

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions (position as at 8 November 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 vetting the applications for

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		<p>(c) to re-consider including the staff unions concerned in its Task Group set up last year to work out the conversion arrangements.</p>	<p>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>
<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>

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<p>5. Policy on assisting women in poverty</p>	<p>9 May 2005</p>	<p>The Administration was requested –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to convey to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in 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 (b) to come up with a comprehensive policy on assisting women in poverty, taking into account deputations' views/suggestions. 	<p>The Administration has conveyed the Panel's request to the HAB for providing progress 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 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>As follow-up actions required are being pursued by the above Subcommittee, the</p>

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			Administration proposes to delete this item from the panel's list.
6. Private homes for people with disabilities	21 March 2006	<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's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)68/06-07(01) on 13 October 2006.</p> <p>As the follow-up actions required have been completed, the Administration proposes to delete this item.</p>
7. Progress report on the standardized assessment mechanism for residential services for people with disabilities	21 March 2006	<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>

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8. 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>
9. 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 also undertook to report the outcome of the review on the pilot Comprehensive Child Development Scheme, which was expected to complete by the end of 2006.</p>	<p>The Administration would provide the information when ready.</p>
10. 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</p>	<p>The Administration would provide the information on item (a) before the Panel meeting in November 2006.</p> <p>In response to item (b), the Administration had sent a reply to Hon CHAN Yuen-han in July 2006.</p>

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		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.	
11. 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.	SHWF has exchanged views with Members on this subject at the Panel meeting held on 13 October 2006. SHWF has further elaborated on Government's views on the matter in his response to the Policy Address debate on 27 October 2006.
12. Contract termination with an information technology contractor by the SWD	12 October 2006	The Administration was requested to provide an information paper on the incident, the financial implications of the decision to terminate the contract and the implementation timetable for the development of the Client Information System.	The Administration would provide an information paper before the Panel meeting in November 2006.