

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1801/14-15

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Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

Subcommittee on Poverty

**Minutes of the twenty-ninth meeting
held on Tuesday, 28 April 2015, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, 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 LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

Members absent : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Member attending : Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

**Public Officers : Item I
attending**

Mr Stephen SUI, JP
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms IP Ling-bik
Principal Assistant Secretary (Education Commission &
Planning)
Education Bureau

Mr David LEUNG
Assistant Secretary (Corporate Services)
Education Bureau

Mr Charles HUI, JP
Assistant Commissioner (Employment Services)
Labour Department

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

Mr Peter NG
Assistant Director (Youth & Corrections)
Social Welfare Department

Dr MA Chi
Deputy Executive Director (Training Services)
Employees Retraining Board

**Attendance by : Item I
invitation**

Mr NGAN Man-yu, Member of Kwun Tong District
Council

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Mr CHOI Tin-yam
Deputy Spokesperson of Welfare Affair

Tin Shui Wai Community Development Network

Mr CHAN Wai-lun
Organising Officer

Hong Kong Federations of Women Centres

Mr LEUNG Shek-lun
Advocacy Officer

NWSC grass-root women concerning association

Miss Rico CHAN
Community Organizer

Hong Kong Women Workers' Association

Miss LEUNG Wei-ching
Organizer

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Dorothy WONG
Officer

關注學童發展權利聯席

Miss HO Yu-ying
Community Organizer

太子學童關注組

尹德恩小姐

學童關注會

Ms LEE Hai-yan

Labour Party

Mr Steve LO
Representative

準來港婦女關注小組

Miss KO Sin-yin
Member

關注綜援低收入聯盟

Miss YEUNG Pui-yan
Member

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

Mr Augustine YU Siu-po
Acting Centre Supervisor

North District Employment Concern Group

Ms LEE Yuk-mei
Member

Hong Kong Policy Viewers

Mr KUNG Wai-sum
Chairperson

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

Staff in attendance : Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 6

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Miss LEE Wai-yan
Clerical Assistant (2) 6

Action

I. Measures to unleash labour force in families for increasing the grassroots' income

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1319/14-15(01) to (05), CB(2)1360/14-15(01) to (05)]

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

II. Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting

2. Members noted that the Subcommittee would discuss the subject of "Policies and measures regarding provision of employment support for persons with disabilities" at the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 19 May 2015 at 10:45 am.

III. Any other business

3. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:49 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 June 2015

**Proceedings of the twenty-ninth meeting of the
Subcommittee on Poverty
on Tuesday, 28 April 2015 at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
000720 - 001230	Chairman	Opening remarks	
<i>Agenda item I – Measures to unleash labour force in families for increasing the grassroots' income</i>			
001231 - 001526	Mr NGAN Man-yu, Member of Kwun Tong District Council	Presentation of views	
001527 - 001823	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	Presentation of views	
001824 - 002133	Tin Shui Wai Community Development Network	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1360/14-15(01)]	
002134 - 002441	Hong Kong Federations of Women Centres	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1360/14-15(02)]	
002442 - 002756	NWSC grass-root women concerning association	Presentation of views	
002757 - 003106	Hong Kong Women Workers' Association	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1360/14-15(03)]	
003107 - 003503	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1360/14-15(04)]	
003504 - 003818	關注學童發展權利 聯席	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1319/14-15(05)]	
003819 - 004017	太子學童關注組	Presentation of views	
004018 - 004340	學童關注會	Presentation of views	
004341 - 004647	Labour Party	Presentation of views	
004648 - 004941	準來港婦女關注小組	Presentation of views	
004942 - 005253	關注綜援低收入聯盟	Presentation of views	
005254 - 005527	Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (NT)	Presentation of views	
005528 - 005836	North District Employment Concern	Presentation of views	

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	Group		
005837 - 010250	Hong Kong Policy Viewers	Presentation of views	
010251 - 012621	Chairman Admin	<p>Summarizing the views of deputations by the Chairman.</p> <p>The Administration's consolidated reply to deputations' views as follows –</p> <p><i>Measures to support women employment</i></p> <p>(a) Extended Hours Service at aided standalone child care centres and kindergarten-cum-child care centres would be enhanced as set out in paragraph 8 of LC Paper No. CB(2)1319/14-15(01);</p> <p>(b) having regard to the fluctuations in the birth rate and the difference of preferences among parents in respect of child care, the Administration had adopted a flexible approach in its provision of child care services. New initiatives had been introduced with more options in service hours and delivery mode, such as the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project ("NSCCP"), setting up work-based child care centres through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("Special Scheme") and exploring the feasibility of the provision of child care places in the proposed Government Complex in Tseung Kwan O;</p> <p>(c) the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") would continue to strengthen the after-school care support for primary and secondary students through the After School Care Programme ("ASCP") and a dedicated fund set up under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged;</p> <p>(d) further support for after-school care services in the form of after-school learning and support activities were provided to needy students through the School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes under the purview of the Education Bureau ("EDB") and the Community Care Fund – After-school Care Pilot Scheme ("CCF-ASCPS");</p> <p>(e) in a bid to map out the future direction, the</p>	

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		<p>Government would commission a consultancy study in 2015-2016 to advise on the long-term development of child care services;</p> <p>(f) in respect of the proposed integration of child care services and kindergarten services, the Administration would, where appropriate, make reference to the recommendations of the Report on 15-Year Free Education to be completed by the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education ("the Committee on Free KG") in mid-2015;</p> <p><i>Measures to address the difficulties of single parent families and education needs of students from low-income families</i></p> <p>(g) to cater for the needs of single parent families, the working hour requirement applicable to single-parents under the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") was substantially lower than that for other LIFA applicants;</p> <p>(h) government financial assistance for students in respect of their educational needs had been adjusted annually according to the inflation rate;</p> <p>(i) the enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme under CCF had been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2014/2015 school year;</p> <p><i>Employment assistance for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities</i></p> <p>(j) to enhance the employability of persons with disabilities, the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme was implemented to encourage employers to provide persons with disabilities with on-the-job training and support through the provision of an allowance. The post-placement follow-up service provided for persons with disabilities would be extended from three to six months so as to help employees with disabilities to adapt and stay in their employment;</p> <p>(k) the Administration promoted the employment of mature persons through publicity targeting at employers as well as a series of strengthened employment support</p>	

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		<p>services such as employment briefings and thematic job fairs organized for mature job-seekers. The Employment Programme for the Middle-aged would be extended to part-time jobs to encourage employers to provide more such employment opportunities that might be more suitable for mature job seekers; and</p> <p>(l) employment assistance for ethnic minorities was strengthened through the set up of special counters, the provision of bilingual information and interpretation services, and a wide range of employment support services, including the pilot Employment Services Ambassador Programme for Ethnic Minorities.</p>	
012622 - 013108	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Admin	<p>Views of Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung that –</p> <p>(a) the employment support services for different social groups, in particular child care services, were piecemeal. The Administration should develop a set of objective yardsticks to evaluate the effectiveness of its services;</p> <p>(b) the Government should offer subsidies for grassroots' families in need of child care services;</p> <p>(c) the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") and EDB should enhance its collaboration for the better integration of child care services and kindergarten services; and</p> <p>(d) the job fair organized by the Labour Department was not effective in assisting persons with disabilities in securing jobs.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration that it had been committed to enhancing its employment assistance and support for the needy social groups in terms of quality and quantity. Regarding child care services, the Administration had been monitoring the service demand and would map out future plans in the light of the recommendations of the consultancy study.</p>	
013109 - 014149	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Admin	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed disappointment that the Government's initiatives (such as providing non-governmental organization-operated child care places in the proposed Government Complex in Tseung Kwan O) were piecemeal. His views that –</p>	

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		<p>(a) the Administration should significantly increase the number of ASCP places in view of the high service demand in the community; and</p> <p>(b) instead of relying on non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to provide self-financing places in work-based child care centres through the Special Scheme, the Administration should inject more resources to substantially increase the number of government-subsidized places; and introduce concrete measures to support women from grassroots families who had genuine difficulties to rejoin the labour market due to their family commitments.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) currently 5 500 places were offered by 149 NGOs in different districts under ASCP, with an average utilization rate of 90%. SWD conducted a review on the adequacy of places every school year and would allocate more places for districts with keen service demand; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration had been providing a wide range of measures to cater for the demand for both child care and after-school care places and would review the services in the light of the recommendations of the consultancy study.</p> <p>Enquiry of the Chairman about the detailed timetable, scope of study, and specific stakeholders to be consulted regarding the consultancy study.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that commencing in 2015-2016, the study would gauge the views of the service sector and different stakeholders. At the present stage, the Administration had not yet finalized the detailed scope and timeframe of the study.</p>	
014150 - 014654	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Admin	<p>Views/enquiries of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che -</p> <p>(a) the Administration should consult the community widely before finalizing the scope of the consultancy study. A key area to be addressed should be how to enhance the interface between LWB and EDB in the provision of child care services and</p>	

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		<p>kindergarten education with a view to providing free kindergarten services on a whole-day basis;</p> <p>(b) whether the Administration would consider the measures (including a Supplement for Carers and a Voucher Scheme on Child Care Services) proposed in the study report on child care services recently released by the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would offer salary at the par of the statutory minimum wage ("SMW") for carers participating in NSCCP to provide more incentive for the carers.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) the scope of the consultancy study would be worked out taking into consideration the recommendations of the Report on 15-Year Free Education and views expressed by different stakeholders including the proposals put forward in the study report mentioned by Mr CHEUNG; and</p> <p>(b) the Special Needs Groups Task Force ("SNGTF") under the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") had discussed the proposal to offer SMW for carers participating in NSCCP and considered that it would be more appropriate to maintain the present arrangement of offering incentive payments as a recognition of carers' mutual support in the community.</p>	
014655 - 015754	Chairman Dr Helena WONG Admin	<p>Concerns of Dr Helena WONG that –</p> <p>(a) the Administration should significantly increase whole-day and long whole-day kindergarten places to tie in with the population policy and the demand for unleashing the potential of female labour force. LWB and EDB should develop better coordination regarding the long-term planning on the provision of child care services and kindergarten services;</p> <p>(b) while providing about 100 additional aided child care places in Shatin in 2017-2018, the Administration should also take heed of the acute shortage of subsidized child care places in other districts; and</p>	

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		<p>(c) the Democratic Party was in support of the proposal to offer an incentive payment no less than SMW for carers participating in NSCCP.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that it had rolled out measures to address the shortage of child care service places and would review the services based on the findings of the consultancy study. Views expressed by members and deputations regarding the provision of 15-year free education would also be considered.</p> <p>Enquiries of the Chairman about –</p> <p>(a) plans of the Employees Retraining Board ("ERB"), if any, to provide training courses and support services for prospective women migrants, who were holders of two-way permits, so as to equip them with the necessary skills for employment after they had settled in Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(b) reasons why only some 90 schools and NGOs participating in CCF-ASCPS; whether the learning activities could be staged in schools for the convenience of parents; and what measures the Administration would take to encourage more schools to provide the services under the Scheme.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) the scope of services of ERB, pursuant to the Employees Retraining Ordinance (Cap. 423), was confined to eligible employees who were not subject to any condition of stay. That said, ERB had been providing designated training places for newly arrived women and the Home Affairs Department had launched a range of counselling services and support programmes for prospective migrants from the Mainland;</p> <p>(b) the CCF-ASCPS had received good response since its launch in the 2012/2013 school year. In the 2014/2015 school year, there had been a total of 98 schools and NGOs participating in CCF-ASCPS, with around 11 000 student beneficiaries. Under CCF-ASCPS, learning and activities organized for needy primary and secondary students from low-income families were</p>	

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		<p>staged in schools or the premises of the participating NGOs; and</p> <p>(c) CCF-ASCPS complemented the School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes under the purview of EDB. The latter programmes, with a funding support of \$240 million annually, were widely supported by schools as such programmes could facilitate the whole-person development of needy students through after-school activities.</p> <p>Extension of meeting for 15 minutes</p>	
015755 - 020424	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Admin	<p>Enquiries of Mr TANG Ka-piu –</p> <p>(a) anticipating that the Committee on Free KG would propose that free KG education should only cover half-day KG services as basic provision for all eligible children, he enquired whether LWB would roll out measures to provide assistance for low-income families with children in need of whole-day KG services; and</p> <p>(b) whether the Administration, in contracting out its services, would set quotas exclusively for rehabilitation organizations with a view to enhancing the employment prospect of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) LWB would consider the need of such measures in the light of the findings of the consultancy study and the Report to be completed by the Committee on Free KG; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration had stepped up its employment assistance for persons with disabilities, including the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organizations Recognition Scheme which mobilized the Government, private sector and public bodies to make collective efforts for offering more suitable internship and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; and</p> <p>(c) the Government would continue to work with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee and SNGTF under CoP to explore other initiatives to promote employment of persons</p>	

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		with disabilities.	
020425 - 021109	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Admin	<p>Disappointment expressed by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung at the ineffectiveness of the Government's three pillars of retirement protection and the lack of the employment support and assistance for elderly persons.</p> <p>Response of the Administration on the concerted efforts of government bureaux/departments in promoting the employment of mature persons, including the publicity to employers to allay their concern over difficulties in taking out employees' compensation insurance policies for elderly employees and the initiative to provide incentives to employers for hiring mature persons.</p>	
021110 - 021958	Chairman Dr Helena WONG Admin	<p>Dr Helena WONG proposed that the Administration should incorporate the following in its long-term planning on the provision of child care services –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to explore the feasibility of developing a legal regime, drawing reference from the experiences of countries in Northern Europe, to regulate the provision of child care services for the sake of protecting the basic right of women; (b) to develop service pledges for the provision of child care services with reference to the total children population and the need to unleash women labour force; (c) to subsidize private organizations for the provision of child care services and to provide allowance for low-income families in need of child care services; and (d) to consider offering a Carer's Supplement for low-income families if they opted to take care of children full time at home. <p>Response of the Administration that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Government had been providing needy families with different fee-waiving subsidies for child care and after-school care services; (b) the Administration would consider, inter alia, the feasibility of expanding the coverage of the Pilot Scheme on Carer Allowance for the Elderly currently run by CCF to benefit more carers, e.g. carers of persons with disabilities, in the later review of the pilot scheme ; and 	

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		<p>(c) on the way forward, the consultancy study would give recommendations on the long-term development of child care services according to the demographic situation and actual circumstances of Hong Kong.</p> <p>Advice of the Chairman that the Administration should keep the Subcommittee informed of the scope of study and timeframe of the consultancy study on child care services. Assistance for other social groups would be further discussed by the Subcommittee.</p> <p>Suggestion of the Chairman and Dr Helena WONG that in parallel with the consultancy study to be commissioned by the Government, the Subcommittee could seek the assistance of the Research Office of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat to conduct a study on the provision of child care services in overseas countries covering areas such as legislative measures, service pledges and service categories.</p> <p>Remarks of the Chairman that he would discuss with the LegCo Secretariat about the feasibility of conducting the above study and the specific areas to be covered.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II – Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting</i>			
021959 - 022008	Chairman	<p>Item for discussion at the next meeting</p> <p>Closing remarks</p>	