

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PS/2/04

LC Paper No. CB(2)413/07-08
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence

Minutes of the 15th meeting
held on Thursday, 28 June 2007, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Members absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Public Officers attending : Item II
Miss Hanny LAM
Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Women)

Ms Winnie LEUNG
Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Women)

Mrs Anna MAK
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Michelle LAM
Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence) (Ag)
Social Welfare Department

Mrs Alice LO
Chief Housing Manger/Applications
Housing Department

Mrs Janet TSANG
Chief Manager/Management (Support Services 2)
Housing Department

Item III

Miss Hanny LAM
Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Women)

Ms Winnie LEUNG
Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Women)

Mrs Anna MAK
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Michelle LAM
Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence) (Ag)
Social Welfare Department

Dr Edward CHAN
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work & Social Administration
The University of Hong Kong

**Deputations : Item II
by invitation**

Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social
Work Officer Grade Branch

Mr LEUNG Kin-hung
Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Kam-ki
Vice-Chairman (External Affairs)

The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr Bernard TANG
Supervisor (Policy & Legal Support)

Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities

Ms CHUNG Yuen-yi
Co-ordinator

Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women

Ms Linda WONG
Executive Director

Ms TAN Kong-sau
Counsellor

Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse
(Kwan Fook)

Ms LIU Ngan-fung
Chairperson

Kwan
Member

Item III

Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social
Work Officer Grade Branch

Mr LEUNG Kin-hung
Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Kam-ki
Vice-Chairman (External Affairs)

The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr Bernard TANG
Supervisor (Policy & Legal Support)

Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities

Ms CHUNG Yuen-yi
Co-ordinator

Against Child Abuse

Mrs Priscilla LUI
Director

Hong Kong Family Welfare Society

Mr Otto LAU
Regional Manager

Ms Cindy LEUNG
Regional Manager

Society for Community Organization

Ms SZE Lai-shan
Community Organizer

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Dr Patricia IP
Member, Professional & General Affairs Committee

Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse
(Kwan Fook)

Ms LIU Ngan-fung
Chairperson

Kwan
Member

Clerk in attendance : Miss Mary SO
Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

Staff in attendance : Item I

Mr Watson CHAN
Head (Research and Library Services)

Ms Vicky LEE
Research Officer 3

All items

Ms Maisie LAM
Council Secretary (2) 2

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Action

I. Proposed research outline on strategies and measures in tackling domestic violence in selected places
[LC Paper No CB(2)2317/06-07(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (Index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members agreed to the research outline on strategies and measures in tackling domestic violence in selected places proposed by the Research and Library Services Division (L&SD) of the Legislative Council (LegCo). The Chairman suggested that L&SD should include Boston of the United States of America and make reference to a similar study conducted by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in its study. Members agreed. Members noted that the study was aimed for completion in September 2007.

II. Follow-up to the discussion on housing assistance to victims of domestic violence on 23 April 2007
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2257/06-07(01), CB(2)2317/06-07(02) to (03), and CB(2)2343/06-07(01) to (03)]

The alleged case raised by Ah Yee of 風雨同路熱線

3. Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Women) (PAS/HWF(W)) advised that pursuant to an allegation made by Ah Yee of 風雨同路熱線 against Wai On Home for Women at the last meeting held on 23 April 2007 that she and her children were maltreated by staff of Wai On Home

Action

for Women and were forcibly asked to leave the refuge centre, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had, at the request of members, followed up the allegation with Wai On Home for Women and the caseworker concerned. As the report of the investigation contained personal information, it was necessary for SWD to obtain prior consent from the subject client before releasing the report to members. To that end, the Administration had sought the assistance of LegCo Secretariat to approach 風雨同路熱線 to obtain consent from the subject client. According to LegCo Secretariat, it had contacted 風雨同路熱線 through Kwan Fook to obtain the consent. Kwan Fook confirmed that Ah Yee was indeed the subject client, but Ah Yee declined to give her consent in writing. Without consent from the subject client, the Administration could not provide the report on the alleged case as requested by members. Notwithstanding, PAS/HWF(W) requested to put on record that the Administration had followed up the allegation but the facts gathered by the Administration were substantially different from the allegations made by Ah Yee against Wai On Home for Women at the last meeting.

Housing assistance to victims of domestic violence

Views of deputations

4. The Subcommittee received views from five deputations on the housing assistance to victims of domestic violence. The major views of the deputations are summarised as follows -

- (a) despite the assurance given by the Administration at previous meetings that the Housing Department (HD) would in principle accede to all splitting requests recommended by SWD, about 33% of the household splitting cases recommended by SWD in 2006 was still turned down by HD;
- (b) the Administration should allocate additional resources to address shortage of places in the existing refuge centres and expedite the processing of applications for compassionate rehousing/conditional tenancy, having regard to the fact that an average of three to six months was often required to allocate a public rental housing (PRH) flat to victims of domestic violence;
- (c) consideration should be given to providing batterers interim housing in urban area or waiving them the requirement to pass the Comprehensive Means Test (CMT) in order to be eligible for household splitting. Many batterers often refused to move out of their matrimonial home because they were unwilling to accept PRH flats in the New Territories or failure to meet the CMT; and

Action

- (d) the Administration should step up publicity to raise the awareness of PRH residents about the availability of household splitting and compassionate rehousing arrangements by, say, putting up posters and making available leaflets at the management office of public housing estates.

Discussion with the Administration

5. Members considered that HD should make it clear that in respect of household splitting, HD would allocate another PRH flat to the splinter household if the splitting request was supported by SWD. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan was further of the view that the main and the splinter households should not be subject to CMT and Domestic Property Test (DPT) in order to be eligible for household splitting, when safety of victims of domestic violence was at stake.

6. Chief Manager/Management (Support Services 2), Housing Department (CM/M(SS2)) advised that in view of the limited housing resources, it was incumbent upon HD to adopt a prudent approach in approving PRH applications to ensure that subsidised PRH flats would go to families genuinely in need. CM/M(SS2) assured members that with effect from 30 April 2007, HD would, in principle, accede to all splitting requests recommended by SWD. The only reason why this would not be the case was generally due to the fact that the family circumstances of the applicants had changed after the cases were referred back to HD. Notwithstanding, should a splitting request recommended by SWD be rejected by HD, HD would refer the case to SWD to arrange the tenant to seek housing assistance under compassionate rehousing or other forms of assistance if circumstances warranted.

7. Members noted that an additional 80 places would be offered by CEASE Crisis Centre in early 2008 for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence and SWD would consider increasing the capacity of the existing four refuge centres to address the need. Members were particularly concerned about whether seamless housing assistance could be provided to victims of domestic violence, and requested the allocation of more resources for providing additional places and refuge centres so that victims could stay at the centres until they were allocated a PRH flat.

8. Assistant Director of the Social Welfare Department (Family and Child Welfare) (ADSW(F&CW)) made the following responses -

- (a) whenever a victim of domestic violence was admitted into a refuge centre, the caseworker concerned would assist her to formulate a discharge plan to ensure that the housing needs of the victim would not remain unsolved and she would have a stable place to stay upon

Action

discharge; and

- (b) SWD would monitor the utilisation of the refuge service and would continue to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of the existing refuge centres through the re-provisioning of the centres to a larger set of premises, as was the case of the Wai On Home for Women.

9. In summing up, the Chairman said that the Administration had undertaken to introduce the following measures to provide housing assistance to victims of domestic violence -

- (a) frontline staff of HD would first conduct an eligibility vetting before referring the splitting requests to SWD for consideration. SWD would make its recommendation to HD in four weeks' time and it would normally take another four weeks for flat allocation by HD;
- (b) in principle, HD would accede to all household splitting requests recommended by SWD, except for those applications where the family circumstances of the applicants had changed after the cases were referred back to HD or the cases needed further clarification. Rejection, if any, must be endorsed by Senior Housing Managers with concrete reasons;
- (c) in case the splitting requests could not be acceded to under HD's prevailing policies, but there appeared to have social grounds warranting special consideration, HD would refer the case to SWD for consideration to see if arrangement should be made for the tenant concerned to seek housing assistance under compassionate rehousing or other forms of assistance;
- (d) depending on the merits of individual cases, the caseworkers concerned might extend the victims' duration of stay in refuge centres to a maximum of three months. Arrangement would also be made to further extend the duration of stay for cases requiring a longer period to settle their accommodation;
- (e) SWD would closely monitor the utilisation of the refuge centres for women and was presently exploring the possibility of further increasing the total capacity of refuge spaces for victims of domestic violence to better meet their demand for temporary accommodation; and

Action

- (f) the Administration would enhance communication between the frontline staff of HD and SWD on the handling of housing assistance, and step up publicity to enhance tenants' awareness of the policies on household splitting, compassionate rehousing and conditional tenancies and the procedures for application.

Clerk

10. The Clerk was requested to prepare a list tabulating the requests/recommendations on housing assistance to victims of domestic violence made at previous meetings and the Administration's responses/undertakings.

III. Risk assessment tools for spouse battering and child abuse in Hong Kong

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2257/06-07(02), CB(2)2317/06-07(02), (04) to (05), and CB(2)2343/06-07(04) to (05)]

11. Members noted that the three empirically validated risk assessment tools for child abuse and spouse battering (the tools) were developed based on the most statistically significant risk factors identified in part one of the Study on Child Abuse and Spouse Battering. Members also noted that the tools could only be part of the entire assessment process to assist frontline caseworkers to assess the probability of the occurrence of domestic violence in the continuous functioning of certain risk factors. In view of their limitations, it was recommended that the tools must always be used in conjunction with considerations of other factors.

Views of deputations

12. The Subcommittee received views from eight deputations on the usage of the tools. While appreciating the development of a validated local tool to assist the frontline caseworkers to understand the risk factors and assess the probability of the occurrence of domestic violence, all deputations expressed concern that in the absence of additional resources and a detailed implementation plan, it was questionable whether social workers could provide timely intervention and appropriate assistance even if a high-risk case was identified under the tools, given the already very heavy workload of the frontline social workers. Other major views of the deputations are summarised as follows -

- (a) since the tools would be part of the assessment process to identify and prevent the occurrence of domestic violence at an early stage, cases identified as high risk should be provided with appropriate intervention and support services, such as referring the case concerned to the Family and Child Protective Services Units (FCPSUs) for follow-up. However, the study was silent in this respect;

Action

- (b) adequate resources and staffing should be provided for FCPSUs, Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) and refuge centres for women to address the problem of staff shortage and alleviate the additional workload faced by frontline workers in implementing the tools;
- (c) as it would require about 30 to 40 minutes to complete a questionnaire, a simplified version should be designed to function as a triage for the identification of high-risk cases that needed to proceed to complete the full version of the questionnaire;
- (d) apart from the experienced caseworkers of FCPSUs, IFSCs and the refuge centres who specialised in handling domestic violence cases, other professionals who might have contact with victims of domestic violence and/or the abusers in other settings, such as teachers and police officers, should also be provided with the tools so that they could render timely assistance and intervention for the high-risk cases so identified;
- (e) the Administration should take into account the socioeconomic factors that might affect the occurrence of domestic violence, such as high unemployment rate and low income level, so as to identify the environment that an individual would have higher probability to commit domestic violence and enhance the effectiveness of the tools as a risk indicator; and
- (f) another risk assessment tool should be developed for children suffering from domestic violence so as to better safeguard the safety of the children involved. At present, only the perpetrator of spouse battering, victim of spouse battering and perpetrator of child abuse were the eligible targets of the tools.

Discussion with the Administration

13. Members expressed disappointment that the Administration had failed to give considerable thought on how to implement the tools. They held the view that the effectiveness of the tools in providing timely intervention for high-risk cases identified for follow-up would be undermined, given the already very heavy workload of the frontline social workers and lack of additional resources for the implementation of the tools.

14. Responding to members' views, ADSW(F&CW) stressed that there was no cause of concern that the implementation of the assessment tools would increase the workload of the frontline social workers, given that assessment was part and

Action

parcel of the existing procedures for handling spouse battering and child abuse cases. The risk assessment tools served only as a validated instrument to complement SWD's risk assessment guide of battered spouse cases for Family and Child Protective Service Units and the Conflict Tactics Scales, etc. The Administration did not see a need to increase the manpower or allocate additional resources for the implementation of the tools.

15. Members were unconvinced of the Administration's explanation. The Chairman urged the Administration to take into account the views expressed by deputations and members and keep in view the implementation progress.

IV. Any other business

16. PAS/HWF(W) expressed concern about the existing arrangement of the Subcommittee allowing representatives to make allegations against the Administration on a particular case, as the Administration would not be able to provide a response at the meeting before it had the opportunity to look into the facts of the alleged case. The Subcommittee was also meant to discuss policy issues, and complaints on individual cases should more properly be dealt with in a case conference.

17. Mr TAM Yiu-chung opined that whilst the provision of cases might be conducive to illustrate a matter in question, the deputations should focus their discussions on policy issues. Mr TAM further said that only those cases which, after full investigation, demonstrated a typical example of the matter under consideration should be brought up to the Subcommittee to consider if a change in the policy concerned was necessary.

18. The Chairman said that the Subcommittee should not create unnecessary threshold to check the identity of representatives of deputations before the meeting. There was also no specific rule requiring representatives attending the meeting to reveal their identity to the Secretariat. Nevertheless, the Chairman said that he would closely monitor the situation to ascertain whether the arrangement had distorted the original purpose of inviting views from the public, with a view to striking a proper balance between respecting the right of deputations to present their views at the meetings and facilitating a constructive discussion of policy issues.

19. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:58 pm.

**Proceedings of the meeting of
Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence
on Thursday, 28 June 2007, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
000000 - 000104	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000105 - 000357	Head (Research and Library Services) (H(RL)) Chairman	Briefing on the proposed research outline on strategies and measures in tackling domestic violence in selected places [LC Paper No. CB(2)2317/06-07(01)] The Chairman's suggestion to include Boston in the study and make reference to the study of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in this respect	
000358 - 000750	Chairman	The Chairman's recapitulation of the information requested by members at the last meeting	
000751 - 001159	Admin Chairman	The Administration's explanation of the reason for not being unable to provide the confidential case report on the alleged case raised by 風雨同路熱線 at the last meeting, and the clarification that the facts gathered by the Administration were substantially different from the allegations made by Ah Yee against the Wai On Home for Women at the last meeting The Chairman's suggestion that the case might be followed up in the form of a case conference if the subject client so wished	
001200 - 001754	Admin Chairman	Briefing by the Administration on the statistics of SWD on cases recommended to the Housing Department (HD) for household splitting in 2006; the provision of seamless housing arrangements for victims of domestic violence and housing arrangements/assistance to batterers [LC Paper No. CB(2)2257/06-07(01)]	
001755 - 002314	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work Officer Grade Branch	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2317/06-07(02)]	
002315 - 002839	The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2343/06-07(01)]	
002840 - 003351	Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities	Presentation of views	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
003352 - 003904	Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook)	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2343/06-07(03)]	
003905 - 004111	Kwan Fook Admin Chairman	Follow-up discussion on the approach and procedures adopted by the Administration for verifying the identity of Ah Yee and obtaining her consent for disclosing her case details to members	
004112 - 004950	Admin Chairman Mr TAM Yiu-chung	<p>The Administration's concern about the existing arrangements to allow unnamed representatives to unilaterally present the details of their cases without providing the Administration an opportunity to look into the allegations and make a response at the meeting</p> <p>Mr TAM Yiu-chung's view that only those cases which, after full investigation, demonstrated a typical example of the matter under consideration should be brought up to the Subcommittee to consider if a change in the policy concerned was necessary</p> <p>The Chairman's assurance that he would monitor the situation to ascertain whether the platform of the Subcommittee had been distorted, so as to strike a proper balance between respecting the right of deputations to present their views at the meetings and facilitating a constructive discussion of policy issues</p>	
004951 - 005330	Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2343/06-07(02)]	
005331 - 010602	Chairman Admin	<p>The Administration's response to views of the deputations, highlighting that -</p> <p>(a) the main reason for HD to turn down the 44 splitting requests recommended by SWD in 2006 was that the applicants had failed to pass the Comprehensive Means Test (CMT) and the Domestic Property Test (DPT). Other requests were not acceded to because of reasons such as the main household refused to add the party who raised the splitting request to the tenancy; and the insistence of some splinter households on not accepting a flat in the New Territories;</p> <p>(b) to enhance coordination between HD and SWD in the processing of applications for household splitting, frontline staff of HD would first conduct an eligibility vetting before referring the cases to SWD for consideration with effect from 30 April 2007. Under the improved arrangements,</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
		<p>HD would, on the recommendation of SWD, allocate public rental housing (PRH) flats to all applicants. Rejection, if any, must be endorsed by Senior Housing Managers with concrete reasons. Two briefing sessions had been held for the frontline Housing Officers and Social Work Officers to exchange views in the handling of splitting applications;</p> <p>(c) in case the splitting requests could not be acceded to under HD's prevailing policies, but the tenants appeared to have social grounds warranted sympathetic consideration, HD would seek the consent of the applicant to refer the case to SWD for consideration on whether arrangement could be made for the tenant concerned to seek housing assistance under compassionate rehousing or other forms of assistance. Special arrangement had also been made to allocate an additional PRH flat to the splinter household under the existing tenancy, and some applicants might apply for public housing through register on the Waiting List;</p> <p>(d) the Administration would enhance its efforts on publicity of the policies on household splitting, compassionate rehousing and conditional tenancies. Pamphlets had been produced by HD to educate the public on the improved arrangement for the processing of applications for household splitting;</p> <p>(e) the allocation framework of reserving 2 000 flats for household splitting/compassionate rehousing/conditional tenancy applications was projected on the basis of the number of past cases, whereby about 1 700 flats had been allocated to compassionate rehousing cases recommended by SWD in 2006-2007. Additional flats would be made available to meet extra demand, if required;</p> <p>(f) it was necessary for HD to maintain the existing arrangement of assigning four ranks of staff to process compassionate rehousing applications, so as to safeguard a rational allocation of the public housing resources;</p> <p>(g) with regard to those cases whose duration of stay in the refuge centres had been extended to more than three months, SWD did not have information on hand on the reasons for the extension; and</p> <p>(h) the Administration had reservation about the suggestion to assign two social workers to follow up with the victim and the batterer of</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
		<p>a domestic violence case respectively. At present, such an arrangement would be provided on an exceptional basis depending on the merits of individual cases</p>	
010603 - 011344	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Admin	<p>Views of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan that -</p> <p>(a) the main and the splinter households should not be subject to CMT and DPT in order to be eligible for the allocation of an additional PRH flat for living separately, given that the victims' safety was at stake. Moreover, the well-off tenants whose household income and asset value had exceeded the prescribed limits were not required to vacate their rental units after paying a higher rent; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should not merely pay lip service to the request of providing seamless housing assistance to victims of domestic violence but should conduct an assessment on the demand for places in refuge centres</p> <p>The Administration's reiteration that should a splitting request recommended by SWD be rejected by HD, HD would refer the case to SWD to arrange the tenant to seek housing assistance under compassionate rehousing or other forms of assistance if circumstances warranted; and its remarks that -</p> <p>(a) in view of the limited housing resources, HD adopted a prudent approach in approving PRH applications to ensure that subsidised PRH flats would go to families genuinely in need, i.e. those who could not afford renting accommodation in the private market; and</p> <p>(b) under the Policy on Safeguarding Rational Allocation of Public Housing Resources, well-off tenants were required to vacate their PRH flats. However, those households who had a temporary housing need might apply for a fixed-term licence to stay in the PRH flat for a period of not more than 12 months</p>	
011345 - 011850	Ms LI Fung-ying Admin Chairman	<p>Ms LI Fung-ying's request for the following clarification -</p> <p>(a) should it be a policy that HD would allocate another PRH flat to the splinter household if the splitting request was supported by SWD, the basis for the Senior Housing Manager to reject such cases with effect from 30 April 2007; and</p> <p>(b) whether it was a policy that victims of domestic violence would not be asked to</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
		<p>leave the refuge centres whilst waiting the allocation of a suitable PRH flat</p> <p>The Administration's response -</p> <p>(a) in principle, HD would accede to all splitting requests recommended by SWD. The only reason why this would not be the case was generally due to the fact that the family circumstances of the applicants had changed after the cases were referred back to HD or the cases needed further clarification;</p> <p>(b) there were established mechanisms for frontline staff of HD and SWD to regularly exchange views on the handling of housing assistance;</p> <p>(c) whenever a victim of domestic violence was admitted into a refuge centre, the caseworker concerned would assist the victim to formulate a discharge plan to ensure that the victim's housing needs would not remain unsolved upon discharge; and</p> <p>(d) SWD was closely monitoring the utilisation of the service and would continue to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of the existing refuge centres through the re-provisioning of the centres to a larger set of premises, as was the case of the Wai On Home for Women where its capacity had been increased from 40 to 50 places after re-provisioning</p>	
011851 - 013203	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Kwan Fook Chairman Admin	Discussion on the way forward to follow up the undertakings of the Administration in respect of the provision of housing assistance to victims of domestic violence	Clerk to follow up (para. 10 of the minutes refers)
013204 - 014652	Admin Chairman	Briefing on the risk assessment tools for spouse battering and child abuse in Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2257/06-07(02)]	
014653 - 015017	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work Officer Grade Branch	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2317/06-07(02)]	
015018 - 015245	The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2343/06-07(04)]	
015247 - 015251	Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities	Presentation of views	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
015252- 015549	Society for Community Organization	Presentation of views	
015550 - 015605	Kwan Fook	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2343/06-07(05)]	
015606 - 015909	Against Child Abuse	Presentation of views	
015910 - 020220	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2317/06-07(04)]	
020221 - 020315	Hong Kong College of Paediatricians	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2317/06-07(05)]	
020316 - 020922	Admin Chairman	<p>The Administration's response to views of the deputations, highlighting that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) experience of the social workers involved in the field test showed that it only took about 11 to 14 minutes to complete the risk assessment tools which formed part of the questionnaire; (b) the consultant team of The University of Hong Kong would be happy to organise more in-depth training courses on the usage of risk assessment tools where necessary; (c) the risk assessment tools should be treated as preliminary risk indicators to function as a triage to facilitate early identification of domestic violence and assist the assessors to formulate further clinical assessment. They were not designed for screening purpose; (d) the risk assessment tools had their own limitations and were only part of the entire assessment process to assist caseworkers in carrying out risk management for cases. The risk assessment tools could not provide a definite answer and due regard should be given to the empirical experience and the professional judgment of the caseworker in assessing the risk of the case concerned; and (e) there was no cause of concern that the implementation of the risk assessment tools would increase the workload of the frontline social workers, given that assessment was part of the existing procedures for handling spouse battering and child abuse cases. The risk assessment tools served as a validated instrument to complement SWD's risk assessment guide of battered spouse cases for Family and Child Protective Service Units and the Conflict Tactics Scales, etc. 	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject	Action required
020923 - 021838	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Kwan Fook Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work Officer Grade Branch Chairman Admin	Discussion on whether the risk assessment tools would be put to widespread use by including other professionals as qualified persons to conduct the assessment and allocating more resources to improve the manpower situation of the frontline social workers so as to facilitate them to follow up the high-risk cases so identified	
021839 - 022233	Miss CHAN Yuen-han	Views of Miss CHAN Yuen-han that the next Administration must look squarely at the pressure and the manpower problems faced by the frontline social workers, as one individual tragedy, such as the Tin Shui Wai incident in 2004, would make the efforts made by social workers in preventing domestic violence ended in vain; and her request that resources and support should be provided in parallel with the implementation of the risk assessment tools	
022234 - 022626	Chairman	The Chairman's view that the Administration should take into account the views expressed by the deputations and members at the meeting and keep in view the implementation progress	
022627 - 022729	Admin	The Administration's advice that the risk assessment tools were designed for social workers, counsellors and psychologists who had direct contact with abusers and/or victims of domestic violence; and additional resources had been allocated in recent years to tackle the domestic violence problem	
022730 - 022750	Chairman	Closing remarks	