

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1450/08-09
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 16 April 2009, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS

Members absent : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP

Member attending : Hon IP Wai-ming, MH

Public Officers attending : Item IV
Miss Eliza LEE
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1

Ms Irene YOUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 1

Mrs Grace NG
Project Management Officer
Community Investment and Inclusion Fund Secretariat

Item V

Mr FUNG Pak-yan
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)

Miss Maria LAU
Chief Social Work Officer (Family and Child Welfare)1
Social Welfare Department

**Deputations
by invitation**

: Item V

Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social
Work Officer Grade Branch

Mr LEUNG Kin-hung
Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Kam-ki
Vice Chairman

Society for Community Organization

Mr NG Wai-tung
Community Organizer

Mr Sonny YAU Kin-man
Community Organizer

Hong Kong Right for Homeless Association

Mr TO
Representative

David
Representative

Mr YEUNG
Representative

Mr YAO
Representative

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Mariana CHAN
Chief Officer, Policy Research and Advocacy

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Miss Florence WONG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1230/08-09 and CB(2)1316/08-09]

The minutes of the meetings held on 17 January 2009 and 9 March 2009 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1114/08-09(01) and CB(2)1258/08-09(01)]

2. Members noted that the following information papers had been issued since the last meeting –

- (a) an information note provided by the Administration on the latest progress regarding the introduction of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo); and
- (b) the referral from Duty Roster Members on issues relating to the rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme.

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III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1231/08-09(01) and (02)]

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next meeting to be held on 11 May 2009 at 10:45 am –

- (a) two new Integrated Rehabilitation Services Centres for persons with disabilities; and
- (b) work progress of the Family Council.

4. Members further agreed to discuss and receive views from deputations again on the implementation of Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) service mode from the perspective of service users at the next meeting. An invitation for views would be posted on the LegCo website. The Chairman added that since there would be three discussion items at the next meeting, the meeting would be extended for half an hour, if necessary.

IV. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1231/08-09(03) and (04)]

5. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) (DS(W)), Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) and Project Management Officer (PMO) briefed members on the progress made by the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) in promoting social capital in Hong Kong. Latest developments were also reported in the CIIF Newsletter tabled at the meeting.

6. Mr WONG Sing-chi noted that although the number of applications for CIIF was not particularly low, the pace of disbursement of CIIF was rather slow. He asked about the current spending situation of the Fund. Mr WONG said that to his knowledge, CIIF project organisers had to observe closely the directives given by the CIIF Committee such that the implementation of the projects would be in line with the models/strategies developed by the Committee. In his view, such requirement should be reviewed to allow project organisers having more autonomy and diversity in implementing their projects.

7. DS(W) said that since social capital was a new concept within the local context at the early stage of introducing CIIF, it had taken some time for the applicants to understand the objectives of CIIF and submit relevant proposals. This explained the low success rates of the early batches of applications for the Fund. However, with the efforts put in by the CIIF Committee in promoting the social capital concept and providing assistance to prospective applicants, there

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had been a significant increase in the number of approved projects, and funding of nearly \$50 million was allocated in support of projects of various types in each of the past two years. DS(W) further said that the funded organizations were not confined to welfare non-governmental organizations (NGOs) but covered a wide array of collaborators including local schools, women's groups, co-operatives, primary and secondary schools. As some of these organizations were not familiar with application process, support from the CIIF Committee was necessary to assist them in developing the projects and mobilising community resources, especially during the early stage of the projects. The CIIF Committee had struck the balance between rendering support and assistance for the project teams and providing them with flexibility for implementing the projects.

8. Mr Albert HO said that he had received complaints from some prospective applicants about the difficulties in applying for CIIF. Pointing out that projects which were in breach of existing policies would not be eligible for the Fund, Mr HO asked whether the CIIF Committee, in vetting the applications for CIIF, had taken this into account and rejected the applications accordingly. He then asked about the number of unsuccessful applications.

9. DS(W) stressed that the primary objective of CIIF was to develop social capital, and that there was no political consideration in vetting applications for the Fund. CIIF projects had brought about transformation in the role of participants, development of community support networks and cross-sectoral collaboration.

10. PMO added that the primary consideration for approving applications was whether the approved projects would promote social capital building in the community. She also said that the successful applicants were not allowed to deploy the funding from CIIF to finance their own projects and services. As a matter of fact, some of the successful applicants were political or concern groups. PMO advised that the relatively low success rates in the earlier batches of applications were attributed to the fact that the projects were not related to the theme of social capital development.

11. Echoing Mr WONG Sing-chi's view, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che said that the back-and-forth communication between the CIIF Secretariat and the prospective applicants should be streamlined. To his knowledge, funding from CIIF would be disbursed only if the prospective applicants had revised the project scope by adopting the social capital models/strategies development by the CIIF Committee. This had not only slowed down the pace of funding disbursement and kick-off of the projects, but also stifled the diversity of the project types. Moreover, the successful applicants would be under the close scrutiny of the CIIF Secretariat in the course of implementing the approved projects.

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12. Mr CHEUNG considered that one of the flagship projects of CIIF – the "floor mentor" project introduced in public housing estates in the Southern District to promote care and neighbourhood in the community was in fact modelled on the former Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project, which was conceived and implemented to serve residents in isolated or socially deprived areas such as squatter areas, and was not something new. Nonetheless, as the project was regarded as a flagship project of CIIF under which other project teams were encouraged to adapt it for wider implementation, he was concerned about the sustainability of the project after the expiry of the funding period.

13. DS(W) said that the Administration saw great potentials in those flagship projects for wider implementation in the territory and for mainstreaming as regular services. Apart from developing the five flagship projects mentioned in the powerpoint for wider implementation in different districts, a wide variety of projects of different themes targeted at specific sectors of the community could also be implemented across the territory. In regard to the sustainability of CIIF-funded projects, DS(W) pointed out that of the 209 CIIF-funded projects, the funding period of some 90 projects had expired and half of them could be sustained on their own, by ways of merging into the agency's mainstream services or becoming self-financing, whereas many others had proceeded to a second phase development under CIIF.

14. Mr Frederick FUNG considered that CIIF aimed to bring about social harmony in building community network and mutual support. In his view, the ambit was too restrictive. Citing his personal experience in community work as an example, Mr FUNG said that the "conflict approach" for resolving matters of concern in the community also helped to build social relationships and a sense of belonging for residents. He wondered whether projects adopting such an approach would be funded under CIIF.

15. DS(W) reiterated that the main objective of CIIF was to promote social capital, through enhancing individuals' capacity, social networking and cross-sectoral collaboration. PMO said that CIIF would consider applications from various sectors applying different approaches to promote social capital development insofar as they were in line with CIIF's objectives.

16. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung took the view that CIIF-fund projects were window-dressing in nature. In his view, CIIF should be discontinued and the allocation for the Fund should be redeployed to help the disadvantaged and the needy persons, as poverty alleviation should be accorded with top priority in the context of public resource allocation.

17. DS(W) said that CIIF was worthy for further development in the light of

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its achievement in promoting social capital and the number of participants benefited from the capacity building, social networking and community building initiatives.

18. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan commented that CIIF had formulated its own model for CIIF-funded projects. He cast doubt as to whether approval had ever been given to projects which would be developed through a conflict resolution approach. Pointing out that CIIF aimed to, among other things, enhance individual's resilience at times of adversity, Mr LEE questioned whether CIIF would support those applications which promoted community networking for the purpose of introducing new initiatives not provided under the Government's existing policies, for example, unemployment assistance.

19. PMO advised that CIIF had supported projects which helped to enhance employability and collaboration between employers and workers. For instance, the CIIF Committee had launched a joint initiative with the Labour Department, known as 新紮創奇「職」, to apply social capital strategies for the purpose of supporting the personal development of young people and enhancing their employability. The joint initiative was a key theme of the 14th batch of applications. This apart, some new projects also brought in new partnerships including that between a business chamber and a labour union.

20. Mr WONG Sing-chi remained of the view that the CIIF Committee should take note of the concerns about the stringent assessment criteria and unnecessary scrutiny adopted by the Committee. These explained the low success rates of applications and discourage innovation from the applicants. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che shared a similar view. Mr CHEUNG urged the CIIF Secretariat to streamline and expedite the pace of funding disbursement for the successful applicants.

21. PMO said that the CIIF Committee was mindful of the specific needs of different sectors in the community. Having regard to the need to strengthen family resilience and promote mutual help in Tin Shui Wai, CIIF Committee approved 20 projects of various types in the district, involving over 100 collaborators (including schools, art groups, community groups, mutual aid committees, etc.). The success rate of applying funds for these projects in Tin Shui Wai was about 80%.

22. DS(W) said that while the CIIF Committee was mindful of the need to provide more support to prospective applicants to encourage more applications for, and expedite the pace of disbursement of, the Fund, it was equally important to uphold the principle of prudent use of public funds when assessing applications. The CIIF Secretariat would take account of all the relevant factors in processing applications for and disbursing funding from CIIF. Nevertheless, the Administration had taken note of members' views and concerns, and was

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willing to consider ways to further the objectives, and enhance the implementation of, CIIF.

23. The Chairman took the view that the successful applicants of CIIF-funded projects could be broadly classified into three categories, i.e. projects that were in support of the Government's policies, services provided by NGOs and new initiatives to further the objectives of CIIF. While he acknowledged the objectives of CIIF in promoting social capital development in Hong Kong, he disagreed that funding from CIIF should be provided to the first and second categories of projects. In his view, the approval for funding to pro-Government bodies to launch CIIF-funded projects was in fact a transfer of political interests. As for the second types of projects, he considered that community building projects were part and parcel of the regular services of NGOs, and therefore funding from CIIF should not be used for this purpose. He called upon the CIIF Committee to review its assessment criteria for funding applications.

24. DS(W) objected to the Chairman's remark that there had been a transfer of political interests to NGOs and political parties in approving applications for CIIF. She stressed that a partnership approach which helped to promote social capital development in Hong Kong was adopted to encourage mutual support in the neighbourhood, community participation and cross-sectoral collaboration. To facilitate members' understanding of the diverse background of the successful applicants, the Administration would provide a list of the partners of the CIIF-funded projects after the meeting.

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V. Support services for street sleepers

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1231/08-09(05) to (07), CB(2)1310/08-09(01) and CB(2)1360/08-09(01)]

25. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) (DDSW(S)) briefed members on the existing support services for street sleepers as detailed in the Administration's paper. He said that upon the completion of the "Three-year Action Plan to Help Street Sleepers" in 2004, SWD had been subventing three NGOs to each operate an integrated services team for street sleepers (IST), which provided street sleepers with a package of tailor-made and one-stop services. SWD also subvented NGOs to operate five urban hostels and one temporary shelter to provide short-term accommodation for street sleepers and other needy persons. Moreover, different forms of financial assistance were provided for street sleepers.

26. DDSW(S) further said that there had been a significant decline in the number of street sleepers in the recent years. Noting that the number of registered street sleepers had been rising in the recent months, SWD would, in collaboration with NGOs, continue to provide services to street sleepers, closely

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monitor the demand for and operation of street sleepers services and introduce further measures if necessary.

Meeting with deputations

Society for Community Organization
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1310/08-09(01)]

27. Mr NG Wai-tung presented the views of the Society for Community Organization (SOCO) as detailed in its submission. He expressed concern about the increasing number of Hong Kong residents who used to work in Macau and the Mainland and had recently returned to Hong Kong (the returnees) due to loss of jobs amidst the financial tsunami. These Hong Kong residents were not eligible for applying for CSSA immediately after their return to Hong Kong as they could not satisfy the one-year-continuous residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme, even if they were in genuine hardship. Some of them became street sleepers due to financial difficulties. While the provision of emergency shelters and short-term food assistance could only alleviate their hardship temporarily, they had to wait for 309 days before they were eligible for applying for CSSA, i.e. satisfying the one-year-continuous residence requirement.

28. Expressing concern about the upsurge in rental for private housing in the recent years, Mr NG urged the Administration to increase the amount of rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme and re-open the singleton hostels previously operated by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) such that street sleepers could live off the street and move into private tenement or temporary shelters.

Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work Officer Grade Branch
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1231/08-09(07)]

29. Referring to the submission, Mr LEUNG Kin-hung highlighted the difficulties faced by street sleepers in getting places of short-term accommodation because of the hurdles in the existing referral mechanism. As such, street sleepers were usually unable to get places of short-term accommodation on the same day of referral, even though the cases were recommended by frontline social workers. Mr LEUNG added that in light of upsurge in the number of street sleepers, charitable trust fund providing street sleepers with emergency cash grant to cover expenses for payment of rent, rental deposit etc. had been used up. As it took time to complete the application process for CSSA, street sleepers could not afford to pay rental deposit and expenses for undergoing chest X-ray examinations prior to admission to the urban hostels operated by subvented ISTs.

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Hong Kong Right for Homeless Association

30. Mr YEUNG told the meeting about the difficulties faced by the returnees. As they failed to meet the one-year-continuous residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme, the returnees were not eligible for CSSA unless discretion was exercised by the Director of Social Welfare (DSW).

31. Mr CHIN elaborated on the accommodation need of street sleepers. Given that the places provided in urban hostels and emergency shelters were on temporary basis, they were expected to move to longer-term accommodation within a reasonable period of time. Citing his personal experience as an example, he told the meeting that he was required to move out of the temporary hostel shortly. However, he could not afford the monthly rental of a room in private building which amounted to \$1,600, not to mention the rental deposit and the utilities charges. He hoped that SWD could increase the maximum amount of the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme so as to catch up with the high rental of private housing.

*The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1231/08-09(07)]*

32. Ms Mariana CHAN said that the Hong Kong Council of Social Service had outlined the difficulties faced by street sleepers and made a number of suggestions to address the problems in the submission tabled at the meeting. In gist, she urged the Administration to strengthen the support services for street sleepers by providing more resources to ISTs, re-opening the singleton hostels previously operated by HAD, enhancing the employment assistance schemes and reviewing the CSSA Scheme.

Discussions

33. Mr WONG Kwok-hing urged DSW to exercise discretion to waive the one-year-continuous residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme in order to provide immediate financial support to those unemployed returnees who were in hardship. Mr Ronny TONG, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr IP Wai-ming and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed similar concerns. They took the view that the one-year-continuous residence requirement should be abolished as it was unreasonable and unacceptable for a Hong Kong resident to wait for 309 days to be eligible for applying for CSSA.

34. In response, DDSW(S) said that the residence requirement provided a rational basis for the allocation of public resources. Where a CSSA applicant was in genuine need, DSW might consider exercising discretion to waive the one-year-continuous residence requirement having regard to individual circumstances. In determining whether discretion should be exercised to

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exempt a person from the residence requirement, DSW would take into account all relevant factors of the case to establish whether there was genuine hardship. In the interim, street sleepers and other needy persons might be assisted with grants from the emergency funds and charitable trust funds through ISTs or IFSCs to tide over the short-term difficulties.

35. Mr Albert HO enquired about the number of returnees who had applied for CSSA and the number of such cases for whom discretion had been exercised to waive the one-year-continuous residence requirement. DDSW(S) replied that during the period from 1 June 2007 to 28 February 2009, discretion was exercised to approve CSSA for a total of 2 694 cases in which the applicants did not meet the one-year-continuous residence requirement. SWD did not have a breakdown of the background of those applicants.

36. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che considered that it was equally important to study the rationale for not exercising discretion for some applicants who did not meet the one-year-continuous residence requirement. The Administration was requested to provide information on the criteria for exercising discretion to grant CSSA to those returnees who did not meet the one-year-continuous residence requirement. Mr CHEUNG urged SWD to look into and follow up with the individual cases cited by SOCO after the meeting.

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37. Having regard to the accommodation needs of the street sleepers, Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr IP Wai-ming urged the Administration to review the maximum level of rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme as it could not catch up with the prevailing rental of private housing.

38. DDSW(S) advised that an allocation of \$50,000 was included in the annual subvention for each of the three ISTs as emergency fund to cover eligible users' expenses such as payment of rent, rental deposit, other removal expenses and short-term living costs, etc. Street sleepers might be assisted with the emergency fund from ISTs to meet their imminent need, which could normally be disbursed within a short time, say a day. Besides, if other resources were not available, SWD and NGOs would provide temporary cash grants from charitable trust funds for individuals and families (including street sleepers) to help them tide over financial difficulties arising from emergencies.

39. Notwithstanding that an additional \$20,000 would be allocated as emergency fund for each of the ISTs in 2009-2010, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che expressed concern whether the additional fund could adequately meet the needs of the street sleepers. In response, DDSW(S) said that the allocation to ISTs for use as emergency funds was considered adequate in the past years. Individual ISTs could, having regard to service needs, deploy flexibly their operation resources for use as emergency fund. If necessary, SWD would consider further increasing the provision for the emergency funds. In addition, social workers of

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SWD or NGO service units would provide temporary cash grants, which came from allocations to SWD from charitable trust funds, to street sleepers to help them tide over financial difficulties arising from emergencies.

40. Pointing out that some ex-offenders faced difficulties in finding jobs, Mr Ronny TONG enquired if the Administration would consider providing assistance to meet their specific needs before they were discharged from prisons. Mr TONG noted with concern that it was difficult for street sleepers, if not impossible, to find a place of overnight or temporary accommodation in hostels or temporary shelters operated by NGOs, even if the cases were referred by SWD or NGOs. He urged the Administration to enhance the existing referral mechanism and streamline the procedures in order to provide timely assistance for street sleepers.

41. DDSW(S) responded that since March 2007, the Society for Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong had been implementing a two-year pilot scheme with subsidy from SWD to provide a maximum of two months' rental assistance for non-CSSA newly-discharged rehabilitated offenders, in order to help them meet their imminent accommodation need. The pilot scheme had been turned into a regular subvented service with effect from April 2009 upon confirming its effectiveness. DDSW(S) added that the existing referral mechanism for short-term accommodation was considered effective in providing assistance for street sleepers as social workers could start providing service before discharge of the prisoners.

42. To enhance the support services for street sleepers, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan took the view that the Administration should model on the experience of singleton hostels operated by HAD and provide affordable places for needy persons.

43. DDSW(S) said that SWD and NGOs providing support services for street sleepers had planned to enhance their services in 2009-2010. For instance, with the assistance of the Administration in securing suitable premises, the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association (CCHA) (one of the existing ISTs) had planned to set up two self-financing hostels to enhance the emergency shelter service. SWD would take the opportunity to consider enhancing the subvented emergency shelter service of CCHA. DDSW(S) further said that the Singleton Hostel Programme under HAD was specifically introduced in 1991 to offer rehousing arrangements to accommodate those displaced lodgers affected by the enactment of the Bedspace Apartments Ordinance (Cap. 447) (BSAO). As the number of singletons affected by the Ordinance had been significantly reduced, it was decided in 2004 that the small / medium-sized singleton hostels be gradually phased out. From April 2009, there were two multi-storey purpose-built singleton hostels, namely the "Sunrise House" and the "High Street House" remaining in the programme.

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44. Mr IP Wai-ming and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung strongly requested the Administration to consider providing more singleton hostels with a view to meeting the long-term accommodation need of street sleepers. They were of the view that even though HAD had suspended the programme, SWD could re-launch the services if such needs arose.

45. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that SWD should make concerted efforts with other government departments in identifying suitable government premises for conversion into hostels, and commission NGOs to operate them on a self-financing basis in order to address the long-term accommodation need of street sleepers.

46. DDSW(S) stressed that SWD had put in place a wide range of support services to address the emergency and accommodation needs of street sleepers. As explained earlier, in addition to the current provision of subvented urban hostels and temporary shelters, CCHA, with the assistance of the Administration, would set up two self-financing hostels in 2009-2010. SWD would take the opportunity to consider enhancing the subvented emergency shelter service of CCHA. For street sleepers with genuine and pressing housing needs and social / medical ground but were unable to solve the problems themselves, SWD would recommend them to the Housing Department for consideration of allocating public rental housing units to them under the compassionate rehousing arrangement.

47. Mr Albert HO expressed grave concern about the difficulties faced by street sleepers. As a caring Government, the Administration should task to reduce the number of street sleepers to zero. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung took the view that the Administration should adopt a zero tolerance approach in respect of the street sleeper problem and render every assistance to street sleepers.

48. DDSW(S) responded that SWD had devised policies to introduce new services and then revamp the support services to street sleepers since 2001. Notably, there had been a significant drop in the number of street sleepers in the recent years. In light of the possible impacts of the recent global financial tsunami on street sleepers, DDSW(S) stressed that SWD had, in collaboration with ISTs and other parties concerned, devised some improvement measures. SWD would continue to monitor the demand for and operation of street sleepers services closely and introduce further measures if necessary.

49. Mr Alan LEONG envisaged that there would be an upward trend in the number of street sleepers amidst the economic crisis. He wondered whether the existing services were sufficient and asked if the Administration would review the policy and support services for street sleepers.

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50. DDSW(S) said that the Administration had always been concerned about the needs of street sleepers. SWD was fully aware of the rise in the number of street sleepers since the last quarter of 2008 and therefore various measures had been taken to meet the increasing demand. The Administration considered that the existing strategy and support services were effective in addressing the needs of street sleepers, but would continue to monitor the situation closely and take appropriate measures having regard to the changing service demand. DDSW(S) however stressed that the hostels and shelters for street sleepers subvented by SWD were temporary accommodation, and the ultimate goal was to help the residents move to longer-term accommodation.

51. The Chairman opined that the Administration lacked sensitivity in addressing the social needs arising from the changing circumstances, thereby providing insufficient support services for street sleepers. The Chairman said that members held a unanimous view that the Administration should review the one-year-continuous residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme. As the Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation would discuss the review of the CSSA Scheme at its next meeting in May 2009, members might wish to further discuss the policy aspect of the subject matter at the Subcommittee meeting. Nevertheless, he urged the Administration to exercise discretion to waive the residence requirement and set out clear guidelines for staff of Social Security Field Units in making such recommendations to DSW for consideration. Moreover, SWD should make recommendations for compassionate rehousing arrangement on cases with genuine need.

52. DDSW(S) assured members that the Administration had always been concerned about the needs of street sleepers and would continue to dedicate efforts in helping street sleepers.

VI. Any other business

53. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.