

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(4)1543/16-17  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/HS/1/16

**Subcommittee on Children's Rights**

**Minutes of the sixth meeting  
on Saturday, 25 March 2017, at 3:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung  
Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

**Members absent** : Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP  
Hon Alvin YEUNG  
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

**Public Officers attending : Agenda item I**

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**

Mr Kenneth CHENG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour & Welfare  
(Welfare)1

**Education Bureau**

Mr Godwin LAI  
Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education)

Mr Joe NG  
Principal Education Officer (Curriculum Development)1

**Food and Health Bureau**

Mr Charvis LI  
Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Health)5

**Home Affairs Bureau**

Miss Iris MA  
Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

**Environmental Protection Department**

Miss Yandy CHAN  
Senior Administrative Officer (Water Policy Division)

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

Mr Horman CHAN  
Chief Leisure Manager (Land-based Venues)

**Attendance by invitation : Agenda item I**

**Session I**

Tiffany WONG

CHAN Long-yat

Mrs CHAN Chi-ping

CHONG Wang-ngai

Mr CHONG Wah-yeung

Syyed Muneebba AGHA

Icy Regyes Dane-izz GREGORIO

Hong Kong Unison

Miss CHEUK Man-po  
Representative

藍文凱

Mr KUNG Wai-sum

The Civic Party

Mr CHAN Man-hon  
Representative

Pena Patrick KELSEY

Iqra QUNWAL

Shafiq HUSSAIN

Ms LO Yuen-kei

HKEd4All

Mr Simon HUNG Ling-fai  
Member

Hong Kong Parents League for Education Renovation

陳思雅小姐  
Representative

Miss WONG Lai-hang

Miss NG Lok-hei

Liberal Party

Mr HO Wang  
Member

特殊學習需要權益聯會

賀卓軒先生  
組織幹事

我要一人一樂器

王昭雅  
成員

兒童權利優先小組

官詠晞  
成員

關注學童發展權利聯席

Miss HO Yu-ying  
家長組織幹事

民間青年政策倡議平台

杜依蓓小姐  
組織幹事

爭取真休息平台

趙必和先生  
成員

Session II

Liberal Party Youth Committee

Miss LEE Ka-yan  
Executive Committee

Mrs CHUNG Ho-yee

張文倩女士

李想

家長聯盟

Ms Doreen HO Mei-yee  
發言人

PathFinders

Miss Vivian CHEUNG Tin-wing  
Legal Case Manager

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of  
Hong Kong

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賴嘉汶小姐  
Deputy Spokesperson

The Zubin Mahtani Gidumal Foundation Limited

Mr Krishin-arjun HOTWANI  
Project Manager

Neo Democrats

馮君安先生  
社區主任

The Hong Kong Society for Asylum-Seekers and  
Refugees

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Miss CHOI Fung-yee  
Volunteer

Miss YEUNG Tsz-wai

Miss Kamaljit KAUR

Miss Joey YU Wing-yung

難民兒童關注組

TSOI Chung-wai

South District Council

Miss Judy CHAN  
Council Member

Society for Community Organization

Miss SZE Lai-san  
Community Organizer

Miss Annie CHEUNG Yim-shuen

TONG Chung-yee

WONG Long-fun

SIN Wai-han

Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation

Ms Sanne FONG

周曼斯

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Angel WONG  
Chief Council Secretary (4)4

**Staff in attendance** : Mr KWONG Kam-fai  
Senior Council Secretary (4)4

Miss Mandy NG  
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU  
Legislative Assistant (4)4

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**I. Children's expectation on the Government**

Written submissions from deputations/individuals not attending the meeting/not presenting their views at the meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)731/16-17(06) -- Submission from Arif ABBAS  
(*English version only*)

LC Paper No. CB(4)749/16-17(03) -- Submission from Hong Kong  
Paediatric Foundation (*Chinese version only*)

LC Paper No. CB(4)816/16-17(07) -- Submission from Mrs Abeer  
TAFAZZUL (*English version only*)

Meeting with deputations/individuals and the Administration for agenda item I

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

2. The meeting on 20 March 2017 had received views from 41 deputations/individuals on children's expectation on the Government. Due to the large number of deputations, this meeting continued to receive views from the remaining 48 deputations/individuals on the same subject. The Subcommittee also received three written submissions from deputations/individuals which/who had not attended/presented at the meeting. Their major views and concerns were summarized as below:

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*Children's rights*

- (a) the Government should expeditiously set up an independent commission on children responsible for policies and initiatives affecting children's rights and welfare to meet its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- (b) the Government should give heed to the voices of children and young people when drawing up policies on education, housing, employment, etc;
- (c) the Administration should extend care to less privileged children, such as children of non-refoulement claimants, foreign domestic helpers, new immigrants, Mainland-Hong Kong single families, etc. Support should be enlisted from non-government organizations and existing legislation should be reviewed to avoid discrimination against these children;

*Education*

- (d) children complained of lacking time for rest and leisure because of heavy homework, drilling exercises, tests and examinations. It was high time for the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review on the existing education system and abolish the Territory-wide System Assessment/Basic Competency Assessment Research Study so as to alleviate the study pressure of students;
- (e) to alleviate students' pressure arising from the public examinations, the Administration should increase the places for higher education programmes, especially the publicly-funded degree programmes;
- (f) diversified study pathways should be opened to students. Higher education institutions should offer programmes in a broad range of disciplines to nurture diverse talents for the society;
- (g) the Administration should take concrete responsive measures to prevent student suicides, for instance, providing more guidelines to facilitate parent-child communication and strengthen family support to children. There should be sufficient social workers and counseling personnel at schools to early identify students with mental health issues;



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- (h) as e-learning was of growing importance at schools, subsidies should be provided for grass-root children to acquire computers at home so as to facilitate their learning;
- (i) to enhance students' health and wellness, students should be encouraged to run around in the campus during recesses and the number of physical education lessons should be increased;
- (j) students with special educational needs ("SEN") and children with borderline intelligence encountered difficulties in their studies. In particular, support measures were hardly available for non-Chinese speaking ("NCS") students with SEN at present. The Administration should review the implementation of the integrated education policy and provide more resources to schools so as to cater for the diverse learning needs of students;
- (k) NCS students encountered great difficulties in studies. Some local kindergartens were unwilling to admit them. Even if NCS students could be admitted into mainstream schools, they had difficulties in learning Chinese Language. This language barrier would adversely affect their studies and would be intensified if schools used Putonghua as the medium of instruction for teaching the Chinese Language subject. It was necessary for the Administration to develop a Chinese Language curriculum from the perspective of second language learners;
- (l) schools should consider requests from students to vary the uniform policy to meet the needs of students' religious beliefs;

*Welfare*

- (m) the Administration should set up a central database to collect more comprehensive data for the prevention of child abuse and formulation of welfare policies for children;
- (n) more assistance should be given to children from poverty families. The Administration should review the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme and the Child Development Fund, with a view to better supporting the longer-term development of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The School Textbook Assistance Scheme should be extended to cover students of kindergartens;
- (o) the provision of child care services should be enhanced to encourage female family carers to join the workforce;

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*Health*

- (p) the Administration should formulate a comprehensive child-health policy to cater for the physical and mental well-being of children. Consideration should be given to launch health care voucher scheme for children;
- (q) mental health issues had become a growing problem among students. The Administration should enhance the child psychiatric service offered by public hospitals;
- (r) the provision of paediatric in-patient beds at private and public hospitals should be increased;
- (s) the Administration should take steps to build an environment supportive of breastfeeding;

*Recreation and sports*

- (t) more open and green spaces, such as parks, pet gardens and sports grounds should be provided;
- (u) most children from grass-root families opted to join the recreation and sports activities organized by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"). However, due to the limited quotas, they failed to enroll in these activities most of the time. Subsidies should be offered to these children so that they might be able to join interest classes and activities organized by institutions other than LCSD;
- (v) the international BMX racing track in the Hong Kong Jockey Club International BMX Park ("the BMX Park") was the only qualified venue for BMX racing. However, it was in poor conditions due to a lack of maintenance and was closed subsequent to an accident in October 2016. BMX players could no longer train their racing skills at the track. The Administration should follow up with the service conditions of the BMX Park; and

*Environmental protection*

- (w) the Administration should take actions to address the marine refuse problem in Hong Kong and preserve the ecological environment of country parks. Heavier penalty should be imposed against littering. Public education for waste reduction should also be enhanced.

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3. Members shared the concerns raised by deputations attending the meeting, particularly on education and health policies for children. They also urged the Administration to give heed to the voices of young people when formulating policies and follow up on the maintenance works of the BMX Park.

4. On the views and concerns raised by members and deputations at the meeting, the Administration made the following responses:

*Education*

- (a) the Education Bureau ("EDB") attached great importance to maintaining an equal and inclusive learning environment for students. Relevant domains of the education system and the existing curriculum would be constantly reviewed to alleviate the pressure of students. Guidelines had also been issued to schools reminding them of formulating an appropriate school-based homework and assessment policy to avoid drilling;
- (b) to cater for the needs of students with SEN and children with borderline intelligence, schools could make use of the Learning Support Grant to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning for them. EDB had prepared the Operation Guide on the Whole School Approach to Integrated Education, among others, to support teachers in the early identification and early intervention of students with SEN. EDB would also continue its effort to enhance professional training to school principals and teachers;
- (c) EDB had provided the School-based Educational Psychology Service for all public sector primary and secondary schools to support schools to cater for students' diverse educational needs at the school system, teacher support, and student support levels;
- (d) the Final Report of the Committee on Prevention of Student Suicide revealed that suicide was a complicated social problem with multifactorial causes. EDB would strengthen the promotion of mental health, life and death education, and enhance the cross-sectoral collaboration to work on suicide prevention;
- (e) according to the curriculum guide, the minimum lesson hours of physical education should account for 5% to 8% of the total curriculum time, or an average of two sessions per week (i.e. around 80-120 minutes weekly). Schools were encouraged to arrange extra-curricular activities to develop students' physical competence. Schools could make use of financial resources for

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acquiring sports equipment and defraying rental payment of sports venues;

*Welfare*

- (f) poverty alleviation was a policy priority of the Government. The Committee on Poverty had been working closely with different Bureaux/Departments to take forward various initiatives to combat poverty;
- (g) the Administration noted that the provision of child care services should be strengthened. Consultancy service had been commissioned to explore feasible measures to enhance child care services, such as expanding the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project and earmarking more suitable sites for child care centres;
- (h) the Social Welfare Department had been providing a wide range of welfare services for victims of child abuse cases and launching public education campaigns on child abuse prevention;

*Health*

- (i) the Hospital Authority ("HA") and the Department of Health assumed the overall responsibility for providing health services to children. The new Hong Kong Children's Hospital aimed to commence service by phases starting from 2018;
- (j) the Administration had set up a Review Committee on Mental Health to review the existing mental health policies, with a view to mapping out the future direction for development of mental health services in Hong Kong. The Committee would publish its report in the second quarter of 2017;

*(Post-meeting note: According to the Administration, the Mental Health Review Report was published in April 2017. Full text of the Report could be downloaded at [http://www.hpdo.gov.hk/en/mhr\\_background.html](http://www.hpdo.gov.hk/en/mhr_background.html))*

- (k) HA had implemented the "Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding" advocated by the "Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative" of the United Nations Children's Fund. The Administration had all along been taking the lead to remove barriers to breastfeeding;

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*Recreation and sports*

- (l) members of the public could enjoy leisure activities in public parks, beaches, pet gardens and cycling tracks/grounds managed by LCSD. The Administration welcomed any suggestions of appropriate sites for building new pet gardens;
- (m) LCSD noticed the overwhelming responses from members of the public to certain recreation and sports programmes, especially during the summer holidays. It would strive to organize more activities under existing resources;
- (n) the BMX Park was managed and operated by CAHK on a self-financing basis. CAHK advised that the closure of the competition track was a temporary measure to allow room for seeking professional advice and conducting the tendering exercise of the maintenance works. CAHK was actively seeking cooperation opportunities with partners in the commercial sector with a view to enhancing the quality of services. The Administration had urged CAHK to keep stakeholders informed of the schedule of temporary closure so as to avoid inconvenience caused to users; and

*Environmental protection*

- (o) the Administration had set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Clean Shorelines in November 2012 to address the marine refuse problem and conducted a study on the sources, distribution and movement of marine refuse in Hong Kong in 2013-2014. Although, over 95% of marine refuse originated from local sources, Hong Kong and Guangdong jointly set up the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel in October 2016 to enhance exchange and communication on tackling marine refuse. In addition, the Environmental Protection Department had been promoting environmental education in the territory.

5. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide written response to the views and concerns raised by deputations and members at the meeting.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written information was issued to members vide LC Paper CB(4)1151/16-17(01) on 5 June 2017.)*

Action

**II. Any other business**

6. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:20 pm.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
30 August 2017

## Subcommittee on Children's Rights

### Proceedings of the sixth meeting on Saturday, 25 March 2017, at 3:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda Item I - Children's expectation on the government</i>			
<u>Session I</u>			
000412 - 000910	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000911 - 001121	Chairman Tiffany WONG	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)749/16-17(01) ]	
001122 - 001457	Chairman CHAN Long-yat	Presentation of views	
001458 - 001952	Chairman Mrs CHAN Chi-ping	Presentation of views	
001953 - 002121	Chairman CHONG Wang-ngai	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)731/16-17(04) ]	
002122 - 002425	Chairman Mr CHONG Wah-yeung	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)731/16-17(05) ]	
002426 - 002653	Chairman Syyeda Muneebba AGHA	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)816/16-17(01) ]	
002654 - 002915	Chairman Icy Reyes Dane-Izz GREGORIO	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)816/16-17(02) ]	
002916 - 003304	Chairman Hong Kong Unison	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)816/16-17(03) ]	
003305 - 003420	Chairman 藍文凱	Presentation of views	
003421- 003856	Chairman Mr KUNG Wai-sum	Presentation of views	
003857 - 004242	Chairman The Civic Party	Presentation of views	
004243 - 004522	Chairman Pena Patrick KELSEY	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)816/16-17(04) ]	
004523 - 004755	Chairman Iqra QUNWAL	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)816/16-17(05) ]	

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
004756 - 005010	Chairman Shafiq HUSSAIN	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)816/16-17(06) ]	
005011 - 005327	Chairman Ms LO Yuen-kei	Presentation of views	
005328 - 005652	Chairman 全民教育局	Presentation of views	
005653 - 010021	Chairman Hong Kong Parents League for Education Renovation	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)731/16-17(01) ]	
010022 - 010355	Chairman Miss WONG Lai-hang	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)731/16-17(02) ]	
010356 - 010652	Chairman Miss NG Lok-hei	Presentation of views	
010653 - 011047	Chairman Liberal Party	Presentation of views	
011048- 011418	Chairman 特殊學習需要權益聯會	Presentation of views	
011419 - 011738	Chairman 我要一人一樂器	Presentation of views	
011739 - 011918	Chairman 兒童權利優先小組	Presentation of views	
011919 - 012211	Chairman 關注學童發展權利聯席	Presentation of views	
012212 - 012517	Chairman 民間青年政策倡議平台	Presentation of views	
012518 - 012825	Chairman 爭取真休息平台	Presentation of views	
012826 - 014749	Chairman Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") Education Bureau ("EDB") Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") Leisure and Cultural Services Department Environmental Protection Department	The Chairman's remarks and the Administration's response to the views expressed by the deputations	
014750 - 015141	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB")	Mr LEUNG's enquiry on the existing platforms and channels for young people to voice out their opinion on public policies	



<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
015142 - 015505	Chairman Mr IP Kin-yuen Hong Kong Unison Mr KUNG Wai-sum The Civic Party Ms LO Yuen-kei 全民教育局 Miss WONG Lai-hang	Mr IP's concerns about the pressing issues to be addressed by the next term of the Government	
015506 - 015836	Chairman Deputy Chairman EDB	The Deputy Chairman's concerns about the difficulties encountered by non-Chinese speaking students and less privileged children	
015837- 020325	Chairman Dr Helena WONG EDB	Dr WONG's concerns about the Administration's measures taken in response to the spate of student suicides	
020326 - 021120	Break		
<u>Session II</u>			
021121- 021207	Chairman	Opening remarks	
021208 - 021517	Chairman Liberal Party Youth Committee	Presentation of views	
021518 - 021920	Chairman 鍾可誼女士	Presentation of views	
021921 - 022256	Chairman 張文倩女士	Presentation of views	
022257 - 022607	Chairman 李想	Presentation of views	
022608 - 022939	Chairman 家長聯盟	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)759/16-17(01)]	
022940 - 023258	Chairman PathFinders	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)759/16-17(02)]	
023259 - 023611	Chairman Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	Presentation of views	
023612 - 023944	Chairman The Zubin Mahtani Gidumal Foundation Limited	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)759/16-17(03)]	

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
023945 - 024320	Chairman Neo Democrats	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)731/16-17(03) ]	
024321 - 024642	Chairman The Hong Kong Society for Asylum-Seekers and Refugee	Presentation of views	
024643- 024946	Chairman Miss YEUNG Tsz-wai	Presentation of views	
024947- 025322	Chairman Miss Kamaljit KAUR	Presentation of views	
025323 - 025700	Chairman Miss Joey YU Wing-yung	Presentation of views	
025701 - 030027	Chairman 難民兒童關注組	Presentation of views	
030028 - 030246	Chairman South District Council	Presentation of views	
030247 - 030613	Chairman Society for Community Organization	Presentation of views	
030614 - 030947	Chairman Miss Annie CHEUNG Yim-shue	Presentation of views	
030948 - 031318	Chairman TONG Chung-yee	Presentation of views	
031319 - 031600	Chairman WONG Long-fun	Presentation of views	
031601 - 031916	Chairman SIN Wai-han	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)749/16-17(02) ]	
031917- 032227	Chairman 周曼斯	Presentation of views	
032228 - 033400	Chairman EDB LWB FHB HAB	The Chairman's remarks and the Administration's response to the views expressed by the deputations	
033401- 033708	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung	Mr LEUNG's concerns about the maintenance progress of the Hong Kong Jockey Club International BMX Park ("the BMX Park"), the difficulties encountered by students in mainstream schools and the problems faced by children of non-refoulement claimants	

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
033709-034119	Chairman Mr IP Kin-yuen PathFinders The Zubin Mahtani Gidumal Foundation Limited Neo Democrats Miss Kamaljit KAUR Miss Annie CHEUNG Yim-shue TONG Chung-yee SIN Wai-han	Mr IP's concerns about the school-based policy and the pressing issues to be addressed by the next term of the Government	
034120-034554	Chairman Dr KWOK Ka-ki Deputy Chairman HAB EDB FHB	Dr KWOK's concerns about the long waiting time for child psychiatric service, the re-opening of the competition track of the BMX Park and the abolition of the Territory-wide System Assessment	
034555-034706	Chairman Deputy Chairman	The Deputy Chairman's concerns about issues relating to children's mental health and the spate of student suicides	
<i>Agenda Item II – Any other business</i>			
034707-035110	Chairman	Closing remarks	