

Commission on Children convenes 25th meeting

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, today (May 29) chaired the 25th meeting of the Commission on Children.

At the meeting, members received a briefing by the Government on the latest situation of the preparatory work for the implementation of the mandatory reporting regime for child abuse cases. The policy objective of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance is to mandate 25 categories of specified professionals in the social welfare, education and healthcare sectors to report serious child abuse cases, thereby creating a wide and effective protection web for children and sending a strong deterrent to potential perpetrators that their abusive behaviours will easily be exposed.

Together with the relevant professions, the Government is proactively making preparations for the commencement of the Ordinance next January. The Government launched the Child Protection Campaign, which comprises publicity and promotion, education and training. It aims to enhance the understanding of the specified professionals as well as the general public regarding the mandatory reporting regime and to raise their awareness about child protection. Mr Chan said that child protection is a long-term commitment that must be sustained to ensure that professionals remain vigilant at all times and that awareness of child protection is rooted in the hearts of the general public.

In addition, the Education Bureau, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Social Welfare Department briefed members on the latest developments of parent education by the Government and the various measures implemented by the Government to support the growth and well-being of children. These measures assist parents in enhancing their parental capacity, enabling their children to develop more healthily and positively while fostering an environment conducive to the nurturing of the next generation for families. Members welcomed the Government's various initiatives to ensure that children grow up healthily in love and care.