

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)136/13-14
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 19 February 2013, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon CHAN Han-pan
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu

Members absent : Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Members attending Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon KWOK Wai-keung

**Public Officers : Item IV
attending**

Mr FUNG Pak-yan
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration)
Social Welfare Department

Ms LUNG Siu-kit
Assistant Director of Social Welfare
(Social Security)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Winnie LAU
Departmental Secretary
Social Welfare Department

Mr Denys CHAN
Chief Social Security Officer (Social Security) 4
Social Welfare Department

Item V

Mr Matthew CHEUNG, GBS, JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Wendy LEUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 1
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Patrick NIP, JP
Director of Social Welfare
Social Welfare Department

Mr KOK Che-leung
Assistant Director of Social Welfare
(Subventions)
Social Welfare Department

Item VI

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

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

Dr Rita HO
Principal Medical & Health Officer (Family Health
Service)
Department of Health

Mrs Alice LO
Chief Housing Manager/Applications
Housing Department

Mr WONG Huen-keung
Chief Manager/Management
(Support Services 2)
Housing Department

Mr Matthew Philip James HEMMINGS
Chief Superintendent of Police (Crime Support) (Crime
Wing) (Acting)
Hong Kong Police Force

Ms AU YEUNG Sze-wan
Senior Inspector of Police (Child Protection Policy Unit
2) (Crime Wing)
Hong Kong Police Force

**Attendance by : Item IV
invitation**

社署合約員工關注組

Mr LEUNG Chi-moon
Convenor

社署合約僱員關注組

Mr LEUNG Chun-pui
Convenor

社署非公務員員工關注組

Mr CHEUNG Ping-lok
Chairman

社署非公務員合約雇員工會

Mr CHAU Chit-hing
Convenor

Item V

Session One

Staff Union of Mental Health Association of Hong Kong

Mr CHEUNG Chor-kin
Chairman

Hong Kong Social Workers Association

Dr Alice YUK Tak-fun
President

Hong Kong! Go

Mr CHAN Chung-yau
Chairman

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Ms CHEUNG Fan-lan
Deputy Spokesperson of Welfare Services

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms CHENG Lai-ling
Business Director, Service Development

Forthright Caucus

Mr Tony SHING
Committee Member

Concern Group of Small Welfare Agencies

Ms WONG Sau-wa
Vice Convenor

The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children

Ms Juliee LAU Chu-lai
Executive Committee Member

關注社會福利規劃平台

Mr YAU Tat-yu
Convenor

Kwai Fong Estate Elderly Rights Concern Group

Mr CHUNG Hau-ping
Member

Chinese Grey Power

Ms LO Siu-lan
Chairlady

Labour Rights Commune

Ms CHEUNG Man-wai
Member

Care-taker's Concern

Ms CHU Moon-chun
Member

Grassroots Development Centre

Mr NG Kin-wing
Committee Member

Alliance for Universal Pension

Mr AU YEUNG Kwun-tung
Organizer

Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong

Mr WONG Man-lip
Executive Member

New Home Association

Miss TANG Xiao-jiao
Acting Executive Director

New Arrival Women League

Mr WONG Kai-hing

Government Mod 1 Staff General Union

Mr TSUI Yat-keung
Vice Chairperson

Frontline Welfare Employees Union

Mr LEUNG Tak-fai
Member

Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre

Miss LEUNG Ching-shan
Organizer

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Mr WONG Weng-chi
Member

青年撐退保聯合陣線

Mr LEE Chak-man
Member

左膠小子

Mr CHAN Tak-wan
Member

The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally
Handicapped

Mr LEE Chi-yung
Chairman

Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association
Limited

Mr LAU Wai-ming
President

肌肉萎縮症倡議小組

Miss Sae Sow Jintana

多發性硬化症組員

Mr HUI Kam-pon

多發性硬化症病類小組

Mr YAN Chun-kit

Hong Kong Women Workers' Association

Miss NG Cheuk-ling
Organizer

Labour Party

Mr AU YEUNG Tat-chor
Representative

Session Two

Christian Social Work

Mr TSE Sai-kit
Member

PSWN

Mr Stanley HO
Member

Academic for Universal Pension

Mr Nicholas CHAN Hok-fung
Chairman

Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union

Mr NG Wai-chiu
Director

Hong Kong Social Welfare Employees Association

Mr CHAN Man Luen Ying
Executive Member

Hong Kong Blind Union

Mr WONG Chun-hang
Vice-president

Women Workers' Cooperative

Ms SHAM Sui-kum
Member

Industrial Relations Institute

Ms LAI Yuen-mei
Organizer

New Territories Evangelical Ambassador

Mr Simon TAM
Member

Smart and Beauty House

Mr CHOW King
Member

North District Employment Concern Group

Ms Venny KWOK
Convener

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

Miss Vivien YAU
Program Officer

Mr WONG Yat-hing

Miss WONG Yuen-ching

Mr LAM Yuk-chun

Miss CHUNG Nga-lai

Miss NG Yuet-man

Mr CHEUNG Pak-ron

Mr CHIU See-poon

Elderly Council of Tsuen Kwai Tsing District

Mr LAM Chi-chung
Representative

Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association,
Social Security Assistants' Branch

Mr CHAN Chun-wah
Advisor

Queer Citizen

Mr Billy R LEUNG
Spokesperson

Tsuen Wan Elderly Joint Group

Ms LI Mei-ying

The Group of Youth Welfare Policy Concerns

Mr CHENG Wai-him
Registered Social Worker

青年貧窮陣線

Mr WAN Wai-lun
Member

青年撐退保聯盟

Ms HO Kit-ming
Member

Social Science Departmental Association of Caritas
Institute of Higher Education

Mr FU Wai-hon
External Vice President

明愛專上學院關社組

Mr WONG Tan-ching
Member

Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth

Mr LEUNG Wai-kin
Policy Advocacy Officer

Social Affairs Committee of The Hong Kong
Federation of Trade Unions

Miss CHU Tin-lok
Committee Member

Alliance of Concessions Fare in Public Transport for
People with Disabilities

Mr Allen CHAN Kam-yuen
Convener

Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres

Mr LEUNG Shek-lun
Advocacy Officer

Item VI

The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr Thomas TSANG
Community Officer (Policy & Legal Support)

Ms NG Ngan-yau
Domestic Violence Victim

Serene Court, Christian Family Service Centre

Ms YEUNG Oi-shan
Senior Service Manager

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

Mr Sam LEUNG Kin-hung
Chairman

Rainbow Action

Mr Jimmy
Spokesperson

Rainbow of Hong Kong

Mr Tommy Jai
Spokesperson

Transgender Group

Miss Angel
Spokesperson

Women Coalition of HKSAR

Miss Waiwai
Committee

Labour Party

Ms Suzanne WU

Against Child Abuse Limited

Dr Jessica HO
Director

Association Concern for Legal Rights of Victims of
Domestic Violence

Ms Puja Kapai
Board Member

Forthright Caucus

Ms Ah Yin
Member

Ms LIU Ngan-fung
Counsellor

Out & Vote

Mr Billy R LEUNG
Spokesperson

Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres

Ms Eva LEUNG
Centre-in-charge

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr TANG Chung-wah
Officer

Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women

Ms Linda WONG
Executive Director

RainLily

Miss Tiffany NG
Service-in-charge

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

Ms CHUNG Bik-mui
Chairman

Clerk in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Assistant Secretary General 2

Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

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

Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 4

Ms Mina CHAN
Council Secretary (2) 1

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Ms Avil MA
Clerical Assistant (2) 3

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I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)619/12-13]

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2012 were confirmed.

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

[LC Paper No. CB(2)601/12-13(01)]

2. Members noted that a submission from the Hong Kong Women Workers' Association requesting the Panel to discuss the provision of child care services was issued to members on 6 February 2013. The subject matter was placed on the list of outstanding items for discussion.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)620/12-13(01) and (02)]

3. Members agreed to discuss at the next meeting scheduled for 11 March 2013 the following items proposed by the Administration -

(a) Integrated community-based services for offenders; and

(b) Promoting active ageing.

4. Noting that manpower shortage at residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") would be the focus of discussion for the joint meeting with the Panel on Manpower to be held later on that day, the Deputy Chairman proposed the Panel on Welfare Services to discuss the manpower situation of non-professional front-line care-takers engaging in subvented homes and community care services for the elderly at its meeting in March

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and invite operators of subvented RCHEs to express their views at the meeting. Members agreed.

IV. Non-renewal of contracts of Social Welfare Department's non-civil service contract Community Work Organizers

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)620/12-13(03), CB(2)620/12-13(04) and CB(2)620/12-13(05)]

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration) ("DDSW(A)") briefed members that the Administration had commissioned non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to implement the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance ("IEAPS") since January 2013. The new programme integrated the various employment assistance programmes under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme to achieve better synergy. Given that the contract of Non-Civil Service Contract ("NCSC") Community Work Organizers ("CWOs") servicing the Community Work ("CW") Programme under the Support for Self-reliance ("SFS") Scheme would expire on 31 March 2013, the Administration had offered employment assistance to the CWOs concerned, including giving information on job openings in Government and public organizations, conducting experience sharing sessions as preparation for interviews, arranging professional training consultants of Employees Retraining Board to advise on different job opportunities, providing generic training courses on computer software application and Basic Law, sponsoring other training courses to suit individual needs, and making referrals to NGOs commissioned to implement the new IEAPS for consideration of employment etc as detailed in the Administration's paper.

6. As regards the latest position of referral for employment, DDSW(A) said that among the 33 CWOs who gave consent for the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") to refer their personal particulars to NGOs concerned for consideration of employment, 19 CWOs had been offered employment by NGOs. Of these, nine CWOs had already left SWD for their new employment in NGOs, two CWOs were accepted by NGOs but the dates of employment were still pending confirmation, and eight CWOs did not accept the job offered by NGOs. Of the rest, one changed job on own accord, five did not attend some interviews as invited by NGOs, four attended interviews but were not successful, and another four had just given their consent for SWD to refer their personal particulars to NGOs upon the recent referral by Mr TANG Ka-piu. The Administration would continue to follow up on the referral of employment for the 59 CWOs who

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were still working in SWD and provide them with necessary employment assistance and support.

Meeting with deputations

社署合約員工關注組

(LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(05))

7. Mr LEUNG Chi-moon expressed strong disappointment at the way the Administration handled the contract renewal of NCSC CWOs. He wondered why the Administration should dismiss CWOs many of whom had worked for the CW Programme since its inception in 1999. The arrangement of referral for employment in NGOs would not fit the CWOs well in regard to the different work culture of NGOs and the new service mode to run the integrated programme. He urged that government departments should review the prospect of NCSC posts employed for more than five years with a view to converting the positions to those with civil service terms of employment and appealed to the Administration for giving priority to CWOs when recruiting new staff for providing services in SWD.

社署合約僱員關注組

8. Mr LEUNG Chun-pui said that in the light of their services for more than 10 years, the Administration should convert the relevant posts to those with civil service terms of employment. He expressed dissatisfaction that by retaining CWO posts after the review of Non-Civil Service Contract Staff Scheme ("NCSC Staff Scheme") in 2006, the Administration had given CWOs a false hope. He said that the non-renewal of the contracts of CWOs was unfair to them given their long years of service. He further pointed out that some CWOs opted not to accept offers from NGOs because their working experience in SWD would not be counted.

社署非公務員員工關注組

9. Mr CHEUNG Ping-lok said that the Administration should value CWOs' past contributions to the SFS Scheme and retain their service in SWD. He considered SWD to be the appropriate agent to undertake the duty of monitoring the community work of the unemployed CSSA recipients and did not support commissioning NGOs to undertake the work.

社署非公務員合約雇員工會

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10. Mr CHAU Chit-hing expressed strong disappointment at the non-renewal of the contracts of CWOs who had devoted six to 13 years to implementing the CW Programme in SWD. He said that CWOs had reservations about accepting the job offers from NGOs due to reduction in salary and long working hours. He appealed to the Administration for a special arrangement of referring the CWOs concerned to other departments so that they could keep their employment in the Government.

Discussion

11. Responding to deputations' views, DDSW(A) said that the non-renewal of contracts of NCSC CWOs was a result of the integration of various employment assistance programmes under the CSSA Scheme to achieve better synergy by commissioning NGOs to run the programmes in a one-stop mode. While acknowledging the long years of service by the CWOs, he highlighted that -

- (a) in the review of the NCSC Staff Scheme conducted by the Civil Service Bureau ("CSB") in 2006, it was concluded that the then 133 CWO positions would not be replaced by civil service posts as the mode of service was subject to review, and in the light of the review SWD had ceased recruiting NCSC CWOs since 2007;
- (b) during meetings with the staff association of CWOs in the past years, SWD had explained the situation and advised them that SWD would keep on examining the service needs and the mode of operation of the CW Programme to match with the overall development of various employment assistance programmes under the CSSA Scheme, and would timely review the need to continue to employ NCSC CWOs. After knowing that funding was reserved in the Budget for commissioning NGOs to provide one-stop employment assistance programmes with the CW Programme as an integral part, SWD had informed the 80 affected CWOs in February 2012 of the relevant arrangements and provided them with assistance to secure alternate employment as far as practicable;
- (c) SWD had to follow the established recruitment mechanism and procedures to select the best qualified candidates to fill the civil service vacancies through a competitive selection process. During the three rounds of recruitment for the post of Social Security Assistant ("SSA") conducted by SWD in 2007, 2009

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and 2012, taking into consideration the relevant work experience of CWOs in servicing the CW Programme, the Administration had decided that CWOs meeting the basic entry requirements could attend selection interview without having to go through the process of short-listing. The success rate of CWOs in filling the post of SSA was around 12% to 15%, as compared to 1% for external applicants; and

- (d) as the experience of CWOs might help implement the enhanced CW Programme, i.e. the Work Exposure Services under IEAPS, SWD had encouraged the NGOs commissioned to implement IEAPS to recruit staff with experience in the CW Programme.

12. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the NCSC Staff Scheme was a flexible means of employment to respond more promptly to changing operational and service needs of bureaux/departments. However, SWD had abused the Scheme to employ CWOs in NCSC terms for more than 10 years without any attempt to convert the NCSC positions to civil service posts and during the years CSB should have intervened to check against the abuse. Dr CHEUNG considered that the Administration lacked sincerity in offering employment assistance to CWOs. The success rate of 12-15% in securing SSA positions was negligible and the employment of CWOs by NGOs which did not count their working experience in SWD was not fair.

13. Mr TANG Ka-piu said that given CWOs' long years of service, the Administration should have offered more opportunities in converting their employment to civil service terms and provided training to equip them with the expertise and skills to fit in its plan to integrate the employment assistance programmes. While opposing to contracting out the CW Programme to NGOs, he was greatly disappointed that the CWOs concerned were not provided with a guarantee for job offers from the NGOs concerned. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung urged that the Administration should impose a requirement for the NGOs concerned to hire the CWOs as they had proven track record in servicing the CW Programme.

14. In reply, DDSW(A) said that the employment assistance programmes under the CSSA Scheme had been commissioned to NGOs by phases over the years in order to utilize NGOs' professional knowledge and experience in providing targeted supportive services to the unemployed CSSA families. The CW Programme, now known as the Work Exposure Services, had become an integral part of IEAPS with its scope broadened to cover more diversified voluntary work and work trial experience. Despite having

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encouraged the NGOs commissioned to implement IEAPS to recruit staff with experience in the CW Programme, SWD respected the autonomy of NGOs in hiring their staff and in considering the suitability of individual CWOs for the position.

15. The Deputy Chairman said that CWOs were not willing to accept offers from NGOs as they would take the risks of salary cut and leaving the employment protection under the Government. He asked if the integration of employment assistance programmes was undertaken from budget consideration, and if it would be possible for reserving civil service posts exclusively for applications from NCSC staff.

16. DDSW(A) replied that the integration exercise did not aim to cut recurrent cost but to enhance the existing services. The Administration had earmarked a provision of \$230 million in the 2012-2013 Budget to implement IEAPS for a period of 27 months. As regards the employment terms of the CWOs who had been offered employment by NGOs, the salaries ranged from \$9,400 to \$11,000, which were about the same as what SWD had offered. He also pointed out that under the existing policy, the recruitment of civil servants should be conducted under the principle of open and fair competition.

17. Mr KWOK Wai-keung took a strong view that starting from the fifth year of employment the Administration should have considered converting the NCSC CWO positions to civil service posts. He said that after the long years of service the only wish of CWOs was job security in the Government, and the training and employment assistance offered by SWD could by no means address their concerns. He appealed to the Administration to offer the CWOs employment in civil service terms.

18. Mr POON Siu-ping was disappointed that the Administration had not strived to provide employment protection for CWOs. He said that the long-term job security of those CWOs, who had accepted job offers by NGOs, was in doubt and asked what concrete assistance and support SWD would offer to the CWOs concerned.

19. DDSW(A) replied that in the recruitment of SSA in SWD, CWOs meeting the basic entry requirement could skip the process of short-listing for attending the selection interview. The Administration would continue to refer the CWOs concerned, upon their consent, to the NGOs commissioned to implement IEAPS and provide them with the necessary training and employment assistance.

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20. Mr Albert HO said that SWD should treasure the work experience and commitments of CWOs and consider keeping them to provide services in a unit in SWD working in parallel with NGOs to implement the CW Programme.

21. Sharing Mr Albert HO's views, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that these CWOs should be retained to work in the government and might leave the civil service through natural wastage. He added that such an arrangement was worth pursuing given the relatively small number of CWOs, their relevant work experience and familiarization with government operation.

22. DDSW(A) responded that upon the integration of various employment assistance programmes under the CSSA Scheme, the NGOs commissioned would run the programme in a one-stop service mode. The suggestion of retaining a unit in SWD could not fit into the one-stop service mode.

23. Mr TANG Ka-piu moved the following motion, which was seconded by Mr Albert HO and Mr POON Siu-ping –

"本事務委員會譴責社會福利署(下稱"社署")濫用非公務員合約制，罔顧社區工作幹事的就業保障，堅持在2013年3月31日遣散全部社區工作幹事；本會促請社署繼續聘用社區工作幹事，並把他們轉職為公務員。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel condemns the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") for abusing the system of non-civil service contracts, ignoring the employment protection for Community Work Organizers ("CWOs") and insisting on dismissing all CWOs on 31 March 2013; and this Panel urges SWD to retain these CWOs and offer them civil service terms of employment instead."

24. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion.

25. In closing the discussion, the Chairman urged the Administration to convey members' requests to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and Director of Social Welfare, and said that from her experience in dealing with similar issues, the Administration should provide better employment

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protection for the CWOs concerned.

V. Medium and long-term social welfare planning

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)620/12-13(06) to (13), CB(2)636/12-13(01), CB(2)641/12-13(01), CB(2)668/12-13(01) to (13), CB(2)719/12-13(01) and CB(2)812/12-13(01)]

26. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") said that the Administration had accepted the guiding principles and adopted the enhanced social welfare planning mechanism as recommended by the Social Welfare Advisory Committee ("SWAC") in its Report on Long-term Social Welfare Planning ("SWAC Report") in Hong Kong released in July 2011. He also highlighted the various on-going welfare policies and initiatives of the Labour and Welfare Bureau; and the initiatives featured in the 2013 Policy Address in regard to the premises and manpower for social welfare planning.

27. The Chairman then invited the deputations to express their views. A total of 63 deputations/individuals presented their views, details of which are in **Appendix I**.

[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman extended the meeting for 20 minutes beyond the appointed ending time.]

Discussion

28. Responding to deputations' views, SLW provided a consolidated reply as follows –

- (a) while embracing the mission of building a caring society and assisting the disadvantaged, the Administration upheld the principle of deploying public resources to assist people most in need with a view to empowering them to move towards self-reliance;
- (b) the enhanced social welfare planning mechanism enabled the Administration to consult and plan for the future focus and priorities of welfare services with stakeholders in response to the latest social circumstances on an ongoing and regular (i.e. annual) basis with greater flexibility and interactivity. The services and initiatives had been designed for long-term implementation on an ongoing basis that usually involved

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recurrent funding provision and resources;

- (c) the Administration had been working closely with the welfare sector in developing both hardware and software for welfare services. In exploring suitable sites for welfare facilities, the Administration would actively encourage NGOs on making better use of the land owned by them and consider using the Lotteries Fund more flexibly and providing targeted assistance to landowners during the planning and development process; and
- (d) in manpower planning, SWD had committed to enhancing the training opportunities of staff serving in subvented NGOs through the \$1 billion Social Welfare Development Fund. In addition, the Education Bureau has assisted the elderly care service sector to set up an Industry Training Advisory Committee to implement Qualifications Framework ("QF") in the sector. QF would help establish an accessible articulation pathway to promote lifelong learning with a view to enhancing the quality of the local workforce.

29. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the Administration had turned a deaf ear to the views of welfare sector in regard to welfare planning over the years. In his view, the enhanced planning mechanism suggested in the SWAC Report had been adopted ever since the inception of the Lump Sum Grant subvention system under which the Administration had not provided any planning, and the views collected from stakeholders had not been accepted for implementation. He opined that further discussion on the subject would be in vain if the Administration did not change its mindset.

30. Mr Albert HO said that the Administration had rolled out a raft of welfare measures which were piecemeal and inadequate to meet the huge service demand. Having regard to the huge fiscal surplus, the Administration should have set specific targets in welfare services and projected the necessary manpower, sites, and funding allocation. He urged the Administration to provide written response to the views and requests of members and deputations, for instance, specific targets in reduction of population below the poverty threshold within a five-year time frame upon the setting of a poverty line by the Commission on Poverty ("CoP"), service pledges on shortening the waiting time for residential care homes for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and its plans to review the seven-year residency requirement of the CSSA Scheme.

Action

31. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung was disappointed that the Administration had not given any new insights to the age-old problems of the welfare sector. Whilst not objecting to the principle of deploying the limited resources for the people most in need, Mr LEUNG said that the Administration should clearly define the people most in need with reference to the demographic change of the territory, and plan ahead with specific pledges and benchmark indicators for the delivery of welfare services in the long run.

32. The Deputy Chairman did not agree with the Administration's reply that the policy initiatives featured in the Policy Address each year constituted a comprehensive planning. He moved the following motion which was seconded by Dr Fernando CHEUNG -

"本事務委員會要求政務司司長就社會福利長遠發展介入處理，重新訂定一套長遠的社會福利發展規劃。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel requests the Chief Secretary for Administration to intervene in the long-term development of social welfare and map out afresh a long-term planning for social welfare development."

33. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion.

34. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that as the Administration could not respond to all the views at the meeting due to time constraints, the Panel would hold a special meeting to continue its discussion with the Administration on long-term social welfare planning. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would provide a written reply to the specific views and requests of members and deputations before the special meeting.

Admin

(Post-meeting note: A special meeting was scheduled for 26 March 2013 to discuss the medium and long-term social welfare planning.)

VI. Policies on handling problems relating to domestic violence (including sexual violence)

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)620/12-13(15), (16), (17) and (18), CB(2)636/12-13(02), CB(2)668/12-13(14) and (15), and CB(2)719/12-13(02) and (03)]

Action

35. At the invitation of the Chairman, Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 ("PAS(W)2") briefed members on the Administration's paper regarding its handling of domestic violence (including sexual violence) cases and support services to the victims and some other related issues, which was prepared in response to the concerns raised by members and deputations at the Panel meeting held on 14 January 2013.

36. At the invitation of the Chairman, a total of 17 deputations/individuals presented views. Their major concerns are summarized in **Appendix II**.

(The Chairman left the meeting at this juncture after which the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Chairman.)

[To allow sufficient time for discussion and with the consent of all members present, the meeting was extended to end at 3:25 pm.]

Discussion

37. Mr Albert HO considered that assistance and services should be offered to cater for the special needs of victims of different sexual orientations and ethnic minorities suffering from domestic violence; and training should be provided for front-line staff to enhance their skills and sensitivity in handling such cases. Mr HO was also in support of deputations' views on the need for a maintenance board to protect the right of divorcees and their children for alimony.

38. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family & Child Welfare) ("ADSW(F&CW)") said that front-line staff in SWD and NGOs had been provided with a wide range of training programmes regularly to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling domestic and sexual violence cases, including cases with victims of different sexual orientations, ethnic minorities and new arrivals.

39. Expressing concern about the adequacy of support and protection to victims of sexual violence, Miss Alice MAK asked whether the Administration had any plans to set up a one-stop service centre for victims of sexual violence, as recommended by the United Nations Committee on the second report of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2006. Mr Alan LEONG said that the Administration should strengthen its measures to offer protection to victims of sexual violence.

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Referring to the difficulties encountered by an NGO in securing a permanent site for its support centre for victims of sexual violence a few years ago, he asked about the assistance to the NGO concerned and called on the Administration to have a long-term commitment in providing support and services for victims of sexual violence.

40. ADSW(F&CW) explained that the support centre for victims of sexual violence operated by RainLily was a non-subvented service unit. In accordance with the established practice, the NGO concerned had the responsibility to identify suitable sites for provision of its non-subvented services. That said, SWD endeavored to provide assistance in the identification of sites through liaison with the Hospital Authority by its relevant district social welfare office.

41. Referring to a drop of 80% domestic violence cases according to the Police, Mr Albert HO asked whether the decrease was due to a change of policy on the classification of domestic violence cases adopted by the Police and, if not, whether the previous classification mechanism was not effective in reflecting the nature of domestic violence cases. Sharing Mr HO's concern, Mr Alan LEONG suggested that the Administration should consider seeking other professional advice in respect of classification of domestic violence cases, instead of solely relying on the judgment of front-line police officers.

42. Chief Superintendent of Police (Crime Support) (Crime Wing) (Acting) replied that under the current classification of domestic conflict reports effective from 2009, there were three main categories, namely "domestic incidents" which included all non-violent incidents without any crime element, common assault or breach of the peace; "domestic violence (miscellaneous)" which referred to common assault and cases involving a breach of the peace; and "domestic violence (crime)" which referred to violent crime cases such as serious assaults, rape, murder and manslaughter. The purpose of this classification was to more accurately reflect the nature of domestic violence cases and deploy appropriate resources to handle the cases and victims involved and, if necessary, cases would be referred to SWD for follow-up.

43. In response to deputations' concerns about streamlining the vetting process of compassionate rehousing ("CR") applications by victims of domestic violence, Chief Housing Manager/Applications said that according to the current practice, social workers would make professional assessment on recommending a victim for CR taking into account the complexity of the family problem of each case as well as the network and

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resources available to address the need for housing assistance. Upon receipt of SWD's recommendations, the Housing Department would complete eligibility assessment of the applicants for CR. As regards the number of successful applications for CR, she said that there were about 2 600 to 2 700 cases per year, of which 400 to 500 were conditional tenancy cases covering PRH assistance to victims of domestic violence having petitioned for divorce.

44. In concluding the discussion, the Deputy Chairman suggested that as the concerns raised by members and deputations straddled across various service units, SWD should take the lead to coordinate further discussion with related government departments and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service on the unresolved issues, such as classification of domestic violence cases, services for victims of different sexual orientations, and the set up of one-stop service centre for victims of sexual violence. Subject to the outcome of discussion, the Panel might revisit the subject matters if necessary.

VII. Any other business

45. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:28 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
24 October 2013

Panel on Welfare Services

Meeting on Tuesday, 19 February 2013 at 9:00 am

Medium and long-term social welfare planning

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
1.	Staff Union of Mental Health Association of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)636/12-13(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should abandon the "operating expenditure envelope" system whereby expenditure was kept within a preset limit in its planning for welfare services so that bureaux/departments could set specific service targets in response to the demand of the community. ● Specifically, the Administration should: (a) review the Lump Sum Grant ("LSG") subvention system with a view to stabilizing the staffing establishment of subvented welfare organizations, and improving the service quality; (b) set up a Social Welfare Development Council to oversee the implementation of welfare services holistically; (c) reinstate the planning mechanism in the form of White Paper for social welfare planning and rehabilitation policies; and (d) develop a one-stop electronic portal, to be managed by a working group under the Lump Sum Grant Steering Committee, for disseminating welfare related information and gauging public views.
2.	Hong Kong Social Workers Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(08) (revised)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The long-term social welfare planning should be taken forward based on research findings on the service demand as per the socio-economic development and demographic change in Hong Kong. ● The Administration should (a) enhance the professional development of social workers including the supervisory grade through the provision of professional academic programmes; (b) plan proactively for the provision of land for sites and premises for welfare facilities including the 36 Government sites planned for housing development mentioned in the 2013 Policy Address; and (c) set up an inter-departmental task force to oversee social welfare planning and coordinate the work of different bureaux/departments.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
3.	Hong Kong! Go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should implement the universal retirement protection scheme and roll out effective measures to combat poverty.
4.	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In long-term social welfare planning, the Administration should address issues arisen from the ageing population and develop a harmonious society. Specifically, the Administration was urged to (a) adopt a hybrid mode in the design of housing estates to facilitate elders ageing in their homes; (b) develop a five-year plan for the provision of residential care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities ("PWDs") with service pledges to shorten the waiting time for care homes; (c) introduce universal retirement protection; (d) improve the public health services including dental services; (e) enhance the community care services for elders; (f) set up an elderly employment fund to promote the employment of elders and retirees; and (g) implement family-friendly measures.
5.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A blue print should be developed for medium and long-term welfare service planning with strategic directions and service pledges, for example, the waiting time for residential care home places for the elderly and PWDs should not be longer than one year and three years respectively. A dedicated committee should be set up to coordinate the work of various government bureaux and departments in relation to the policies and measures on welfare services. Better planning should be developed in regard to exploration of suitable sites for welfare facilities and manpower allocation.
6.	Forthright Caucus [LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(09)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In view of the ageing population, the Government should have had better welfare service planning in terms of land use, manpower and training, and funding allocation. It should reinstate the White Paper planning mechanism for welfare services.
7.	Concern Group of Small Welfare Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should develop a guiding framework for the formulation of medium and long-term social welfare measures, instead of rolling out piecemeal and remedial measures.
8.	The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In regard to the welfare of PWDs, the Administration should (a) strengthen its employment assistance to PWDs, e.g. offering tax concessions to organizations and companies employing PWDs; (b) enhance the community care services to facilitate PWDs' integration with the

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		<p>community; and (c) conduct research on the ageing population of persons with intellectual disabilities, and, in the light of the findings, cater for their needs in its elderly policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deputation was in support of the Administration's initiatives to address the manpower shortage for allied health professionals and front-line care staff for rehabilitation services as committed in the 2013 Policy Address.
9.	關注社會福利規劃平台	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inadequacy of welfare services was due to the lack of long-term planning of the Government. In view of its huge fiscal surplus, the Government should set specific targets and plan well in the allocation of manpower, resources and land use for welfare service, and in the process, the views of different stakeholders should be taken into consideration.
10.	Kwai Fong Estate Elderly Rights Concern Group [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should focus on consulting the public and drawing up a feasible and sustainable model for universal retirement protection, and provide a detailed roadmap and timetable for its implementation.
11.	Chinese Grey Power [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA"), with a monthly payment of \$2,200, could by no means alleviate the hardship of poor elders. The Administration should introduce universal retirement protection as soon as possible to enable elders to lead a dignified life during their twilight years.
12.	Labour Rights Commune [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(05)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should remove the offsetting arrangements in the Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") scheme and comprehensively review MPF. • The Administration should set up an independent committee to work out the timetable and roadmap for the implementation of universal retirement protection. • The privatization of welfare services would deprive the rights of the disadvantaged for public-funded welfare services. The Administration should shoulder the main responsibility of providing welfare services to everyone.
13.	Care-taker's Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support from MPF and OALA was inadequate to enable the poor to lead a dignified life in their old age. An independent task force should be set up to undertake study on universal

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		retirement protection and conduct public consultation. The related information and findings should be open for public access.
14.	Grassroots Development Centre [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(06)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should address the structural cause of social conflicts and review the mode of service delivery resulted from the privatization of welfare services. ● The Government should immediately undertake research on universal retirement protection and provide detailed roadmap and timetable. ● The Government should introduce a democratic election system with one person one vote by which voices of the general public could be incorporated into long-term social welfare planning.
15.	Alliance for Universal Pension [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(07)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In long-term welfare planning, the Government should (a) undertake reform to address the structural cause of poverty; (b) set up an independent committee to oversee the implementation of universal retirement protection instead of putting the subject under the auspices of the Commission on Poverty; and (c) conduct public consultation and work out timetable and roadmap for the implementation of universal retirement protection within its current term.
16.	Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that self-help organizations of people with disabilities played a part in assisting PWDs to live independently, the Administration should strengthen its support to self-help organizations, for example, those set up for six years or more would be offered a higher level of subsidies. ● The Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness ("ICCMWs") should extend its service boundary to enable ex-mentally ill persons participate in activities outside their living district so as to lessen the pressure of the neighbourhood's labeling effect. More manpower should be provided to alleviate the workload of ICCMWs. ● The medical consultation services for ex-mentally ill during evenings and at night should be strengthened.
17.	Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A higher amount of subsidies should be provided to self-help organizations of people with disabilities or chronic illness. In its planning for the provision of more premises for welfare

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
	[LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(11)]	<p>facilities, the Administration should consider providing premises to self-help organizations for their outreach and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deputation suggested that the Government should provide (a) holistic care for people suffering from neuro-muscular disease; and (b) support for people who were non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") recipients and suffered from neuro-muscular disease.
18.	肌肉萎縮症倡議小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should enhance its services for patients suffering neuro-muscular disease. Such enhancement should include (a) providing residential care homes with intensive care services; (b) enhancing the community care services; (c) allowing patients of neuro-muscular disease to apply for CSSA on an individual basis; (d) introducing a special level of Disability Allowance ("DA") for persons with chronic illness to purchase medical equipment or healthcare products; and (e) adopting a case management approach with a social worker appointed to follow up the financial assistance and other support to patients in need.
19.	多發性硬化症組員	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On top of the Normal DA and Higher DA, a special level of allowance should be introduced under DA to subsidize PWDs and chronic disease patients for purchasing medical equipment or other healthcare products/services. PWDs should be allowed to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.
20.	New Home Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should develop a five-year plan on social welfare services with clear directions and concrete targets. Long-term planning should also be directed to facilitate the elderly people to settle in the Mainland after retirement and to plan for the possible return of children who were born to Mainland women in Hong Kong and whose fathers were not Hong Kong permanent residents. The welfare of new arrivals and ethnic minorities should also be covered.
21.	New Arrival Women League [LC Paper No. CB(2)719/12-13(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seven-year residence requirement for application for CSSA and public rental housing should be reviewed to allow newly arrived women in financial need to be eligible for receiving social security and housing accommodation support.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
22.	Government Mod 1 Staff General Union [LC Paper No. CB(2)641/12-13(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In view of the growing aging population, the Government should implement the universal retirement pension scheme. An independent committee should be set up to gauge public views on the most suitable retirement protection model and map out the implementation details.
23.	Front-line Welfare Employees Union [LC Paper No. CB(2)812/12-13(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the context of youth employment policy, the Administration was urged to retain the 3 000 positions of Program Worker created under a special youth employment support measure introduced in 2008.
24.	Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth poverty was one of the prominent tasks of the Government. Noting that the temporary positions created under the special youth employment support measure were due to lapse in March 2013, the deputation urged the Administration to consider regularizing the post of Program Worker in the existing staffing establishment. The LSG subvention system should be reviewed to enhance the provision of manpower and staffing establishment of the subvented organizations. Universal retirement protection should be introduced to facilitate the elder population to lead a decent and dignified life.
25.	Left 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The launch of OALA could not alleviate poverty. The Government should reform the tax system (for example, increasing the profits tax) to narrow down the wealth gap.
26.	青年撐退保聯合陣線 [LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(10)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In view of the growing population of poor elders, the Administration should launch universal retirement protection expeditiously to safeguard their right to lead a dignified life in old age. The Government should increase the profits tax with a view to narrowing down the disparity between the rich and the poor.
27.	左膠小子	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that Hong Kong was an affluent city, the Government should accord high priority to tackling the disparity between the rich and the poor and introducing universal retirement protection to safeguard the right of elders for a decent and dignified life in twilight years.
28.	The Association of Parents of the Severely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the removal of the five-year plan mechanism in 1999, the Administration had not

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
	Mentally Handicapped	<p>provided thorough and comprehensive planning in its social welfare services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government should allow poor elders and PWDs to apply for CSSA on an individual basis. ● To facilitate PWDs to integrate into the community, the Administration should consider introducing low-priced rehab taxi services, enhancing barrier-free facilities at public transport system, and building more small hostels for PWDs in the community.
29.	多發性硬化症病類小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should conduct a comprehensive review on DA to review the eligibility criterion of "100% loss of earning capacity" and to develop a set of objective criteria for disability following the standards adopted by the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health of the World Health Organization. Apart from medical officers, other professionals should be invited to assess the eligibility of applicants.
30.	Hong Kong Women Workers' Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(08)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should (a) provide the roadmap and timetable for universal retirement protection; (b) enhance the existing child care services to facilitate housewives to seek employment; (c) provide wage protection for women employed under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project; and (d) enhance labour protection to safeguard the interest of women workers.
31.	Labour Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Without a comprehensive planning, the welfare services had been shrinking over the years. For example, the subsidy level of social security schemes such as the rent allowance under CSSA had been frozen for years; one-off measures (such as initiatives under the Community Care Fund) provided only short-term assistance. In addition, the Government had not taken proactive measures to provide stable funding for the provision of welfare services. ● The Government should map out afresh a long-term planning for social welfare development.
32.	Christian Social Work [LC Paper No. CB(2)812/12-13(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The long-term social welfare planning announced in the 2013 Policy Address had not realized the commitments on long-term social welfare planning by the Chief Executive ("CE") in his election manifesto. The existing consultation mechanism was a centralized system, which was not able to collect stakeholders' views at the district level. The service targets mentioned in the Policy Address were measures initiated by the Government of the previous term.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
33.	PSWN [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(09) and CB(2)812/12-13(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the prevailing guiding principles adopted by the Government, more emphasis was on flexibility and market-driven values, instead of high quality welfare services in a continuous manner. The Government should incorporate views of different stakeholders to map out long-term social welfare planning to realize the commitments by CE.
34.	Academic for Universal Pension [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(10)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should implement a non-means-tested retirement protection scheme for the benefit of the whole community given that a dignified life in old age was the right of every one. An independent task force should be established to work out the roadmap and timetable for the implementation of universal retirement scheme but not put it under the auspices of the Commission on Poverty. The task force should consult the public widely and map out a sustainable retirement protection model.
35.	Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government had not realized its commitment in social welfare planning made in the CE's election manifesto. It should reinstate the five-year planning mechanism and plan well in the allocation of manpower and sites for welfare services and facilities.
36.	Hong Kong Social Welfare Employees Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social work practitioners were facing low staff morale owing to the guiding principle that the provision of welfare services as a giving but not a right of every one; the lack of job security resulted from the LSG subvention system; and the lack of long-term social welfare planning. The Administration should listen to the views of the welfare sector on the way forward.
37.	Hong Kong Blind Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government had deployed its funding to launch piecemeal measures which could not address the genuine needs of the community, and subvented organizations had devoted much of its efforts to implement such piecemeal service projects. The deputation hoped the Government would plan well in its welfare services to provide genuine assistance to the disadvantaged.
38.	Women Workers' Cooperative [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(11)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the face of growing ageing population and widening wealth gap, the Government should introduce a universal retirement pension scheme with contributions from the Government, employers and employees to enable every one to lead a financially secure life in old age.
39.	Industrial Relations Institute [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(12)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should introduce universal retirement protection in the long run, and in the interim, it should step up its measures to combat the problem of elderly poverty, for example,

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		allowing poor elders to apply for CSSA on an individual basis and raising the means test threshold of CSSA.
40.	New Territories Evangelical Ambassador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should accord high priority to introducing universal retirement protection and drawing up a poverty line to identify the poor in need of assistance. In drawing up the poverty line, welfare and subsidized services provided by the Government should not be counted as part of the household income.
41.	Smart and Beauty House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding support and assistance to PWDs, the Government was urged to (a) strengthen the support services to disabled children in particular shortening the waiting time for medical consultation and enhancing special education programmes; (b) provide minimum wage protection for employees with disabilities across the board; (c) shorten the waiting time for places at residential care homes for PWDs; and (d) introduce universal retirement protection to enable unemployed PWDs to lead a dignified life in old age.
42.	North District Employment Concern Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should step up its poverty alleviation measures to narrow down the wealth gap. Specifically, the Administration was urged to (a) raise the statutory minimum wage to \$35 per hour and conduct review on the rate annually; (b) introduce universal retirement protection; (c) enhance the employees' retraining programmes; and (d) foster the development of small industries to create more jobs for middle-aged women.
43.	Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (New Territories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration was urged to (a) introduce universal retirement protection immediately since MPF could not provide protection for low-income workers, casual workers, soon-to-retire people and housewives; and (b) review the CSSA Scheme by allowing poor elders to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.
44.	Mr WONG Yat-hing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government had no planning at all in its welfare services. The Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project should be enhanced to increase the service quota, lower the service charge and offer the statutory minimum wage to women working for the Project. The Government should introduce universal retirement protection to enable elders to live with dignity.
45.	Miss WONG Yuen-ching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should reinstate the five-year planning mechanism. A preventive

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		<p>approach should be adopted instead of rolling out piecemeal remedial measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the growing population of poor elders, the Administration should launch the universal retirement protection scheme expeditiously to provide retirement protection for every citizen.
46.	Mr LAM Yuk-chun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources allocated to social welfare service (16.7% of the total recurrent expenditure) were not a huge sum in view of the poor population in the territory. Many low-income people would lead a difficult life after retirement as they had to pay high rentals and MPF would not guarantee them a financially secure life. The Government should implement universal retirement protection without delay.
47.	Alliance of Concessions Fare in Public Transport for People with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deputation welcomed the services for PWDs announced in the 2013 Policy Address. The Government was urged to draft white paper in social welfare planning on a regular basis so as to respond to the changing needs of the society. For example, the definition of disability under the DA scheme was out of date. As the definition of disability under DA also applied to the eligibility for the \$2 transport fare concession scheme, the Administration should review the definition expeditiously to allow PWDs in need to be eligible for the concession.
48.	Miss CHUNG Nga-lai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should strengthen the child care services and employment assistance to enable grass-roots women to seek employment. Specific requests included: extending the service hours of child care services to Saturday and Sunday, and creating more job opportunities for middle-aged women.
49.	Miss NG Yuet-man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In view of the growing ageing population and the inadequacies of the three-pillar retirement protection model, the Government should work out a feasible model for universal retirement protection and conduct public consultation expeditiously.
50.	Mr CHEUNG Pak-ron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should implement universal retirement protection immediately. The existing measures including OALA, MPF, and the statutory minimum wage could not address the genuine needs of the grass-roots people.
51.	Mr CHIU See-poon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protection from MPF, OALA, and CSSA was not effective in tackling the problem of elderly poverty. With the huge fiscal surplus, the Government should work out a feasible

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		plan for the implementation of universal retirement protection.
52.	Elderly Council of Tsuen Kwai Tsing District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government should implement universal retirement protection as soon as possible. In addition, as many elders with chronic illness did not have any income after retirement, the Administration should waive their medical charges at public clinics, and in longer term consider providing all elders with free medical treatment. ● As regards welfare measures to assist the disadvantaged, in addition to providing a safety net, the Administration should create a favourable environment for the development of small businesses and facilitate grass-roots people to earn their own living, for example, to set up a hawker zone in each district.
53.	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Security Assistants' Branch [LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(12)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In its long-term welfare service planning, the Government should formulate its social security measures to ensure public resources be offered to people in genuine difficulties. Benchmark indicators should be developed for providing adequate manpower for the social security assistant grade for implementation of social security schemes.
54.	Queer Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The protection for same-sex cohabitants under the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance ("DCRVO") was virtually useless in regard to the severely and disproportionately low rate (less than 0.1%) of reported cases. The Administration was urged to review the effectiveness of DCRVO for the assistance to victims of violence in homosexual relationship and carry out campaigns to raise the awareness of the homosexual and transgender community in seeking help.
55.	Tsuen Wan Elderly Joint Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government should enhance the public medical service for the benefit of more elders, including setting up dental clinics in all 18 districts and developing "Elderly Clinics" for specialized medical services with elderly-friendly booking system and enquiry hotlines.
56.	The Group of Youth Welfare Policy Concerns [LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(13)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should reinstate the five-year planning mechanism and introduce a democratic consultation mechanism to gauge public views for formulating welfare policies. ● The partnership with the third sector (groups which are non-government and non-business) should not be encouraged since it would result in the adoption of business values, culture and management style in the provision of welfare services and a decline in service quality.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
57.	青年貧窮陣線	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the imposition of income and asset assessment and the requirement of application on a household basis, OALA and CSSA could by no means provide social security protection for elders in need. The Administration should immediately set up a \$50 billion seed fund for the implementation of universal retirement protection; and increase the profits tax to provide stable funding for its sustainable development.
58.	青年撐退保聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three-pillar retirement protection model, including personal savings, MPF and CSSA, had proved ineffective in safeguarding the interest of poor elders. The Government should introduce universal retirement protection for the benefit of the whole community.
59.	Social Science Departmental Association of Caritas Institute of Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should review the LSG subvention system to boost the morale of social welfare practitioners. In regard to the lapse of 3 000 positions of Program Worker in March 2013, the deputation urged the Administration to regularize the position for the continuous employment of young people in the sector.
60.	明愛專上學院關社組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should be more proactive to tackle the problems of poverty and social conflicts, for example, to reform the tax system and introduce democratic election to allow the public to play a more significant role in the formulation of welfare policies.
61.	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The welfare services offered by the Government were piecemeal and remedial. In regard to the welfare of PWDs, the Administration was urged to enhance its employment assistance to PWDs; conduct a comprehensive review on DA, allow DA recipients to apply for the Old Age Allowance at the same time; and strengthen its support to self-help organizations.
62.	Social Affairs Committee of The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration was urged to (a) formulate an economic strategy to facilitate employment of the grass-roots people as a means to assist them to eliminate poverty; (b) introduce universal retirement protection; (c) drawing up poverty lines to measure relative poverty and absolute poverty, and, in the light of the findings, formulate poverty alleviation measures; (d) adjust the policy of portable elderly social security benefits to facilitate elders to settle in the Mainland if they so wish; and (e) introduce a progressive system in profits tax and launch the capital gains tax to provide ample funding for the delivery of welfare services.
63.	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The views collected during the Administration's consultation exercise were not accepted by the

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		<p>Administration for implementation. No specific targets had been set so far in the provision of welfare services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government should add a female perspective in its long-term social welfare planning to address issues such as women in poverty. As regards specific welfare measures, the deputation urged the Administration to strengthen the support to carers and increase the service quota of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project to facilitate housewives to join the workforce.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
24 October 2013

Panel on Welfare Services

Meeting on Tuesday, 19 February 2013 at 9:00 am

Policies on handling of domestic and sexual violence cases

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
1.	The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government's policies on domestic violence had all along ignored the problem of elderly abuse. The deputation criticized that the Working Group on Combating Violence ("WGCV") did not include Legislative Council Members and representatives from organizations specializing in handling elder abuse cases. ● Some social workers failed to handle the applications for Compassionate Rehousing ("CR") and household splitting properly. The Panel should arrange a meeting to discuss the Government's policies on CR and splitting households. ● The Social Welfare Department ("SWD") failed to refer a case within six weeks to the Housing Department ("HD") for consideration of CR.
2.	Serene Court, Christian Family Service Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should review the needs of female victims of abuse for the CR Scheme and enhance the transparency of and consistency in assessment yardsticks among districts. ● The Administration should simplify and expedite the processing of household splitting applications by not requiring the consent of the tenant (mostly the husband who was the perpetrator of domestic violence). ● Given a recent surge in the private rental market, the Administration should review the maximum level of rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme. ● To enable refuge centres run by non-government organizations to better address the urgent

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		<p>housing needs of abused women, the deputation suggested that the Administration should provide interim housing or hostels for single persons for abused women before long-term residential arrangement was arranged for team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As the number of domestic violence cases had dropped since the Police's creation of the domestic incidents category, the deputation was concerned that front-line police officers would become less sensitive to domestic violence. ● The Police failed to make appropriate referral for social support service according to the circumstances and needs of the abused woman. The deputation enquired about the effectiveness of "One-family-one-team" system adopted by the Police in dealing with cases of domestic violence.
3.	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Officer Grade Branch [LC Paper No. CB(2)636/12-13(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The income and asset tests under the CR scheme should be conducted by HD instead of SWD given that HD staff possessed better knowledge and experience in assessing the applicants' eligibility for public rental housing. ● The deputation suggested the streamlining of SWD's assessment procedures with a view to expediting the processing of applications for CR. ● Domestic violence victims should be excluded from the seven-year residence requirement for the applications for CSSA. ● Social workers of SWD's Family and Child Protective Services Unit should be specifically responsible for the provision of social enquiry reports for court cases of child custody arising from domestic violence incidents. ● The Administration should amend the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) ("the Ordinance") to enable SWD's social workers to apply for an injunction order on behalf of domestic violence victims. ● The Administration should increase the manpower of medical social workers and the number of residential placements for child abuse cases.
4.	Rainbow Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should invite members of homosexual groups to join WGCV.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide training for staff of social service organizations on dealing with transgender issues. ● The deputation asked whether the Administration had provided resources for supporting same-sex cohabitants suffering from domestic violence and for the social service organizations which offered assistance to these victims since the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) ("the Ordinance") came into operation in 2009.
5.	Rainbow of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deputation requested the Legislative Council to form a subcommittee to study issues relating to domestic violence. ● The deputation asked when the Administration would allow members of homosexual groups to join WGCV. ● The deputation was dissatisfied that SWD had invited a psychiatrist, who had practised conversion therapy to help homosexuals change their sexual orientation, to give a talk to social workers. The deputation enquired about the Administration's remedial measures for this incident, which was offensive to homosexuals. ● Fear of being discriminated kept homosexuals from seeking assistance in respect of domestic violence.
6.	Transgender Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Both SWD and non-government social service organizations provided no support to transgender people who suffered from domestic violence.
7.	Women Coalition of HKSAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deputation enquired about the number of domestic violence cases involving homosexuals received by the Police since the Ordinance had come into operation and the number of referral of such cases made by the Police to social support service. ● The deputation asked whether there was at least one front-line social worker of an Integrated Family Service Centre ("IFSC") who had received training on dealing with cases involving homosexuals.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should allow members of homosexual groups to join WGCV to express their views.
8.	Labour Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence was not limited to physical abuse of the victim, but also bullying partners in a controlling fashion, such as isolating them, particularly new arrival women from the Mainland, from friends and family. However, such kind of abuse was always ignored until physical violence occurred. The deputation was of the view that abused women should be given assistance to enhance their social networks and establish mutual support groups among them. • Both the Police and social workers failed to address the needs of the victims when handling domestic violence cases. The Administration should conduct a comprehensive review of the staff training on dealing with cases of domestic violence. • The deputation suggested that IFSCs should provide social support service specifically for new arrival women and single parents, etc. • Domestic violence victims should be excluded from the seven-year residence requirement for the applications for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and public rental housing.
9.	Against Child Abuse Limited [LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(17)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate early identification and intervention in cases of risk of child abuse, the Administration should take appropriate measures to increase the public awareness of psychological abuse and provide sufficient training for people handling child abuse cases. • To provide comprehensive protection of children, the deputation suggested that the Administration should establish a statutory mechanism for sexual offence record checks and expand the scope of the Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme to cover all employees (including private tutors and caretakers) and volunteers engaging in child-related work. • The deputation supported the legislation for the prevention of child neglect and the prohibition of corporal punishment of children. • The deputation urged the Administration to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As recommended by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, Hong Kong should set up a Commission on Children to review the policy and legislation relating to children.
10.	Association Concern for Legal Rights of Victims of Domestic Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deputation pointed out that ethnic minority women usually did not dare to report domestic abuse as they were worried that their sponsors (mostly their spouses) would withdraw their support from their applications for entry visas, and they might then be expelled from the family network. In the United Kingdom ("UK"), applications for visa from victims of domestic violence could be considered without their sponsors' support. The deputation suggested that the Administration should consider such practice in UK in order to remove the major barrier for abused women to seek help. Due to the cultural and religious background of ethnic minority women, they were not willing to pursue their domestic violence cases when asked by the Police to examine their injuries. The Police should assign a female officer to handle such circumstances. Ethnic minority women found it difficult to accustom themselves to local refuge centres due to isolation, language barrier and diet-related issues, etc. As a result, they had no choice but return to the batterers subsequently. The deputation considered that ethnic minority women should be provided with more information on their alternatives and resources available to them. The Administration should review the service provided by local support service centres for ethnic minorities, which were only able to refer domestic violence cases to SWD for follow-up.
11.	Forthright Caucus [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(14)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most domestic violence cases, social workers did not evaluate if counselling and psychological services were required for the victims' children. The deputation expressed concern about the financial aid to domestic violence victims who did not meet the seven-year residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme. Housing assistance should be provided for domestic violence victims who were new arrivals from the Mainland.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It should be the Police who decided whether to institute prosecution against the suspected perpetrator of a domestic violence case. ● Accommodation should be provided for non-governmental organisations in public hospitals so that they could render assistance to needy families more easily. ● Improvement measures should be taken to protect the rights of maintenance payees. ● The Administration should invite people who had experienced domestic violence to participate in the training programmes for front-line social workers and the instructors of training programmes on domestic violence should have open attitudes towards different sexual orientations.
12.	Out & Vote [LC Paper No. CB(2)620/12-13(18)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homosexual, bisexual and transgender community in Hong Kong suffered from a lack of legal protection and they were always ignored by government policies. ● SWD refused to provide specialised services to marginalised groups in Hong Kong. ● The deputation requested Legislative Council Members to urge the Administration to conduct a study to review the effectiveness of the implementation of the Ordinance; and implement publicity education targeted at the homosexual community.
13.	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres [LC Paper No. CB(2)719/12-13(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deputation suggested that a commission should be set up and chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to formulate domestic violence policies in Hong Kong and oversee the implementation of policies. ● To facilitate domestic violence policy formulation, there should be a consistent definition of domestic violence and only one single government department to compile statistics in relation to domestic violence. ● The Administration should simplify the process of applying for injunctions under the Ordinance. ● The Administration should provide short-term assistance to address the immediate needs of marginalised groups.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Counselling service should be provided for the perpetrators of domestic violence. ● The Administration should increase the transparency of its housing policy for families with problems.
14.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deputation asked whether there was an increase in the number of domestic violence victims who had been offered assistance under the Conditional Tenancy Scheme in the past few years. ● The deputation expressed grave concern over the substantial decrease in the number of domestic violence cases received by the Police since its creation of domestic incidents category. ● The deputation was concerned that only 13 of 28 applications for legal aid in respect of domestic violence were approved in 2010 even though there was a large number of domestic violence cases every year.
15.	Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women [LC Paper No. CB(2)668/12-13(15)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deputation raised concerns over the number of domestic violence cases that went unreported in Hong Kong, particularly those involving ethnic minorities and rape by spouse or intimate partner. To promote policy change to support victims of domestic violence, the deputation urged the Administration to conduct a survey on the problem of under-reporting of domestic violence to the Police.
16.	RainLily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deputation criticized that incidents of sexual violence within the marriage or a cohabiting relationship were only treated by the Police as family disputes instead of rape cases. Training should be provided to increase the sensitivity of front-line personnel to cases related to sexual violence. ● The deputation suggested that a one-stop centre should be set up in each public hospital to provide medical, legal and social support services to the victims of sexual violence in order to reduce stigma involved in the help-seeking process.
17.	Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deputation supported the suggestion of setting up a maintenance board to collect

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
	Women Abuse (Kwan Fook) [LC Paper No. CB(2)719/12-13(03)]	maintenance payments for divorcees.

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