

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions (position as at 5 December 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, 24 homes have commenced conversion through the in-situ mode. SWD is vetting the applications for

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<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>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<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>
<p>6. 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 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>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
7. Child protection	29 June 2006	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.	The Administration would provide the information when ready.
8. 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 had provided the information on item (a) vide LC Paper No. CB(2)313/06-07(01) on 20 November 2006.</p> <p>In response to item (b), the Administration had sent a reply to Hon CHAN Yuen-han in July 2006.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
9. 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 exchanged views with Members on this subject at the Panel meeting held on 13 October 2006. SHWF further elaborated on the Government's views on the matter in his response to the Policy Address debate on 27 October 2006.
10. 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's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)292/06-07(01) on 7 November 2006.
11. Review of the design manual : barrier free access 1997	13 November 2006	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.	The Administration is considering the suggestions and will report to the Panel in due course.