

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 6 March 2007)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. The provision of disregarded earnings (DE) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme</p>	<p>13 April 2004</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Financial Secretary announced in his 2007-2008 Budget speech on 28 February that on DE, the Administration will raise the no-deduction limit of monthly DE from \$600 to \$800 and relax the rule to allow CSSA cases to be eligible for DE from not less than three months to not less than two months.</p> <p>The Administration is working on the operational arrangements and aim to start implementation as soon as possible.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
2. 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.	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. The Administration aim to report progress to the Panel in the 2 nd /3 rd quarter of 2007.

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<p>3. 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>The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched Stage I of the conversion programme in June 2005 and Stage II in June 2006. By now, 32 homes have commenced conversion. SWD has further selected 7 homes to commence conversion in March 2007. Upon completion of the vetting, SWD will be in a better position to assess the implications of the conversion proposals on the staff in these homes.</p> <p>The Administration will report progress on the work relating to the feasibility of developing the proposed Fee Assistance Scheme for residential care services for frail elders when ready.</p> <p>The Administration met the staff unions in April 2005 and February 2006, and will continue to maintain dialogue with them as appropriate.</p>

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<p>4. Implementation of the Integrated Family Service Centre Model and closure of time-limited Single Parent Centres</p>	<p>9 May 2005</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Full implementation of the transformation of IFSCs was completed in 2004-2005. The Administration will review the effectiveness of the operation of IFSCs in 2007-2008.</p>
<p>5. Progress report on the standardized assessment mechanism for residential services for people with disabilities</p>	<p>21 March 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to include representative from the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in the Review Working Group on Standardized Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for People with Disabilities and to increase the number of representatives from parents' groups in the Review Working Group.</p> <p>The Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (SHWF) was requested to come up with ways to solve the existing lack of premises for providing residential services for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>The Administration will include representative from the HKCSS and invite more representatives from parents' groups to the future Review Working Group meetings.</p> <p>The Bureau will consider appropriate measures to identify and acquire suitable premises/sites for providing residential services to people with disabilities and will report to LegCo in due course.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
6. Assistance to elderly not receiving CSSA	8 June 2006	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <p>(a) to provide a paper setting out the relevant figures to substantiate its saying that a pay-as-you-go retirement protection scheme was not feasible; and</p> <p>(b) to consult employees in Hong Kong on whether they were willing to allocate part of their MPF contributions, say 50%, to a pool for distribution to the current cohort of elders, on the understanding they too would receive a monthly sum of some \$2,500 in their old age.</p>	<p>The Administration is collating the requisite information and aims to provide a paper once ready.</p>
7. Child protection	29 June 2006	<p>The Administration was requested to brief the Panel the details of its proposed mechanism for conducting post-event multi-disciplinary review on fatal child abuse cases before implementation. The Administration undertook to report the outcome of the review on the pilot Comprehensive Child Development Service.</p>	<p>The Administration would provide the information when ready, which is expected to complete by the 1st quarter of 2007.</p>
8. Review of the design manual : barrier free access 1997	13 November 2006	<p>At the Panel meeting of 13 November 2006, members passed a motion urging the Administration to include in the revised Design Manual various improvement measures suggested by the deputations.</p>	<p>The Administration is considering the suggestions and will provide responses to the motion and members' concern at the Panel meeting on 12 March 2007.</p>

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9. Progress of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD)	11 December 2006	The Administration was requested to provide information on the number of disadvantaged persons who had been offered employment after joining the approved projects under PFD and their respective wage levels.	The Administration would provide the information when ready.
10. Development of arts with people with disabilities	11 December 2006	<p>The Administration was requested to provide –</p> <p>(a) further information on the areas of improvement to the existing recreational and leisure facilities would be needed for promoting the development of arts with people with disabilities (PWDs); and</p> <p>(b) a statement on its policy of developing arts with PWDs.</p>	The Administration's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1059/06-07 on 8 February 2007.
11. System for processing applications for Disability Allowance (DA) under the Social Security Allowance Scheme	11 December 2006	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <p>(a) to consider providing written explanation when notifying the appellants of the decision of the Social Security Appeal Board; and</p> <p>(b) to provide written response to the views and concerns raised by members and deputations at the meeting.</p>	<p>The English and Chinese versions of the Administration's response were issued vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)964/06-07 (01) and CB(2)1000/06-07 on 26 January and 1 February 2007 respectively.</p> <p>The Panel will further discuss the matter at the meeting on 12 March 2007.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
12. Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	8 January 2007	The Administration was requested to provide – (a) a previous paper on the support services provided for SARS patients suffering from dysfunctions; (b) information about the number and the situation of healthcare workers in private hospitals who were infected with SARS at work; and (c) an interim report on the latest situation of the SARS patients before the end of the current LegCo term.	The Administration would provide the information when ready.
13. Evaluation study of the re-engineered neighbourhood elderly centres and district elderly community centres	12 February 2007	At the Panel meeting on 12 February 2007, members passed a motion urging the Administration to formulate a five-year plan on services for the elderly.	The Administration noted the motion, and is considering the way forward.