

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 8 January 2008)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. 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 at around \$11,000.	In the light of feedback from the Panel and the sector during the consultation process, the latest plan of the Administration is to upgrade some of the places in subvented residential care homes for the elderly to provide infirmary care. The Administration has started discussion with the sector in December 2007 and aims to brief the Panel in the 2 nd quarter of 2008.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>2. 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) has launched the conversion programme since June 2005. By now, 49 homes have commenced conversion. 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>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>3. 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 2008-2009.</p>
<p>4. 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 then 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>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>5. Assistance to elderly not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (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>
<p>6. Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)</p>	<p>8 January 2007</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide an interim report on the latest situation of the SARS patients before the end of the current LegCo term.</p>	<p>The Administration will provide the report in due course.</p>
<p>7. Evaluation study of the re-engineered neighbourhood elderly centres and district elderly community centres</p>	<p>12 February 2007</p>	<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 will work with the Elderly Commission to consider the long term planning of elderly services.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
8. Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS)	12 April 2007	The Administration was requested to expedite the plan to extend the pilot CCDS to other districts and report the implementation progress to the Panel.	The Administration noted members' request and will report the progress in February 2008.
9. Progress of voluntary registration scheme (VRS) and licensing of residential care homes for people with disabilities	11 June 2007	The Administration was requested to provide information about – (a) the standards for private residential care homes for the disabled (RCHDs) to meet the requirements of VRS; and (b) the characteristics of residents currently living in private RCHDs, including their age distribution, types of disabilities and services being received in private RCHDs.	The Administration will provide the information when ready.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
10. Lump Sum Grant (LSG) subvention system	29 October 2007	The Administration was requested to provide information on – (a) the average starting salary levels of staff working in welfare NGOs on LSG and their corresponding civil service grades after the implementation of the LSG subvention system; and (b) the pay adjustment arrangements for NGO staff who had left the NGO concerned before the annual pay adjustment took effect, before and after the implementation of the LSG subvention system.	The Administration will provide the information when ready.
11. Provision of welfare services for high-risk families in Tin Shui Wai	30 October 2007	The Administration was requested to – (a) provide a consolidated response to the views and suggestions raised by members and deputations at the meeting; and (b) revert to the Panel on the work progress of enhancing the welfare services for high-risk families in Tin Shui Wai by late January/early February 2008.	The item will be discussed at the Panel meeting to be held on 14 January 2008.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
12. Two New Integrated Rehabilitation Services Centres for Persons with Disabilities	12 November 2007	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <p>(a) the Administration's proposals for setting up subvented RCHDs which had met with local opposition in the past 10 years; and</p> <p>(b) new subvented RCHDs which were converted from vacant Government buildings and the aborted plans in the past five years.</p> <p>The Administration was also requested to provide a response to the Panel's request for formulating a long-term plan for the provision of residential care services for persons with disabilities.</p>	The Administration noted members' requests, and will provide the information/response when ready.
13. Annual adjustment of standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme and supplementary provision for the Social Security Schemes	12 November 2007	At the Panel meeting on 12 November 2007, members passed a motion urging the Administration to adjust CSSA rates according to the year-on-year movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices of the latest month every six months and to introduce a catch-up mechanism.	The Administration noted the motion.
14. Progress of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)	10 December 2007	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <p>(a) the number of CIIF projects which could sustain on their own after the expiry of the funding period and the reasons attributed to the success; and</p>	The Administration would provide the information when ready.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		(b) the number of CIIF projects which were unable to sustain and the difficulties faced by the project operators.	
15. Review of the Old Age Allowance (OAA)	10 December 2007	At the Panel meeting on 10 December 2007, members passed a motion urging the Administration to increase the monthly OAA payment to \$1,000, relax the eligibility criteria for applying for CSSA by the elderly, and implement a universal old age pension system.	The Administration noted the motion.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 January 2008