

Panel on Welfare Services**List of follow-up actions**
(position as at 4 April 2007)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. 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.	<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 briefed the Panel its proposed arrangements at the meeting on 30 March 2007, and will revert to the Panel its responses to the views expressed by members at the next meeting on 12 April 2007. It aims to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in April 2007 for the proposal.</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 subsidized 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 aims 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, 39 homes have commenced conversion. One more home will commence conversion in April 2007. Upon completion of the vetting of conversion proposals in respect of the remaining homes, SWD will be in a better position to assess the implications of the conversion on the staff in the homes concerned.</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, February 2006 and March 2007, 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 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>

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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 of the pilot Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS).</p>	<p>The Administration will brief members on the outcome of the review of the pilot CCDS at the meeting on 12 April 2007.</p> <p>The Administration will brief the Panel the details of the proposed review mechanism for fatal child abuse cases at the meeting on 14 May 2007.</p>
8. Progress of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD)	11 December 2006	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Administration would provide the information when ready.</p>

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9. Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	8 January 2007	<p>The Administration was requested to provide –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 	<p>The Administration had provided information on items (a) and (b) vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1356/06-07 on 19 March 2007.</p>
10. Evaluation study of the re-engineered neighbourhood elderly centres and district elderly community centres	12 February 2007	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Administration noted the motion, and is considering the way forward.</p>
11. System for processing applications for Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme	12 March 2007	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to consider the suggestion for providing additional resources for the Hospital Authority to strengthen professional training and support for medical doctors sitting on Medical Assessment Board (MAB); and (b) to provide information on the number of appeal cases processed by MAB in the past year, the number of successful appeals with a breakdown by reasons, the number of cases referred by the Social Security Appeal Board (SSAB) to MAB for re-assessment, the number of cases on which the decision of SSAB was 	<p>The Administration is collating the requisite information and will provide a response when ready.</p> <p>The Panel will further discuss the matter at the meeting in May 2007.</p>

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		contrary to the medical re-assessment results of MAB, and the number of appeals which had yet to be dealt with by MAB.	
12. Review of barrier-free access design manual 1997	12 March 2007	The Administration was requested to provide the finalized version of the revised Design Manual to the Panel for information.	The Administration would provide the information when available.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 April 2007