

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1410/10-11
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 14 February 2011, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Chairman)
Hon WONG Sing-chi (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Member absent : Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS

Public Officers attending : Item V

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Mimi LEE Mei-mei, JP
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1)

Mr Andrew TSANG Yue-tung, JP
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)

Item VI

Mrs Alison LAU
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and
Welfare (Welfare) 2

Mr CHEUNG Hing-wah
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)

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

**Attendance by : Item V
invitation**

Hong Kong General Chamber of Social
Enterprises Limited

Mr YIU Hung-chi
Council Member

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr CHUA Hoi-wai
Business Director

Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union

Mr LEE Kin-kan

Item VI

Against Child Abuse Ltd.

Mrs Priscilla LUI

Director

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Dr Patricia IP
Member, Professional and General Affairs
Committee

Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights

Dr CHOW Chun-bong
Chairman

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr Ken CHAN
Chief Officer, Service Development (Children &
Youth)

**Clerk in
attendance** : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in
attendance** : Mr YICK Wing-kin
Assistant Legal Adviser 8

Ms Yvonne YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Miss Tifa LEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 4

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I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)971/10-11]

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2010 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)843/10-11(01), CB(2)897/10-11(01) and CB(2)1018/10-11(01)]

2. Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting -

- (a) Letter dated 17 January 2011 from Hon WONG Sing-chi requesting the Panel to discuss the subject of tackling domestic violence; and
- (b) Letter dated 21 January 2011 from Hon WONG Sing-chi regarding the rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, and the Administration's response dated 11 February 2011.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)972/10-11(01) to (02)]

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next meeting on 14 March 2011 at 10:45 am –

- (a) Proposed amendments to the Guardianship of Minors Ordinance; and
- (b) Setting up of a New Integrated Rehabilitation Services Centre for Persons with Disabilities at Kau Wah Keng, Kwai Chung.

4. The Chairman said that to his knowledge, the Social Welfare Advisory Committee ("SWAC") would put forward its report on the long-term social welfare planning together with its recommendations for consideration of the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") in late February or early March 2011. Given that LWB would revert to the Panel on how

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it would take forward the recommendations of SWAC, the Chairman said that the Administration should provide an update on the latest developments before it finalized its position on SWAC's recommendations. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that an additional item "Update on the long-term social welfare planning" should be added to the agenda of the next regular meeting on 14 March 2011.

IV. Continuation of work of the Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly

[LC Paper No. CB(2)972/10-11(03)]

5. Referring members to the paper, the Chairman said that it was envisaged that the Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly ("the Subcommittee") would need to hold further meetings to pursue a few outstanding issues with the Administration as set out in the paper. The Subcommittee agreed at its meeting on 24 January 2011 that it should continue its work in the 2010-2011 session. The Chairman then sought members' agreement with the Subcommittee's proposal to continue its work beyond the 12-month period. Members agreed. The Chairman advised that a report would be made to the House Committee on 25 February 2011 on the justifications for continuing the work of the Subcommittee in the 2010-2011 session.

V. Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)972/10-11(04) to (05), CB(2)1019/10-11(01) and CB(2)1128/10-11(01)]

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") briefed members on the improvement measures for the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme ("the ESR Programme"). She elaborated that since its launch in 2006, the ESR Programme had approved a total grant of about \$110 million for non-profit-making organisations to launch some 110 new social enterprise ("SE") projects, creating some 1 800 job opportunities. Apart from the ESR Programme, the Government had been carrying out a number of measures to foster the development of SEs, including advertising and promotional events on SEs and socially responsible consumption, business

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partnership programmes and training and outreach programmes to raise the public awareness and acceptance of SE products and services.

7. USHA advised that the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") had been reviewing from time to time the operation of the ESR Programme in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. With the aim of encouraging and facilitating the establishment of more SEs and strengthening the support for grantees, HAD would introduce the improvement measures set out in the discussion paper, which were applicable to applications received from 2011 onwards. The key ones include –

- (a) extending the funding period from a maximum of two years to three years, while the funding ceiling of \$3 million per project remained unchanged; and
- (b) relaxing the eligibility for applying for the seed grants of the ESR Programme, on a trial basis, to non-profit-making organisations which had not registered under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) ("non-section 88 applicants").

Meeting with deputations

Hong Kong General Chamber of Social Enterprises Limited
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1128/10-11(01)]

8. Mr YIU Hung-chi said that the ultimate goal of SEs was to be operating on a self-financing and self-reliance basis. According to the findings of a survey conducted by the Chamber in 2009, 236 small to medium sized SEs which responded to the survey indicated that 80% of their income came from the sale of products and services. This revealed that SEs were capable of operating on a self-financing basis. In addition, of the 7 220 job opportunities created, 50% of the employees were the socially disadvantaged. Mr YIU made the following views on further enhancement of the ESR Programme –

- (a) the eligibility for the ESR Programme should be further relaxed to accept applications from profit making organisations, while priority should be given to those wholly owned by charitable organisations;

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- (b) SE operators might apply for the ESR Programme only if they had completed at least 40 hours training on entrepreneurship and financial management;
- (c) the funding period should be extended to four years to prevent possible closure of SEs due to deficits during the initial years of operation;
- (d) incentive be given to those SEs which had operated for more than three years;
- (e) a resource centre should be set up to provide business support, consultancy and training programmes to SEs;
- (f) a platform should be set up to facilitate the collaboration of SEs with the business sector to undertake product research and development; and
- (g) views from the SE sector should be gauged in deciding the way forward for the ESR Programme.

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS")

9. Mr CHUA Hoi-wai said that according to the findings of a recent survey conducted by HKCSS, while the operation of SEs faced certain difficulties, both the mode of operation and the business were improving. As shown from the Social Enterprise Directory compiled by HKCSS, it was encouraging that on average 70% of SE employees were the disadvantaged. It was proven that the establishment of SEs had brought about social benefits to the community at large.

10. Mr CHUA further said that HKCSS in general supported the improvement measures for the ESR Programme, such as accepting applications from non-section 88 applicants if they would reinvest the profits into the SE projects, and extending the funding period to three years. However, HKCSS expressed reservation with the provision of incentive grants for business expansion having regard to the fact that a SE with good business performance would be able to secure investment. As such, a lower priority could be given to taking forward the incentive grants. In his view, the major challenge faced by SEs was soaring rentals. To provide assistance to SEs, the Government should consider, say,

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encouraging the Housing Authority and The Link Real Estate Investment Trust ("The Link REIT") to offer rent concession to SEs. This apart, the Administration should provide financial assistance to the SE sector to establish a communication and collaboration platform.

Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1019/10-11(01)]

11. Mr LEE Kin-kan presented the views of the Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union as detailed in the submission. Mr LEE said that as revealed from the decreasing number of applications for the ESR Programme and jobs created for the disadvantaged, the development of SEs had slowed down. Pointing out that the major difficulties faced by SEs was to compete with the commercial sector and lack of relevant experience and professional knowledge in running a business, the Administration should provide assistance for SEs to engage profession and consultancy to run their business and award more government service contracts to SEs. Mr LEE further said that the Government should draw up long-term goals and indicators for evaluation of the effectiveness of measures in promoting the development of SEs, as well as set up a delegated office to formulate the policy for developing SEs and be responsible for overseeing and promoting the sustainable development of SEs.

Discussion

12. At the invitation of Ms LI Fung-ying, Mr YIU Hung-chi of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Social Enterprises Limited elaborated that the proposal to accept non-section 88 applicants under the ESR Programme would address the difficulties faced by some SEs which had not been registered under section 88 of Cap.112 for various reasons.

13. Noting that a trial scheme would be launched to accept non-section 88 applicants under the ESR Programme, Ms LI Fung-ying sought more information on the additional monitoring measures to be introduced for these applicants. Ms LI asked about the approving criteria for the incentive grants for business expansion and supplementary grants for grantees with business hardship.

14. Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1) ("DDHA(1)") said that presently, to be eligible for application under the ESR Programme, an applicant must be a bona fide non-profit-making organisation which had

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been registered under section 88 of Cap. 112. The Administration would, on a trial basis, accept applications from non-section 88 applicants which would be required to provide documentary proof of their non-profit-making status, track record of their non-profit-making undertakings and audited annual reports in the past two years, and an explanation as to why they could not or had chosen not to obtain a section 88 status. The Administration would keep a close watch of the types of applicants attracted and put in place measures to ensure the proper use of public fund. If the applications from non-section 88 organisations were approved, the Administration would conduct additional monitoring of the SE projects implemented by these organisations. She stressed that the Administration had no intention of imposing barriers for non-section 88 organisations in running SE projects. The proposed monitoring measures would strike a proper balance in facilitating the development of SEs and ensuring the proper use of public fund. As for the incentive grants, DDHA(1) advised that the grants would be disbursed only one time and on a matching basis to incentivise good business performance. The Administration and the ESR Advisory Committee would work out the operational details and promulgate such details before mid-2011.

15. As for the approving criteria for the supplementary grants for grantees with business hardship, Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2) said that the SEs concerned must submit a formal application for the one-off supplementary grant to subsidise the operating expenses. Such grants would be made only on an exceptional basis and the applicants must demonstrate confidence and determination to sustain the SE business if the supplementary grants were disbursed. The applicants should also provide detailed proposals on budgetary planning, publicity, and plans to improve business and create job opportunities for the disadvantaged.

16. Mr WONG Sing-chi declared that he had participated in the operation of a SE, but it had not applied for the ESR Programme. Citing his experience in running SEs, Mr WONG said that the major challenges faced by SEs in operation were the lack of relevant experience and professional knowledge in running a business, specifically there was a general lack of social entrepreneurs who possessed good business, financial management and marketing expertise. In his view, collaboration between the business sector and SEs would on the one hand help provide valuable experience and knowledge to SEs to enter the market and facilitate partnership to run sustainable business on the other, and thereby creating a win-win situation. In this regard, the Administration should facilitate

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cross-sectoral collaboration and encourage the private sector to develop SE projects. Mr WONG added that consideration should be given to offering tax concession to SEs to assist them to achieve financial viability.

17. Mr Paul CHAN declared that he was a board member of some organisations as well as the honorary auditor of some SEs which might have applied for the ESR funding. Mr CHAN expressed support for accepting application from non-section 88 organisations for the ESR Programme in a bid to enable more non-profit-making organisations to run SEs and help the socially disadvantaged. As regards monitoring of non-section 88 organisations, Mr CHAN took the view that instead of imposing unnecessary administrative barriers, the Administration should put the emphasis on inspecting the transaction records of these organisations to see if there were any irregularities when conducting inspections of SE business. More importantly, the Administration should introduce facilitating measures for fostering the further development of SEs.

18. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung held the view that the primary objective of operating SEs was to assist the socially disadvantaged to be self-reliant through employment and thereby the Government should provide more support to SEs in this regard. To enhance the sustainability of SEs, Mr LEUNG said that the Administration should consider raising the funding ceiling per project and further extending the funding period in the light of the enormous start-up costs, and awarding certain existing government services contracts to SEs despite he personally did not support such a policy. As rental attributed to a substantial part of the operation cost, Mr LEUNG added that the Housing Department and The Link REIT should consider offering premises to SEs at a rental level lower than the market value.

19. Mr Frederick FUNG declared that he was the Chairman of a charitable organisation which had applied for the ESR funding. Mr FUNG expressed disappointment that the Administration's paper had not set out the views of the Social Enterprise Advisory Committee, if any, on further improving the ESR Programme. With reference to overseas experience, Mr FUNG commented that the objective of SEs was not merely poverty alleviation, but a tool to achieve different social objectives ranging from cultural heritage to environmental protection. As the first step to further develop SEs, the Administration should provide a clear definition and legal framework for SEs as well as specify the objectives and target

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groups of SEs. Mr FUNG added that apart from providing SEs with start-up grants, the Government should introduce facilitating measures from the policy perspective to help SEs sustain their business. Notably, consideration should be given to awarding a specified percentage of government service contracts to SEs, and offering tax concession to SEs.

20. The Chairman declared that he was a committee member of a charitable organisation which had applied for the ESR funding. The Chairman said that given SEs should be operating on a self-financing basis, he did not see the need to make a distinction section 88 organisations and non-section 88 organisations for the purpose of applying for the ESR Programme. While the ESR Programme would provide a start-up fund for SEs, it was of paramount importance that the Government would formulate policies with a view to creating an enabling environment for the sustainable operation of SEs. In this connection, the Government should earmark premises in government buildings for priority allocation to SEs at concessionary rental if such SEs would employ a certain proportion of the socially disadvantaged. The Chairman added that the Administration should gauge the views of the SE sector in formulating the facilitating measures.

21. Responding to members' views, USHA said that the improvement measures were drawn up having regard to the views of the Social Enterprise Advisory Committee, the ESR Advisory Committee, the SE operators and other relevant stakeholders. The Administration would fully take into account the views of members and deputations in working out the details of the improvement measures. USHA further said that as rightly pointed out by some deputations, the public awareness and understanding of SEs was encouraging. The drop in the number of applications for the ESR Programme was due to the fact that the economic situation was unstable in the past few years and that a number of SEs had reached the scaling up stage of development.

22. As regards the facilitating measures for enhancing the sustainability of SEs, USHA advised that the Government would continue with publicity and promotional efforts to encourage members of the public to use the products and services of SEs as well as promote the collaboration between the business sector and SEs to foster the development of SEs. USHA further advised that the Administration was fully aware of the challenges faced by SEs in running sustainable business and achieving social objectives as well as the problem of high rentals. However, as SEs should

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run like a business, it would give rise to the concern about unfair competition with the business sector if too much Government support, say, rent concession, was provided for the SE sector to run business on a commercial basis. Notwithstanding this, the number of government cleansing services contracts reserved for priority bidding by SEs had been increased from 38 in 2008 to 52 in 2009-2010. USHA stressed that the Government would strive to encourage the cross-sector collaboration to promote social entrepreneurship.

VI. Child fatality review

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)941/10-11(01) and CB(2)972/10-11(06) to (07)]

23. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) ("DDSW(S)") briefed members on the findings and recommendations made by the Review Panel of the Pilot Project on Child Fatality Review ("the Pilot Project") upon the completion of its review of child death cases which occurred in 2006 and 2007 as well as its evaluation of the Pilot Project, as detailed in the Administration's paper. DDSW(S) said that the Administration highly appreciated the efforts of the Review Panel and acknowledged the value of the child fatality review in facilitating improvement in the current child protection work and child welfare systems for the prevention of avoidable child deaths. The Administration accepted in principle the recommendations of the Review Panel and would map out the way forward, including the setting up of a standing child fatality review mechanism under the Social Welfare Department ("SWD").

Meeting with deputations

Against Child Abuse Ltd.

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1040/10-11(01)]

24. Mrs Priscilla LUI presented the views of Against Child Abuse Ltd. as detailed in the submission. Mrs LUI said that the child fatality review revealed that children were at grave risks and early prevention at various levels was essential, but preventive measures had not yet been put in place. She took a strong view that a permanent child fatality and serious cases review mechanism should be set up to review not only child fatal cases but also serious injuries cases so as to safeguard the welfare of children and prevent the occurrence of tragic incidents.

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Hong Kong College of Paediatricians
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1040/10-11(02)]

25. Dr Patricia IP introduced the submission of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians. While appreciating the efforts of the Review Panel, Dr IP said that the Review Panel should, in the light of overseas experience, extend the scope of the review to cover serious cases. Pointing out that the Coroner's Inquiry would not look into the underlying causes of child fatality cases and the lack of a statutory mechanism for such review, Dr IP was concerned about the accessibility and reliability of information available for the review. Dr IP took the view that the Administration should have regard to overseas experience and set up a statutory review mechanism for child fatality review, follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of recommendations so made.

Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1019/10-11(02)]

26. Dr CHOW Chun-bong presented the views of Hong Kong Committee on Children's Right as detailed in the submission. Dr CHOW drew members' attention to the inadequacies of the recommendations of the Review Panel. As the Review Panel was not a statutory mechanism, he cast doubts on the extent to which the recommendations of the Review Panel would be taken forward. He appealed to members to follow up the proposal of setting up a statutory Children's Commission. In the meantime, a dedicated bureau/department should be responsible for coordinating the implementation progress of the recommendations and setting specific targets for reducing fatal incidents after putting in place the improvement measures. Dr CHOW expressed concern about the role of the Family Council in drawing up and implementing recommendations of the Review Panel as they were related to the welfare of children. Lastly, Dr CHOW urged the Administration to look into the issue of children being left unattended alone at home without further delay.

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS")
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1040/10-11(03)]

27. Mr Ken CHAN introduced the submission of HKCSS. Mr CHAN said that the stakeholders were glad to learn that a standing child fatality review mechanism would be set up under SWD. However, the welfare

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sector considered that the scope of the review mechanism should be expanded to cover serious injuries cases. To this end, the Administration should consider setting up working groups comprising different professionals to define and identify relevant serious injuries cases for further study of the standing child fatality review mechanism. Mr CHAN further said that it was unnecessary for the Review Panel to commence the review of specific cases upon the completion of all court proceedings. Other than documentation review, family members of the deceased child should be invited to provide information to the Review Panel as far as practicable. Mr CHAN added that the Administration should draw up long-term, medium-term and short-term targets for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations made by the Review Panel.

Discussion

28. Dr PAN Pey-chyou welcomed the proposal to set up a standing child fatality review mechanism as a zero tolerance approach should be adopted in respect of child fatality cases. Dr PAN was of the view that the police and forensic pathologist should be involved in the review mechanism to further enhance the multi-disciplinary representation of the review body. Moreover, to balance the representativeness of the review mechanism, consideration should be given to increasing the number of parent representatives sitting in the Review Panel.

29. Mr Albert HO welcomed the proposal of setting up a standing child fatality review mechanism. He shared the views of the deputations that the scope of the review mechanism should be expanded to cover all serious injuries cases. Citing his experience in attending two Coroner's Inquiry in 2006 and 2007 involving child deaths caused by domestic violence, Mr HO said that he was given the impression that the prosecution was not willing to touch upon recommendations for prevention of such tragedies. In his view, the review mechanism should by no means replace the Coroner in conducting in-depth inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death cases and making related recommendations, but supplemented the role of the Coroner's Inquiry. Mr HO further said that consideration should be given to appointing suitable youth member to the Review Panel to facilitate a better understanding of the problems of the younger generation and drawing up recommendations to prevent such child deaths. Moreover, transparency of the work of the Review Panel should be enhanced. Mr HO added that the Administration should make it more transparent in so far as the progress of the implementation of the Review Report's improvement

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measures was concerned.

30. Ms LI Fung-ying noted with concern that of the 24 child suicide cases in 2006 and 2007, two deceased children were 11 years old. Ms LI was concerned about the follow-up on the recommendations and the implementation of improvement measures taken by relevant government bureaux/departments and service organisations, having regard to the fact the Review Panel had completed its work. She enquired whether the Administration would put in place a mechanism to monitor the implementation progress and evaluate the effectiveness of these improvement measures.

31. Noting that of the non-natural deaths occurred in 2006 and 2007, 24 children (27.3%) were died of suicide and 11 children (12.5%) were died of assault, Mr Ronny TONG sought clarification about the classification of those death cases caused by the children's parents. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and Child Welfare) advised that for cases of deceased children in which perpetrators were their parents, they were categorized under the assault cases.

32. Mr Ronny TONG said that the proposal of establishing a statutory Children's Commission had been raised time and again. However, the Administration had repeatedly advised that issues relating to safeguarding the rights and well-being of children would be considered by the Family Council. He asked how the Administration would, in line with the international trend, proceed with the formulation of policies and measures to protect the well-being of children in the event that the interests of children were not the same as that of other family members.

33. Responding to members, DDSW(S) made the following salient points –

- (a) the Administration acknowledged the wishes of members and deputations to expand the scope of the review mechanism to cover serious injuries cases in addition to child fatality cases. Following the commencement of the Pilot Project, the Review Panel soon decided to review child death cases involving children who died of non-natural causes. In view of this, it would be more appropriate for the standing review panel to first look into child fatality cases and consider whether the scope of review should be expanded when such needs arose,

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despite research studies showed that it was difficult to provide a universal definition of serious injuries cases;

- (b) the Review Panel had made a similar observation on the composition of the Review Panel and recommended that involvement of forensic pathologists and the police could further enhance the multi-disciplinary perspective in case review. The Administration would actively consider the recommendation taking into account the difficulty in identifying suitable personnel for the purpose;
- (c) SWD would continue to launch publicity and public education on the themes of not leaving children unattended at home and provide child care services for needy families;
- (d) the recommendations in the Review Report were generally supported by the concerned government bureaux/departments, service organisations and stakeholders. The related improvement measures taken and their progress were detailed in the Administration's paper and the Final Report. Report on the progress made on the recommendations by the standing review panel would be provided in future as appropriate; and
- (e) as the proposal of establishing an independent statutory Children's Commission straddled a number of policy areas, he would convey the views to concerned bureaux/department for consideration.

[To allow more time for discussion, the Chairman proposed and members agreed to extend the meeting for 10 minutes.]

34. Mr IP Wai-ming noted with concern that of the seven cases of children died of accidental fall, five cases occurred at home and four of them were left unattended. This revealed that more assistance should be provided to grass-root families in taking care of their young children when both parents had gone to work. Although the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project would be regularized and extended to all the 18 districts, the Administration should also strengthen other child care services and provide flexible child care services to needy families.

35. Dr LEUNG Ka-lau took the view that the Review Panel should

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analyse the family background of the deceased children with a view to identifying the root causes of each case and formulating specific preventive strategies. To this end, the Review Panel should collect family background of the deceased children, such as the household income, working pattern of the parents and whether the children belonged to single parent families. DDSW(S) noted Dr LEUNG's views and would convey them to the Review Panel.

36. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan was regrettable that the Administration refused to take forward the proposal of establishing a statutory Children's Commission. In his view, the protection of the well-being of children should be held responsible by a high-level authority, instead of being considered in the context of the Family Council. Responding to Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, DDSW(S) said that the Family Council was provided with the Final Report of the Review Panel, and SWD was prepared to brief the Family Council on the Report whenever necessary.

37. To prevent child deaths related to lack of proper child care, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that the crux of the matter was whether the Administration was committed to allocating sufficient resources for child care services.

38. DDSW(S) said that the Administration was mindful of home safety and prevention of child deaths. As explained earlier, SWD had put in place a series of improvement measures and the implementation progress was detailed in the Administration's paper.

VII. Any other business

39. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.