

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Education**  
**Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of**  
**Free Kindergarten Education**

**Meeting on 4 July 2015**

**Proposed extension of the period of work of the Subcommittee**

**Purpose**

This paper seeks members' views on the need for the Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of Free Kindergarten Education ("the Subcommittee") formed under the Panel on Education ("the Panel") to extend the period of its work for six more months.

**Progress of work of the Subcommittee**

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on 14 April 2014 to study and review the progress, arrangements, policy and matters related to the implementation of free kindergarten education, and make recommendations where necessary.

3. The Subcommittee commenced work on 27 October 2014. As at end June 2015, the Subcommittee has held a total of nine meetings, including a prolonged meeting in January 2015 to receive views from about 100 deputations from kindergarten (KG) operators, teachers, parents, academics and concern groups. A list of major subjects being studied by the Subcommittee is at the **Appendix**. Meanwhile, it was well-noted that in April 2013, a committee was appointed by the Education Bureau ("EDB") to study and make recommendations on how to practicably implement free KG education. The aforesaid Committee on Free Kindergarten Education ("KG Committee"), headed by Dr Moses CHENG, published its report ("KG Committee Report") on 28 May 2015 setting out its deliberations and recommendations on a wide range of issues including the scope of free KG education, teacher professionalism and remuneration framework, funding

arrangement, the demand for and different needs of whole-day KG services and provision of premises etc. Members of the public are invited to submit their views on the KG Committee Report to EDB by the end of July 2015. According to the Administration, after studying the recommendations of the KG Committee and taking into account the views of stakeholders and the public, it will formulate policies and measures to foster sustainable development of quality KG education.

4. At its meeting held on 9 June 2015, the Subcommittee exchanged views with the KG Committee and EDB on the findings and recommendations of the KG Committee Report. It has also scheduled a meeting on 4 July 2015 to receive views from over 130 deputations on the said Report.

#### **Need for continuation of work**

5. As can be seen from the foregoing paragraphs, the Subcommittee has reached an important stage of its work. After publication of the KG Committee Report, the Subcommittee would need to examine the views of the public and major stakeholders on the Report, as well as to deliberate on the findings and recommendations of the KG Committee with a view to formulating its own views on the way forward. The Subcommittee also considers it necessary to continue to follow up the measures which will be promulgated/introduced by the Government for implementing free KG education.

6. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules provides that a subcommittee should complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the relevant Panel(s). If it is necessary for a subcommittee to work beyond 12 months, the subcommittee should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel(s), report to the House Committee and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period.

7. Having regard to the need to take forward the important stage of work outlined in paragraph 5 above, the complexity and intricacy of the issues under study and the time required for the Subcommittee to conclude its work, deliberate and finalize its views and prepare its report, members may wish to consider extending the period of work of the Subcommittee for six more months until 30 April 2016.

**Advice sought**

8. Members' views are sought on the need for the Subcommittee to extend its work for six more months. Subject to members' agreement and the endorsement of the Panel, a report will be made to the House committee to seek its approval of the proposed extension.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
30 June 2015

### List of major subjects

- (a) The policy and proposed scope of free kindergarten ("KG") education (e.g. the objectives of free KG education, the types of KGs to be covered under free KG education, the scope of services to be covered by the subsidy, the allocation of resources for taking forward free KG education etc.);
- (b) the operating needs of and services provided by half-day, whole-day and long whole-day KGs and how they should be supported under the provision of free KG education;
- (c) premises-related issues (e.g. rental subsidy, provision of premises and facilities etc.);
- (d) issues related to manpower requirement (e.g. the teacher-to-student ratio, the requirements for additional teaching and non-teaching staff etc.), teacher professionalism (e.g. the development of a qualification and salary framework for KG teachers, training, a proper career and advancement path etc.);
- (e) planning for the provision of KG places, in particular whole-day KG places, and the admission arrangements for KGs;
- (f) transition from KG to primary education;
- (g) support for non-Chinese speaking students and students with special educational needs;
- (h) quality assurance mechanism, regulation and longer-term development of the KG sector;
- (i) research on early childhood education;
- (j) issues related to parents' participation; and
- (k) Tuition fees and miscellaneous fees charged by kindergartens, the Government's monitoring, the financial assistance available to children from needy families.