

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1123/17-18
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Friday, 19 January 2018, at 9:30 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman)
Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
- Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung
- Members attending** : Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon IP Kin-yuen

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP

**Public Officers : Item I
attending**

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, GBS, JP
Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Miss Agnes CHEUNG Yuet
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and
Welfare (Welfare) 2
Labour and Welfare Bureau

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

Mrs Helen KWOK LI Mung-yee
Assistant Director (Youth & Corrections)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Annisa MA Sau-ching
Chief Social Work Officer (Domestic Violence)
Social Welfare Department

Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP
Under Secretary for Education
Education Bureau

Mrs CHAN SIU Suk-fan
Principal Assistant Secretary (Kindergarten
Education)
Education Bureau

Ms SO Yuen-yi
Principal Education Officer (School Administration)
Education Bureau

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

Dr SIN Ngai-chuen
Chief Manager (Patient Safety & Risk
Management)
Hospital Authority

Miss Alice CHAN Shook-man
Acting Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (I)
Department of Justice

Ms MO Yuk-wah
Acting Deputy Director of Legal Aid / Application
& Processing
Legal Aid Department

Mr Crusade YAU Siu-kei
Chief Superintendent of Police, Crime Support
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr Brian LEUNG Chi-tim
Senior Superintendent of Police, Identification
Bureau
Hong Kong Police Force

Ms Kitty WONG Sau-ling
Chief Inspector of Police, Family Conflict and
Sexual Violence Policy Unit
Hong Kong Police Force

**Attendance
by invitation**

: Item I

Against Child Abuse

Ms Donna WONG Chui-ling
Acting Director

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

Mr LEUNG Kin-hung
Chairperson

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress
of Hong Kong

Miss LAI Ka-man

The Democratic Party

Miss NG Yuk-ying

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Karen YIU Kit-ling
Chief Officer (Children and Youth Service)

Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union

Dr FUNG Wai-wah
President

Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union

Miss HUI Lai-ming

Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation

Dr Lilian WONG Hiu-lei
Secretary General

Sun Island Kindergarten

Dr TING Wai-fong
School Supervisor

Mr Azan Aziz MARWAH

Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children

Ms Susan SO
Director

The Law Society of Hong Kong

Mr Dennis HO Chi-kuen
Chairman of Family Law Committee

TWGHs CEASE Crisis Centre

Miss Pandora LIU Pui-shan

Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools

Ms LEE Suet-ying
Chairman

Reclaiming Social Work Movement

Mr LEUNG Chi-yuen
成員

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

Staff in attendance : Mr Roger CHUNG
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Looking into child protection policies and procedures in the light of recent child abuse cases
[LC Paper No. CB(2)735/17-18(01)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") and Under Secretary for Education ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the current child protection policy, the procedures of handling child abuse cases and various support services for the abused children and their families.

2. The Chairman invited the deputations/individual to present their views. A total of 15 deputations/individual expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response to deputations' views

3. The Administration's response to deputations' views are set out in paragraphs 3 to 11 below. SLW and Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare) ("AD(Family & Child Welfare)") made the following points:

- (a) as regards some deputations' suggestion of establishing a central database on children, the Administration had difficulty sharing personal data collected by various government departments. That said, the Administration would explore the possibility of enhancing the sharing of information before deciding the way forward. In addition, while various service units of the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") captured statistics according to their own service needs, the Administration would study how to consolidate related information from existing databases into the Central Information System of SWD;
- (b) according to the statistics provided by SWD, the overall number of newly reported child abuse cases had remained steady at some 1 000 cases over the past few years. Meanwhile, enhanced community awareness brought about an increase in the number of reported child neglect cases in recent years;
- (c) regarding the workload of the Family and Child Protective Services Units ("FCPSU") of SWD, the Administration would examine whether additional support and resources could be provided for FCPSU if considered necessary;
- (d) the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services was expected to be completed within 2018. Having regard to the findings of the Consultancy Study, the Administration would consider how to take forward the long-term planning for child care services; and
- (e) the Administration planned to establish a Commission on Children to amalgamate the efforts made by relevant bureaux/government departments and child concern groups, and focus on addressing children's issues as they grew up. Noting that the establishment of a statutory body would require considerable time, the Administration would establish the Commission on Children as soon as possible to embark on

studying the relevant issues and take follow-up actions as appropriate.

4. Regarding the call for a review of the various ordinances relating to protecting children from abuse, SLW said that the Administration needed time to study if it was necessary to review the relevant legislation. Acting Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (I) ("Atg DDPP(I)") added that while there might be merits in consolidating all the relevant ordinances related to protection of children, such a suggestion would need to be further studied in detail.

5. Regarding the statistics on newly reported child abuse cases, AD(Family & Child Welfare) advised that SWD and Hong Kong Police Force ("the Police") captured statistics on child abuse cases separately. When collecting the case figures, SWD and the Police used their own statistical definitions and bases in accordance with their operational needs and hence the statistics of the two departments could not be compared directly. Chief Superintendent of Police, Crime Support ("CSP, CS") supplemented that the Police captured statistics on child abuse cases which involved crime(s).

6. US(Ed) explained the reporting mechanism of students' non-attendance cases as detailed in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)753/17-18(01)). She also took members through the student guidance service and the EDB's stance on "one school, one social worker", which were set out in paragraph 11 of the Administration's paper. She also highlighted the EDB's provision of relevant training for teachers as set out in paragraph 33 of the Administration's paper. She added that EDB would collaborate with relevant government departments to provide on-site support and training for schools.

7. Principal Medical & Health Officer (Family Health Service) advised that the Maternal and Child Health Centres ("MCHCs") of the Department of Health offered parenting programmes including workshops and individual counselling to equip parents with necessary skills and knowledge in caring for children. Besides, health professionals at MCHCs identified at-risk pregnant women (including teenagers, illicit drug users and those with mental illness) during their routine checkups at the antenatal stage, and referred them to Obstetric Unit of Hospital Authority ("HA") for further assessment and management. Designated midwives at obstetric clinics of HA acted as case managers to ensure that coordinated antenatal and postnatal care was provided to those pregnant

women. Mothers with symptoms suggestive of postnatal depression or psychosocial distress were referred to the visiting HA psychiatric nurses at MCHCs for one-stop follow-up services. Depending on the severity of the condition and needs of the mothers and babies, they would be followed up by social workers for psychosocial needs if necessary. In addition, MCHCs provided neo-natal services including growth and developmental surveillance and vaccinations. Children suspected to have health, developmental and behavioural problems would be referred to the appropriate health and social services units for follow up.

8. Chief Manager (Patient Safety & Risk Management), HA advised that if a child was in need of medical examination or treatment, the relevant social worker or other professionals would arrange for the child to visit an HA hospital via the Accident and Emergency Department. Meanwhile, the social worker might contact the Medical Coordinator on Child Abuse of HA for direct admission of the child to the ward so as to avoid the need for the child to wait at the Accident and Emergency Department. He added that given that children in need would stay in the hospital for prompt treatment or follow up, it would also be important to speed up the handling of child abuse cases, such as convening a multi-disciplinary case conference ("MDCC") or arranging suitable residential care service, with a view to alleviating pressure of hospitals especially during the winter surge.

9. CSP, CS said that the Police treated all child abuse reports seriously, with a high degree of professional sensitivity in pursuit of the dual objectives of protecting the victims from further harm and bringing the offenders to justice. The Police had issued internal guidelines to advise frontline officers on necessary and proper action at each stage when handling child abuse cases. To equip frontline officers with adequate skills and knowledge to handle child abuse cases, the Police College and its Detective Training Centre had included child abuse crimes in the regular foundation training for newly recruited police constables and probationary inspectors as well as in the detective training courses. In handling investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, the Police would adopt a multi-disciplinary collaboration with other stakeholders to protect the abused child.

10. Atg DDPP(I) said that the Department of Justice attached great importance to the criminal prosecution of abusers and would handle child abuse cases as soon as possible for protection of children against harm. For a child witness who had to attend court hearings, court permission would be sought for the provision of appropriate protection for the child to

safeguard his/her right.

11. Acting Deputy Director of Legal Aid/Application & Processing advised that the policy objective of legal aid was to ensure that no one with reasonable grounds for pursuing or defending a legal action in Hong Kong was denied access to justice because of a lack of means. Any person, whether or not resident in Hong Kong, who was involved in legal proceedings in the District Court or courts of higher levels, might apply for legal aid. To qualify for legal aid, a person was required by law to satisfy the means and merits tests. The Legal Aid Department ("LAD") fully recognized the need to deal with legal aid applications that involved domestic violence and child abuse with care and speed. LAD therefore treated all those applications as urgent cases and would process them expeditiously. In recent years, the number of legal aid applications involving domestic violence had been low as frontline professionals, such as social workers and police officers, had already provided adequate assistance to those victims.

Discussion

Reporting mechanism of students' non-attendance cases and suspected child abuse cases

12. Mr IP Kin-yuen said that given the complicated factors involved in child abuse cases, e.g. abusers were parents of the abused children, the Administration should take a very hard line to protect the well-being of children. Noting that the reporting mechanism of students' non-attendance cases for primary and secondary schools aimed to uphold the right of school age children to universal basic education under the law, he urged the Administration to put in place a similar follow-up mechanism for kindergarten students' non-attendance cases, with a view to providing quality kindergarten education instead of focusing on the deduction of the subsidy for kindergartens. Mr IP called on the Administration to provide a timetable on reviewing the reporting mechanism of students' non-attendance cases. US(Ed) responded that EDB would discuss with other government departments how to enhance the follow-up arrangements for kindergarten students' non-attendance cases in the light of operational experience and the effectiveness of the reporting mechanism.

13. Referring to a recent child abuse case in which wounds were found in a five years old girl's body for months, the Deputy Chairman expressed concern that school personnel failed to report and early intervene as the

guidelines for reporting child abuse cases were not concrete and precise. He questioned about the effectiveness of the current mechanism of reporting suspected child abuse cases to EDB. US(Ed) advised that school development officers of EDB would maintain close contact with schools with students being victims of suspected child abuse. As for reporting to EDB for whole-month absence, it served another purpose of calculating the subsidy for kindergartens.

Provision of social work service in primary schools and kindergartens

14. Mr IP Kin-yuen opined that as teachers of kindergarten maintained close contact with children, they could collaborate with social workers to play a role in identifying child abuse cases and seeking necessary assistance. However, teachers were so fully engaged with administrative work that they did not have time to play such a role. The Deputy Chairman, Mr IP and Dr Fernando CHEUNG requested the Administration to provide a plan and a timetable to address the demand for social work service in primary schools and kindergartens. Dr Helena WONG enquired whether the Administration would provide sufficient social work service to cater for the needs of kindergartens, such as implementing a policy of "one school, one social worker" for each kindergarten. Mr POON Siu-ping asked which government bureau would take the lead to explore the future development of "one school, one social worker". He also asked whether the Administration had assessed the additional manpower resources required for implementing such a policy. Dr Elizabeth QUAT considered that the Administration should expeditiously implement the policy of "one school, one social worker" for primary schools and kindergartens.

15. SLW responded that SWD and EDB had maintained close communication to explore how to provide social work service in primary schools and kindergartens. Given that there were different types of funding modes for student guidance service in primary schools, the Administration had to communicate with various stakeholders before implementing a policy of "one school, one social worker". Resources would be sought with a view to implementing relevant initiatives in the 2018-2019 school year at the earliest after the way forward for school social work service had been decided. US(Ed) added that the need for social work service would also be considered in the light of the progress in implementation of the new kindergarten education policy. For primary schools, since the Comprehensive Student Guidance Service had been implemented, the Administration had to rationalize the transitional arrangements so as to suit the actual operational needs.

Provision of child care service

16. Dr Helena WONG held the view that the current provision of aided child care places for children aged between zero and three was not adequate. Given that parents with children aged between zero and three were under great stress, she urged the Administration to increase aided child care places with a view to addressing the need of child care service. SLW responded that SWD had worked for a period of time to identify sites for increasing the provision of child care places across the territory. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's reluctance to put forward concrete plans to address the needs of child care service.

Training for kindergarten teachers

17. Dr Helena WONG suggested that teacher education institutions should provide courses for kindergarten teachers under training to enhance their knowledge of handling domestic violence. US(Ed) responded that EDB would communicate with relevant tertiary institutions on the provision of training programmes in this regard.

Handling of child abuse cases

18. Dr Fernando CHEUNG took the view that abusers of child abuse cases, who were usually parents or adults, did not know how to seek assistance nor want the cases to be disclosed. Hence, frontline professionals (e.g. school personnel, social workers and healthcare personnel) were the key to early identification of child abuse cases. Dr CHEUNG opined that although there were concerns on parental authorization, privacy and responsibility issues in child abuse cases, the Administration should regard the interests of children as of paramount importance in handling such cases. Noting that children aged one and a half years old would finish most of the immunization at MCHCs and seldom pay further visits to those centres, he expressed concern about the effectiveness of the referrals made under the Comprehensive Child Development Service if the consent of the parents was not obtained. Dr CHEUNG urged the Administration to respond to deputations' views on the problems of the existing child protection policies and procedures.

19. Noting that the schools noticed the wounds found in that five-year-old girl's body and in her brother's body in the child abuse case, Mr Michael TIEN expressed grave concern about the role of and

appropriate follow-up actions to be taken by schools in handling child abuse cases. He considered that schools should play a more active role in identifying the symptoms of child abuse, understanding the child's conditions and following up the case with a view to facilitating the handling of child abuse cases. Mr TIEN urged the Administration to remind schools that appropriate follow-up actions should be taken for abused children. US(Ed) responded that the Administration took note of members' concerns. EDB attached great importance to the well-being and safety of children in schools, and had all along reminded schools of the need for early identification and provision of support to students in need through various channels.

20. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan opined that schools lacked crisis awareness in handling child abuse cases. The Administration should enhance the support and education for schools with a view to protecting abused children and preventing child abuse. Given that the Police had to handle domestic violence cases at the scene, they should seek assistance from other professionals (e.g. social workers) to assess the conditions of the victims, including whether psychological abuse was involved. She shared the view of some deputations that judges were insufficiently trained in recognizing and dealing with child abuse and domestic violence cases. There were no established procedures for dealing with allegations of child abuse in the Family Court. Ms YUNG held the view that the number of legal aid applications involving domestic violence was low since parents and guardians did not know how to seek legal assistance. The Administration should promote such assistance provided by LAD. She enquired whether the Administration would speed up the relevant application process. Acting Deputy Director of Legal Aid/Application & Processing advised that when victims of domestic violence sought assistance from LAD, the Department would treat all such applications as urgent cases. Applicants in urgent cases would be interviewed by LAD staff on the very day of their applications. However, some applicants might decide not to pursue with their legal aid applications in fear of reprisal from their assailant. There were also applicants who were reluctant to supply LAD with the essential documents necessary for completion of the means and merits test.

(At this juncture, the Chairman extended the meeting for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time to allow sufficient time for discussion.)

21. Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the handling of child abuse cases should be comprehensively reviewed. She enquired how the Administration would support at-risk families, e.g. single parents and

illicit drug users, so as to prevent child abuse. Dr QUAT opined that the Administration should initiate the review of the relevant legislation on child abuse immediately. In addition, the Administration should conduct a public consultation on implementing a total ban on corporal punishment and establishing a mandatory reporting mechanism of child abuse cases, with a view to exploring the way forward for making relevant legislation. SLW replied that the Administration needed to examine the relevant legal issues in depth given the complexity of the issue. US(Ed) added that EDB could complement in this regard. She also pointed out that corporal punishment was banned in schools.

22. Given that the child abuse case of that five years old girl took place for some time and the school concerned and SWD were aware of the case, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed concern that the existing mechanism of handling child abuse cases was dysfunctional. Noting that the majority of newly reported child abuse cases were physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect, he held the view that while sexual abuse and neglect would be difficult to be identified, teachers and social workers should be able to notice wounds in a student's body and identify physical abuse. He asked whether SWD would take measures to improve the existing mechanism. SLW responded that the Administration could organize different training programmes for frontline professionals to raise their sensitivity in handling child abuse cases. As regards making improvements to the existing mechanism, the Administration would also take into account issues relating to the interface, support and resources in doing so.

23. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that handling of child abuse cases should involve collaboration among various government departments. Even with full implementation of the policy on "one school, one social worker", schools could not bear all the responsibility given the complexity of child abuse cases. Instead, the Administration should be committed to resolving the problem of child abuse and establish a cross-bureaux centre to involve stakeholders, e.g. teachers, parents, students and neighbours, in handling child abuse cases. The centre could also provide support services for families which sought assistance or had a greater chance of abusing their children. Besides, training programmes should be separately provided for police officers and teachers, with a view to enhancing police officers' handling of legal issues related to child abuse as well as strengthening teachers' ability to identify and report child abuse cases.

(At 12:13 pm, with no dissenting voice, the Chairman extended the meeting which had been extended for 15 minutes for another 10 minutes.)

Procedural Guide for Handling Child Abuse Cases

24. Sharing the view of the Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants Association, Social Work Officer Grade Branch, Mr POON Siu-ping said that child abuse cases were resulted from many social problems, such as long working hours, poor residential environment and substance abuse problem. In view of the large number of child abuse cases reported annually, the Administration should examine the relevant issues in a holistic manner instead of focusing on the policy of "one school, one social worker". Noting that the review of the Procedural Guide for Handling Child Abuse Cases (Revised 2015) ("Procedural Guide") was anticipated to be completed within the second half of 2019, Mr POON enquired why it had taken the Administration such a long time to complete the review.

25. AD(Family & Child Welfare) advised that given the complexity of the Procedural Guide, SWD formed a task group in November 2016 to review the whole Procedural Guide with members including representatives from different government departments and non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"). The Administration would implement new measures as soon as they were ready in the course of conducting the review of Procedural Guide.

26. Dr Junius HO expressed concern about the coordination of various government departments and relevant procedures for handling child abuse cases. In his view, frontline professionals including teachers, social workers, healthcare personnel and police officers should be able to identify and report child abuse cases in accordance with established procedures. He sought information on the flowchart of handling child abuse cases under the existing mechanism. SLW advised that in collaboration with relevant government departments, NGOs and relevant professionals, SWD had drawn up and issued the Procedural Guide for reference by different professionals in carrying out the necessary initial assessments, social enquiries, MDCC and follow-up welfare plans when encountering suspected child abuse cases. Various flowcharts of handling child abuse cases were included in the Procedural Guide. The Commission on Children to be established would also provide policy coordination among various bureaux and government departments in relation to children's issues in future.

Statistics of reported child abuse cases

Admin

27. Noting that various personnel (e.g. school personnel, social workers, healthcare professionals) were in close contact with an abused child, Dr Pierre CHAN expressed concern that public hospitals would be the last resort to protect the abused child before an MDCC was convened. He sought information on a breakdown of the number and ratio of different informants (e.g. school personnel, hospital personnel, social workers, etc.) who reported the newly reported child abuse cases referred to in the submission of the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children (LC Paper No. CB(2)746/17-18(02)). SLW undertook to provide the requested information.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)820/17-18(01) on 5 February 2018.)

28. Dr Pierre CHAN enquired whether the Administration had a plan to share the information of child abuse cases among government bureaux and departments. SLW advised that the Administration had difficulty sharing information among bureaux and government departments due to privacy concerns as well as different statistical definitions and operational needs in collecting statistics. The suggestion of enhancing information sharing had to be further explored.

II. Any other business

29. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:24 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 March 2018

Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Friday, 19 January 2018, at 9:30 am

**Looking into child protection policies and procedures
in the light of recent child abuse cases**

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individual

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
1.	Against Child Abuse	[LC Paper No. CB(2)725/17-18(01)] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should set targets and a timetable for improving the current child protection policies and procedures.
2.	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants Association, Social Work Officer Grade Branch	[LC Paper No. CB(2)735/17-18(04)] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regarding the establishment of a central database on children, the Administration had difficulty sharing information among various government departments due to privacy concerns.
3.	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should: (a) review the reporting mechanism of students' non-attendance cases for primary schools and kindergartens; (b) allocate more resources to implement a policy of "one school, one social worker" for each kindergarten; and (c) provide training for frontline professionals with a view to early identification and intervention of child abuse cases. ● The Administration should introduce an infant home visiting programme for at-risk families to facilitate early intervention and provide subsidized child care services in new public rental housing estates. ● The Administration should raise public awareness of protection of children and against child abuse.
4.	The Democratic Party	[LC Paper No. CB(2)746/17-18(01)]

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
5.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	[LC Paper No. CB(2)746/17-18(04)] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should compile a casebook to provide reference for frontline social workers about handling child abuse cases.
6.	Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union	[LC Paper No. CB(2)735/17-18(02)]
7.	Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expressed concern about the requirements on workload of social workers under the Funding and Service Agreements of Integrated Family Service Centres ("IFSCs"). Given the heavy workload of IFSCs, timely referral of needy students might not be feasible. ● The Administration should flexibly provide resources for each primary school to employ one school social worker and a team of guidance personnel in view of the complexity of problems faced by needy students. ● The Administration should provide more training for house parents of small group homes on early identification of child abuse cases. ● The Administration should undertake long-term social welfare planning with a view to addressing various social problems.
8.	Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation	[LC Paper No. CB(2)735/17-18(03)] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The statistics of child abuse cases captured by the Social Welfare Department were not accurate since there were unreported cases. ● Paediatricians were provided with training on protecting children from abuse.
9.	Sun Island Kindergarten	[LC Paper No. CB(2)725/17-18(02)] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enquired whether one-stop services could be provided to support kindergartens in handling suspected child abuse cases. ● Enquired about the Administration's immediate follow-up actions to support

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		kindergartens in the light of recent child abuse cases.
10.	Mr Azan Aziz MARWAH	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)725/17-18(03)] and [LC Paper No. CB(2)746/17-18(03)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) allowed a central database to be set up with a view to preventing child abuse. ● The Administration should establish a commission to protect children from abuse. ● Under the Legal Aid Regulations (Cap. 91A), the Legal Aid Department could grant an emergency certificate to an applicant (e.g. a victim of child abuse or domestic violence) who sought legal aid as a matter of urgency.
11.	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children	<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)746/17-18(02)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should consult stakeholders on a comprehensive review of the mechanism for protection of children and monitoring of the long-term welfare of abused children.
12.	The Law Society of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● With reference to experience from overseas jurisdictions, e.g. Australia and the United Kingdom, the Administration should consolidate various ordinances to enact a new composite ordinance to protect children from abuse. ● The Administration should issue guidelines on the definition of corporal punishment and consider establishing a mandatory reporting mechanism of suspected child abuse cases. ● The Administration should set up an investigation panel to conduct a comprehensive review of handling of child abuse cases.
13.	TWGHs CEASE Crisis Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should establish a mandatory reporting mechanism of suspected child abuse cases and review the reporting mechanism of students' non-attendance cases. Besides, the Family and Child Protective Services

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		<p>Units of the Social Welfare Department should provide initial assessment in responding to public enquiries about suspected child abuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide more resources for retention and recruitment of social workers in kindergartens and primary schools. The primary school curricula should enhance students' understanding of domestic violence and sexual abuse as well as their knowledge in seeking assistance if they were abused. The Administration should have a long-term plan to promote proper child care and discipline skills through enhancing parents' relevant knowledge. ● The Administration should treat corporal punishment as physical abuse under the definition of child abuse, and facilitate collaboration among various government departments in handling child abuse cases.
14.	Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secondary schools had difficulty handling suspected child abuse cases without parents' consent. Given heavy workload of school social workers, one social worker for each school was not adequate in protecting children's rights. ● The Administration should review relevant mechanism and legislation for handling child abuse cases. ● There were loopholes in the existing reporting mechanism of students' non-attendance cases and the progress of relevant follow-up actions was slow.
15.	Reclaiming Social Work Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given the complicated procedures in handling child abuse cases, social workers had to take into account various factors before reporting such cases. The Administration should revise the guidelines on reporting child abuse cases and provide adequate supervision for school social workers. ● The Administration should allocate more resources to relieve the heavy

No.	Name of deputation / individual	Views
		workload of social workers in primary schools. ● Expressed concern about pressure faced by abusers.

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