

**Minutes of the 32nd Meeting of
the Committee on Integrated Family Service Centres**

Date : 17 July 2019 (Wednesday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 922, 9/F., Revenue Tower, 5 Glousceter Road, Wan Chai,
Hong Kong

Present

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Ms SIU Kin-heung, Mabel	Chief Social Work Officer (Family and Child Welfare)1	(Chairperson)
Miss HAU Suk-kwan	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands)1	
Miss FUNG Hin-sum, Fanny	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern/Wan Chai)1	
Ms CHUNG Si-weng, Renee	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong)1	
Mr LAI Huen-lam, Stephen	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sham Shui Po)1	
Mr CHAN Ping-ching, Roy	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)1	
Mr TAM Kam-chi, Kelvin	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tai Po/North)2	
Ms YU Yuen-han, Jenny	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)1	
Miss LAI Po-yi, Yondy	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)2	
Ms CHAN Chun-mei	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung)2	
Mr LAM Chi-ming, James	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long)1	
Miss YIP Lai-ching	Oi/c Kai Ping Integrated Family Service Centre, representing Ms FUNG Man-yu, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Kwun Tong)2	
Ms SHUM Yan-yan	Acting Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung)1	
Ms CHAN Mei-yi	Senior Social Work Officer (Family)2	

Mr CHU Kam-sing, Daniel Social Work Officer(Family)(Special Duty)1 (Recorder)

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Mr MUI Wai-keung, Moses Chief Officer (Family and Community)
Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS)

Ms Eliza LAM Head of Family Service
Caritas – Hong Kong

Mr NG Ka-kui, Charles Programme Director (Family and Community)
Christian Family Service Centre

Ms Judy CHAN Head of Service
Hong Kong Family Welfare Society

Ms KONG Shuk-wah, Florence Service Head (Family and Counselling Service)
Hong Kong Christian Service (HKCS)

Mrs Angela CHIU Executive Director
The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
(CMAC)

Ms TSUI Shuk-yin, Terry Social Work Supervisor
Hong Kong Children and Youth Services

Ms KEUNG Choi-yin Service Director
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited

Mr CHAM Kwok-wing, Kerin Director of Programme
International Social Service Hong Kong Branch

Mr WONG Chiu-man, Raymond Senior Manager
St James' Settlement (SJS)

Ms YAM Pui-wah, Zerlina Islands and Tung Chung District Supervisor
The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council

Ms Brenda CHUNG Assistant Community Services Secretary (Youth and
Family), Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

Ms Wendy WONG Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Family)
Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service

In attendance

SWD

Ms KWAN Po-shan, Avis Social Work Officer (Family)3

Mr PANG Ting-man, Rick	Social Work Officer (Family)1 designate
Ms LAI Yuet-ki, Alice	Social Work Officer (Family)5
Ms LEUNG Ngan-yin, Cecilia	Assistant Social Work Officer (Family)1

Welcoming remarks

The Chairperson welcomed Mr PANG Ting-man, Social Work Officer (Family)1 designate, and Ms LEUNG Ngan-yin, Cecilia, Assistant Social Work Officer (Family)1, to the meeting. She extended her welcome to Ms SHUM Yan-yan, the Acting Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung)1, and Miss YIP Lai-ching, who attended the meeting on behalf of Ms FUNG Man-yu, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Kwun Tong)2.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The Chairperson informed that the draft minutes of the 31st meeting had been sent to Members via email on 13.7.2019. No amendment was proposed and the minutes of the said meeting was confirmed.

[Post-meeting note: The minutes can be downloaded at the following link : https://www.swd.gov.hk/storage/asset/section/2467/en/Minutes_of_31st_Committee_on_IFSCs_9.4.2019.pdf]

Matters arising

Enhanced Services of Family Child Protective Services Unit (FCPSUs)(para. 2-6)

3. Ms Chan Mei-yi reported that after consultation with the Committee on Integrated Family Service Centres (Committee) and the Working Group on Review on the Operation of Integrated Family Service Centre Services (WG), the Domestic Violence Team (DVT) had finalised the enhanced services of FCPSUs and issued the detailed arrangements to all casework units including Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)/Integrated Service Centres (ISCs) through email on 20.6.2019.

4. In respect of the progress of the review on the Procedural Guide for Handling Child Abuse Cases (Procedural Guide), DVT had continued to collect views from the relevant stakeholders/professionals in relation to the educational services, medical checks, the roles of different disciplines for child protection and the draft revised Procedural Guide through the following platforms —

- i) Focus Group Meeting on Educational Services on 29.4.2019; and
- ii) The 5th Meeting of the Task Group on Review of the Procedural Guide on 18.6.2019.

5. The draft revised Procedural Guide was also discussed in the Committee on Child Abuse (CCA) meeting held on 9.7.2019. Having further consulted and collected views from CCA members, the draft was issued to SWD staff, NGOs and other related

professionals on 12.7.2019. DVT was going to organise four identical consultation sessions in August 2019 and welcomed all feedback/comments by the end of September 2019.

Progress of five Specialised Co-parenting Support Centres (SCSCs) (paras. 7 and 21 – 22)

6. Ms Alice LAI reported that the invitation for proposals to run four SCSCs (i.e. excluding the one of West Kowloon(WK) cluster to be operated by Hong Kong Family Welfare Society (HKFWS) by transforming from the Pilot Project of Children Contact Service) had been issued on 25.2.2019. A total of 17 proposals were received upon the closing of the submission. After vetting, the announcement of successful operators had been made in early July 2019. The Hong Kong(HK) and East Kowloon(WK) cluster would be served by CMAC, New Territories East (NTE) cluster by The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA) and New Territories West (NTW) cluster by SJS. It was planned that apart from WK cluster which would commence service on 21.9.2019, the other four SCSCs, would come into service by 1.10.2019. To arouse the public awareness to the new service and for the promotion of the concept of parental responsibility, FCWB was going to arrange a mobile promotion truck to visit 11 districts tentatively between October and November 2019. Details of the publicity would be announced soon.

Collaboration issues between IFSCs/ISCs and Pilot Scheme on Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions (the "Pilot Scheme")(paras. 8-11)

7. Ms CHAN reported that the invitation for proposal for implementing Phase 2 of the Pilot Scheme Pilot Scheme was completed. Upon vetting, SWD selected 17 proposals (including 13 operating full Social Work Teams and four operating half-teams) to implement the service in August 2019 to tie in with the commencement of the new school semester in PPIs.

8. The Child Welfare Team (CWT) has drawn up a Reference Guide for the Pilot Scheme by making reference to "A Guide on Multi-disciplinary Collaboration in School Social Work Service". A meeting with all supervisors of the Pilot Scheme for both Phase 1 & 2 would be arranged on 25.7.2019, in which one of the agenda items is on whether they have further views towards the draft version of the Reference Guide. Afterwards, the final version of the Reference Guide would be compiled and issued to other casework units concerned to facilitate mutual understanding and further service collaboration. CWT targeted to issue the Reference Guide in July 2019.

9. In general, PPI social workers would render casework service in accordance with the "one family one caseworker" principle. In case there are more than one operating units providing casework service to the child and his/her family, a key worker should be agreed among the service units. PPI social workers would solely take up the case and assume the key worker role if (i) the problem is primarily related to the child's development and difficulties in relation to his/her emotion, behavior and relationship with other persons, e.g. parent-child relationship, adjustment to PPI; or (ii) the problem is predominantly PPI-related, e.g. teacher-child/parent issues.

10. The Reference Guide only sets out the principles governing the arrangement when collaborating with other service units and by no means exhaustive in content. PPI social workers have been advised to follow with flexibility, always taking into consideration the welfare and interests of the service users. A more detailed guideline would be worked out

in consultation with all service operators and relevant stakeholders upon the full implementation of all three phases of the Pilot Scheme or upon its regularisation, if any, and making reference to the recommendations of the evaluation study of the Pilot Scheme.

11. PPIs had been one of the key working partners in the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) platform. To enhance the cooperation with PPIs, CWT has liaised with the Department of Health to organise a training session for PPI social workers to impart on the knowledge about CCDS service and the services provided by Maternal and Child Health Centres, as well as their collaboration with other service units in September 2019. The training would also provide an overview on the assessment of parenting capacity, as well as the roles and functions of Child Assessment Centres.

12. In response to a question on the division of work between IFSCs and the Pilot Scheme, Ms CHAN advised Members to make reference to the Reference Guide to be issued by the CWT. Ms CHAN also reiterated that when talking about division of work, the welfare and interests of service users should always be upheld. Basically, for problems primarily related to the child's development and difficulties in relation to his/her emotion, behaviour and relationship with other persons, such as waitlisting for rehabilitation service solely, PPI social workers would take up the case and assume the key worker role in handling the child's case should the case was not known to other casework service unit. As for the division of work between On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Service (OPRS) and IFSCs where the social workers were not serving as caseworkers/referrers in assisting the children for the concerned service, some Members would like to have more information of the role of OPRS social workers. Ms CHAN would seek more information from the Rehabilitation and Medical Social Service Branch (RMB) which would be shared with Members thereafter.

[Post-meeting note: Information gathered from RMB indicated that OPRS social workers would handle any issues of the child related to the OPRS provided and any collaboration matters related to the networked kindergartens/ kindergarten-cum-child care centres under OPRS. Social workers of OPRS would not take up the role as the referrer for other subvented pre-school rehabilitation services.]

Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Guidelines for Handling of Elder Abuse Cases (para. 13)

13. Ms CHAN reported that the Elderly Branch (EB) had arranged a meeting with the representatives of NGO IFSCs/ISCs and HKCSS on 24.6.2019 to exchange views on the proposed revisions on the Procedural Guidelines for Handling Elder Abuse Cases (the Guidelines), in particular, the division of work among welfare units. EB shared the rationale of proposed revisions, relevant statistics and views of NGO elderly services etc. As shared by members in the WG meeting held on 27.6.2019, NGO IFSCs/ISCs viewed that despite the small number of elder abuse cases, NECs/IHCS should continuously handle these cases as stipulated in the current Guidelines in consideration of elderly service units' acquaintance with the elderly persons. EB would follow-up on different views between IFSCs/ISCs and NECs/IHCs.

14. In view of the divergent views about division of work among welfare units, Mr Moses MUI suggested that the collaboration issue would be further discussed in the Committee meeting, given that the issue was related to IFSC service with policy

implication.

Sharing on the Development of Parenting Capacity Assessment Framework (PCAF) (para. 14)

15. Ms CHAN reported that the PCAF manual for children aged between 0 to 36 months was being examined by the Task Group on PCAF. The revised version, to be issued to Members in correction mode, would be ready for use by August 2019. The production of videos for the two half-day seminars held on 9.5.2019 and 29.5.2019 is in progress and would be uploaded to the e-learning centre of Staff Development and Training Section by August 2019. Also, the guiding notes of PCAF (0 to 36 months) for Family Aides would be incorporated into the PCAF manual (0 to 12 months) once it is ready for use. Members would be kept abreast of the progress.

Training courses (para. 15)

16. Ms Avis KWAN reported on the training courses conducted/to be conducted from 9.4.2019 to 30.9.2019 with the aid of power power presentation. For the training in psychological first aid and working with ethnic minorities (EMs), she encouraged Members to nominate at least one staff to attend the training programmes concerned.

Family Support Programme(FSP)

17. Ms KWAN informed that in light of the positive feedback, the workshop on training up social workers to equip family support persons to provide support for vulnerable/hidden families would be conducted again in Q4 of 2019. IFSC/ISC colleagues would be invited to share their valuable experience at the workshop. Mr Kevin TAM shared the pilot collaborative project "Community Carer Cafe" (Cafe) carried out in the Tai Po and North (TP/N) district through community partnership with resources pooling together to serve the needy. The Cafe was jointly run by four SWD IFSCs and the Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centre (HKFCW) with synergy achieved from service collaboration, i.e. IFSCs providing venues and facilities while HKFCW arranging volunteers to operate the Cafe and training up volunteers as caring ambassadors. The Cafe, opened on particular dates at specific venues (i.e. two sessions a month in SWD IFSCs), provided a stable and relaxing place for the carers of different vulnerable groups (e.g. elders, disabled persons, children with special education needs, physically and mentally ill, etc.) to take a break and develop their mutual support networks. Family support persons had been mobilised to serve as volunteers in the Cafe and helped early identify needy carers in distress for early intervention by IFSC social workers. Since commencement of the project in October 2018, a total of 348 carers were served by 79 volunteers in the Cafe. Given the successful pilot experience, the operation of the Cafe would be extended to an NGO IFSC and some Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres in TP/N district.

Family aide (FA) (paras. 19 – 20)

18. Ms KWAN updated Members that 6 additional FAs in FCPSUs had been in post in August 2019. IFSCs/ISCs could refer the needy cases to the FCPSUs concerned for FA service as appropriate.

Additonal Manpower Resources for NGO IFSCs/ISCs (para. 25)

19. The Chairperson informed that in the allocation of additional manpower for NGO IFSCs/ISCs, one additional Assistant Social Work Officer (ASWO) would be provided for each NGO IFSC/ISC and one FA for each IFSC/ISC (i.e. 26 ASWOs and 14 FAs) which do not have such provision. Under the additional provision, the output levels would be adjusted correspondingly. Upon sorting out the detailed arrangement and obtaining subsequent endorsement of the Director of Social Welfare, the additional resources would be provided to NGO IFSCs/ISCs in Q4 of 2019. Application for minor grants under Lotteries Fund would be made to meet the furniture and equipment costs as required.

Outreaching Team for Ethnic Minorities (OTEM) (para. 26)

20. Mr Daniel CHU reported that invitation for proposal to operate OTEMs had been announced on 31.5.2019. The briefing for the invitation exercise took place on 12.6.2019. Closing of invitation would be scheduled for 26.7.2019. The service contents were worked out in consultation with NGOs operating varied services for EMs. While the mission of OTEM is to connect the needy EMs to mainstream welfare services through outreaching, a package of casework, group and mass programmes would be provided. In the provision of casework service, OTEM would provide short-term intervention during outreaching and casework support for the needy clients, and the role of case manager would be vested in the social workers of mainstream casework units. For those EMs assessed to be in need of referral services and having difficulty expressing themselves in Chinese or English, OTEMs would provide the needed support (e.g. escort, simple interpretation and translation services and assistance in filling in the related application forms) for them so that the needy EMs could receive mainstream welfare services promptly. It was planned that announcement of operators would take place in October 2019, and service operation would be commenced on or before 1.3.2020.

Collaboration issues between IFSCs/ISCs and MSSUs of SWD (para. 30)

21. Ms CHAN reported that since the collaboration issues had been resolved in localized mechanisms, the subject would be taken out from the Committee meeting as agreed in the meeting.

Review of IFSC/ISC service boundaries and updated population (para. 45)

22. Ms LAI reported that on 2.5.2019, an email had been sent to ADSWOs supervising IFSCs with enclosures of maps and projected information of the DC Election Constituencies 2019 concerning update of service boundaries of IFSCs/ISCs. Mr Kerin CHAM pointed out that apart from changes in the DC Election Constituencies, considerations should also be given to influx of population upon establishment of new public housing estates. The Chairperson remarked that the district may take into account such factor in finalizing the service boundaries. The expected date of return would be set on 1.1.2020 where the new DC Election Constituencies would take effect.

Progress of follow-up on the recommendations of the Review on the Implementation of the IFSC Service Mode

Updates on the follow up actions taken

23. Ms KWAN briefed members the updated progress of the follow-up on the 26

recommendations in respect of the review on the implementation of IFSC service model as at 1.7.2019.

Progress of work under various working groups

(i) Working Group on Review on the Operation of IFSC Services (WG)

24. Ms LAI reported that the major issues under various working groups had been thoroughly examined in the present meeting. An agenda for examining the issue relating to collaboration between IFSCs/ISCs and school social workers would be put up in the coming WG meetings for further deliberation.

(ii) Liaison Group on Issues relating to Housing Assistance Cases (LG)

25. Ms KWAN reported that the next LG meeting would take place on 28.8.2019. Members were encouraged to bring up collaboration issues with HD to Local LGs and LG for discussion.

Review on Processing of Compassionate Rehousing (CR) Cases (The Review)

26. Mr Daniel CHU reported that upon completion of the formal consultation on the Review launched between September and November 2019, the summary of views and enhancement measures had been issued to all the respondents and stakeholders on 18.6.2019. As agreed in the last meeting, the implementation progress of the enhancement measures would be shared in the Committee meeting half-yearly or subject to the circumstances. He furthered that the 2nd meeting of the Task Force for processing CR cases (Task Force) had taken place on 20.6.2019. Among others, he highlighted the gist of discussion in the Task Force.

[Post-meeting note: As agreed in the 2nd meeting of the Task Force on Processing of Compassionate Rehousing (CR) Cases, a summary of discussion on the principles on processing compassionate rehousing would be issued (i.e. similar to the practice of the Liaison Group on Issues Relating to Housing Assistance Cases). Details please refer to the summary of discussion to be issued later.]

Use of flexibility for the genuinely deserving cases

27. Mr CHU furthered that FCWB would draw up the assessment parameters for CR with particular reference to the case discussions. Members agreed that flexibility should always be exercised for those genuine deserving cases for CR, particularly in exploring other feasible housing alternatives with the client.

List of Suggested Enquiry Item (SEI)

28. Ms KWAN reported that FCWB had met the representatives of Medical/Geriatric Departments in the Core Group Meeting of Central-Coordinating Committee in Internal Medicine on 3.7.2019 to discuss the issues relating to the list of SEI. As reflected by the chairperson of the meeting, medical officers were prepared to complete the list by providing

medical information. Some medical officers shared their their hesitation to indicate support CR on medical ground. Meanwhile, FCWB was consulting the related medical officers of Department of Health. To facilitate social workers to use the list of SEI, FCWB would prepare the points-to-note for reference of social workers so as to facilitate the use of the SEI list. She would keep Members posted of the progress.

Any Other Business

Director of Social Welfare's letter to NGOs operating youth and family services dated 4.7.2019

29. The Chairperson informed that the Director of Social Welfare (DSW) had sent a letter to 49 NGOs operating youth and family services on 4.7.2019. During this critical time where many young persons and families are filled with sentiments and emotions due to recent disputes in the community, the Department is ready to exercise flexibility on individual service units' meeting of output standards under the relevant Funding and Service Agreements. NGOs are encouraged to share with the Department any service initiatives or programme proposals that may tide over the crises of young people and their families during this critical time and address their emotional needs, and the Department would favourably consider allocating additional resources for the implementation of proposals as appropriate.

30. Mr MUI enquired if there are any parameters set for submission of proposal and if supporting documents are required in the submission. The Chairperson replied that while the details are yet to be worked out, she welcomed NGOs to have initial discussion with FCWB before concretising their proposals.

Purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities

31. Ms CHAN brought Member's attention to a LegCo Welfare Panel Paper on purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities dated 10.6.2019. As announced in the 2019-20 Budget, \$20 billion would be allocated for the Government to purchase properties over some 3 years for accommodating welfare facilities, including IFSCs premises. The Government would optimise the use of budget allocation to purchase as many premises as possible for accommodating welfare facilities, including six NGO IFSCs in Kowloon City and Yau Tsim District, Kwun Tong District, Sha Tin District and Yuen Long District (i.e. two in Yuen Long District). Upon securing funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, SWD would brief the 18 District Councils and listen to their views on the proposed lists of welfare facilities for the districts concerned. A steering committee under the chairmanship of DSW and comprising membership from the Government Property Agency would be set up in the Department to make collective decisions on the purchase of premises. Members were assured that apart from purchasing premises for the provision of welfare facilities under the scheme, SWD had been maintaining close contact with relevant departments to identify suitable sites in the development or redevelopment projects of public housing estates and urban renewal projects for providing welfare facilities.

Support service to individual and families with members holding re-entry permits

32. The Chairperson informed that a meeting had been held between SWD and the

Concern Group “中港單親媽媽關注組” and two community workers from Caritas Community Centre – Tsuen Wan on 20.5.2019. In the meeting, it was clarified that single mothers holding two-way permits in adversity could apply for food assistance and Direct Cash Assistance for their children. For outdoor programmes, there would be no issue with departmental units as all clients would be fully insured by the government. However, the re-entry permit holders would not be able to act as volunteers unless with the approval of Director of Immigration. Members were encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of the frontline social workers so that prompt service could be provided for the needy single mothers on two-way permits.

Public Education Pamphlets on Stress Management

33. Ms CHAN informed that the Clinical Psychological Service Branch (CPSB) had published the following set of public education pamphlets on stress management which were tabled to Members –

- (a) Stress management for critical incidents with tips on managing the psychological responses to critical incidents
- (b) Post-traumatic stress disorder introducing the symptoms and treatment of the disorder
- (c) Helping children get over trauma introducing children’s psychological response to and recovery from trauma
- (d) Handling traumatic grief introducing possible symptoms and tips on self-help

34. The pamphlets have been uploaded to Departmental Homepage and all IFSCs and the public can access the pamphlets through the following link:

https://www.swd.gov.hk/tc/index/site_pubsvc/page_cps/sub_pamphlets/

35. Hard copies of the above pamphlets have been/would be delivered to SWD IFSCs for public distribution. If NGO IFSCs/ISCs without their own agency clinical psychologist need such pamphlets for public distribution, they can contact Mr CHAN Yiu-kee, Chief Clinical Psychologist of CPSB, for further enquiry. For NGO IFSCs/ISCs having their own agency clinical psychologists (CPs), as the related service would be provided by the agency CPs, while the pamphlets advising the needed persons to approach SWD IFSCs for referrals, hard copies of the pamphlets would not be provided to these service units. Members are encouraged to remind staff to refer the needy case, e.g. youth with emotion problems for CP service.

Promotion of Parental Responsibility by Mobile Truck

36. Ms CHAN informed that to arouse the public awareness to the new service and for the promotion of the concept of parental responsibility, FCWB is going to arrange a mobile promotion truck to visit 11 districts tentatively between October and November 2019. FCWB issued a mail of 24.6.2019 to DDCP(PR)s copied to ADSWOs supervising IFSCs regarding the matter. DDCP(PR)s who would work on establishing networks and collaboration with other stakeholders in district for introducing/promoting the concept of parenting responsibility and co-parenting, would be enlisted to coordinate with district colleagues/units (i.e. SWD/NGOs IFSCs’/ISCs and the related SCSC) to arrange the promotion activities by using the truck for consecutive 4 weeks between October to

November 2019. During this period, the mobile truck with the game activities, souvenirs and video show would convey the theme of parental responsibility. The game booth, TV, popcorn machine and decoration of the truck would be prepared by the contractor. A driver and an assistant would be provided by the supplier of the mobile truck during the promotion service. Yet, it can also provide a platform or channel for district to introduce IFSCs or other community service if appropriate. Just like the setting up of promotion booth commonly used by IFSCs in the district for service introduction.

37. Ms LAI furthered that for planning the route of the mobile truck, the said email was sent to DDCP(PR)s for assistance to suggest 3-4 spots, e.g. housing estates, place near the shopping hall or community areas in their respective districts where the truck can be parked and serve the promotion service. The suggested spots would be returned to DVT who would work out the schedule of mobile truck of each district. Tentatively, each district would be responsible to man the promotion activities of the mobile truck for 3 days in average. When the time slot is worked out by DVT, the district colleagues may involve NGOs and volunteers if appropriate to assist in manning the promotion activities in the truck for introducing/promoting the concept of Parental Responsibility and explain related community service or resource when public make enquiry. The involved IFSCs/ISCs could report it as a co-organising programme and in the quarterly statistics on promoting parental responsibility and co-parenting.

Consultation Paper on Causing or Allowing the Death or Serious Harm of a Child or Vulnerable Adult

38. Ms CHAN informed that the Sub-committee on Causing or Allowing the Death of a Child or Vulnerable Adult under the Law Reform Commission (LRC) had published a consultation paper in June 2019 wherein a new offence of “Failure to protect” would be proposed as shown on the screen. With introduction of the said offence under recommendation 1 and the range of those potentially liable to the offence under recommendation 6 of the LRC report, she alerted Members that social workers, particularly those handling DSW Ward cases, may be liable to the new offence due to negligence of duty of care” to the victims. Re the proposed offence, apart from SWD, NGOs are also welcome to provide comments to the Secretary of the Sub-committee on or before 16.8.2019.

Interpretation Service for Ethnic Minorities(EMs)

39. Ms KWAN informed that as one of the new initiatives announced in the CE’s Policy Address 2018, the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minorities Residents (CHEER) had enhanced the interpretation service for EMs to facilitate their access to public services. The enhancements were listed below –

- (a) For telephone interpretation service, separate lines were provided in eight languages including Vietnamese and a direct line for service providers.
- (b) The Language Identification Card was revised to include Vietnamese. The revised cards had been disseminated to the frontline services units for use.
- (c) NGO might apply for waiving of the fee incurred from on-site interpretation service. On-site (escort) interpretation service, simultaneous interpretation service and translation service and proof-reading service for NGOs and non-private schools listed in Education Bureau were free of charge.
- (d) Interpretation service would be provided for large-scale event with head set

facilities.

- (e) CHEER would provide simultaneous interpretation for short-term programmes.
- (f) If service users self-approached CHEER, CHEER would assist users to make requests for interpretation service to the respective SWD units through the use of the bridging form, and would communicate between the SWD units and the users.
- (g) CHEER welcomed service units/district to contact them for arrangement of training/sharing session.

40. She added that FCWB had updated the “points-to-note for providing welfare service for EMS” with an additional sample notice in Vietnamese. Updated version would be disseminated to the frontline service units by August 2019.

Handling of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases with divorced persons

41. Ms CHAN informed that for divorced persons who were not the maintenance payees or had got only a nominal maintenance order (e.g. a maintenance payment being \$1.00 per annum from ex-spouse), they were not required to file claims for maintenance as a condition for CSSA payments. On the other hand, for divorced persons had failed to receive full maintenance payments, unless with acceptable reasons (for example there was no way to find out the ex-spouse’s whereabouts, there was well-founded fear of the ex-spouse who had records of violent behavior, etc or there was adequate evidence that the ex-spouse had no financial means to comply with the maintenance order), they were required to seek assistance to enforce the maintenance order as a condition for CSSA payments. Before outstanding maintenance payments were recovered, divorced persons who had the intention to take action in filing claims for enforcement of the maintenance order could continue to receive CSSA payment without deducting the maintenance payment.

42. In response to questions raised by some members, the Chairperson confirmed the understanding that once the referral was made to apply for legal aid to seek enforcement of maintenance order, he/she would be eligible for CSSA subject to other eligibility criteria being met. She also confirmed that the aforesaid arrangement had been in effect.

Date of next meeting

43. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting would be scheduled for 25.10.2019 (Friday) at 2:30 p.m. at Conference Room 918, 9/F., Wu Chung House, 213 Queen’s Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

(Remark : Ms CHAN would be posted out on 8.10.2019. The Chairperson took this opportunity to express thanks to Ms CHAN for her past contribution to the Committee.)

[Post-meeting note: The 33rd Meeting of the Committee on IFSCs was rescheduled to 9.12.2019 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m. at Room 922, 9/F., Revenues Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.]

Family and Child Welfare Branch
Social Welfare Department
October 2019