

For discussion
on 4 April 2018

**Legislative Council House Committee
Subcommittee on Children's Rights**

Opinions Concerning a Central Database for Children

Purpose

This paper sets out the public views concerning the establishment of a central database for children and the mechanism for following up on these views.

Current Situation

2. At present, various Government bureaux/departments, including the Education Bureau, Department of Health, Social Welfare Department, etc., collect data relating to children with regard to their respective policy and service areas as well as legislation provisions, with a view to facilitating the Government to review the relevant policies or services on an ongoing basis and introduce corresponding measures in a timely manner. Besides, the population statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department can provide figures by age group, and therefore also include statistics on children population.

Opinions Concerning a Central Database for Children

3. As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2017 Policy Address, the Government plans to set up a Commission on Children in mid-2018 to amalgamate the efforts made by relevant bureaux/departments and child concern groups, and focus on addressing children's issues as they grow. To this end, the Preparatory Committee set up by the Government conducted a series of public engagement activities from 13 November 2017 to 31 January 2018 on the necessary arrangements for establishing a Commission on Children, during which many different views covering a wide range of issues were collected, including the need to explore the feasibility of setting up and shared use of information of a central database for children. More specifically, some suggested that, if information concerning different aspects of individual children could be shared and centrally processed, the relevant Government departments and major service providers, including hospitals/the medical sector, non-governmental organisations, etc., would be able to understand the

backgrounds of individual cases comprehensively and take more informed and effective follow-up actions. In addition, the overall picture as collated by the central database for children could also enable the Government to understand the macro situation, so that its policy initiatives would be more integrated and effective. Furthermore, this data platform should allow access by not only children service providers, hospitals/the medical sector and non-governmental organisations, but also the academia and general public, to facilitate the enhancing of the quality of services for children or general academic research on or the public's understanding of children affairs.

Follow-up Actions

4. All views collected during the public engagement period will be compiled and analysed for submission to the Preparatory Committee for consideration. The Preparatory Committee will make recommendations to the Chief Executive on the detailed proposals and arrangements concerning the Commission on Children, including its terms of reference, priority work, etc., for decision. We will submit the above views on a central database for children to the Preparatory Committee accordingly for its consideration.

Advice Sought

5. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
March 2018