

Transcript of remarks by SLW on judgment of child neglect case

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, on the judgment of a case of neglect of a child handed down by the Court of First Instance of the High Court this afternoon (June 29) after attending the "Unleashing Rehabilitated Offenders' Potential" Employment Symposium of the Correctional Services Department:

Reporter: How would the Government improve the current mechanism to avoid these incidents from happening again?

Secretary for Labour and Welfare: From the education and also from the welfare perspective, we do consider that there are things we can improve. In particular, because most of the vulnerable children are very young, it is very important to improve the services that we are providing both at the primary school and also the kindergarten level.

Starting from next year, we will be providing school social work service to the kindergartens in Hong Kong (Pilot Scheme on Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions). Although it is a pilot, it will take probably three years for us to fully provide the whole service to all the close to 1 000 kindergartens (child care centres, kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-child care centres) in Hong Kong, we have to start. It is important for us to ensure that the service at the end will be provided to all those children.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)