

Family Council

Establishment of a Commission on Children

PURPOSE

This paper provides background information to facilitate Members' discussion of the presentation to be made by the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) on the proposed establishment of a Commission on Children. A copy of LWB's PowerPoint presentation is at **Annex A**.

BACKGROUND

2. Issues relating to safeguarding children's rights and well-being straddle across different policy areas. Since 2005, the Children's Rights Forum (the Forum) for which the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau provides secretariat service has been serving as a platform for the exchange of views among children bodies, children and the Government on children-related matters. Starting from 2014, the Government has enhanced co-operation between the Council and the Forum through relaying the views of children on various government initiatives expressed at the Forum meetings to the Council for reference in assessing the impact of relevant policies on family. The Council would also separately invite bureaux and departments (B/Ds) to brief it on children matters. A summary table on children-related issues discussed at the Council meetings from 2014 to 2017 is at **Annex B** for reference.

3. As announced in the Chief Executive's Policy Address on 11 October 2017, the Government will prepare for the establishment of a Commission on Children (the Commission) to amalgamate the efforts made by relevant B/Ds and children concerns groups, and focus on addressing children's issues as they grow. To this end, a Preparatory Committee, chaired by the Chief Executive, has been set up to plan for the establishment of the Commission in mid-2018. LWB, which provides secretariat support to the Preparatory Committee, would seek Members' views on the expected role, composition and structure, functions, as well as priority areas of the Commission.

ISSUES FOR ATTENTION

Cross membership between Family Council and the Commission

4. The role of the Council is to advise the Government on family-related policies and initiatives, which may cover different age and gender sectors including children, from an integrated and holistic perspective. The Council comprises the Chairpersons of the Commission on Youth (CoY), the Elderly Commission and the Women's Commission as ex-officio members. With the setting up of the Commission, similar cross-membership arrangement may need to be considered.

Priority issues

5. As reported at the meeting on 19 September 2017, the Council Chairman and two Members had an informal meeting with the representatives of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society and Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation on 29 August 2017 to exchange views on their proposal for a child health policy for Hong Kong. This is a cross-bureau subject and can be one of the priority items of the Commission when it is set up.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to note LWB's presentation and provide views.

**Family Council Secretariat
December 2017**

Establishment of a Commission on Children

成立兒童事務委員會



Family Council Meeting

家庭議會會議

10 January 2018
2018年1月10日

Background 背景

- Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address: Plan to set up a Commission on Children in mid-2018
《行政長官2017年施政報告》：計劃於2018年年中成立兒童事務委員會
- Established a Preparatory Committee chaired by the Chief Executive in September 2017 with the Chief Secretary for Administration as the Vice-chairperson. Members include the Policy Secretaries of relevant bureaux and experts in children affairs
於2017年9月成立由行政長官主持的籌備委員會，政務司司長為副主席，成員包括相關決策局局長及與兒童事務相關的專家
- Held the first meeting in early October 2017
已於2017年10月初召開第一次會議



Public Engagement 公眾參與

Public Engagement Period 公眾參與期

- 2017年11月13日至2018年1月31日
13 November 2017 to 31 January 2018

Public Engagement Activities 公眾參與活動

- a) Four public engagement forums
四場公眾參與論壇
- children rights groups 兒童權利團體
 - non-governmental welfare organisations 非政府福利機構
 - medical practitioners/educators 醫療從業員／教育工作者
 - parents and the general public 家長及一般市民

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Public Engagement 公眾參與

Public Engagement Activities 公眾參與活動

- b) Children forums
兒童論壇
- c) Attendance at meetings of Government advisory bodies and the Legislative Council
出席政府諮詢組織及立法會會議
- d) Dedicated webpage (http://www.lwb.gov.hk/childrencommission_public_engagement/index_e.html)
專題網頁 (http://www.lwb.gov.hk/childrencommission_public_engagement/index_c.html)

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Public Engagement 公眾參與

Main Issues for Consultation 主要諮詢事宜

- a) The expected role, functions and composition of the Commission
委員會的預期角色、功能及成員
- b) The structure of the Commission, e.g. the types and focuses of working groups to be set up under the Commission
委員會的架構，例如在委員會轄下成立的工作小組的類型及焦點
- c) The priority areas or issues to be addressed by the Commission in the first two years
委員會於首兩年應優先處理的範疇或事項

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Public Engagement 公眾參與

Main Issues for Consultation 主要諮詢事宜

- d) Any suggested independent research studies or reviews to be commissioned by the Commission to facilitate its work
委員會可委約進行以促進其工作的任何獨立研究和檢討建議
- e) Any funding schemes to be set up under the Commission, and if so, their objectives, criteria for funding and target applicants
在委員會轄下設立的任何資助計劃；如有的話，其目標、資助準則及目標申請人
- f) The themes and approach for the Commission to undertake promotional and public education initiatives.
委員會籌辦推廣和公眾教育項目的主題及方向

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Proposed Terms of Reference 建議職權範圍

Vision 願景

- Ensuring that Hong Kong is a place where children's rights, interests and wellbeing are respected and safeguarded, their voices are heard, and where all children enjoy healthy growth and optimal development so as to achieve their fullest potentials

確保香港是一個尊重及保障兒童權利、權益和福祉，聆聽兒童聲音，以及讓所有兒童得以健康成長，全面發展並充分發揮潛能的地方

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Proposed Terms of Reference 建議職權範圍

- The Commission on Children is established to –
兒童事務委員會旨在 -
 - a) advise the Government on the development of strategies related to the development and advancement of children
在制定有關兒童發展及成長的策略方面，向政府提供意見
 - b) enhance integration and rationalisation of children-related policies and initiatives under different bureaux/departments and with advisory bodies
加強整合及理順不同決策局／部門下與兒童有關的政策和措施，以及與諮詢組織的協調
 - c) review children-related services by the Government and non-governmental organisations and identify areas for improvement
檢討政府和非政府機構與兒童相關的服務，並識別需要改善的地方

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Proposed Terms of Reference 建議職權範圍

- d) promote children's rights as articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and encourage direct consultation with children on matters that affect them
促進聯合國《兒童權利公約》所列明的兒童權利，並鼓勵直接諮詢兒童有關影響他們的事宜
- e) initiate surveys and research studies on children's issues
開展有關兒童事宜的調查和研究
- f) manage funding schemes for promotional and public educational projects, engage with stakeholders, and organise other promotional activities
管理有關推廣和公共教育項目的資助計劃，推動持份者的參與，並舉辦其他推廣活動
- g) develop a framework to evaluate the extent to which the vision is achieved
制定一個框架以評估其達致願景的程度

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Proposed Terms of Reference 建議職權範圍

- It is proposed that children under the age of 14 be the primary target group of the Commission, in order to minimise possible duplication with the work of the Commission on Youth (and the future Youth Development Commission upon re-organisation)
委員會的主要目標對象建議為14歲以下的兒童，以盡量減少與青年事務委員會（及日後改組後的青年發展委員會）的工作重疊

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Proposed Framework for Initial Work Plan 建議初期工作計劃框架

Framework 框架

- Focus on identifying the needs of children, possibly classified into physical, emotional, cognitive and social
著重識別兒童的需要，可分為身體、情感、認知和社會四方面
- Derive plans and measures to create an environment that can most optimally cater to the needs of children
制定計劃和措施，以創造一個最能切合兒童需要的環境

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Proposed Framework for Initial Work Plan 建議初期工作計劃框架

Framework 框架

- Ensure support for children from their families, schools, the community, the Government and identification with culture
確保兒童得到家庭、學校、社區及政府的支持和具文化認同
- Channel efforts and collaboration across sectors to support children and meet their needs, prepare them for the challenges and the fast changing world as they grow, such as the development of important core values, cultivation of curiosity, and establishment of positive relationships
引導各界攜手合作支援兒童，並回應他們的需要，讓他們為成長中所面對的挑戰和瞬息萬變的世界作好準備，例如培養重要的核心價值和好奇心，以及建立正面的人際關係

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Proposed Framework for Initial Work Plan 建議初期工作計劃框架

Three Categories of Issues 三個類別的問題

- a) issues that are more specific to children at different age groups
(infants and toddlers (0-2); kindergarten stage (3-5); primary school stage (6-11); and junior secondary school stage (12-14))
較為針對不同年齡組別兒童的問題
(嬰兒和幼兒 (0-2歲) ; 幼稚園階段 (3-5歲) ; 小學階段 (6-11歲)和初中階段 (12-14歲))
- b) issues that may straddle different stages of growth of children and should be dealt with holistically
可能跨越兒童不同成長階段並應通盤處理的問題
- c) issues that are specific to particular groups of children arising from their family backgrounds, biological characteristics or other individual circumstances
特定群組的兒童因家庭背景、生理特徵或其他個別情況而面對的問題

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Proposed Framework for Initial Work Plan 建議初期工作計劃框架

- a) Issues that are more specific to children at different age groups
較為針對不同年齡組別兒童的問題

Age Group	Issues	年齡組別	問題
Infants and toddlers (0-2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood development • Day child care services • Child neglect 	嬰兒和幼兒 (0-2歲)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 早期幼兒發展 • 日間幼兒照顧服務 • 疏忽照顧兒童
Kindergarten stage (3-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of kindergarten education • Children's right to play • Preparation for transition to formal education 	幼稚園階段 (3-5歲)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 幼稚園教育質素 • 兒童的遊戲權利 • 為銜接到正規教育的準備
Primary school stage (6-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of primary school education • Children suicide and mental health • Physical abuse • Children's right to play • Stimulation of children's creative and curious mind • Platform for expressing and exchanging opinions 	小學階段 (6-11歲)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 小學教育質素 • 兒童自殺和精神健康 • 身體虐待 • 兒童的遊戲權利 • 啟發兒童具創意和好奇心的思維 • 表達及交流意見的平台
Junior secondary school stage (12-14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of secondary school education • Vocational training • Children suicide and mental health • Child delinquency • Bullying (physical and cyber) • Sexual abuse • Stimulating children's interest in scientific • Platform for expressing and exchanging public affairs 	初中階段 (12-14歲)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 中學教育質素 • 職業培訓 • 兒童自殺和精神健康 • 兒童犯罪 • 欺凌 (身體及網上) • 性侵犯 • 啟發兒童對科學探知的興趣 • 表達及交流意見/參與公共事務的平台



Proposed Framework for Initial Work Plan 建議初期工作計劃框架

b) Issues that straddle different stages of growth of children and should be dealt with holistically

可能跨越兒童不同成長階段並應通盤處理的問題

- the holistic development of children
兒童的全面發展
- the physical and mental health of children
兒童的生理及精神健康
- mechanism for soliciting the views of children
收集兒童意見的機制
- mechanism for assessing the impact of policies on children
評估政策對兒童影響的機制
- coordination for collection of data concerning children
在收集與兒童有關的資料方面的協調
- innovations and technologies for the benefit of children
有利兒童的創新科技
- support for and education on parents
對家長的支援和教育

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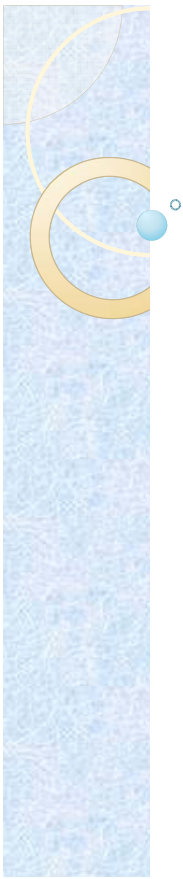
Proposed Framework for Initial Work Plan 建議初期工作計劃框架

c) Issues that are specific to particular groups of children arising from their family backgrounds, biological characteristics or other individual circumstances

特定群組的兒童因家庭背景、生理特徵或其他個別情況而面對的問題

- children with special needs
有特殊需要的兒童
- children in acute health conditions
健康狀況危重的兒童
- children living in poverty
生活貧困的兒童
- children with a special family background (e.g. children of divorced / separated parents, children of parents holding Two-Way Permit, children of migrant workers, cross-boundary students, ethnic minorities, refugee children)
具有特殊家庭背景的兒童 (例如：離婚／分居父母的子女、持雙程證父母的子女、外來勞工的子女、跨境學生、少數族裔、難民兒童等)
- children at risk or vulnerable (e.g. abduction, abuse, violence, neglect, drug involvement, etc.) and children receiving residential child care services
處於高危或易受傷害境況的兒童 (例如擄拐、虐待、暴力、疏忽照顧、接觸毒品等) 和接受兒童住宿照顧服務的兒童

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For comment
歡迎提供意見



**List of children-related issues discussed
at Family Council meetings in 2014 to 2017**

Date	Issue	Bureau/Department concerned
20 February 2014 (21 st Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- First Report of the Child Fatality Review Panel (Paper FC 3/2014 & FC 4/2014)- Rehabilitation Service for Pre-School Children (Paper FC 5/2014, FC 6/2014 & FC 7/2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social Welfare Department- Department of Health and Social Welfare Department
21 August 2014 (23 rd Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Comprehensive Child Development Service (Paper FC 23/2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Department of Health, Social Welfare Department and Hospital Authority
13 August 2015 (26 th Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Report of the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education (Paper FC 15/2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Education Bureau
26 November 2015 (27 th Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (Paper FC 21/2015 & FC 22/2015)- Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Labour and Welfare Bureau and Social Welfare Department- Social Welfare Department

Date	Issue	Bureau/Department concerned
3 March 2016 (28 th Meeting)	- Public Consultation on the Proposed Legislation to Implement the Recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access (Paper FC 2/2016)	- Labour and Welfare Bureau, Social Welfare Department and Department of Justice
8 December 2016 (31 st Meeting)	- Final Report of the Committee on Prevention of Student Suicides (Paper FC 26/2016)	- Education Bureau and Committee on Prevention of Student Suicides
6 June 2017 (33 rd Meeting)	- Progress of Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (Paper FC 12/2017)	- Social Welfare Department