

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 9 June 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>
<p>2. Efficiency savings</p>	<p>8 March 2004</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Administration's response already issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1695/04-05(01) on 30 May 2005.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
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.
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 (SWAC) on the setting up of a second safety net for people who were in financial difficulties but could not pass the means test for CSSA, and revert to members of the views of SWAC on the suggestion.	The subsidized welfare, housing, healthcare and education services already form a safety net and provide assistance for low income groups. The Administration have no plan to consult SWAC on this. Separately the Commission on Poverty will consider measures to alleviate poverty.
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 considering the best way to provide infirmary care to elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis, in the light of feedback from Panel members and the sector during the consultation process.

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6. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) - Progress Report as at 20 December 2004	10 January 2005	The Administration undertook 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.	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.
7. Support and assistance for tetraplegic patients living in the community	18 February 2005	The Administration was requested to seriously consider adopting a social insurance scheme for people with disabilities.	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.

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<p>8. Conversion of self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care and attention places providing continuum of care</p>	<p>14 March 2005</p>	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to provide further information on how the conversion exercise would impact on the existing staff of the 75 homes operating S/C and H/A places; (b) to provide its plan on providing long term care for the elderly in the medium and long terms, including financing for residential care services for the elderly; and (c) to re-consider including the staff unions concerned in its Task Group set up last year to work out the conversion arrangements. 	<p>Social Welfare Department (SWD) will know which of the 75 homes operating self-care and home for the aged places will not participate in the conversion exercise by September/October 2005. When this is known, SWD will assess the implications of this on the staff in those homes. The Administration will let Members know SWD's assessments when available.</p> <p>The Administration aim to report progress on the work relating to the feasibility of developing the proposed Fee Assistance Scheme for residential care services for frail elders in the 4th quarter of 2005. It will share with Members its thinking on the future development direction of long term care services for the elderly in due course.</p> <p>The Administration met</p>

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			the staff unions in April 2005, and will continue to maintain dialogue with them as appropriate.
9. Provision of a monthly supplement to CSSA recipients who are 100% disabled, or who require constant attendance and are not living in institutions	20 April 2005	<p>The Administration was requested to provide written responses to the following issues raised by members at the meeting -</p> <p>(a) extending the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme to disabled CSSA recipients who did not necessarily have to meet the age requirement of 60 or above; and</p> <p>(b) further relaxing the eligibility for Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme.</p>	The Administration's response already issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1821/04-05(01) on 6 June 2005.
10. Implementation of the Integrated Family Service Centre Model and closure of time-limited Single Parent Centres	9 May 2005	The Administration was requested to revert to members on considerations whether to re-open the Single Parent Centres after the completion of its review on the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in one year's time.	The Administration will review the effectiveness of the operation of IFSCs one year after the completion of the re-engineering of IFSCs.

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11. Policy on assisting women in poverty	9 May 2005	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <p>(a) to convey to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in providing a progress report on the study being undertaken by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) on how to implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in Hong Kong to the relevant Panel(s); and</p> <p>(b) to come up with a comprehensive policy on assisting women in poverty, taking into account deputations' views/suggestions.</p>	<p>The Administration has conveyed the Panel's request to the HAB for providing progress report on the study being undertaken by the EOC on equal pay for work of equal value. Taking into account deputations' views/suggestions, the Administration would submit a paper on the policy on assisting women in poverty to the Panel in due course.</p>
12. Tide-over Grant	2 June 2005	<p>The Administration was requested to provide its legal opinions on whether the discontinuation of the tide-over grant would be in breach of Article 144 of the Basic Law.</p>	<p>Legal advice will be provided.</p>