

**Sub-committee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Education Needs**

**Provision of Support Services for Children with Special Education Needs
and School Leavers of Special Schools by Social Welfare Department**

Purpose

1. This paper informs members of the provision of rehabilitation services by Social Welfare Department (SWD) for supporting children with special education needs and school leavers of special schools.

Support Services for Children with Special Education needs

2. SWD is primarily providing rehabilitation services for pre-school children and adults with disabilities. School-age disabled children with residential care needs may apply for the boarding services of the special schools or make use of the support services provided by SWD. Support services suitable for these students include small group home and community support services. General information on these two services is as follows.

*Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children [SGH(MMHC)]/
Integrated Small Group Home [ISGH]*

3. The SGH(MMHC) provides residential care in a home-like environment for mildly mentally handicapped children aged 6-18 who cannot be properly taken care of by their family members. There are 32 places at SGH(MMHC). To achieve the goal of integration, mildly mentally handicapped children can also be placed in small group homes for ordinary children at the ratio of one MMHC to 7 ordinary children (ISGH). At present there are 24 ISGH places. Due to the limitations of the environment of the SGH(MMHC) and ISGH, these homes are unable to provide respite service. MMHC children having urgent temporary residential care needs may consider using the Emergency Foster Care Service subvented by SWD. Generally, children in SGH(MMHC) or ISGH would leave the service when the caring problem of their family is improved.

Community Support Services

4. SWD provides a series of community support services to people with disabilities to prepare them for better integration into the community as well as to strengthen the carers' caring capacity and to relieve their stress in discharging the caring duties. For children with disabilities, their carers may make use of the **holiday care** and **family-based respite services** for temporary care after school or during public holidays and long school holidays. Under the family-based respite service, the children could be escorted for medical consultation or recreational activities when their carers are unable to take care of them for personal reasons. These two services are first launched in March 2002 and re-launched as part of the new package of community-based support projects in October 2005 with the coverage of the services extended to territory-wide by 14 non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The two services are much welcomed by parents of the children with special education needs. In the quarter July to September 2005, 943 users out of a total of 1201 users of the holiday care service were students while for family-based respite service, 66 users out of a total of 183 users were students.

5. Children aged over 15 years in need of temporary residential care may make use of the **residential respite service** for short-term care. The duration of the respite would generally not exceeding 14 days but the agency could flexibly adjust the period according to individual case merit. Since 2004, a total of 174 respite places are provided in 83 subvented residential care homes for the disabled.

Rehabilitation Services for School Leavers of Special Schools

6. Upon graduation from special schools, children with disabilities may consider the various day and vocational training services provided by SWD to train them to be more independent in their daily lives or equip them with the vocational skills so as to prepare them for gainful employment. These services include day activity centre; sheltered workshop; supported employment; integrated vocational training centre; integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre; On-the-Job Training Programme; and Sunnyway – On-the-Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities. There are 170 residential places at one of the integrated vocational training centres.

7. Those with residential care needs may also apply for the various residential

care homes for people with disabilities (RCHDs) including: home for the moderately mentally handicapped; home for the severely mentally handicapped; home for the severely physically handicapped; care and attention home for the severely disabled; and supported hostel. A breakdown on the updated provisions of day and vocational training services and residential care services is at Annex. Apart from the services provided by SWD above, three skills centres of the Vocational Training Council also offer a total of 630 vocational training places, of which 120 are for boarders.

8. To strengthen the support for people with disabilities (PWD) living in the community and their carers, various community support programmes are available to address their varying needs. The government-funded community support programmes include: home-based training and support services; respite service; holiday care service; family-based respite service; home care service; day care service for the severely disabled; intensive home care service; social and recreational centre for the disabled; gateway club; etc.

9. Despite that the provision of the various RCHDs had almost doubled during the past ten years, the waiting lists for the services continued to grow. While SWD will continue to provide additional places to meet the waiting list, it is necessary to target the service on those in need to speed up the waiting time. To identify PWD with genuine need for residential services and to match them with appropriate types of services so as to ensure timely service for needy persons, SWD implemented the Standardized Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for People with Disabilities in January 2005. Through this mechanism, PWD assessed to be not in need of residential care service could receive other types of day training or community support services and leave the waiting list. They could apply for residential care services again when their circumstances have changed and they become in need of residential care service.

10. Beyond the government funded provisions, SWD noticed there are about 20 private hostels taking care of around 1000 PWDs. Most of these hostels are set up in village buildings located in New Territories and they admit mainly adult PWDs of different disabilities. The Administration had issued a Code of Practice for Residential Care Home for PWDs in 2002, which though has no legal effect, could guide operators of residential homes on the operation of the service. SWD also pay liaison visits to the private home operators to provide them with advice and guidance. We have also included private hostels for assistance in infectious control measurements. Currently, more than 300 PWDs living in private hostels are

receiving home-based training and support service in addition to others attending subvented day training and vocational rehabilitation services in the daytime. The Administration is closely monitoring this small group of population in private hostels. The necessity of introducing licensing is continuously kept under review.

11. On the other hand, in recent years, SWD actively supports the rehabilitation agencies in running *self-financing hostels*. Our support includes welfare premises and/or provision of capital costs where required. This alternative mode of homes could help to ease the waiting list for subvented homes and to offer another choice for parents and service users for quality home care. Currently, there are 14 such hostels operated by 9 agencies offering about 270 places. In 2005-06, we witnessed the inception of two large size self-financing projects in Tuen Mun providing about 200 places for the mentally handicapped and ex-mentally ill persons. The development of self-financing hostels is a good option. Both rehabilitation agencies and parents welcome the introduction of self-financing hostel and SWD will continue to give strong support in this direction.

Advice Sought

12. Members are requested to note the content of this paper.

Social Welfare Department
January 2006

Provision of Day and Residential Services for People with Disabilities
(為殘疾人士而設的日間及住宿服務名額)

	<i>Capacity 名額</i> (by 31 Dec 2005)
Day Service 日間訓練	
Day Activity Centre 展能中心	4033 places
Vocational Rehabilitation Services 職業康復服務	
Sheltered Workshop 庇護工場	5138 places
Supported Employment 輔助就業	1655 places
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre 綜合職業康復服務中心	2914 places
Integrated Vocational Training Centre 綜合職業訓練中心	453 places
On-the-Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities 殘疾人士在職培訓計劃	432 places
Sunnyway – On-the-Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities 陽光路上培訓計劃	311 places
Residential Services 住宿服務	
Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped 中度弱智人士宿舍	1898 places
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped 嚴重弱智人士宿舍	2697 places
Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped 嚴重肢體傷殘人士宿舍	461 places
Care & Attention Home for the Severely Disabled 嚴重殘疾人士護理院	665 places
Supported Hostel 輔助宿舍	289 places
Integrated Vocational Training Centre 綜合職業訓練中心	170 places