

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 5 January 2005)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Support for vulnerable elders

At the Panel meeting on 10 May 2004, members agreed that should the Panel decide to hold a meeting in July 2004, consideration should be given to further discussing support for vulnerable elders. The discussion should, among others, include the effectiveness of the re-engineering of family service centres (FCSs)/counselling units into integrated family service centres (IFSCs) on providing support for vulnerable elders.

A written response had been sent to the Panel on 9 July 2004 (LC Paper No. CB(2)3028/03-04(01))

Discussion on the matter was not held at the Panel meeting in July 2004. The Administration, however, had provided a paper in July 2004 setting out its responses to various issues/concerns raised by members at the meeting on 10 May 2004 (LC Paper No. CB(2)3028/03-04(01)).

2. Conversion of Self-care Hostel and Home for the Aged Places into Long Term Care Places

Item proposed by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG at the Panel meeting on 12 October 2004.

February 2005

3. Measures to help single parents on CSSA to achieve self-reliance

At the Panel meeting on 9 February 2004, the Administration agreed to revert to the Panel on the improvement measures to help single parents achieve self-reliance, upon completion of the review on the entire issue of single parents on CSSA.

1st quarter of 2005

Proposed timing for discussion

4. Portable CSSA Scheme and residence requirements for Old Age Allowance (OAA)

Hon CHOY So-yuk proposed to expand the coverage of the Portable CSSA Scheme to Fukien Province and other provinces and relax the permissible limits of absence from Hong Kong.

1st/2nd quarter of 2005

Hon TAM Yiu-chung also proposed to relax the permissible limits of absence from Hong Kong under OAA.

5. Progress of the formation of Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres

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

May/June 2005

6. Report of the Subcommittee on Guardianship and Custody of the Law Reform Commission

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.

3rd quarter of 2005

The Administration understands that the remaining reports on the subject of custody and access should be ready by early 2005.

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.

3rd quarter of 2005

8. Evaluation of the re-engineered community support services for elders

Item proposed by Hon CHAN Yuen-han.

4th quarter of 2005

9. Charitable fund-raising activities

The Administration's paper on enhancing the monitoring of charitable fund-raising activities was discussed at the Panel meeting on 19 July 2004. Members agreed that the proposal of regulating funding-raising activities by mail should be followed up by the new Panel in the next legislative session.

4th quarter of 2005

The Reference Guide on Best Practices for Charitable Fund-raising Activities has been promulgated in November 2004. The Administration would review the situation in one year.

10. Review of the implementation of the standardized needs assessment tool for admission to residential homes for people with disabilities

Members agreed at the Panel meeting on 14 June 2004 that the implementation of the standardized needs assessment tool for admission to residential homes for people with disabilities (PWDs) should be followed up by the new Panel in the next legislative session.

1st quarter of 2006

The Administration has pointed out that as the implementation of the assessment tool is set for January 2005, a review of the effectiveness of the assessment tool to identify those PWDs with genuine need for residential services and match them with appropriate types of residential homes would take place one year after.

11. Latest situation on the implementation of review of family services

Item proposed by Hon Albert CHAN at the Panel meeting on 12 October 2004.

1st/2nd quarter of 2006

The Administration has advised that transforming all existing FCSs/counselling units into IFSCs is set for completion in 2004-05. A review on the implementation of the aforesaid transformation would take place one year after.

Proposed timing for discussion

12. Workload of social workers

Item proposed by Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG at the Panel meeting on 12 October 2004. To be decided

The Administration is now studying the subject and will discuss the issue with members upon completion of the work.

13. Establishing formal arrangements on adoption with the Mainland

At the request of the Bills Committee on Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2003, the Administration undertook to study the need to establish formal arrangements on adoption with the Mainland and consult the relevant Panel in due course. To be decided

The Administration is liaising this with the Central People's Government and revert to the Panel in due course.

14. Social welfare planning mechanism, subvention system for the welfare sector and efficiency savings with regard to the welfare sector in the period from 2005-06 to 2008-09

At the Panel meeting on 8 March 2004, the Administration was requested to brief members in June 2004 on the progress made for implementing the 0-0-X funding proposal for the welfare sector and the development of a blueprint for the social welfare policies, and to respond to the Hong Kong Council of Social Service's requests for reviewing the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) subvention system, in particular the aspect relating to funding of personal emoluments. To be decided

The Government has an overriding commitment to contain the welfare expenditures. The Administration would continue to work closely with the welfare sector to ease/smooth the efficiency savings exercise, and will render assistance to those non-governmental organisations that have genuine difficulties in meeting the savings targets.

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

In consultation with the LSG Steering Committee, the Administration has commissioned a consultancy to conduct a survey on the NGOs' needs for financial assistance after the "Tide-over Period". The Survey which was a reflection of NGOs' projection of their situation after the ceasations of Tide-over Grant in 2006-07 has been completed. The Administration will further discuss with NGOs concerned on the way forward.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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