

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1999/14-15  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Minutes of the thirty-second meeting  
held on Tuesday, 21 July 2015, at 10:45 am  
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 LEE Cheuk-yan  
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 Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung

**Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

**Public Officers : Item I  
attending**

Mr Laurie LO, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)  
Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Nick AU YEUNG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs  
(Community Care Fund)  
Home Affairs Bureau

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

Mr LEE Yau-kwong  
Principal Executive Officer (Health)  
Food and Health Bureau

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

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

**Attendance by : Item I  
invitation**

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of  
Hong Kong

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Ms CHEUNG Fan-lan  
Deputy Spokesperson

葵涌劏房租務關注聯盟

Miss CHEUNG Man-wa

葵涌劏房關注組

Miss YIU Tung-mui

葵涌劏房居民權益小組

Ms FENG Ju-ying  
Member

葵涌劏房租金關注組

Mr Kenny NG Kwan-lim  
Member

葵涌關愛基金劏房人士組

Mr TIN Ka-shun  
Member

Civic Party

Mr Andy YU Tak-po  
District Developer

Hong Kong Federation of Women Centres

Mr LEUNG Shek-lun  
Advocacy Officer

Liberal Party

Mr Ken CHOW  
Chairman, NTW District Affairs Committee Member

The Hong Kong Ethnic Minority Concern Group on Equal  
Access to Government Services

Ms Sairah Abbas  
Assistant Program Officer

Catholic Diocese of HK Diocesan Pastoral Centre for  
Workers (Kowloon)

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Mr LI Ka-shu  
Program Officer

將軍澳友關愛基金關注組

Mr LAI Wai-tong  
Member

Concern EM Housing Alliance

Mr Minhas Rashad  
Member

Alliance for Children Development Rights

Miss HO Yu-ying  
Community Organizer

上水學童關注組

Ms LUO Hoi-ha

太子學童關注組

Ms LI Xian-chun

Ms CHIU Lai-hing

Mr CHAN Sing-wai

土瓜環低收入劏房關注組

Mr LEE Kwok-kuen  
Community Organizer

Concerning CSSA & Low Income Alliance

Mr Herrick LEE Yen-hao  
Community Organizer

爭取低收入家庭保障聯席

Miss YEUNG Pui-yan  
Community Organizer

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

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Kay CHU  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Ms Ada TANG  
Clerical Assistant (2) 4

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Action

**I. Community Care Fund**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1904/14-15(01) to (03), CB(2)1937/14-15(01), and CB(2)1953/14-15(01) to (04)]

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

2. The Subcommittee requested the Community Care Fund Task Force to provide a list of assistance programmes which had been implemented for three or more years but had not yet been regularized, and reasons for not regularizing such programmes.

**II. Any other business**

3. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:06 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
11 August 2015

**Proceedings of the thirty-second meeting of the  
Subcommittee on Poverty  
on Tuesday, 21 July 2015 at 10:45 am  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<i>Agenda item I –Community Care Fund</i>			
001231 - 001425	Chairman	Opening remarks	
001426 - 001714	葵涌劏房租務關注聯盟	Presentation of views	
001715 - 001842	葵涌劏房關注組	Presentation of views	
001843 - 002135	葵涌劏房居民權益小組	Presentation of views	
002136 - 002447	葵涌劏房租金關注組	Presentation of views	
002448 - 002758	葵涌關愛基金劏房人士組	Presentation of views	
002759 - 003134	Civic Party	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1953/14-15(01)]	
003135 - 003442	Hong Kong Federation of Women Centres	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1953/14-15(02)]	
003443 - 003655	Liberal Party	Presentation of views	
003656 - 004028	The Hong Kong Ethnic Minority Concern Group on Equal Access to Government Services	Presentation of views	
004029 - 004350	Catholic Diocese of HK Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon)	Presentation of views	
004351 - 004640	將軍澳友關愛基金關注組	Presentation of views	
004641 - 004955	Concern EM Housing Alliance	Presentation of views	
004956 - 005322	Alliance for Children Development Rights	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1937/14-15(01)]	
005323 - 005618	上水學童關注組	Presentation of views	
005619 - 005855	太子學童關注組	Presentation of views	
005856 - 010149	Ms CHIU Lai-hing	Presentation of views	

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010150 - 010445	Mr CHAN Sing-wai	Presentation of views	
010446 - 010808	土瓜環低收入劏房關注組	Presentation of views	
010809 - 011155	Concerning CSSA & Low Income Alliance	Presentation of views	
011156 - 011536	爭取低收入家庭保障聯席	Presentation of views	
011537 - 011826	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	Presentation of views	
011827 - 014250	Chairman Admin The CCF Task Force	<p>The Chairman summarized the major views and concerns of deputations/individuals as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Community Care Fund ("CCF") Task Force under the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") should explore the feasibility of providing a living allowance for carers of persons with disabilities, as well as subsidies on electricity/water charges, and medical vouchers for the needy;</li> <li>(b) some ethnic minority ("EM") students could not benefit from the regularized assistance programme on "subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families" ("Lunch Subsidy") as their schools failed to provide food that conformed to their religious rules; and</li> <li>(c) owing to inadequate publicity, the number of EMs benefiting from assistance programmes was small.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration and the CCF Task Force undertook to relay the views and concerns of deputations/individuals to relevant Bureaux and members of the CCF Task Force as appropriate, and responded that –</p> <p><i>Donations from the community to CCF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the pledged donations of about \$1.8 billion from the community had been received in full. The Administration had no plan to appeal for new donations for CCF but always welcomed community support for CCF through donations;</li> </ul>	

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		<p><i>Operation and monitoring of CCF</i></p> <p>(b) the Administration would continue to report regularly to the Subcommittee on the financial position of CCF and the implementation progress of its assistance programmes every six months. Evaluation reports of the programmes would also be provided. In addition, the Subcommittee or relevant Panels of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") would be consulted prior to launching brand-new programmes, which were pilot in nature and the funding provision of which was expected to exceed \$100 million;</p> <p>(c) the statement of accounts of CCF would be audited by the Director of Audit and incorporated into the financial report of the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated for tabling at LegCo annually;</p> <p>(d) to enhance the transparency of CCF, the register of interests of CCF members, the financial position of CCF, the summary of discussion of CCF meetings and information about its assistance programmes, etc. were uploaded onto the CCF website;</p> <p>(e) the functions of CCF were to fill gaps in the existing social security and welfare system and implement measures on a pilot basis. Assistance programmes which were proven effective would be considered for regularization;</p> <p><i>Existing CCF assistance programmes</i></p> <p>(f) 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 launched in response to the relief measures put forward by the Budget, and was intended to be administratively simple to facilitate its implementation and minimize administrative expenses. The current level of the aforesaid Subsidy for a single household was set at \$4,000, approximately equal to two months of the standard rate of CSSA payments;</p>	



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		<p>(g) the One-off Living Subsidy Programme would be launched for the third time in early 2016. To further relieve the financial burden of the larger households, the CCF Task Force proposed to add one more tier of subsidy of \$14,000 for five-or-more-person households under the third-launched Programme. The proposal was pending approval by CoP;</p> <p>(h) the CCF Task Force supported the proposal of launching the “subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing” for the fourth time. The proposal would be submitted to CoP for consideration;</p> <p>(i) after thorough discussion with CoP, the Administration decided to directly provide the Lunch Subsidy to the participating schools with an aim to benefit students in need. Participating schools in general provided their students with multiple choices of lunch, including vegetarian meals;</p> <p>(j) CCF mainly promoted assistance programmes to EMs through non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and schools. EMs' suggestions on how to step up publicity of assistance programmes were welcomed;</p> <p><i>Suggestions on CCF assistance programmes</i></p> <p>(k) the CCF Task Force would explore the feasibility of providing a living allowance for carers of persons with severe disabilities, taking account of experience garnered from the implementation of "the pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low income families", which would be reviewed in due course;</p> <p>(l) if the Administration decided to implement 15-year free education in 2017-2018, the CCF Task Force would seriously consider whether and how to launch an interim programme to address the needs of kindergarten students from low-income families before the implementation of the measure;</p>	

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		<p><i>Other measures</i></p> <p>(m) the Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") Scheme which would be implemented in mid-2016 would provide each eligible child from LIFA households with a monthly Child Allowance of \$800. The CCF Task Force was aware of the difference in the level of assistance for children under LIFA and CSSA, and would keep in view the needs of children from CSSA households;</p> <p>(n) the Education Bureau would continue to provide recurrent funding to schools and NGOs for organizing a variety of after-school activities for needy students; and</p> <p>(o) the level of internet access subsidy under the Internet Learning Support Programme ("ILSP") would continue to be reviewed annually, taking into account relevant factors, e.g. the latest prices of internet access services in the market, including the prices of the relevant internet access services offered by the two NGOs which were commissioned by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to provide internet services under ILSP.</p>	
014251 - 014741	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen The CCF Task Force	<p>The Chairman extended the meeting time to end at 1:00 pm.</p> <p>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked –</p> <p>(a) CoP and the CCF Task Force to consider providing a subsidy on electricity/water charges for low-income families which resided in sub-divided units and not able to afford high electricity charges for providing air-conditioning during summers; and</p> <p>(b) whether the One-off Living Subsidy Programme would cease upon the full implementation of LIFA.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force advised that –</p> <p>(a) the suggestion of providing a subsidy on electricity/water charges should be examined carefully by giving consideration to the existing government policies, the coverage of the proposed</p>	

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		<p>programme and ways to identify target beneficiaries, etc.; and</p> <p>(b) the launch of the One-off Living Subsidy Programme would hinge on relief measures, if any, put forward in the upcoming Budget instead of the implementation of LIFA.</p>	
014742 - 015243	<p>Chairman Mr TAM Yiu-chung The CCF Task Force Admin</p>	<p>Mr TAM Yiu-chung asked the CCF Task Force to –</p> <p>(a) give an update of the latest progress of the expansion of the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme ("EDA Programme"), which would be expanded to cover recipients of Old Age Living Allowance aged 80 and above; and</p> <p>(b) consider allowing overseas qualified dentists to provide service under the EDA Programme or allocate more resources to encourage more dentists/dental clinics to join the Programme in order to expedite the expansion.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force advised that –</p> <p>(a) the expanded EDA Programme was intended to be launched in September 2015. Having regard to a large number of potential beneficiaries, the implementation agency was developing a computer system to facilitate the booking of dental appointments under the expanded EDA Programme; and</p> <p>(b) given that the implementation of the EDA Programme was mainly constrained by the tight dentist manpower situation, the CCF Task Force and the implementation agency would continue to encourage more dentists/dental clinics to join the Programme.</p> <p>In response to the Chairman's question on the participation rate of dentists/dental clinics in the EDA Programme, the Administration advised that about 260 private dentists and over 50 NGO dental clinics had joined the EDA Programme.</p>	
015244 - 015839	<p>Chairman Deputy Chairman The CCF Task Force</p>	<p>The Deputy Chairman asked –</p> <p>(a) whether the recent operations which were</p>	

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		<p>carried out by the Buildings Department to eradicate sub-divided units in over 30 industrial buildings ("IBs") were arranged by making reference to information collected through the One-off Living Subsidy Programme, of which some applicant households lived in sub-divided units in IBs; and</p> <p>(b) the CCF Task Force to provide a list of assistance programmes which had been implemented for three or more years but had not yet been regularized, and reasons for not regularizing such programmes.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force advised that –</p> <p>(a) CCF had not provided information about the One-off Living Subsidy Programme applicants to law enforcement agencies and would not do so; and</p> <p>(b) the requested information at (b) above would be provided after the meeting. It added that the implementation of LIFA and 15-year free education in the coming years might reduce the capacity of the Government to regularize CCF assistance programmes, thereby delaying the incorporation of effective assistance programmes which had been run for three or more years into the Administration's regular assistance and service programmes. In that case, CCF would continue implementing those affected assistance programmes for the benefit of the needy.</p>	Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)
015840 - 020330	Chairman Mr Alan LEONG The CCF Task Force	<p>Mr Alan LEONG said that some landlords requested tenants of sub-divided units to pay electricity fees at a rate which was higher than those charged by power companies. He called on the CCF Task Force to provide a subsidy for those tenants to cover the shortfalls in electricity payments in order to relieve their financial burden. Levels of subsidy for different household sizes could be determined by making reference to the amounts of electricity fees paid by tenants of sub-divided units in the past year.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force considered that the suggestion of providing a subsidy on electricity charges for tenants of sub-divided units involved many technical problems, such</p>	

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		as the definition of sub-divided units, ways to identify target beneficiaries and the actual amount of electricity payments, etc.	
020331 - 020446	Chairman 爭取低收入家庭保障聯席	Presentation of views	
020447 - 020930	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan The CCF Task Force	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said that whilst recipients of the One-off Living Subsidy Programme were suffering from high rental of private housing, assistance for them was not comparable to that for public housing tenants. Given the stable financial position of CCF, he urged the CCF Task Force to at least double the amount of the subsidy of the One-off Living Subsidy Programme.  The CCF Task Force reiterated its response at (f) above.	
020931 - 021359	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung The CCF Task Force	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was of the view that the Administration should raise profits tax to increase government revenue in order to allocate more resources to CCF. Noting that the levels of the subsidy of the One-off Living Subsidy Programme were on par with the standard rates of CSSA, he asked whether the CCF Task Force agreed to increase the standard rates of CSSA so as to improve CCF's assistance for the needy.  The Chairman of the CCF Task Force responded that he was not in a position to answer Mr LEUNG's question.	
021400 - 021944	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che The CCF Task Force	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che called on the CCF Task Force to consider –  (a) providing persons who were not living in public housing and receiving CSSA with subsidies to relieve their financial pressure, irrespective of whether any relief measures had been put forward in the Budget;  (b) providing medical vouchers for low-income persons and their children;  (c) providing a subsidy on electricity charges under the One-off Living Subsidy Programme for applicant households residing in sub-divided units; and  (d) meeting stakeholders to collate their views	

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		<p>and concerns on the work of CCF.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force advised that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the CCF Task Force would continue to put efforts in helping the needy;</li> <li>(b) the Food and Health Bureau would consider the suggestion of providing medical vouchers for the needy; and</li> <li>(c) the CCF Task Force had met stakeholders on different occasions and would arrange discussions with them on new assistance programmes which were in line with the existing government policies.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman asked whether the CCF Task Force would meet with stakeholders to discuss the suggestion of providing a subsidy on electricity/water charges. The CCF Task Force advised that if the suggestion was examined, NGOs assisting in implementing the existing assistance programmes would be consulted to sort out implementation details.</p>	
021945 - 022200	Chairman	<p>Expressing concern that some EMs could not benefit from the Lunch Subsidy Programme as their schools failed to provide food that conformed to their religious rules, the Chairman urged the Education Bureau to address the problem as soon as possible. He also called on the CCF Task Force and the Administration to consider concerns and views of members and deputations.</p>	