

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 9 October 2006)

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.	The Administration is taking forward the review and the results are expected to be available in early 2007.
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.
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	14 March 2005	The Administration was requested – (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	The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched Stage I of the conversion programme in June 2005. Invitation to applications for admission to Stage II of the conversion programme was made in June 2006. By now, 23 homes have commenced conversion through the in-situ mode. SWD is

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		(c) to re-consider including the staff unions concerned in its Task Group set up last year to work out the conversion arrangements.	<p>vetting the applications for Stage II of the conversion programme. 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>
4. 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.	Full implementation of the transformation of IFSCs was completed in 2004-05. The Administration will review the effectiveness of the operation of IFSCs in 2007-08.
5. 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</p>	The Administration has conveyed the Panel's request to the HAB for providing progress

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		<p>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>report on the study being undertaken by the EOC on equal pay for work of equal value. The EOC updated the LegCo Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty established under the House Committee (the Subcommittee) of the progress on the study in March 2006 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1706/05-06(03).</p> <p>The above-mentioned Subcommittee has studied the subject and published a Report on Women in Poverty (the Report) in June 2006. The Administration has provided its response to the Report to the Clerk to House Committee on 20 September 2006. The Subcommittee has scheduled a number of meetings to further discuss the Report and the Administration's response.</p>
<p>6. Government support to patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)</p>	<p>9 March 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <p>(a) to provide a paper setting out the information on the number of SARS patients who had registered for the family medicine service and were currently in receipt of financial assistance under the Trust Fund for SARS</p>	<p>The Administration has relayed the views of members on the operation of the Trust Fund to the SHWF. A motion debate on this was also held on 17 May 2006. A paper for items</p>

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		<p>(the Trust Fund);</p> <p>(b) to relay the views of members on the operation of the Trust Fund to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (SHWF); and</p> <p>(c) to follow up with the SARS injury-on-duty (IOD) employees of the Hospital Authority (HA) on their concerns about the HA's compassionate arrangement on SARS IOD sick leave and to provide a paper setting out the way forward for these cases.</p>	<p>(a) and (c) was circulated to Members on 13 June 2006.</p> <p>As follow-up actions required had been completed, the Administration suggested to delete this item.</p>
<p>7. Private homes for people with disabilities</p>	<p>21 March 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a time table on the licensing scheme for private homes for people with disabilities and the relevant actions to be taken in the coming two years before the draft bill is introduced to the Legislative Council (LegCo).</p> <p>The Administration was also requested to provide information on the advice given to the private homes for people with disabilities during the regular liaison visits by SWD staff.</p>	<p>The Administration is now preparing the time table and the information on advice given to the private homes in the past three years.</p>
<p>8. 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 SHWF was requested to come up with ways to solve the existing lack of premises for providing residential</p>	<p>The Administration will include representative from the HKCSS and invite more representatives from parents' groups in the future Review Working Group meetings.</p> <p>The Bureau will consider appropriate measures to identify and acquire suitable</p>

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		services for people with disabilities.	premises/sites for providing residential services to people with disabilities and will report to LegCo in due course.
<p>9. Support after the tide-over grant (TOG) period to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) currently receiving TOG – special one-off grant</p>	<p>30 March 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the legal opinions from the Department of Justice (DoJ) on the effect of Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) and Efficiency Savings (ES) on the Benchmark Salary of NGOs on Lump Sum Grant (LSG).</p> <p>The Administration was also requested to provide the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a paper setting out the remuneration package of different levels of senior staff and junior/frontline staff in NGOs before and after their organisations joined the LSG subventions system; (b) a detailed breakdown of the reasons for the drop in the number of Snapshot Staff from 2000 up to 1 April 2005, as well as the comparison with the drop in the number of staff in SWD during the same period; (c) a paper setting out the Administration's plan and timetable on further improving the LSG subventions system, including ways to better enable stakeholders to reflect their views on the LSG implementation; (d) a paper on how the Administration ensured that NGOs on LSG would honour their contractual obligation to staff; 	<p>Regarding the legal opinions on the effect of EPP and ES on the Benchmark Salary of NGOs on LSG, the DoJ had reaffirmed that their legal advice had been incorporated in the Administration's response to the Panel as set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)1631/05-06(1). The Chinese version of the Administration's paper was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2636/05-06(01).</p> <p>Other information requested by members was also provided in the LC Paper No. CB(2)2636/05-06(01), which was submitted to the Panel for discussion on the subject at the meeting of 10 July 2006.</p> <p>As follow-up actions required had been completed, the Administration suggested to delete this item.</p>

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		<p>(e) a paper on the impact of the LSG implementation on the NGOs concerned, such as their staffing structure, reasons for their staff attrition and the number of staff suffering injuries at work; and</p> <p>(f) a Chinese version of the Administration's paper provided for the meeting (LC Paper No. CB(2)1631/05-06(01)).</p>	
<p>10. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) – Progress Report as of April 2006</p>	<p>8 May 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <p>(a) to provide information on the projects funded by CIIF, such as the names and the main features of the projects, and the amount of funding granted to each project, to facilitate members' understanding of the progress of the Fund; and</p> <p>(b) to invite LegCo Members to attend the Annual Sharing Forum of CIIF.</p>	<p>The requisite information for (a) was circulated to Members on 12 June 2006.</p> <p>LegCo Members were invited to the Annual Sharing Forum in December 2005 and will also be invited for the coming Forum in November 2006.</p> <p>As follow-up actions required had been completed, the Administration suggested to delete this item.</p>
<p>11. Assistance to elderly not receiving CSSA</p>	<p>8 June 2006</p>	<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</p>	<p>The Administration is collating the requisite information and aims to provide a paper once ready.</p>

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		<p>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>12. Consultancy study for the review of the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997</p>	<p>12 June 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to relay the concerns expressed by the deputations on the inadequacies of the barrier-free access facilities in Lam Tin and Yau Tong MTR stations, and the difficulties encountered by wheelchair users, to the relevant departments for consideration and follow-up; (b) to provide information on the total number of inspections conducted by the Administration involving unauthorised changes to building facilities designated for use by the disabled in recent years, and the number of such inspections which eventually resulted in prosecution being brought against the owners or the parties concerned; (c) to provide a written response as to whether it was feasible to install in common areas of buildings lights operated by sensory devices, with a view to conserving energy; (d) to relay the members' concern on why the concrete bunds of many roads did not meet the standard height of four inches and when improvements would be made to rectify the problem to the Highways Department for follow-up actions; (e) to provide an implementation timetable for the modification works for the remaining 24 government 	<p>Response sent vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2750/05-06(01) on 12 July 2006.</p> <p>As follow-up actions required had been completed, the Administration suggested to delete this item.</p>

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		<p>buildings as mentioned in paragraph 12 of the Administration's paper;</p> <p>(f) to provide a table setting out the relevant information of the hospitals, public clinics and public transport interchanges concerned which could not provide barrier-free access and facilities due to technical problems, and whether such technical problems could be resolved; and if so, the timetable for the necessary modification works; and</p> <p>(g) to provide a written response to explain why it took as long as three years to implement the improvement works in public housing estates for the visually impaired listed therein.</p>	
<p>13. Workload of and challenges faced by social workers</p>	<p>12 June 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the Panel with a written response to the views and concerns raised by members and deputations on workload of and challenges faced by social workers so as to facilitate discussions at the next regular meeting on 10 July 2006.</p>	<p>The Administration's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2707/05-06(03) and submitted to the Panel for discussion at the meeting of 10 July 2006.</p> <p>As follow-up actions required had been completed, the Administration suggested to delete this item.</p>
<p>14. Child protection</p>	<p>29 June 2006</p>	<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 also undertook to report the outcome of the review on the pilot</p>	<p>The Administration would provide the information when ready.</p>

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		Comprehensive Child Development Scheme, which was expected to complete by the end of 2006.	
15. Services to victims of sexual violence	3 July 2006	<p>The Administration undertook –</p> <p>(a) to circulate the abstract of the meeting minutes of Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) saying that the majority of SWAC members attending the meeting were in support of the Administration's new service model for victims of sexual violence for members' reference; and</p> <p>(b) to follow up the complaint of the Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong referred by Hon CHAN Yuen-han that not all NGOs providing welfare services had been invited to express their interests for operating the proposed new Multi-purpose Crisis Intervention and Support Centre for victims of family and sexual violence.</p>	<p>The Administration would provide the information on item (a) when available.</p> <p>In response to item (b), the Administration had sent a reply to Hon CHAN Yuen-han in July 2006.</p>
16. Social welfare planning mechanism	10 July 2006	The Administration was requested to provide a paper setting out the whole process and timetable of its social welfare planning mechanism. Members also requested the SHWF to attend future Panel meetings which involved discussions on long-term planning of welfare services.	The Administration would provide the written response when ready.
17. Situation of asylum seekers, refugees and torture claimants in Hong Kong	18 July 2006	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <p>(a) to provide information on whether there were any mandated refugees under detention, and whether there were any asylum seekers and torture claimants under detention only for the reason of overstaying;</p>	A special meeting was held by the Panel on Security on 31 July 2006 to further discuss the subject. The Administration had provided oral responses to information requested by members at the meeting.

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		<p>(b) to provide a breakdown on the 120 detainees indicating which of the three conditions as set out in paragraph 4 of the meeting minutes they had not fulfilled;</p> <p>(c) to provide supplementary information on the alleged sexual violence case and the alleged missing person case involving asylum seekers raised by deputations at the meeting;</p> <p>(d) to provide details on the education of children of refugees, asylum seekers and torture claimants in Hong Kong;</p> <p>(e) to respond to the allegation made by some asylum seekers and torture claimants in detention that they had to wait for a long period of time for receiving assistance from the Legal Aid Department; and</p> <p>(f) to respond whether the Immigration Department had intercepted asylum seekers and torture claimants upon their arrival at the Hong Kong airport as reported in a local newspaper.</p>	<p>However, as the Administration's responses contained substantial information and figures, members requested the Administration to provide a written reply after the meeting.</p> <p>The Administration had provided supplementary information under confidential cover on the alleged sexual violence case and the alleged missing person case vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2870/05-06(01) and CB(2)2886/05-06(01) respectively.</p> <p>As further actions are to be undertaken in the Panel on Security, the Administration suggested to delete this item.</p>