

**Notes of the  
Twentieth Meeting of the Commission on Children**

**Date** : 22 March 2024  
**Time** : 3:00 p.m.  
**Venue** : Conference Hall, West Wing,  
Central Government Offices, Tamar

**Present**

**Chairperson**

Mr KK Chan Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)

**Vice-chairperson**

Mr Chris Sun Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW)

**Ex-officio Members**

Miss Alice Mak Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (SHYA)  
Dr Libby Lee Acting Secretary for Health (Ag. S for Health)  
Mr Raistlin Lau Under Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism  
(USCST)  
(for Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism)  
Mr Raymond Siu Commissioner of Police  
Ms Louise So Deputy Secretary for Education (4)  
(for Secretary for Education)  
Dr Thomas Chung Consultant Community Medicine  
(Family and Student Health) (ConCM(FSH))  
(for Director of Health)  
Mr Wilson Kwong Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3)  
(for Director of Home Affairs)  
Ms Wendy Chau Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare)  
(for Director of Social Welfare)  
Ms Melissa Kaye Pang Chairperson of Family Council

**Non-official Members**

Ms Karin Ann  
Mr Peter Au Yeung Wai-hong  
Mr Chan Kin-ping  
Miss Anna May Chan Mei-lan  
Mr Winson Chow Wai-chung  
Ms Kathy Chung Lai-kam

Ms Heidi Hui Sim-kiu  
Prof Patrick Ip  
Dr Sanly Kam Shau-wan  
Ms Joyce Lee Yuen-sum  
Ms Winona Lo Oi-ling  
Ms Shalini Mahtani  
Mr Kenny Ng Kwan-lim  
Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung  
Dr Tang Chun-pan  
Dr Sandra Tsang Kit-man  
Mr Alan Tsoi Ka-lun  
Dr Rizwan Ullah  
Mr Gary Wong Chi-him  
Ms Donna Wong Chui-ling  
Dr Lilian Wong Hiu-lei  
Miss Koby Wong Lok-yin

**Secretary**

Ms Jeanne Cheng                      Principal Assistant Secretary for  
Labour and Welfare (Children)

**In attendance**

**Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office**

Mr Sammy Leung                      Administrative Assistant to  
Chief Secretary for Administration  
Mr Nicky Ng                              Press Secretary to Chief Secretary for Administration  
Ms Joyce Li                                Political Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration

**Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Ms Alice Lau                              Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
Ms Terry Cheung                        Chief Executive Officer (Children)

**Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB)**

[For item 4 only]

Mr Sam Wong                              Commissioner for Sports (C for S)  
Mr Moses Wu                              Assistant Secretary (Sports & Recreation) 3

**Education Bureau (EDB)**

[For item 4 only]

Ms Grace Law                              Principal Education Officer (Curriculum Development) 2  
(PEO(CD)2)

Ms Annie Wong                      Chief Curriculum Development Officer  
(Physical Education) (CCDO(PE))

**Security Bureau (SB)**

[For item 3 only]

Ms Priscilla To                      Deputy Secretary for Security 1 (DS for S1)  
Ms Sandy Cheung                      Principal Assistant Secretary (Security) E) (PAS(S)E)

**Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)**

Ms Yolanda Yu                      Chief Superintendent of Police  
(Crime Support)(Crime Wing)  
Mr Michael Chan                      Senior Superintendent of Police (Identification Bureau)  
[For item 3 only]                      (SSP IB)

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)**

[For item 4 only]

Ms Camay Lee                      Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 2 (AD(LS)2)  
Ms Pat Wong                      Chief Leisure Manager (Land-based Venues) (CLM(LV))  
Ms Doris Lo                      Chief Leisure Manager (Community Sports) (CLM(CS))

**Members absent with apologies**

**Ex-officio Member**

Dr Eliza Chan                      Chairperson of Women's Commission

**Non-official Members**

Miss Kelly Cheng Hui-kiu  
Mrs Jennifer Cheng Yu Ngar-wing  
Ms May Wong May-kwan

**Item 1: Confirmation of the Notes of the Nineteenth Meeting held on 4 December 2023**

The draft notes of the nineteenth meeting were circulated to Members on 9 February 2024 and no comment was received. The notes were confirmed without any amendment.

**Item 2: Matters Arising**

2. There was no matter arising from the last meeting.

**Item 3: Proposed Expansion of Sexual Conviction Record Check Scheme [Paper No. 2/2024]**

3. On CS' invitation, DS for S1 and PAS(S)E of SB briefed Members on the proposed arrangements of expanding the scope of the Sexual Conviction Record Check (SCRC) Scheme in phases to cover self-employed persons, volunteers and all existing employees.

4. Members supported the proposed expansion and appreciated the efforts made by the Government in protecting children from sexual abuse. Their suggestions and views were summarised as follows –

(a) Scope, implementation timeline and cost

(i) A specific timetable for the implementation of the proposed expansion of the SCRC Scheme, with clear definition of the target group(s) to be covered in each phase, should be set out.

(ii) Phase 2 of the proposal, which covered volunteers, should be implemented as soon as possible. Religious groups which provided various services to children should also be covered under the SCRC Scheme. A Member also suggested that SCRC should be made mandatory for all child-related practitioners in the long run.

- (iii) A few Members were concerned that the administrative costs and checking fees incurred would become a financial burden for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which usually engaged a substantial number of volunteers.
- (b) Capacity and enhanced electronic system of SCRC
- (i) The Police should expand service capacity of the SCRC Scheme and increase its efficiency to cater for the expected surge in the number of applications, for example, by adopting “group applications” submitted by employers/NGOs, streamlining the fingerprint-taking procedures, extending the service hours of SCRC Office and providing round-the-clock fingerprint-taking service in more police stations across the territory, etc.
  - (ii) Priority checking should be accorded to applicants with higher risk exposure, such as those with one-on-one or frequent contacts with children.
  - (iii) Reminders should be sent to individuals holding a valid checking code before the end of the validity period to facilitate renewal of their current SCRC accounts.
- (c) Publicity and public education
- (i) The Government should deliver positive messages for the expansion of SCRC Scheme through public education to avoid creating an atmosphere of distrust in society.
  - (ii) Parents generally had little knowledge or understanding of the SCRC Scheme. Promotion of the SCRC Scheme among parents should therefore be enhanced, preferably be conducted alongside other child protection related initiatives for synergy.
  - (iii) Training for child-related practitioners should include the SCRC Scheme.
  - (iv) A Member suggested the Government to undertake the checking for the members of Care Teams, and some

prominent NGOs could serve as pioneer in conducting the SCRC checking for their staff.

(d) Others

(i) Making reference to the prevailing practice for registered social workers and teachers, a Member suggested that child care workers upon registration should also report other criminal convictions to the registration authority for follow-up action.

(ii) As overseas sexual conviction records could not be reflected and verified in Hong Kong, a Member was concerned about the possible risks it might pose to children.

5. DS for S1 made the following responses -

(a) The phased implementation had taken into account the service capacity of the SCRC system and the level of risks of the three categories of persons covered in the expansion proposal. The efficiency and capacity of processing applications would be reviewed after the implementation of Phase 1.

(b) After launching Phase 1 in the third quarter of 2024, the Government would communicate with organisations on the implementation schedule of Phase 2 and draw up guidelines to facilitate organisations' assessment on the need for conducting checking for their volunteers and employees in terms of the risk involved.

(c) As recommended by the Law Reform Commission in light of the feedback collected in their public consultation, the SCRC would remain voluntary in nature to provide more flexibility.

(d) The importance of publicity and public education was noted. The Government would also enhance parent education to provide them with the details of the SCRC Scheme.

(e) Fingerprint-taking was necessary to ensure the accuracy of the checking result. Yet, the fingerprint-taking procedure would not be required for renewal applications.

6. SSP IB supplemented that applicants could opt to receive automatic reminder for renewal via SMS or email when they submit SCRC application.

7. SHYA clarified that all members of the Care Teams were required to declare that they did not have any conviction record. As regards the volunteers of the Care Teams, the district-based services they provided were mostly delivered in a team context. That said, consideration would be given to conducting SCRC on a need basis.

8. CS thanked Members for their views. He said that the Government attached utmost importance to the well-being of children. In addition to the voluntary SCRC, organisations should also adopt administrative measures to ensure that children would not be exposed to any risks of sexual abuse.

#### **Item 4: Promotion of Sports for Children in Hong Kong [Paper No. 3/2024]**

9. On CS' invitation, C for S of CSTB, PEO(CD)2 and CCDO(PE) of EDB, and AD(LS)2 of LCSD briefed members on the physical fitness of children in Hong Kong and the measures taken by the Government to foster a sporting culture among children at community and school levels, as well as its future work direction.

10. Members suggestions and views were summarised as follows –

(a) Sports venues and related facilities

(i) The Government could consider including more sports facilities in town planning and land development, and formulating policy to encourage developers to set up more sports and play facilities for children.

(ii) LCSD should take into consideration the children population in individual district in the provision of children's play rooms.

(iii) LCSD should consider providing more heated swimming

facilities, and extending the operating period of non-heated swimming facilities to promote swimming. LCSD should also endeavour to provide adequate lifeguard service in its swimming facilities.

- (iv) Priority could be accorded to children for the booking of LCSD's sports venues and facilities in specific session.
- (v) The Housing Department should consider enhancing the public play spaces of public housing areas by making reference to the successful examples under LCSD.
- (vi) LCSD should review the accessibility of sports facilities for children with disabilities.
- (vii) Consideration might be given to open schools' facilities and premises to NGOs and the community for conducting sport activities.

(b) Supporting measures

- (i) EDB was suggested to evaluate the effectiveness of the "MVPA60 Award Scheme" and step up its promotion effort.
- (ii) The Student Athletes Support Scheme (SASS) should be expanded to cover sport trainings and competitions conducted in the mainland China or overseas.
- (iii) Funding for training physical education (PE) teachers on the knowledge and coaching skills of urban sports should be considered under the Urban Sports Funding Scheme.
- (iv) A Member suggested including cricket, which was a popular sport among ethnic minority children, as one of the sports covered by various sport promoting schemes or initiatives to encourage community inclusion.

(c) Promoting a sporting culture

- (i) The Government should consider riding on the wave of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games in



2025 alongside other sports promoting initiatives, for example, “Sport For All Day”, to boost the sporting culture and awareness of physical fitness in the community.

- (ii) The Government was encouraged to host more large scale sports events and competitions, such as Hong Kong Sevens and the Hong Kong Marathon, to better engage the community in sports.
- (iii) The LCSD Edutainment Channel could include more interactive contents or activities to increase its attractiveness to children. The online sports resources could be more specific in targeting children of different groups or gender.
- (iv) The integration of sports and technology, for example, sports mobile applications, was suggested for use to help arouse the interest of children in doing sports.

(d) Physical health of children

- (i) The Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community could be conducted more regularly to understand the latest physical fitness condition of children. The data collected by the School Physical Fitness Award Scheme of EDB could also serve as a good reference point.
- (ii) It was suggested that a daily morning exercise session should be added in schools and the number of hours of PE lessons be increased to help students achieve the physical activity level recommended by the World Health Organization.
- (iii) Increasing screen time could be a main barrier for children’s participation on physical activity.

11. In response, AD(LS)2 said that LCSD was committed to continuously improving and enhancing its leisure and sports facilities. To tie in with the Olympic Games Paris 2024, LCSD would strengthen the promotion of “Sport For All Day 2024”, which would fall on the same period, and the sports activities related to the Olympics. On the promotion of

swimming, all LCSD newly completed swimming pools had equipped with heated pools. Swimming training courses were also provided to the public ranging from children to elderly.

12. C for S said that the SASS mainly supported local sports activities organised by the Schools Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China. Further enhancing the scheme to cover overseas sports activities and training would be subject to the availability of additional resources. To widen children's exposure to sports events, all "M" Mark Events funded by CSTB were required to reserve tickets for people with less privileged backgrounds. As for the development of urban sports, more students were expected to engage in urban sports given increasing inter-school collaborations and growing popularity of the sports.

13. PEO(CD)2 and CCDO(PE) said that schools were encouraged to promote sports and arrange diversified physical activities within and beyond the classroom. EDB issued a circular to schools in February 2024 providing advice on how to help students increase physical activity level and develop a healthy lifestyle. Schools would be provided with a one-off grant of \$150,000 for promotion of a sports ambience by organising sports-related activities, purchasing of sports equipment or hiring of sports coaches. EDB organised more than 150 sessions of professional development training for PE teachers each year, including workshops about the skills and teaching of urban sports and new sports.

14. USCST supplemented that it was the Government's policy intention for every major park to have its own distinctive features to attract visitors so that members of the public will be more willing to visit different parks. Subject to the availability of resources, CSTB and its departments would regularly review the eligibility and scope of coverage of different funding schemes to provide comprehensive support to children in need. The 2022 Policy Address had also announced a 10-Year Development Blueprint for Sports and Recreation Facilities to address the demand for more diversified sports and recreation facilities in Hong Kong.

15. Ag. S for Health said that the Advisory Committee on Mental Health (ACMH) supported the promotion of physical activities in school. The subject would be discussed in the future meeting of ACMH.

**Item 5: Progress Reports of the Working Groups  
[Paper No. 4-6/2024]**

16. The progress reports of the Working Group (WG) on Children Protection and WG on Promotion of Children's Rights and Development, Public Education and Engagement, WG on Research and Development, as well as WG on Children with Specific Needs were circulated to Members for information prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any view on the reports from Members.

**Item 6: Any Other Business**

17. A Member raised concern on the issue of forced marriage of ethnic minority young women in Hong Kong which covered different forms of abuses, and suggested that the age of marriage should be raised from 16 to 18, training to relevant professionals should be stepped up for identification of the girls in need and offering support to them, and a list of assistance should be compiled to facilitate the victims to seek help when necessary.

18. In response, CS said that coercing children under the age of 16 to get married or trafficking young girls for forced marriage were illegal acts. Such acts should be reported to the Police as soon as possible. The Government would continue to provide training for relevant professionals and prepare practical guidelines to facilitate early identification, reporting and intervention of child abuses, including cases of forced marriage, to dovetail with the implementation of the mandatory reporting regime of suspected child abuse cases. The proposed change of the minimum age for marriage would require a solid social consensus.

19. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

**Commission on Children Secretariat  
April 2024**