about the projects involved and the timetable for completion.

10 SLW advised that information on the number of CCCs and the respective utilization rate by districts was available in the Administration's replies to Members' written questions in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-2022. However, he did not have the information on hand. On the provision of child care facilities, the Administration's plan was to provide at least one additional aided standalone CCC in each district, with those districts with more young families having more CCCs, through the \$20 billion allocation for the purchase of premises over some three years for accommodating welfare facilities. The above apart, several aided standalone CCCs had been planned for provision in the coming few years through various development projects. For example, one CCC had been set up in Sha Tin in March 2021. In the longer term, SWD would take into account the planning standards and guidelines for welfare facilities set out in HKPSG and the supply of welfare services in the community in drawing up appropriate proposed welfare facilities to meet the service demand arising from new housing development and to address the community demand at large. In addition, as a measure announced in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address, the Administration had invited the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society to explore setting aside about 5% of the total domestic gross floor area in future public housing projects for welfare uses, which included CCCs.

11 Mr POON Siu-ping was concerned about whether the manning ratio of qualified child care workers ("CCWs") in day and residential CCCs was on par with that of other advanced economies. SLW advised that with effect

from September 2019, the manning ratios for CCWs serving in aided day and residential CCCs had been enhanced from 1:8 to 1:6 for children aged 0 to below two; and from 1:14 to 1:11 for children aged two to below three. While it was difficult to make a direct comparison, the manning ratio in Hong Kong was considered not inferior to that of other places.

12 In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry about the schedule of and the manpower required for re-engineering the 19 MHCCCs from 2021-2022 to 2023-2024, Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare), SWD advised that ten MHCCCs stood ready to re-engineer in the 2021-2022 financial year. SWD would discuss with the operators of the remaining MHCCCs the re-engineering schedule. To facilitate the re-engineered MHCCCs to provide after-school care service for pre-primary children, there would be a provision of one additional social worker and two additional supporting staff for each MHCCC.

#### Services for at-risk youth

13 The Deputy Chairman sought information on the number of juveniles issued with superintendent's cautions under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme ("PSDS") since the outbreak of the "black violence" incidents in 2019. He enquired whether there was a need to provide additional resources to the Community Support Service Scheme ("CSSS") which served, among others, juveniles aged under 18 under PSDS. SLW explained that a case had to fulfill specified conditions for the issue of a caution. For CSSS, the number of juveniles receiving service under the Scheme remained steady in 2019 and 2020. Since there was a 30% decrease in youth population over the past 10 years, it was expected that there would not be a significant increase in service demand under CSSS in the years to come. That said, the Administration would monitor the situation and provide additional resources as appropriate.

14 On Mr LUK Chung-hung's enquiry on how the Cyber Youth Support Teams ("CYSTs") would reach out to young people with special needs, Assistant Director (Youth and Corrections), SWD ("AD(Y&C)") advised that SWD had subsidized NGOs to set up five CYSTs to proactively approach and engage at-risk and hidden youth on the online platforms commonly used by young people. CYSTs would provide online advisory and counselling services with regard to these young people's problems in social life, emotion, personal growth and development as well as deviant behaviours relating to the use of the Internet. Where necessary, social workers would meet with the young people for in-depth discussion and provide suitable follow-up services, including referring them and their

family members to relevant mainstream services. During the coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic, CYSTs had collaborated with other service units such as school social workers to provide online support services.

### Rehabilitation services for children with special needs

15 Expressing concern about the long waiting time for assessment for children suspected with special needs, Mr LUK Chung-hung remarked that the Administration should play a more active role in the early identification of children with special needs so that more children could start to receive appropriate services as soon as practicable. As regards rehabilitation for children with special needs in kindergartens ("KGs") or KG-cum-CCCs, he enquired about the implementation of increasing the service places from 3 000 to 8 000 under the On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services ("OPRS") in the 2020-2021 school year.

16 SLW advised that following the increase in the number of service places under OPRS to 8 000 in the 2020-2021 school year, the number of service places would be further increased to 10 000 in the 2022-2023 school year with the aim of achieving zero-waiting time. If there was spare service capacity, at most 10% of the service places (i.e. some 1 000 places) could be allocated for children who were waiting for assessment by Child Assessment Centres ("CACs") under the Department of Health ("DH"). In the meantime, the Pilot Project on Tier 1 Support Services in KGs/KG-cum-CCCs had been launched in the 2020-2021 school year to provide earlier support to children studying in about 80 KGs or KG-cum-CCCs participating in OPRS who were awaiting assessment by CACs, or assessed to have mild developmental problems.

17 Mr LUK Chung-hung was concerned about the support for parents of children with special needs who were under immense pressure in taking care of their children at different stages of life. SLW advised that parents of children receiving service under OPRS or Early Education and Training Centres would be provided with support for enhancing their understanding of the training needs of their children. In addition, the number of parents/relatives resource centres had been increased from six to 19 in recent years. Specialized ethnic minorities units had also been set up in five centres to step up community support for these families.

### Child Development Fund

18 The Chairman enquired about the number of participants and the trend of participation of the Child Development Fund ("CDF") since its set

up in 2008. Noting that only those children aged between 10 and 16 or studying Primary Four to Secondary Four from a disadvantaged background were eligible to apply for CDF, she considered that the Administration should comprehensively review and enhance CDF in various fronts, including expanding the coverage of CDF to all children, providing children with targeted savings from childhood with contributions from the Government and parents if they wished to do so, providing non-school-based training for participating children from the age of three, increasing the amount of the targeted monthly savings and allowing the use of the unspent balance of the targeted savings for purposes other than realizing the personal development plans.

19 SLW and AD(Y&C) advised that CDF aimed at encouraging children from a disadvantaged background to develop an asset-building habit, and formulate and implement personal development plans with a view to reducing inter-generational poverty. Children meeting the age requirement whose family was either earning a household income less than 75% of the median monthly domestic household income (i.e. around \$34,000 per month for a four-person household), or receiving financial assistances including the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, the Working Family Allowance or full grants from student finance schemes administered by the Student Finance Office were eligible to apply for CDF. About 40% of students studying in mainstream schools were from those households. Each CDF project comprised three key components, namely Personal Development Plan, Targeted Savings and Mentorship. As compared to children at a younger age, it would be more suitable for elder children to be matched with a mentor to obtain support and guidance throughout CDF projects and to draw up and implement personal development plans. So far, 71 school-based projects operated by schools, with the majority of them being secondary schools with grassroots students, and a number of projects operated by NGOs had been rolled out. With a rising trend of participation, CDF had benefited more than 21 000 underprivileged children.

#### **IV. Formulating a mandatory reporting mechanism for child abuse cases and strengthening the prevention of child abuse**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1048/20-21(05) to (08), CB(2)1072/20-21(01) and CB(2)1077/20-21(01)]

20 At the invitation of the Chairman, SLW briefed members on the relevant legislation to protect children from harm and abuse and the prevention, notification and immediate response mechanism for child abuse cases implemented by the Administration in recent years, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/20-21(05)).



21 Members noted the background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/20-21(06) and the following papers on the subject under discussion:

- (a) letter dated 30 April 2021 from The Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong ("LRC") (LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/20-21(07));
- (b) relevant extract from the consultation paper entitled "Causing or Allowing the Death of Serious Harm of a Child or Vulnerable Adult" released by the Causing or Allowing the Death of a Child or Vulnerable Adult Sub-committee of LRC in May 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1048/20-21(08));
- (c) submission from The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (LC Paper No. CB(2)1072/20-21(01)); and
- (d) submission from the Hong Kong Social Workers Association (LC Paper No. CB(2)1077/20-21(01)).

Mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse cases and the "Failure to protect" offence

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22 Noting that LRC's study on causing or allowing the death or serious harm of a child or vulnerable adult ("LRC's study") focused on the introduction of a new proposed offence of "Failure to protect a child or vulnerable person where the child's or vulnerable person's death or serious harm results from an unlawful act or neglect" ("the new proposed offence") without a recommendation on a mandatory reporting mechanism, Mr Michael TIEN asked whether the Administration would make reporting of suspected child abuse cases a statutory requirement. Specifically, he was concerned about whether the Administration would do so in the current legislative session as three years had already passed since the Chief Executive tasked EDB and LWB in 2018 to study enhancements to the mechanism for protecting children from abuse without delay.

23 SLW explained that the focus of the new proposed offence was on the failure of those who owed a duty of care to a child or a vulnerable person to take reasonable steps to protect the victim from death or serious harm. Depending on all the circumstances, reporting suspicions of abuse could constitute a reasonable step. As for the broader issue of introducing a mandatory reporting requirement for suspected child abuse cases, an element to be considered was who were required to make reports. The Administration would study whether the reporting obligations should be

confined to the relevant professionals in considering the way forward in this regard. It was noted that while issues relating to reporting of abuse fell outside the scope of LRC's study, respondents to the relevant consultation paper published by LRC in 2019 had given views on these issues. Given the contentiousness of the issue, the Administration would solicit further views of different stakeholders including professionals in the social welfare, healthcare and educational sectors. Hence, it was unlikely that a legislative proposal would be introduced into LegCo in the current legislative session. As regards efforts made by the Administration in the past few years for the prevention and identification of child abuse cases, the details had been provided in the Administration's paper. The Chairman called on the Administration to expedite the relevant legislative work and, in the meantime, enhance public education on the importance of prevention and early identification of child abuse.

24 Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed concern that if the new proposed offence was to be introduced, frontline personnel such as social workers, teachers and school workers might incline to report all suspected abuse cases in order not to be held liable. This might be counterproductive as the Police's premature intervention of some cases, particularly cases involving sexual abuse of children, could result in loss of trust of the victims in the case workers. In his view, the new proposed offence should only apply to cases where the victim had suffered serious harm. He strongly urged the Administration to listen carefully the views of frontline personnel in various sectors who had a duty of care to children before LRC released its report. The Chairman and Mr Holden CHOW considered that it should be spelt out in the legislation who had a duty of care to the victim and hence, the duty to report the case. Mr Holden CHOW added that apart from reporting, what amounted to failure to take reasonable steps to protect the victim from harm that criminal penalty was warranted should be clear. Mr KWOK Wai-keung remarked that harm should cover both physical and psychological harm.

25 SLW advised that the degree of seriousness of the harm was a key parameter essential for considering how to take forward any legislative proposal relating to child abuse. Otherwise, a large number of minor maltreatment cases reported might thin out the resources required for attending to serious abuse cases, rendering these cases not being dealt with in a timely manner. Rather than detailing all circumstances in the legislation, practical guidelines could enable frontline personnel to have a clear idea of what steps should be taken in the handling of suspected abuse cases. Relevant training on early identification of suspected child abuse cases and the procedures for reporting and handling the cases would also be provided for the parties concerned.

26 Mr KWOK Wai-keung was of the view that the Administration should adopt a very stringent approach in dealing with suspicions of child abuse to eliminate even the minimum possibility of abuse, and resources should not come into play in the endeavour. Ms Elizabeth QUAT opined that albeit that there were a number of highly publicized child abuse cases over the years, the Administration had made little progress in the formulation of a comprehensive mechanism to protect children, including the introduction of a mandatory reporting requirement for suspected child abuse cases. She urged the Administration to draw up short, medium and long-term plan in this regard. In considering the mandatory reporting requirement, concerns of teachers and social workers about whether they would breach the law inadvertently should not outweigh the well-being of children as child-related policies should be formulated in the best interest of children. The Chairman said that consideration should be given to providing a guarantee of protection to reporters of suspected child abuse cases.

27 SLW stressed that "child-centred and family-focused" was all along the policy direction for child protection. Efforts had been and would continuously be made by the Administration to enhance child protection. Members could refer to the Administration's paper for details of the enhancements made in this regard in the past few years. It should be noted that internationally, mandatory reporting of abuse was highly controversial as it was difficult to be definitive about the effectiveness of such reporting. Locally, while there had been some past discussions on the subject, it was not until the death of a five-year-old girl in 2018 due to abuse by her parents ("the 2018 abuse case") that there was a wide concern about possible under-reporting of such cases and the need for mandatory reporting. The possibility of introducing a mandatory reporting mechanism was being explored by the Administration carefully, whereas the introduction of the new proposed offence would be the focus of LRC's study. The Chairman suggested that the Panel could consider holding a joint meeting with the Panel on Education after the report of LRC's study was released.

#### The handling of suspected child maltreatment cases

28 Citing the 2018 abuse case as an example, Mr LUK Chung-hung opined that many child abuse cases could be avoided if they were identified and intervened early. He noted that professionals from different disciplines who had close contact with children were required to take actions for suspected child abuse cases according to Protecting Children from Maltreatment – Procedural Guide for Multi-disciplinary Co-operation

(revised 2020) ("Procedural Guide") issued by SWD as well as the "School Administration Guide", "Kindergarten Administration Guide" and "Operation Manual for Pre-primary Institutions" issued by EDB, as appropriate. He asked whether the failure of professionals such as teachers, social workers and doctors to detect child abuse cases involving serious harm or death of the victim at an early stage would constitute professional misconduct and the follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration in this regard.

29 SLW advised that the Code of Practice for Registered Social Workers issued by the Social Workers Registration Board in accordance with the Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505) had laid down the responsibilities of social workers to protect their clients from harm. The Board was empowered under the Ordinance to handle complaints received against registered social workers and conduct investigations into allegations of professional misconduct.

30 Mr LUK Chung-hung enquired whether KGs were required to assign dedicated staff to follow up students' non-attendance and report the cases to SWD and EDB. Principal Assistant Secretary (School Administration Special Duties) ("PAS(SASD)) advised that EDB had issued a circular in February 2018 requesting all KGs to report to EDB cases on students' absence for seven consecutive school days, if such absence was without reasons or under doubtful circumstances. EDB would provide schools with advice and support in respect of students' non-attendance if necessary. While the seven consecutive days of absence referred to absence on school days only, schools should take action for suspected child abuse cases as early as possible according to EDB circulars or guidelines. Schools should report to EDB as appropriate even if the students concerned had not been absent or taken less than seven consecutive days of absence.

31 Taking the view that students' absence from schools for seven consecutive days might be a sign of problems, the Chairman asked about the number of students' non-attendance cases in the 2019-2020 school year. Mr POON Siu-ping sought information on the number of students' non-attendance cases involving child abuse and the follow-up actions taken. PAS(SASD) advised that the number of students' non-attendance cases followed up by EDB was around 2 000 in each of the past few years and the number of cases involving child abuse was minimal.

#### Prevention of child abuse

32 Mr POON Siu-ping referred members to the recommendations put forth by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service and The Hong Kong

Social Workers Association for the prevention of child abuse as set out in their respective submissions (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1072/20-21(01) and CB(2)1077/20-21(01)). He enquired about the Administration's new initiatives to prevent child abuse and provide support for parents in need. Holding the view that abuse cases might be avoided if parents who were under parenting stress were provided with timely support, the Chairman said that the Administration should actively explore ways to assist these parents and provide aided boarding school places for students with behaviour problems. SLW advised that the Administration had strengthened public education on the importance of family cohesion and prevention of child maltreatment, as well as the need to seek early assistance as and when necessary.

33 In view of the increase in bullying cases involving juvenile gangs and students, Mr KWOK Wai-keung asked whether the Procedural Guide had covered the handling of bullying cases. SLW explained that there were separate guidelines for handling bullying cases and child abuse cases. A measure implemented by SWD to address the issues of juvenile gangs was to reach out to high-risk youth through its District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams. Separately, since early identification and intervention was pivotal in preventing child abuse but some families under high risk were unwilling to seek assistance, the Administration had strengthened its work in identifying these families to provide them with timely support. For instance, nurses of the Maternal and Child Health Centres ("MCHCs") of DH were required to follow the systematic assessment tool in assessing whether infants had the risks of being abused. If such risks were identified, MCHCs would refer the cases to SWD for follow-up actions.

#### Statistics on child protection cases

34 The Deputy Chairman noted with concern that statistics of the newly registered cases captured in the Child Protection Registry maintained by SWD showed that the number of perpetrator being unrelated person had risen from 75 in 2019 to 104 in 2020. SLW advised that the Administration attached great importance to encouraging the bringing of suspected child abuse cases to the attention of relevant agencies as soon as possible. The number of child abuse cases reported would usually increase when there were shocking child abuse cases which arouse community concern about child abuse.

35 In response to the Chairman's enquiry about how many suspected abuse cases received by the Administration were substantiated, SLW said that there were about 900 newly registered child protection cases after

investigation made by different parties (including the Hospital Authority, the Police, casework units, etc.) in 2020. In the meantime, the Administration was exploring the development of a central databank on children with a view to, among others, integrating the data on children having the experience of abuse.

36 The Deputy Chairman remarked that corporal punishment was not uncommon in the past. Holding the view that the threshold to amount to causing a child unnecessary suffering or injury to a child's health was not clear, he suggested that data about the abused children captured by the central databank should cover the types of acts which constituted abuse. SLW advised that relevant guidelines issued by SWD had set out indicators of abuse to facilitate identification of child abuse cases. The relevant professionals would take into account the circumstances of each case in exercising professional judgment to decide whether it was an abuse case requiring follow-up actions.

#### Pilot Scheme on Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions

37 The Deputy Chairman suggested that the scope of services of the Pilot Scheme, which provided social work services for pre-primary children and their families with welfare needs, should be expanded to cover the mental and physical well-being of the pre-primary children. Mr LUK Chung-hung enquired about the ratio of social worker to KG under the Pilot Scheme. Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the Administration had any plan to continue or regularize the Pilot Scheme. SLW advised that one social worker would provide support for two subsidized or aided pre-primary institutions under the Pilot Scheme. Families at risk of child abuse and abused children were part of the service targets. Having regard to the findings of the evaluation study, the Administration would decide within 2021 the way forward for social work service for pre-primary institutions.

#### **V. Any other business**

38 There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:30 pm.