

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 8 March 2005)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. Standardized needs assessment tool for admission to residential homes for people with disabilities</p>	<p>5 January 2004</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the following information -</p> <p>(a) What was the estimated cost for providing residential homes for people with disabilities (PWD) after the implementation of the Assessment Tool, and how would that compare with the existing cost for providing the same;</p> <p>(b) Whether, and if so, how the occupancy situation of the various types of residential homes for PWD and the manpower requirement concerned would be changed after the implementation of the Assessment Tool;</p> <p>(c) What would be the waiting time for PWD to admit to residential homes vis-a-vis that under the existing arrangements; and</p> <p>(d) How long would an assessment for admission to residential homes for PWD take.</p>	<p>(a) & (b) The Assessment Tool was implemented on 1 January 2005. We will review its effectiveness one year after implementation and report back to the Panel in 1st quarter 2006.</p> <p>(c) The Administration's response already issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1181/03-04(02) on 7 February 2004.</p> <p>(d) Ditto.</p>

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2. Efficiency savings	8 March 2004	The Administration was requested to provide information on the changes in the staff and salary structures of NGOs on the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) funding arrangement since their switching to LSG until to date.	The Consultant has just finished its final report on the NGOs' need for financial assistance after the "Tide-over Period". The Administration would consult the welfare sector in the next few months on the arrangement after the termination of the Tide-Over Grant in 2006-07.
3. The provision of disregarded earnings (DE) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme	13 April 2004	The Administration was requested to expeditiously review the measure of allowing no DE for all categories of recipients in the initial determination of eligibility and in cases which had been on CSSA for less than three months.	The results of the review are expected to be available in late 2005.

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4. Briefing by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food	8 November 2004	The Administration undertook to seek the advice of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee on the reviews to be undertaken on the CSSA Scheme and the need for a second safety net, and to keep members informed on its consideration.	The Administration is seeking the advice of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee Working Group on CSSA on the specific reviews of the CSSA Scheme set out in the 2005 Policy Agenda, and will consult the Sub Committee on Review of CSSA of the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services in due course.
5. Provision of infirmary care for elders in a non-hospital setting	13 December 2004	The Administration undertook to provide more details of the tender exercise before the next meeting, including the criteria used in selecting operators to run the trial scheme, justification(s) for inviting private home operators to participate in the exercise, and the reason(s) for setting the unit subsidy for each subsidised infirmary bed in a non-hospital setting as around \$11,000 before the next meeting.	The Administration is further discussing the proposed trial scheme with the sector, and will revert when ready.

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6. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) - Progress Report as at 20 December 2004	10 January 2005	<p>The Administration undertook -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) to convey members' concerns about the limitations posed by the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) on the formation of co-operatives to the relevant parties within the Administration for consideration; and(b) to discuss with the CIIF Committee on ways to strengthen support and assistance to the less well-established applicants and project organisers where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The Administration has conveyed members' concerns to relevant parties for consideration. They are looking into the issue and would revert to the Panel in due course.(b) The CIIF Committee has noted members' views and will strengthen a number of strategies already in place to offer further support to the less-well established applicants and project organisers. A training workshop on effective proposal writing was held on 18 February 2005 attended by 140 people with positive feedback.

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<p>7. Support and assistance for tetraplegic patients living in the community</p>	<p>18 February 2005</p>	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to seriously consider adopting a social insurance scheme for people with disabilities (PWDs); (b) to consider developing a standardised needs assessment tool for PWDs which could be used for admission to residential homes and for granting disability allowance and other funds; (c) to provide information on the number of tetraplegic patients who were on/not on CSSA and the number of non-CSSA tetraplegic patients who were referred to the charitable funds for assistance but were denied assistance; and (d) to consider the feasibility of providing an additional grant to subsidise meal expenses of foreign domestic helpers who were hired using the Care & Attention Allowance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) This will be put to consideration by the Working Group on the Rehabilitation Programme Plan 2005. The Administration will report in due course on the Working Group's deliberation. (b) A Standardized Assessment Tool was developed in 2004 to identify people with disabilities with genuine need for residential services. As for disability allowance, each applicant is assessed by registered medical practitioner. Eligibility is based on certification of severely disabled to persist for at least 6 months. Severely disabled is broadly taken as 100% loss of earning capacity in accordance with the

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			<p>criteria in the First Schedule of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap.282). The Administration has no plan to develop a standardized needs assessment because the two schemes are separate mechanisms to meet the different needs of people with disabilities.</p> <p>(c) The Administration does not have figures on number of tetraplegic patients who were on /not on CSSA. According to SWD, as at 31 January 2005, a total of 38 tetraplegic patients had applied for Care and Attention Allowance under the CSSA scheme, 19 had already hired a carer using the allowance, 14 cases had been granted approval-in-principle to hire a carer, and the</p>

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			<p>remaining 5 cases were under processing. The Yan Chai Tetraplegic Fund has so far received 40 applications, 18 cases have been approved, 8 cases have been self-withdrawn and 14 cases have been rejected. Among the 14 rejected cases, 3 are assessed to be not suffering from tetraplegia, 3 are CSSA recipients who are advised to approach SWD for assistance, and the other 8 cases are assessed to be financially sufficient to meet their own needs.</p> <p>(d) For cases where a CSSA recipient needs hiring a foreign domestic helper (FDH) as the carer, SWD may consider including a monthly expenditure of \$300 to cover the food allowance of the FDH on top of the</p>

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			basic salary. The total monthly expenditure for hiring the carer (including basic salary and the food allowance) can be covered by the Care and Attention Allowance.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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