

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 October 2003)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Review of CSSA and OAA

At the meeting on 8 July 2002, the Administration agreed to report to members on the findings of the overall review of CSSA and OAA and consult the public on any proposed changes. OAA was discussed at the 9 December 2002 meeting under Financial Support for Older Persons, and an update on CSSA was given by the Administration on 10 February 2003.

The subject was covered in the Legislative Council Brief on 'The Way Forward for the Social Security System' issued on 25 February 2003 to Members

2. Proposed Unemployment Relief Fund

At the Panel meeting on 10 October 2002, Ms LI Fung-ying proposed to invite the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food to brief members on the proposed Unemployment Relief Fund. According to the Administration, the subject will be considered in the context of CSSA Review under item 1 above.

The subject was covered in the Legislative Council Brief on 'The Way Forward for the Social Security System' issued on 25 February 2003 to Members in the context of the proposed intensified support for self-reliance measures

3. Report of the Subcommittee on Guardianship and Custody of the Law Reform Commission (LRC)

At the meeting held on 11 March 2002, members agreed that the Administration should brief the Panel on the above report when it became available.

To be fixed after the LRC issues the remaining report on the subject of guardianship and custody

Proposed timing for discussion

4. Benchmarking enhanced functions of District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs)

The above issue was proposed by the Administration. At the Panel meeting on 8 April 2002, members were briefed on the enhanced functions of DSWOs following the re-organisation of SWD. In response to a member's suggestion, the Administration agreed to consider commissioning a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the enhanced functions of DSWOs, including the response of the community on the new arrangements. Discussion is tentatively planned for September 2003 upon completion of the study.

Report submitted by Consultant Team in September 2003. Ready to report to Panel at its first meeting.

5. Study on the perceptions and experiences of discrimination of people with mental illness in Hong Kong

The above study was jointly conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Department of Psychiatry of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Department of Social Work of the Hong Kong Baptist University. Three relevant papers on the study were issued to the Panel on Home Affairs, and copied to all LegCo Members, on 28 November 2002 vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)487/02-03(01) to (03). In response to a member's request for discussion, the Panel on Home Affairs agreed at its meeting on 10 January 2003 that since the subject came under the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, it should be referred to the Panel on Welfare Services for follow-up action.

To be fixed. Responses to the points raised in the study report being collated from HA, DH and SWD.

6. Social welfare planning mechanism

The above issue was proposed by the Administration.

To be fixed

Proposed timing for discussion

7. Subsidy arrangements for residential care services for frail elders

The Administration undertook to consult members on the finalised Fee Assistance Scheme for residential care services for frail elders, taking into account the suggestion of establishing a separate financial assistance scheme for elders and other views expressed by members on the matter on 12 May 2003.

To be fixed

8. Assessment mechanism in respect of residential placement for people with disabilities and the Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Item proposed by Hon WONG Sing-chi at the meeting on 7 July 2003.

Consultations with stakeholders including parents' groups under way.

To be fixed

9. Central waiting list for subsidized long term care services for the elderly

Members agreed at the meeting on 7 July 2003 to discuss an information paper entitled "Central waiting list for subsidized long term care services for the elderly" prepared by the Administration, having regard to the views and concerns from the social welfare sector regarding the measures outlined in the paper.

SWD has conducted extensive consultation on the implementation of the central waiting list during the past few months. In addition to submitting a paper to the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services on 7 July 2003, SWD consulted the Elderly Commission and the Working Group and

Steering Committee on Standardized Care Need Assessment Mechanism, and briefed and shared views with service providers and other concerned parties from June to August. SWD has taken into account the major views and concerns of the social welfare sector in drawing up the draft manual of procedures, which was distributed to frontline case workers during two briefing sessions held in early September. SWD is in the final stage of upgrading its computer system and preparing the manual of procedures for implementation of the central waiting list as from November.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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