

Progress of the Trial Scheme on the Provision of Infirmity Care Services for Elders in a Non-hospital Setting

At present, subsidised infirmity care services are provided in hospitals under the Hospital Authority (HA). The Director of Audit recommended in Chapter 5 of his Report No. 38 in 2002 in respect of residential services for the elderly that the Administration should consider whether infirmity care should be provided in the welfare setting instead of in the hospital setting.

We consulted the Elderly Commission (EC) and the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services (Panel) in late 2004 on our proposal to invite through tender suitable operators to launch a trial scheme to provide subsidised infirmity care to medically stable infirm elders in a non-hospital setting. Among other things, the EC and the Panel commented that infirm elders to be taken care of under the trial scheme should receive proper medical services and support in a non-hospital setting. Taking into account the need for a closer interface between the operator of the proposed infirmity care services and the Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT), SWD is working with HA on the medical package to be provided by the CGAT to the operator of the proposed services. Also, SWD is finalising the tendering requirements and service specifications for the proposed infirmity care services. We will update the Panel on the latest developments and details of the tendering exercise and the trial scheme in the second quarter of 2007.

Social Welfare Department
December 2006