

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2320/13-14

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

Subcommittee on Poverty

**Minutes of the twenty-first meeting
held on Monday, 23 June 2014, at 9:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon TANG Ka-piu
- Members absent** : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Action

**Public Officers : Item I
attending**

Ms Gracie FOO, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)
Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Candy LAU
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Community Care Fund)
Home Affairs Bureau

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG
Deputy Secretary for Education (6)
Education Bureau

Ms Angela LEE
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health
(Health) 2
Food and Health Bureau

Dr CHEUNG Wai-lun, JP
Director (Cluster Services)
Hospital Authority

Mr FUNG Man-chung
Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Mr LAU Kwok-wo
Chief Social Security Officer (Social Security) 4
Social Welfare Department

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, SBS, JP
Chairperson, Community Care Fund Task Force
under the Commission on Poverty

**Attendance by : Item I
invitation**

New People's Party

Mr KAM Man-fung
Central Committee Member

Action

Mr LO Ho-yuen

The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Centre on
Research and Advocacy

Ms HUNG Tak-fung
Manager

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Ms CHEUNG Fan-lan
Deputy Spokesperson of Welfare Services

肌肉萎縮症倡議小組

Mr YAN Chun-kit
組長

多發性硬化症小組

Ms CHAN Fung-man
Member

Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Ltd.

Miss Jintana SAE SOW
Senior Organizing Officer

Civic Party

Mr Joshua LI
Kowloon West District Developer

Mr TSANG Kai

1st Step Association

Mr YIP Kin-keung
Registered Social Worker

Action

Concerning CSSA & Low Income Alliance

Mr Herrick LEE Yen-hao
Community Organizer

Miss YEUNG Pui-yan

關注準來港平台

Miss LEE Sin-sheung
義務組織幹事

The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped

Mr LEE Chi-yung
Chairman

The Forthright Caucus

Miss LAM Ling

The Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped Children

Ms Christine CHU Hiu-ying
Executive Committee Member

Miss LUI Fei-bui

太子基層學童關注組

Ms ZHU Siu-li

Alliance for Children Development Rights

Miss HO Yu-ying

Mr LEE Tai-shing

Alliance for Concerning Grassroots Housing Rights

王素雯小姐

Action

Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral
Centre for Workers (New Territories)

Mr Augustine YU Siu-po
Acting Centre Supervisor

Smart & Beauty House

Mr CHOW King
Member

Shek Wu Hui Sub-divided Flats Concern Group

Miss Kitty YAN Pui-lam
Member

Fanling Concern Low-Income Group

Mr CHEUNG Ka-fai
Member

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Kay CHU
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

I. Community Care Fund

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1819/13-14(01) to (02), CB(2)1832/13-14(01),
CB(2)1843/13-14(01) and CB(2)1896/13-14(01) to (03)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at
Annex).

Action

2. The Subcommittee requested that –
 - (a) the Community Care Fund ("CCF") and the Administration should provide a response to the views and concerns of members and deputations which had not been responded to during the meeting;
 - (b) CCF should discuss the concerns raised by members and deputations and revert its discussion to the Subcommittee;
 - (c) the Labour and Welfare Bureau should conduct a holistic review on the existing system and identify the gaps in helping the disadvantaged; and
 - (d) the Administration should provide justifications for not incorporating the CCF assistance programmes, which had been run for three years or more, into the Government's regular programme.

II. Subjects to be discussed at meetings in July and October 2014
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1819/13-14(03)]

3. Members noted the subject to be discussed at the meeting in July 2014, as detailed in the paper prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1819/13-14(03)]. Members also agreed that the Subcommittee should discuss and receive views from deputations on "Work of the Commission on Poverty – review and way forward" at the meeting in October 2014.

III. Any other business

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:36 pm.

**Proceedings of the twenty-first meeting of the
Subcommittee on Poverty
on Monday, 23 June 2014, at 9:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Community Care Fund</i>			
001148 - 001652	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration and the Community Care Fund ("CCF") Task Force under the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") on the work progress of CCF.	
001653 - 002041	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK CCF Task Force	<p>Mr Frankie YICK's view that CCF should consider preparing the evaluation plan at the commencement of implementing assistance programmes and adopting the social return on investment ("SROI") framework for assessing the impact of assistance programmes on the beneficiaries and the society as recommended by the Deloitte Consulting (Hong Kong) Limited in its consultancy study on enhancing the evaluation of assistance programmes under CCF.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) evaluation plans for some new programmes had already been prepared at the design stage and sometimes universities were invited to participate in the evaluation; and (b) while SROI framework might not be suitable for impact assessment of all assistance programmes, CCF would explore adopting SROI where suitable. 	
002042 - 002547	Chairman Deputy Chairman CCF Task Force	<p>The Deputy Chairman's views that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) CCF should establish a communication channel to maintain frequent dialogue with beneficiaries of assistance programmes; and (b) the operation of CCF, including the process of formulating and regularizing assistance programmes, should be more transparent. <p>Explanation by the CCF Task Force on the existing communication channels with community groups including public consultation sessions, focus group and working group meetings, etc. and the process of drawing up assistance programmes.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
002548 - 003035	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che CCF Task Force	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's declaration that he was a member of the CCF Task Force.</p> <p>Mr CHEUNG's view that the Administration should provide information regarding the number of needy private housing tenants who had been on the waiting list ("WL") of public rental housing ("PRH") for more than three years, so that CCF could provide them with rent allowance to alleviate their financial burden.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it was difficult to ascertain the eligibility of the persons on the WL of PRH for PRH as they had not yet undergone means test and some PRH applicants were family members listed in the tenancy agreement of PRH; and (b) provision of rent allowance by CCF would be in conflict with the existing government policies. <p>Mr CHEUNG's view that the Administration should strive to resolve the technical problems mentioned in paragraph (a) above.</p>	
003036 - 003445	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu CCF Task Force	<p>Enquiries of Mr TANG Ka-piu about –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the outcome of the assessment of the impact of the programmes involving rent subsidy for the needy private housing tenants on the rent; and (b) whether assistance programmes under the collaboration between the welfare and healthcare sectors would be considered for persons suffering from dementia. <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the one-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") programme ("the One-off living subsidy programme") was not a rent subsidy but a one-off living subsidy. Having said that, relevant data of the One-off living subsidy programme were collected for assessing its impact on the rent. The outcome of the assessment was expected to be ready in 2015 which would serve as a reference for future policy formulation; and (b) programmes to assist dementia patients under the collaboration between the welfare and 	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		healthcare sectors required more detailed study by the Food and Health Bureau, the Hospital Authority and the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB").	
003446 - 004010	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen CCF Task Force Administration	<p>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's enquiry –</p> <p>(a) whether the Administration would appeal for donations from the business sectors to CCF; and</p> <p>(b) whether it was necessary to launch CCF assistance programmes on a pilot basis and whether there was any timeframe for regularizing CCF's pilot schemes.</p> <p>Response by the CCF Task Force and the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) the Administration would not appeal for donations from the business sector but donations would be welcomed; and</p> <p>(b) pilot schemes would facilitate the evaluation of the effectiveness of the programmes and their articulation with existing services, and enable the smooth implementation of future policies.</p>	
004011 - 004523	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung CCF Task Force	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's suggestions and enquiry that –</p> <p>(a) information on the programmes under consideration by CCF should be made available to the public;</p> <p>(b) CCF should provide different lists on issues to be discussed, issues under consideration and programmes to be launched for access by the public to give community groups an idea about the position of the views which had been put forward to CCF and enable them to consider the follow up actions; and</p> <p>(c) whether CCF would consider launching assistance programmes for newly arrived single parents who had to rely on their children's CSSA payments for a living because they were not eligible for CSSA.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) prematurely releasing information on issues being deliberated by CCF might cause undue expectation by the public. Information on</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>CCF programmes was available at its website. ;</p> <p>(b) CCF could explore how information on the views collected could be better disseminated to the public; and</p> <p>(c) designing financial assistance programme targeting specifically at ineligible persons for CSSA under CCF was in conflict with the existing government policies.</p>	
004524 - 004922	Chairman CCF Task Force	<p>Concerns of the Chairman –</p> <p>(a) whether there was any timetable for providing dental service to all eligible elderly persons under the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme ("the EDA Programme"), if it was expanded to cover all recipients (currently about 400 000) of Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA"); and whether dental service would be provided for these elderly persons in one go or by phases; and</p> <p>(b) whether there were any plans to increase the number of dentists, so as to meet the service demand under the EDA Programme.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) having regard to the large number of prospective beneficiaries and only about 300 private dentists/dental clinics run by non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") had participated in the EDA Programme, the service would be provided by phases. CCF was studying how the service could be provided for eligible elderly persons effectively and in an orderly manner; and</p> <p>(b) as the Administration did not have information on the number of eligible elderly persons at different age groups who were in need of dental service and the number of eligible elderly persons would change with time, it was difficult to estimate the time when the EDA Programme could be expanded to cover a particular age group.</p>	
004923 - 005452	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han CCF Task Force	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han's suggestion and views that –</p> <p>(a) CCF should make use of the information collected by community groups regarding the age group distribution of elderly persons who</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>were in need of dental service, so as to facilitate expediting the provision of such service to more elderly persons;</p> <p>(b) the age limit for the EDA Programme should not be too high; and</p> <p>(c) CCF could solicit help from District Councils in providing dental service to elderly persons.</p> <p>CCF Task Force's response that CCF would not withhold the provision of dental service for eligible elders who were on OALA because of lack of information on the number of elderly in need of dental service. The EDA Programme should be expanded progressively in view of the large number of beneficiaries and shortage of dentists.</p>	
005453 - 005738	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che CCF Task Force	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's view that the Administration and CCF should explore allowing the new arrivals who were not eligible for CSSA to take up employment at designated NGOs under certain conditions.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that as the subject matter involved labour policy, it should not be followed up by CCF.</p>	
005739 - 010043	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen CCF Task Force	<p>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's view that more eligible elderly persons could receive dental service if the Administration was willing to allocate more financial resources to the EDA Programme. His suggestion that the EDA Programme could first be expanded to cover elderly persons in selected districts.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that the implementation of the EDA Programme was mainly constrained by the tight dentist manpower situation instead of financial resources.</p>	
010044 - 010328	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han CCF Task Force	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han's views that CCF should capitalize on the resources in the community and discuss with the dental sector to facilitate the wide implementation of the EDA Programme.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that it had close cooperation with the Hong Kong Dental Association which was the implementing agent for the EDA Programme. CCF had endeavoured to encourage more dentists to join the Programme and would continue to do so.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
010329 - 011125	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Miss CHAN Yuen-han CCF Task Force	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's views that –</p> <p>(a) CCF should consider adopting a voucher approach and allow the elderly persons to use dental service in the market; and</p> <p>(b) currently, there was no policy on providing financial assistance to the newly arrived single parents who were ineligible for CSSA. As such, launching CCF programmes for them would not be in conflict with any policy.</p> <p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han's suggestion that dental voucher should be provided for eligible elderly persons.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) it was inappropriate to introduce CCF assistance programmes that were in conflict with existing government policies which decided not to provide assistance to certain groups of people; and</p> <p>(b) CCF should set the amount of subsidy for each beneficiary. As it was difficult to control the fees charged by dentists in the private market, it would not be feasible to provide subsidy in the form of dental vouchers under the EDA Programme.</p>	
011126 - 011433	Chairman New People's Party	<p>Views that –</p> <p>(a) CCF should implement assistance programmes which could be regularized instead of those granting one-off subsidies, in order to address the need of the underprivileged in the long run;</p> <p>(b) CCF should take steps to avoid possible abuse cases; and</p> <p>(c) the assistance programmes should be evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in helping the beneficiaries become self-reliant.</p>	
011434 - 011735	Chairman Mr LO Ho-yuen	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) CCF should collect public views of and enhance transparency in the implementation details of the assistance programmes;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should explain the rationale of regularizing CCF assistance programmes;</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(c) the eligibility criteria for the pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low-income families ("the Pilot scheme on carer allowance") should be relaxed; and living allowances should also be provided for carers of persons with disabilities and of persons with chronic illness; and</p> <p>(d) CCF should provide allowance for students with special educational needs ("SEN") from grass-root families to procure support services in the community to facilitate their studies.</p>	
011736 - 012106	<p>Chairman The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Centre on Research and Advocacy</p>	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) to benefit persons with disabilities and persons with chronic illness, CCF should study and address their special needs by new initiatives, such as launching a pilot project on improving the case management system of the welfare sector; and</p> <p>(b) there should be synergy among the task forces under CoP to put funding of CCF to good use.</p>	
012107 - 012348	<p>Chairman Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong</p>	<p>Views that CCF should –</p> <p>(a) constantly consider regularizing assistance programmes; and</p> <p>(b) implement more programmes of different kinds to cater for various needs of the underprivileged. For example, setting up more public dental clinics to serve the elderly, training guide dogs to improve the quality of life of the blind, strengthening Rehabus service to facilitate the integration of persons with disabilities into the community, and providing subsidies for persons with disabilities and deaf children from low-income families to maintain prosthesis and procure hearing aids respectively, where applicable.</p>	
012349 - 012704	<p>Chairman 肌肉萎縮症倡議小組</p>	<p>Views that –</p> <p>(a) persons suffering from muscular dystrophy were neglected and lacked assistance. The Administration should consider permitting them to apply for CSSA on an individual basis; and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		(b) CCF should lower the thresholds of the assistance programmes to address the needs of the non-CSSA recipients with disabilities, especially those suffering from muscular dystrophy.	
012705 - 012939	Chairman 多發性硬化症小組	View that carers of persons with disabilities should be included in the Pilot scheme on carer allowance.	
012940 - 013230	Chairman Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Ltd.	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1896/13-14(01)]</p> <p>(a) the assistance programme on subsidy for the severely disabled persons aged below 60 who were non-CSSA recipients, requiring constant attendance and living in the community ("assistance programme on special care subsidy for the severely disabled") should be regularized and its implementation details should be modified to benefit more needy, such as removing the age limit, reviewing the amount of subsidy, and relaxing the thresholds of and discounting in conducting the means test, the expenses on the necessary medical consumables and caring services; and</p> <p>(b) set up a comprehensive case management system to help persons with disabilities obtain welfare assistance in different aspects.</p>	
013231 - 013353	Chairman Mr TSANG Kai	View that it was not fair to set age limit for the assistance programme on special care subsidy for the severely disabled. A group of severely disabled persons aged 60 or above was planning to lodge a complaint against the unfairness to the Equal Opportunities Commission.	
013354 - 013708	Chairman 1st Step Association	Expressing support for regularizing the assistance programme on special care subsidy for the severely disabled. The age limit of the programme should also be removed, otherwise the ineligible needy might have to apply for CSSA which would result in a greater financial burden on the Government.	
013709 - 014017	Chairman Civic Party	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1896/13-14(02)]</p> <p>Urging the Administration to –</p> <p>(a) provide each member of low-income families with an annual health care voucher of \$1,000 to subsidize their necessary expenses on private medical services;</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(b) provide regularized rental subsidy for the applicants who had been on the WL of PRH for over three years;</p> <p>(c) allocate more resources and engage more NGOs to enhance the food assistance service projects; and</p> <p>(d) enhance the after-school care and home-based child care services, and exempt low-income families from the charges of social services in order to relieve stress on low-income earners.</p>	
014018 - 014341	Chairman Concerning CSSA & Low Income Alliance	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) Given that the Administration had yet to review the amount of rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme, the programme on subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing and paying a rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme should continue. CCF should offer more levels of subsidy to help CSSA recipients who suffered from high housing rental; and</p> <p>(b) CCF should announce the review mechanism of, and permit CSSA recipients' voluntary participation in the incentive scheme to further encourage CSSA recipients of the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance to secure employment ("the Incentive scheme").</p>	
014342 - 014614	Chairman Miss YEUNG Pui-yan	View that in the light of the CCF's objective to provide financial assistance to people who fell outside the social safety net, the prospective new arrivals from the Mainland, who were members of the low-income families, should be counted as family member in the means tests of CCF assistance programmes.	
014615 - 014922	Chairman 關注準來港平台	View that the means test of the One-off living subsidy programme should take into account a prospective new arrival from the Mainland who was a family member of an applicant for the subsidy.	
014923 - 015145	Chairman The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1843/13-14(01)]</p> <p>CCF should –</p> <p>(a) relax the eligibility criteria for and continue with the assistance programme on special</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>care subsidy for the severely disabled to benefit more students with severe intellectual disabilities; and</p> <p>(b) for the special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment programme and the special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment, a uniform subsidy should be granted to eligible applicants with the monthly household income not exceeding 150% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income ("MMDHI") and the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000.</p>	
015146 - 015457	Chairman The Forthright Caucus	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) the Administration should be responsible for formulating dedicated policies to tackle the problems related to poverty and the disparity between the rich and the poor, instead of providing short-term financial assistance to the underprivileged through CCF to address the problems; and</p> <p>(b) as regards the Pilot scheme on carer allowance, the income limit of the carers should be relaxed, and the provision of day care services and the integrated home care services to the elderly who were being taken care of by the carers should not be affected.</p>	
015458 - 015750	Chairman The Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped Children	Urging the Administration to set up more Early Education and Training Centres so that the 7 000 odd children who were currently waiting for pre-school rehabilitation services would not miss the golden period for receiving the necessary training.	
015751 - 020008	Chairman Miss LUI Fei-bui	Views that before proceeding with the regularization of the programme on training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the WL of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services, CCF should refine the programme's implementation details on subsidy mode and amount, in consultation with the targeted beneficiaries. More long-term services should be developed to provide needy children with timely support.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
020009 - 020213	Chairman 太子基層學童關注組	Views that – (a) the programme on subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families should cover all whole-day primary and secondary school students who were receiving either full or half grant from the Student Financial Assistance Agency and had lunch as arranged by their schools; and (b) the amount of meal allowance for students granted by the CSSA Scheme should be increased to the subsidy level of the aforesaid programme.	
020214 - 020502	Chairman Alliance for Children Development Rights	Expression of concern that the amount of additional grants offered by the enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme was inadequate to cover students' expenses on extra-curricular activities and incidental expenses on their studies. CCF was requested to – (a) announce the considerations given to determine the level of the flat rate grant to facilitate future review of the Student Financial Assistance Scheme; and (b) consider providing a monthly subsidy of \$200 for each needy student to take part in extra-curricular activities for their better development, thereby alleviating inter-generational poverty.	
020503 - 020830	Chairman Mr LEE Tai-shing	Views that CCF should – (a) recommend the regularization of assistance programmes for SEN students; (b) provide assistance for the underprivileged who suffered from high expenses on energy, private medical services and housing rental; and (c) strive for reforming the social welfare system in Hong Kong.	
020831 - 021149	Chairman Alliance for Concerning Grassroots Housing Rights	Views that the Administration should regularize the One-off living subsidy programme; and CCF should regularly adjust the subsidy level of the aforesaid programme according to the rent level in the market.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
021150 - 021509	Chairman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (New Territories)	Presentation of views – (a) the operation of CCF had not yet been reviewed since its establishment in early 2011; (b) there was no channel for conveying public views on the assistance programmes to CCF; and (c) there was no social welfare service to provide urgent assistance for people who were temporarily suspended from work due to emergencies.	
021510 - 021747	Chairman Smart & Beauty House	Presentation of views – (a) CCF should expand the scope of the EDA Programme; and (b) the Administration should enhance the employment and self-employment services for young people, and encourage the business sector to provide more job opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities.	
021748 - 022107	Chairman Shek Wu Hui Sub-divided Flats Concern Group	Expression of disappointment that the Administration neither regularized the One-off living subsidy programme nor formulated policies on rent control, which were considered in conflict with the existing government policies. CCF was requested to – (a) continue with the One-off living subsidy programme and increase the subsidy amounts according to the inflation rate; and (b) simplify the administrative procedure, and assign more service units operated by NGOs and more government offices to assist in implementing the aforesaid programme.	
022108 - 022417	Chairman Fanling Concern Low-Income Group	Views that the Administration should regularize the One-off living subsidy programme; and CCF should relax the income and rental limits imposed on applicants of the programme to benefit more underprivileged people.	
022418 - 023623	Chairman CCF Task Force	The CCF Task Force's response to major views of deputations that – (a) as CCF did not have the manpower resources to devise an assessment mechanism which took account of both the income and	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>expenditure of the targeted beneficiaries, it generally followed the income thresholds adopted by the Administration. Income requirement for CCF assistance programmes was generally set at 75% of MMDHI. The income requirement would be adjusted depending on the nature of the programme as far as practicable;</p> <p>(b) the experience of the Pilot scheme on carer allowance would facilitate the Administration to formulate policies on carer allowance in future;</p> <p>(c) CCF aimed to provide assistance for the needy who fell outside or not covered by the safety net. As such, people receiving CSSA or OALA were not eligible for the Pilot scheme on carer allowance;</p> <p>(d) assessments of the service mix applicable to elderly persons who were being taken care of by carers under the Pilot scheme on carer allowance would be made according to circumstances of individual cases. The Pilot scheme on carer allowance did not necessarily affect the home care and community care services received by these elderly persons;</p> <p>(e) members of the public were welcome to contact the CCF Secretariat for the CCF-related information which was not available on the CCF website. CCF would consider uploading the information, to which the public would like to have access, onto its website;</p> <p>(f) feedbacks on assistance programmes were collected from some beneficiaries. CCF could explore more means in collecting views in this regard;</p> <p>(g) while evaluations of individual assistance programmes would be conducted, there was no plan at this stage to conduct a review on CCF. CCF would consider the suggestion of conducting a review on CCF;</p> <p>(h) CCF would consider enhancing the transparency of its operation having regard to the views of members and deputations; and</p> <p>(i) launching pilot schemes by CCF would enable the needy groups to receive financial</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>assistance in the course of policy formulation by the Administration.</p> <p>The Chairman's enquiry about whether CCF would provide assistance for family members of new arrivals who were about to come to settle in Hong Kong.</p> <p>CCF Task Force's response that policies in providing financial assistance for prospective new arrivals should be in place before CCF could include them in its assistance programmes.</p>	
023624 - 024135	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan CCF Task Force	<p>Views and enquiries of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan that –</p> <p>(a) CCF should provide subsidy for children from single-parent families whose parents were not eligible for CSSA; and</p> <p>(b) the age requirement for receiving special care subsidy for the severely disabled should be waived. Allowance should be provided for carers of severely disabled persons as they were required to work round the clock.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) The Low-income Working Family Allowance (“LIFA”) Scheme would help alleviate the financial burden of eligible low-income families outside the safety net. Under the LIFA scheme, a child allowance would be provided for eligible families with children; and</p> <p>(b) home care services were not provided for severely disabled persons aged below 60 when the assistance programme on special care subsidy for the severely disabled was designed. The special care subsidy would discontinue following the regularization of the Pilot Scheme on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities and its extension to all 18 districts in 2014.</p>	
024136 - 024547	Chairman Deputy Chairman CCF Task Force	<p>The Deputy Chairman's views that –</p> <p>(a) as the Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities did not provide round-the-clock service, it could not replace special care subsidy for the severely disabled. The special care subsidy and the scheme should complement each other;</p> <p>(b) an income limit of higher than 150% of MMDHI should be set for severely disabled</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>persons who had to bear exceptionally high medical expenses;</p> <p>(c) the Administration should consider formulating a policy on the provision of rent allowance for the needy private housing tenants; and</p> <p>(d) home care services provided for elderly persons should not be affected even though their carers received allowance under the Pilot scheme on carer allowance.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that the provision of home care services would depend on circumstances of individual users. Nevertheless, home care services for users who were being taken care of by carers might differ from that for users without carers.</p>	
024548 - 024842	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han Administration	The Administration's explanation of the objectives of launching CCF assistance programmes on pilot basis at Miss CHAN Yuen-han's request.	
024843 - 024953	Chairman Mr TSANG Kai	Mr TSANG Kai's view that the assistance for the needy persons with disabilities aged above 60 was minimal.	
024954 - 025055	Chairman Concerning CSSA & Low Income Alliance	<p>Enquiries about –</p> <p>(a) how the \$226.62 million allocated to the Incentive scheme would be spent ;</p> <p>(b) whether CSSA recipients who were not selected to participate in the Incentive scheme could join it; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would make information about the review mechanism of the Incentive scheme available to the public.</p>	
025056 - 025201	Chairman Miss YEUNG Pui-yan	<p>Views that –</p> <p>(a) excluding prospective new arrivals from CCF assistance programmes was contradictory to the CCF's objective to plug the gaps in the existing system;</p> <p>(b) as financial assistance for low-income families was provided on a household basis, prospective new arrivals who were members of these households should not be excluded from the existing system; and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		(c) whether the Administration would support the suggestion of the introduction of children health care voucher under CCF.	
025202 - 025300	Chairman The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped	Concerns that – (a) the cessation of special care subsidy for the severely disabled would impose financial burden on the needy families; and (b) CCF should have the knowledge to define "severely disabilities" so as to provide the required assistance for persons with severe disabilities.	
025301 - 025427	Chairman Mr LEE Tai-shing	Enquiry about the reasons for excluding prospective new arrivals from CCF assistance programmes while they were covered by certain measures of the Administration.	
025428 - 025534	Chairman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (New Territories)	View that a comprehensive review of CCF should be conducted to delineate the roles and responsibilities between CCF and the policy bureaux.	
025535 - 025900	Chairman CCF Task Force	CCF Task Force's response that – (a) the \$226.62 million under the Incentive scheme would be used for disbursement to participants who had reached the target amount on savings; (b) it would discuss with the Administration making public information about the review mechanism of the Incentive scheme; (c) CCF sought to fill the gaps of the existing system and should not introduce measures which were inconsistent with the existing government policies; (d) provision of children health care voucher required discussion by CCF and the Administration; and (e) CCF had no problem with the definition of severely disabilities. However, given the diversified care needs of persons with disabilities, a standardized care needs assessment mechanism for them should first be established before CCF could consider assistance programmes for carers of persons with disabilities.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
025901 - 030710	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Deputy Chairman	<p>Request of Miss CHAN Yuen-han and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che that CCF and the Administration should provide a response to the views and concerns of members and deputations which had not been responded to during the meeting.</p> <p>Request of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan that CCF should discuss the concerns raised at the meeting and revert to the Subcommittee.</p> <p>Request of the Deputy Chairman that LWB should conduct a holistic review on the existing system and identify the gaps in helping the disadvantaged.</p> <p>The Chairman's view that the Administration should provide justifications for not incorporating the CCF assistance programmes which had been run for three years or more into the Government's regular programme.</p> <p>The Chairman's response to Miss CHAN Yuen-han's enquiry about moving a motion for debate on an area of concern of the Subcommittee at a Council meeting.</p>	Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)
<i>Agenda item II – Subjects to be discussed at meetings in July and October 2014</i>			
025901 - 030710	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Deputy Chairman	Members noted the subject for discussion at the meeting in July 2014 and agreed on the subject to be discussed at the meeting in October 2014.	