

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 9 May 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.	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 is in discussion with the sector on various requirements in relation to the upgrading exercise (e.g. staffing requirements) and aims to report progress in the 2 nd /3 rd quarter of 2008.

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<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, 59 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 has submitted two papers (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)835/07-08(01) and CB(2)1038/07-08(01)) to the Subcommittee on Elderly Services (the Subcommittee) on "Residential Care Services for the Elderly" which were discussed on 22 January 2008 and 19 February 2008. Another meeting was held on 11 April 2008 to follow up the views expressed by the Subcommittee on, among other things, the financing for residential care services for the elderly.</p>

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			<p>There has been on-going discussion with the concerned staff unions. The Administration will continue the dialogue as appropriate.</p>
<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>

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<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 is working with the Elderly Commission to consider the long term planning of elderly services.</p>

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<p>8. Progress of voluntary registration scheme (VRS) and licensing of residential care homes for people with disabilities</p>	<p>11 June 2007</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information about –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 	<p>The Administration has provided the requisite information in the paper prepared for the meeting on 8 May 2008.</p>
<p>9. Creation of an Assistant Director of Social Welfare post to take charge of the social security portfolio</p>	<p>17 March 2008</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number of Social Security Assistants (SSA) and Employment Assistance (EA) Co-ordinators on Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) terms in SWD and the respective staff turnover rates; and (b) the number of civil service vacancies of SSA and EA Co-ordinators, and the number of SSA and EA Co-ordinators on NCSC terms who had taken up these vacant posts in the past three years. 	<p>The Administration's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1765/07-08(01) on 2 May 2008.</p>

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10. Review of rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme	14 April 2008	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="831 352 1668 507">(a) the number of cases in which singleton able-bodied CSSA recipients were granted special grants for rent deposit at the discretion of the Director of Social Welfare in the past year;<li data-bbox="831 552 1668 786">(b) the number of CSSA households who lived in private housing and had been recommended for compassionate rehousing or admission to a subvented home for the elderly in the past year, and the number of cases which were paying rent higher than the maximum levels of rent allowance (MRA); and<li data-bbox="831 831 1668 946">(c) the reasons for CSSA households who lived in public housing and had to pay rent higher than MRA in the past year. <p>The Administration was also requested to model on the Consumer Price Index (A) rent index for private housing and simulate a rent index for CSSA households.</p>	<p>The Administration has provided the requisite information for the meeting on 8 May 2008.</p>