

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 12 October 2005)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Rate adjustment of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance/Social Security Allowance

Item proposed by the Administration.

November 2005

2. International Festival of Inclusive Arts

Item proposed by the Administration.

4th quarter of 2005

3. Subsidy arrangements for residential care services for frail elders

The Administration aims to report progress on the work relating to the feasibility of developing the proposed 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.

4th quarter of 2005

4. 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.

Proposed timing for discussion

5. Infirmity care in non-hospital setting

The Administration consulted the Panel in December 2004 on a proposal to launch a trial scheme to provide infirmity care places for medically stable elders in a non-hospital setting. In the light of feedback from the Panel and the sector during the consultation process, the Administration is considering the best way to bring forward the proposal.

1st quarter of 2006

6. 2005 Rehabilitation Programme Plan Review (Exact timing to be confirmed)

Item proposed by the Administration.

1st quarter of 2006

7. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund

In line with the usual practice, the Administration would like to report the latest progress of this Fund.

1st quarter of 2006

8. 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.

2nd quarter of 2006

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.

9. Social security assistance for needy elderly in Hong Kong

Discussions were held at the Panel meeting on 13 June 2005, the Administration was requested to brief the Panel about its thinking on how better to provide retirement protection to the current and future generation of older persons by the end of the year.

2nd quarter of 2006

Proposed timing for discussion

10. Progress report on the pilot implementation of the Comprehensive Child Development Service

The Administration wish to report progress of the implementation of this pilot scheme. 2nd quarter of 2006

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. 3rd quarter of 2006

The Administration has advised that transformation of all existing FSCs/counselling units into 61 IFSCs was completed in March 2005. A review on the implementation of the aforesaid transformation would take place after one year.

12. 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. Mid 2006

The Report on Custody and Access by the Subcommittee on Guardianship and Custody of the Law Reform Commission was released on 7 March 2005. The Administration is studying the recommendations carefully and will consider how to take forward the relevant recommendations together with the recommendations made in the other two earlier reports, namely, the Report on Guardianship of Children and Report on International Parental Child Abduction.

13. Partnership Fund for the disadvantaged

The Administration would like to report the progress of this Fund. Mid 2006

Proposed timing for discussion

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

Item proposed by Hon CHAN Yuen-han.

4th quarter of 2006

15. 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.

16. 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 will revert to the Panel in due course.

17. 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

Proposed timing for discussion

The efficiency savings for 2005-06 was discussed at the Panel meeting held on 13 December 2004. 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.

18. Incorporating the posts of programme assistant, youth ambassador, peer counsellor and other similar temporary frontline posts into the staff establishment of the subvented organisations providing welfare services

The Panel was requested by Duty Roster Members to follow up the matter with the Administration. To be decided

The Administration's position on the issue had been sent to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1022/04-05(01) on 8 March 2005 (Chinese version only).

19. Rehab buses for disabled persons

Referred for follow-up by the Panel at a special meeting of Finance Committee held on 13 April 2005. To be decided