

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1929/17-18

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 11 June 2018, at 10:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman)
Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
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 Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung
- Member attending** : Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

**Public Officers
attending** : Item III

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

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

Ms PANG Kit-ling
Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Mr Kenneth WOO
Chief Executive Officer (Subventions/Planning)
Social Welfare Department

Ms Portia YIU
Chief Planning Officer 2
Housing Department

Ms CHENG Yee-ling
Acting Chief Manager/Management (Support Services
Section 2)
Housing Department

Items IV & V

Mr Patrick LI Pak-chuen, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)
Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Karyn CHAN Ching-yuen
Principle Assistant Secretary (Civic Affairs) 2
Home Affairs Bureau

Item IV

The Family Council

Professor Daniel SHEK

Chairman of the Family Council

Item V

Ms Eugenia CHUNG Nga-chi, JP
Assistant Director (2)
Home Affairs Department

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

**Attendance
by invitation** : Item V

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr CHAN Wing-sun
Officer (Family and Community Service)

Community Ambassadors of Sai Wan

Mr David FU
Representative

NGO Community Centres Alliance

Mr WONG Chi-hung
Representative

Squatter Subdivided Room Concern Group

Mr LEUNG Yan-sang

Neighbourhood Level Community Development
Alliance

Ms CHEN Ching-mei

Community Development Alliance

Mr CHAN Yu-cheung
Chairperson

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

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

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1557/17-18(01)]

Members noted that a letter dated 7 June 2018 from Dr Fernando CHEUNG requesting the Panel to hold a special meeting to receive public views on land planning for social welfare facilities had been issued since the last meeting.

2. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that it seemed that the "big debate on land supply" had overlooked the planning of social welfare facilities for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and the needy groups. He therefore suggested that a special meeting should be held in July 2018 to receive deputations' views on land planning of social welfare facilities. Members agreed.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1526/17-18(01) to (02)]

3. Members noted that the following items were proposed for discussion at the next meeting scheduled for 9 July 2018:

- (a) Provision of elderly and rehabilitation service facilities in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong, and arrangements for annual briefings on Lotteries Fund projects;
- (b) Review of policies and welfare support for carers;
- (c) Progress of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services; and

- (d) Welfare support for users and waitlistees of community housing.

4. The Chairman said that the Administration had suggested to him that three instead of four items should be discussed at the next meeting. In response to the Chairman's invitation of views on the Administration's suggestion, members agreed that the four items mentioned above should be discussed at the next meeting.

Special meeting and local visit

5. The Chairman said that the Administration planned to launch a pilot scheme on provision of social work services in kindergartens in February 2019. He therefore suggested that a special meeting for receiving public views on the pilot scheme should be held on 22 June 2018. He also proposed that a visit should be conducted to "Radiance Family" Family Care Home and Shun Lee Adult Training Centre cum Hostel of the Fu Hong Society on 13 July 2018. Members agreed.

III. Planning of social welfare services in new public rental housing estates and deprived communities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1526/17-18(03) to (04) and CB(2)1557/17-18(02)]

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") briefed members on the planning of social welfare services for newly completed public rental housing ("PRH") estates and deprived communities.

Provision of community facilities and services in new public rental housing estates

7. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that given that over the years, various community facilities and services (including social welfare, education, transport and retail services and facilities) were not available in new PRH estates before resident intake, residents moving into new PRH estates had often acted as pioneers and faced shortages of the above-mentioned facilities and services. These residents had encountered difficulty in finding a school place in the vicinity for their children, commuting to work and making daily living arrangements. The shortages of such facilities and services caused much inconvenience to these residents, particularly those with mobility difficulties. While the facilities and

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services to be provided in new PRH estates concerned different government bureaux/departments ("B/Ds"), only representatives from the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB"), the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") and the Housing Department ("HD") had attended this meeting for the discussion of the subject matter. He enquired about the B/Ds which were responsible for addressing the long standing problem of non-provision of community facilities and services before resident intake in new PRH estates.

8. SLW responded that in order to launch neighbourhood network building projects funded by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund ("CIIF-funded projects") in new PRH estates in a timely manner, SWD and CIIF were exploring the feasibility of approaching non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") proactively and introducing CIIF to them when sites were identified for PRH developments. Acting Chief Manager/Management (Support Services Section 2) said that as of now, social work teams in PRH estates would be set up by or under the coordination of SWD, but not HD. Given that CIIF-funded projects were time-limited, Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern that there was a lack of regular subvention for the provision of social welfare services for residents of new PRH estates.

9. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that certain types of services should be provided in new PRH estates on a long-term basis and provision of time-limited services for residents of new PRH estates was undesirable. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that according to the Administration, about 20 000 new PRH flats would be completed in a year and the Administration had already drawn up the intake timetable for these flats, he wondered why the Administration was unable to plan ahead for the provision of community facilities in new PRH estates. Dr KWOK and Mr LEUNG called on the Administration to provide long-term support services for residents of new PRH estates. The Administration should also improve its planning for the provision of community facilities in new PRH estates so that such facilities would be available upon resident intake.

10. SLW responded that CIIF sought to build social capital to strengthen mutual support network in the community through CIIF-funded projects. These projects were time-limited as they aimed to facilitate new residents to adapt to the new living environment at the early stage of resident intake of new PRH estates. That said, adjustments to the duration of these projects could be considered and the scope and quantity of these projects could be enhanced. The Administration would study how the collaboration among relevant B/Ds could be enhanced on the

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provision of community facilities and services in a timely manner in new PRH estates. Temporary funding would be allocated for providing those social welfare services the relevant facilities of which were not yet ready upon resident intake. Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare) ("AD(Family and Child Welfare)") supplemented that apart from services provided under CIIF-funded projects, there were mainstream services provided by the Integrated Family Service Centres ("IFSCs"), Integrated Services Centres ("ISCs"), Family and Child Protective Services Units ("FCPSUs"), etc. In case there was a short time lag between the resident intake and the service commencement of social welfare service units in new PRH estates, the service providers concerned would make suitable arrangements such as providing outreaching services or orientation visits to the nearby social welfare facilities so as to facilitate residents to receive the required services. District Social Welfare Offices ("DSWOs") of SWD would assess the welfare service needs at district level and deploy community resources to plan for appropriate support services with a view to meeting the residents' service needs as early as possible.

11. The Chairman said that the Panel and the Panel on Housing were gravely concerned about the non-provision of community facilities in new PRH estates before resident intake and had discussed the subject matter on a few occasions. He said that some social workers who had petitioned before this meeting reflected that although resident intake in On Tat Estate took place in June 2016, the construction of a secondary school and three primary schools in the estate had not yet commenced. He urged the Administration to speed up the provision of community facilities in new PRH estates.

12. The Deputy Chairman said that the delay in the provision of community facilities in new PRH estates not only caused anxiety to residents but also affected the development of young residents. He took the view that the Administration should formulate a comprehensive plan for providing community facilities in new PRH estates and support for NGOs to deliver services for residents before or upon their intake. In this connection, he enquired about the Administration's plan and timetable for providing community facilities in new PRH estates. Dr KWOK Ka-ki also enquired about the timetable for shortening the time gap between resident intake and the provision of community facilities in new PRH estates.

13. SLW reiterated that in order to launch CIIF-funded projects in new PRH estates in a more proactive and timely manner, CIIF and SWD would study how CIIF-funded projects could be launched in new PRH estates

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during the early stage of resident intake of these new estates in order to provide services and assist residents in adapting to the new community as soon as possible. The Administration would sustain its efforts in expediting the provision of community facilities and services in new PRH estates.

14. The Chairman said that the relevant District Officers and DSWOs of SWD briefed the NGOs which were interested in providing services in On Tat Estate and On Tai Estate on the timetables for intake and briefings for residents a year before the resident intake so that these NGOs could approach residents on such occasions. These NGOs considered this arrangement useful and suggested that the Administration should adopt the arrangement in all new PRH estates.

Permanent accommodation for non-governmental organizations in new public rental housing estates

15. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that some NGOs were only provided with temporary premises in new PRH and the designs of these premises were not suitable for delivering certain types of social welfare services (e.g. child care services). Noting that some social work teams were required to use Mutual Aid Committee ("MAC") offices as temporary work bases at the resident intake stage, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung opined that such an arrangement affected the operation of the NGOs concerned. The Chairman said that the area of the MAC office in On Tai Estate was 160 square feet and the office was not equipped with a toilet. Seven NGO staff had been working in that office for the past two years but permanent accommodation for the NGOs concerned was still not yet available. He wondered why only HD could be provided with permanent offices in new PRH estates at the time of resident intake but not NGOs. The Chairman, Dr KWOK and Mr LEUNG urged the Administration to make better planning for the provision of permanent offices for NGOs in new PRH estates.

16. SLW responded that in collaboration with SWD, HD provided temporary premises for NGOs to provide services under the CIIF-funded projects at the resident intake stage. There might be a delay in the provision of such premises if they were to be fully furnished. That said, SWD and HD would discuss how the existing arrangement could be improved in order to provide a more suitable working environment for the NGOs concerned.

Family Support Programme and Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects

17. In respect of the Family Support Programme ("FSP") implemented by SWD, Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the number of needy families which SWD had successfully approached in the past three years, the caseload per social worker and whether additional resources would be allocated to strengthen the services under FSP. AD(Family and Child Welfare) responded that FSP was implemented by IFSCs, ISCs and FCPSUs to identify early needy families which were reluctant to seek help. A social worker would be responsible for coordinating the implementation of FSP in each of these centres/units. Given that many of the aforesaid families were reluctant to meet with social workers but were more willing to be approached by persons who had similar experience with them, volunteers (including those with personal experience in overcoming family problems or crises) were recruited to contact the aforesaid families and encourage them to receive appropriate services. A total of 4 000 odd volunteers had been recruited under FSP so far. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide information on the number of needy families which had been successfully approached under FSP and the distribution of the services under FSP.

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18. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry about whether more Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project ("NLCDPs") teams would be formed to provide services for residents of new PRH estates, SLW responded that while SWD was responsible for the management of resource provisions and performance of community development projects, the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") was responsible for the policy on community development. LWB was therefore not in a position to provide a response regarding the way forward for NLCDPs.

Inadequate provision of facilities and services in Shui Chuen O Estate, Cheung Lung Wai Estate and Yee Ming Estate

19. Ms Alice MAK said that some residents of Shui Chuen O Estate, Cheung Lung Wai Estate and Yee Ming Estate had petitioned before this meeting about the inadequate provision of facilities and services in these estates. She said that SWD had rejected an NGO's application for setting up a women centre in Shui Chuen O Estate. According to SWD's reply to the NGO concerned, the IFSCs in the district were providing relevant services and some CIIF-funded projects had been launched in the estate. SWD had suggested that the NGO concerned should refer the cases it handled to these IFSCs, if necessary. As the Administration was unable to

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provide residents of new PRH estates with the required services in a timely manner, she wondered why SWD had refused the application of that NGO which was willing to use its own resources to assist the residents. She also asked whether non-subsidized services provided by NGOs were not required because there was already adequate provision of subsidized services in PRH estates.

20. SLW responded that SWD had attempted to provide information on the social welfare services available to residents of Shui Chuen O Estate in its reply to the NGO concerned. The Administration welcomed NGOs to provide non-subsidized services in PRH estates. However, due to insufficient premises for the provision of subsidized services in some PRH estates, permanent premises for some regularized assistance programmes had not yet been secured. As such, the provision of subsidized services such as elderly services and rehabilitation services which were in great demand should have priority over NGOs' non-subsidized services. The Chairman said that subsidized youth services in Shui Chuen O Estate were being provided in a sub-base in the estate which had reflected the Administration's planning problem for the provision of social welfare facilities in PRH estates.

Motion

21. Dr Fernando CHEUNG moved the following motion:

"鑒於新公共屋邨的福利、教育、交通及購物設施往往滯後於住宅單位的落成，本委員會促請政府應有協調機制，讓市民搬進新屋邨時，以上的設施和服務已經到位，並為屋邨社工隊提供恆常資助。"

(Translation)

"Given that the provision of social welfare, education, transport and shopping facilities in new public rental housing ("PRH") estates often lags behind the completion of the residential units therein, this Panel urges the Government to put in place a coordination mechanism, so that the above facilities and services will be well ready for use when members of the public move into these new PRH estates. Also, social worker teams serving PRH estates should be provided with recurrent subsidies."

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22. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. He declared that the motion was carried.

IV. Work of the Family Council

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1526/17-18(05) to (06)]

23. At the invitation of the Chairman, Prof Daniel SHEK, Chairman of the Family Council, briefed members on the work progress of the Family Council since its last briefing at the Panel meeting held on 13 June 2016.

(The Deputy Chairman took the chair at this juncture in the absence of the Chairman.)

Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives

24. Noting that the Family Council approved four applications for the projects under the 2016-2017 Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives ("Pilot Scheme") and another four applications for the projects under the 2017-2018 Pilot Scheme, Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the total number of applications received under the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Pilot Schemes. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that the total number of applications received was around two to three times of the number of approved applications.

Family Impact Assessment

25. Dr Helena WONG enquired about which B/Ds had used the Family Impact Assessment ("FIA") checklist tool, whether the Family Council had requested all B/Ds to make use of the FIA checklist as the basis for assessing family implications for public policies and how many B/Ds had done so.

(The Chairman resumed the chairmanship at this juncture.)

26. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that Hong Kong was playing a leading role in applying FIA to policy making. With effect from 1 April 2013, FIA had become an integral part of the policy making process within the Government. All B/Ds were required to assess the policy impacts on families when formulating policies and set out the assessment results in the policy papers and the Legislative Council ("LegCo") briefs. Since its introduction, FIA had been conducted for the policy measures

and programmes set out in 446 LegCo briefs and 63 of them had been assessed as having family impact. In response to Dr Helena WONG's enquiry about whether there was a need to revise the FIA checklist, Prof Daniel SHEK said that the Family Council had commissioned a study through the then Central Policy Unit to evaluate the effectiveness of the assessment framework and develop a more elaborated checklist as the basis for assessing the impact of public policies on families. The consulting team developed and put into trial run in 2017 a draft FIA checklist comprising 24 questions under six principles. The results of the study would be uploaded onto the website of the Family Council when available. At Dr Helena WONG's request, Prof Daniel SHEK undertook to provide members with the draft FIA checklist.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1891/17-18(01) on 26 July 2018.)

27. In response to Dr Helena WONG's enquiry about the Family Council's evaluation of the FIA checklists completed by B/Ds, Prof Daniel SHEK said that the completed FIA checklists would first be examined by the Secretariat of the Family Council. The Secretariat would refer the policies or legislative proposals to a committee under the Family Council for discussion if necessary and more significant policies or legislative proposals would be discussed by the Family Council. It would also compile summary reports on FIA conducted by B/Ds for reference of the Family Council regularly.

28. The Chairman said that the Family Council should follow up on the FIA checklists completed by B/Ds and ensure that they had made use of the FIA checklists as the basis for assessing family implications for public policies. He enquired about whether there were cases in which the Family Council's recommendations had not been considered by the B/Ds concerned. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that there was no such case so far.

Family-friendly policies

29. Dr Helena WONG opined that steer from the Chief Executive ("CE") or Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") was required for promoting family-friendly policies concerning child and elderly care as well as support for carers. She asked whether the Family Council would, having regard to the findings of its researches and studies, make recommendations on family-friendly policies to CE, CS and various B/Ds

proactively. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that the Family Council had all along been proactive in putting forward family-related policy proposals to the Government. For instance, the Family Council had provided recommendations on its own accord to the then CS on pre-school rehabilitation services.

30. Mr KWOK Wai-keung enquired about the recommendations on family-friendly employment policies put forward by the Family Council to the Government and whether the Government had taken on board these recommendations. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that family-friendly employment practices were promoted through the Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme ("Award Scheme"). The Family Council would also actively advise the Government on family-friendly employment policies. The Family Council had discussed issues in relation to working hours and would continue to do so. As members of the Family Council were from different backgrounds, they did not have a unanimous stance on matters such as standard working hours. In response to Mr KWOK Wai-keung's enquiry about whether the Award Scheme was sufficient to promote family-friendly employment practices, Prof Daniel SHEK said that many small and medium enterprises were awardees of the Award Scheme. They had adopted innovative practices to enable their employees to have better work-life balance. Short videos and publications of family-friendly employment practices were produced to provide exemplars for other companies and organizations to follow.

31. Taking the view that long working hours had affected the quality of family life, Mr KWOK Wai-keung enquired whether the Family Council had studied the best allocation of time to work, rest and personal/family life in order to achieve work-life balance and whether the Family Council considered that there was a relation between long working hours and the quality of family life. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that the Family Council had not discussed the aforesaid matters but according to the studies he had conducted in the capacity of an academic, long working hours had an impact on family life. The Family Council would impress upon the Government to explore measures outside the framework of standard working hours to address the concern about long working hours.

32. Mr KWOK Wai-keung said that the Government often interpreted workers' interests by way of economic analyses and the findings of these analyses often gave the public an impression that the Government was in favour of the employers. In the light of insufficient family-friendly policies, he suggested that the Family Council should consider conducting scientific risk assessments relating to family compositions, relationship

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and conflicts to facilitate the Government to have a comprehensive understanding on these matters. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that studies on issues which members and the Family Council regarded as important would be carried out. Family-related suggestions put forward by community groups and organizations would also be considered by the Family Council.

33. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that some family tragedies involving members with hyperactivity disorder/attention deficit, autism or health deterioration had happened lately. These tragedies might be due to insufficient support from the Administration for these families. In his view, there was a lack of family-friendly policies for families with special needs, family carers, and elderly couples who required institutional care. Under the existing arrangements, elderly couples on the waiting list for subsidized residential care services would not be admitted to the same residential care home. Opining that FIA had not improved the promotion of family-friendly spirit in the implementation of welfare policies, he urged the Family Council to promote "family as the core" in provision of welfare services. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that the concept of family life cycle and "family as a unit" was adopted in the 24 questions under the draft FIA checklist. The Family Council was very concerned about support for carers. Although the Family Council's proposal to enhance pre-school rehabilitation services could not solve the problems faced by the carers concerned, the enhancement could relieve their burden to a certain extent. The Family Council would follow up on members' suggestions on family-friendly policies.

Family-related researches

34. Taking the view that long working hours had an adverse impact on family life, Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the Family Council would conduct a research on the implications of long working hours on family life. He also enquired about the costs incurred by the Family Council in conducting family-related researches and surveys. Dr Helena WONG also enquired whether the Family Council would conduct studies on elderly care and child care.

35. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that issues relating to child care services would be discussed by the Family Council in the near future. He thanked members for the suggestion of conducting a research on the implications of long working hours on family life. The Family Council would identify the existing research gap and conduct other family-related studies where appropriate. The Policy Innovation and Co-ordination

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Office ("PICO") would also continue to include family-related issues in the scope of study topics of its Public Policy Research Funding Scheme. He further said that the Family Council did not have a fixed allocation of funding for researches and surveys. In addition to standing surveys such as the Family Survey which was conducted on a biennial basis, thematic studies would be carried out if necessary. The Family Council would secure sufficient funding for conducting these studies. The cost involved in researches and surveys was around \$4 million to \$5 million a year.

36. The Chairman welcomed the Study on Family Research in Hong Kong: A Critical Review and Annotated Bibliography ("Bibliography Study") currently conducted by the Family Council for building up a database of family-related studies. Given that there were different streams of family-related studies and such studies were voluminous, he enquired about the selection criteria for the bibliographic database. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that as some family studies (e.g. longitudinal studies on the impact of divorce on children) had not been conducted in Hong Kong, there was a research gap on family-related issues. The Chinese University of Hong Kong was commissioned to conduct the Bibliography Study to build up a more comprehensive database of family-related studies (including the streams of the studies) and identify the existing research gap to facilitate the Family Council and PICO to consider family-related surveys and researches to be conducted in future.

Setting up of a maintenance board

37. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan said that as many maintenance payees had difficulty in recovering arrears of maintenance, members had called for the setting up of a maintenance board. Noting that the Family Council would commission a consultant to conduct a "Further Study in the Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong" ("the Study"), she asked whether the Study would cover the setting up of a maintenance board. Prof Daniel SHEK responded in the affirmative and said that the Study was expected to be completed in 18 months by the end of 2019.

38. Given that the study of the setting up of a maintenance board was not mentioned in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1526/17-18(05)), Ms YUNG Hoi-yan worried that the subject matter would not be included in the Study. The Chairman said that despite the fact that the suggestion of setting up a maintenance board had been put forward for many years, the subject matter was still under study. Some members were dissatisfied at the Administration's inaction on setting up a maintenance board. He took the view that the Study should

draw a conclusion on whether a maintenance board should be set up. Prof Daniel SHEK assured members that the proposal of setting up a maintenance board would be covered by the Study.

39. Dr Helena WONG said that the Democratic Party supported the setting up of a maintenance board. She hoped that the study in relation to whether it should be set up could be completed as early as possible. She further said that the Administration should consider setting up a special unit under the Inland Revenue Department to collect arrears of maintenance on behalf of maintenance payees if a maintenance board would not be set up.

Communication among the Family Council, the Elderly Commission, the Women's Commission, the Youth Development Commission and the Commission on Children

40. Regarding the communication mechanism among the Family Council, the Elderly Commission, the Women's Commission, the Youth Development Commission and the Commission on Children, the Chairman asked whether the Chairman of the Family Council was a member of these Commissions. Prof Daniel SHEK responded that being the Chairman of the Family Council, he was an ex-officio member of the Commission on Children but not a member of the other three Commissions. Since either the Chairpersons or Vice-Chairmen of these Commissions were ex-officio members of the Family Council, there was sufficient communication between the Family Council and these Commissions even though the Chairman of the Family Council was not a member of these Commissions.

V. Community development policy and services

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1526/17-18(07)]

41. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) ("DS(HA)(1)") briefed members on the community development policy and services overseen by HAB and implemented by SWD and the Home Affairs Department ("HAD").

42. Members noted that six relevant deputations had been invited to give views on community development policy and services. At the invitation of the Chairman, they expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response to views of deputations

43. DS(HA)(1) said that as observed in the Director of Audit's Report No. 29 issued in October 1997, the need for NLCDPs was envisaged to change significantly due to improvement in the overall social welfare services and community building facilities in Hong Kong since the 1970s. The Administration therefore reviewed the service needs and terminated or downsized NLCDPs with serving population falling below 3 000. The Policy Statement on Community Development ("Policy Statement"), which was drawn up by HAB in 2005, set out the Government's policy on community development and the general direction of community development services. Taking into account the views received in the NGO Forum on Community Development ("the NGO Forum") in 2005, the Administration had set out in the Policy Statement that the termination of NLCDPs with target population below 1 800 would be examined on a case-by-case basis. In examining the continuity of NLCDPs, the Administration would also consider factors such as community needs, performance of the operating NGOs and effectiveness of NLCDPs. The Administration would continue to listen to the views of NGOs on community development.

44. DS(HA)(1) further said that the Administration attached importance to the views of NGOs and related stakeholders and welcomed their suggestions on community development services. Given that various community development services (e.g. community centres, NLCDPs and the Neighbourhood Mutual Help Programme ("NMHP")) had been provided, the Administration should be prudent in allocating additional public funds for community development to avoid duplication of resources. HAB, SWD and relevant B/Ds would continue to monitor the modes of services, including community development services and resources so deployed, for the underprivileged.

45. Assistant Director (Youth & Corrections) ("AD(Youth & Corrections)") said that DSWOs of SWD would, with reference to social indicators, assess on an ongoing basis the needs for welfare services at district level. Through the established district welfare coordination mechanism, district coordinating committees and district forums, DSWOs coordinated the planning and provision of support services for residents with service needs. Some NGOs, in collaboration with DSWOs, government departments and local organizations, made use of the resources provided by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Community Chest, the District Councils, etc. to provide services for people who were inadequately housed. SWD would keep in view the

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community needs through the existing district welfare coordination mechanism.

46. In respect of the view that community centres should be modernized, AD(Youth & Corrections) said that modernization works for community centres funded by the Lotteries Fund had been completed and SWD would keep in view the need to launch another round of modernization for community centres.

Discussion

Community development services

47. Mr POON Siu-ping enquired whether more NLCDPs teams would be formed, the basis for allocating funds to NMHP and whether regular funding was provided for NMHP. DS(HA)(1) responded that NLCDPs were introduced in the 1970s to serve the deprived and transient communities where the provision of welfare services and community facilities was inadequate. He reiterated the Audit Report's observation about significant change of the need for NLCDPs as mentioned in paragraph 43 above. The Administration would continue to amongst others ensure the prudent use of public funds in considering whether NLCDPs should remain in certain communities. For example, in view of the needs of the residents in Hung Shui Kiu, the Administration continued the NLCDP project although the number of serving population dropped below 1 800. In the 2005 NGO Forum, it was suggested that resources released from the terminated NLCDPs should be used for launching NMHP projects, which mainly served new arrivals and ethnic minorities, so that resources deployed to community development would not decrease after the termination of the relevant NLCDPs. In this connection, HAD launched NMHP using resources released from three terminated NLCDPs since 2007-2008. The resources released from the three terminated NLCDPs were about \$5.4 million per annum and the duration of each NMHP project was about two years. Having regard to NGOs' views, service operators of NMHP projects had the flexibility to serve up to 30% of non- target groups who were neither new arrivals nor ethnic minorities. The NGO Forum was expected to be convened in the third quarter of 2018, followed by the invitation of project proposals for a new round of NMHP.

Non-governmental organization Forum on Community Development

48. Taking the view that the communication between the Administration and NGOs should be strengthened, Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the

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NGO Forum should be conducted more frequently and on a regular basis. The Chairman said that he had suggested to the Administration in October 2017 that the NGO Forum should be resumed. However, it took around a year for the Administration to arrange for the resumption. He called on the Administration to conduct the NGO Forum on a regular basis. DS(HA)(1) responded that in addition to the NGO Forum, HAB, HAD and SWD communicated with NGOs from time to time through other means and the Administration treasured the views of NGOs on the provision of community development services.

Community development policy

49. Expressing concern that inadequate support for deprived families might cause tragedies, Dr Fernando CHEUNG urged the Administration to recognize the importance of community development policy and relevant services, allocate additional resources and earmark sites for expanding the services of community centres and NLCDPs to all the 18 districts in the territory.

50. The Chairman said that according to the Policy Statement, it would be reviewed once every five years or on a need basis in consultation with members of the NGO Forum. In this connection, he enquired whether HAB had reviewed the Policy Statement and, if so, when the last review was conducted. Opining that the utilization of some community centres had not been optimized, he enquired how these centres could achieve the objectives set out in the Policy Statement. Mr POON Siu-ping asked about the amount of funding provided for the 13 community centres and whether the Administration would consider increasing the funding for these centres.

51. DS(HA)(1) responded that the annual recurrent funding allocated to community centres and NLCDPs was around \$140 million and \$37 million respectively. The Policy Statement was drawn up on the basis of a broad consensus reached through a series of discussions in the NGO Forum and HAB welcomed views on the Policy Statement. He said that the Administration recognized the needs of grass-root families and attached great importance to rendering support to them. The Administration would continue to monitor whether the existing community development services and other social welfare services were sufficient to meet the service needs.

52. The Chairman said that while HAB was responsible for overseeing the policy on community development, SWD was responsible for

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day-to-day management of the resource provisions and performance of some community development services. There was a perception that HAB and SWD were passing their responsibilities to each other. It might be necessary to amalgamate the roles of HAB and SWD in community development. In this connection, he asked whether HAB had any inclination to hand over the relevant policy portfolio to LWB so as to remove the ambiguity in the roles of HAB and SWD. DS(HA)(1) responded that the Administration's primary concern was to provide the needy with the required services and HAB kept an open mind on new ideas which could help the needy.

(At 12:55 pm, the Chairman extended the meeting for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time to allow sufficient time for discussion.)

Support services for vulnerable individuals

53. Dr Helena WONG enquired about the implementation of the Care and Support Networking Team ("CSNT") projects which served vulnerable individuals in the West Kowloon cluster, the assessment of the resources allocated to and the review of these projects. DS(HA)(1) responded that the aforesaid projects were being implemented and would be reviewed every three years. AD(Youth & Corrections) said that the Society for Community Organization ("SoCO") was commissioned to operate CSNT. According to CSNT's Funding and Service Agreement ("FSA"), SoCO had to serve three target groups namely ex-offenders, ex-mentally ill persons and street sleepers. SoCO was given the flexibility to determine the resources to be deployed to each category of service users having regard to their service needs. CSNT approached the target groups mainly by outreaching service. SoCO would also collaborate with welfare service units and other organizations, such as the Hospital Authority, in delivering its services. SWD considered that the operating NGO had adequate resources and were able to meet the service needs of the target groups. Apart from CSNT, the Integrated Services Team for Street Sleepers ("IST") provided services for street sleepers and there were organizations providing dedicated services for ex-offenders. In considering renewal of the CSNT's FSA, SWD would discuss with SoCO its needs, the services it provided under CSNT and whether adjustments to the services were required. SWD would continue to monitor the services provided under CSNT. Dr Helena WONG requested the Administration to provide a report on the performance of SoCO under CSNT. She also hoped that frontline social workers offering assistance to vulnerable individuals could provide their observations to members and the Administration on the policy areas which required to be followed up. She

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called on the Administration to collect feedback from these social workers and strengthen its communication with them and provide more resources for these social workers.

54. The Chairman said that as there was a lack of street sleeper policies, the Administration adopted a case-to-case approach to deal with matters relating to street sleepers. Citing the clearance of the structures occupied by street sleepers in Yen Chow Street, Sham Shui Po (which was postponed from 12 June to 12 July 2018) as an example, he said that the then District Officer (Sham Shui Po) ("DO(Sham Shui Po)") had mentioned that street sleepers were perceived as members of the community while launching a pilot scheme to assist street sleepers in quitting street sleeping. However, the incumbent DO(Sham Shui Po) appeared to be quite stern in handling street sleepers.

55. AD(Youth & Corrections) responded that the Administration and local welfare organizations had been in collaboration to assist street sleepers. IST were provided with adequate amount of funding to deliver a wide range of services. Funding was also provided by HAD for the Salvation Army to launch a project in Sham Shui Po involving collaboration with the medical and health care sectors for providing holistic care for street sleepers.

Motion prepared by Dr Fernando CHEUNG

56. The Chairman suggested that the motion prepared by Dr Fernando CHEUNG under this agenda item should be dealt with at the Panel meeting on 9 July 2018. Members agreed.

VI. Any other business

57. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:09 pm.

Panel on Welfare Services

Meeting on Monday, 11 June 2018, at 10:30 am

Community development policy and services

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

| No. | Name of deputation | Views |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | The Hong Kong Council of Social Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should include in the agenda of the Non-governmental Organizations Forum on Community Development ("NGO Forum") the exchange of views between the Administration and NGOs on community development services. • It was more desirable to have a formal setting for communication between the Administration and NGOs. The NGO Forum should be conducted regularly or on a yearly basis. • The resources released from the terminated Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects should not be used only for providing services for new arrivals and ethnic minorities but also for meeting the needs of other clients. • The Administration should increase the resources for community development. |
| 2. | Community Ambassadors of Sai Wan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should allocate more resources to community centres and set up these centres in all the 18 districts. |
| 3. | NGO Community Centres Alliance | LC Paper No. CB(2)1608/17-18(01) |
| 4. | Squatter Subdivided Room Concern Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The living condition of squatters and sub-divided units was very bad and residents of these units had to bear heavy rental burden. However, information on the Administration's assistance measures and assistance programmes of the Community Care Fund had not reached many of these residents. |

| No. | Name of deputation | Views |
|-----|--|---|
| 5. | Neighbourhood Level Community Development Alliance | LC Paper No. CB(2)1557/17-18(03) |
| 6. | Community Development Alliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Government should engage stakeholders in drawing up long-term plan for community development services.● The Administration should approach service users through outreaching services and assist deprived communities by building community network.● The Administration should set up community service teams to provide services for people who were inadequately housed.● Community development services should also be provided in new towns and community centres should be set up in all districts.● The Administration should allocate more resources for providing services in old districts such as Sham Shui Po, Kwai Tsing, Kwun Tong and Shek Wo Hui where there were many sub-divided units. |