

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 5 March 2009)

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 2 nd quarter of 2009.

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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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched the conversion programme since June 2005. By now, 62 homes have commenced conversion. SWD had a meeting with the concerned NGOs on 20 February 2009. The concerned NGOs confirmed that all conversion-related staff issues had been resolved. (b) 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. The

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			<p>Administration is studying the long-term planning for subsidised residential care services for the elderly through a consultancy study led by the Elderly Commission, which is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2009.</p> <p>(c) The conversion arrangements have been finalised and are being implemented. The concerned staff unions have not raised any further views on the conversion arrangements since mid 2007. The Administration stands ready to continue the dialogue with the concerned staff unions when needed.</p>

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<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 whether to re-open the Single Parent Centres after the completion of its review on the implementation of the Integrated Family Service Centre (IFSC) service mode in one year's time.</p>	<p>The transformation of IFSCs was completed in 2004-2005. In October 2008, the Administration commissioned a review on the implementation of the IFSC service mode. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. The Administration will report progress to the Panel in March 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 (PWDs).</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 PWDs and will report to LegCo in due course.</p>

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5. Assistance to elderly not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)	8 June 2006	The Administration was requested to – (a) 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 (b) 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.	The Administration is collating the requisite information and aims to provide a paper once ready.
6. Review of rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme	8 May 2008	The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the suggestion of granting a rent allowance higher than the maximum levels of rent allowance to those CSSA households with genuine and pressing housing needs to cover the actual rent paid.	The Administration is studying the matter and will provide a response when ready.

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7. Adjustment of payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme	10 November 2008	The Administration was requested to provide information on the year-on-year inflation/deflation rates and the corresponding annual adjustments to the average monthly CSSA standard payment rates for different household sizes in the past few years.	The Administration has reverted vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1022/08-09(01) on 5 March 2009.
8. Review Report on the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System	9 February 2009	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <p>(a) to provide the specific timetable for and priorities of implementation of the 36 recommendations made by the Lump Sum Grant Independent Review Committee (LSGIRC); and</p> <p>(b) to take necessary actions on the motion passed by the Panel.</p>	<p>The Administration aims at introducing most of the new initiatives by the end of 2009 and will advise the Panel of the timetable and progress at an appropriate time.</p> <p>The Administration will follow up on the recommendations made by the LSGIRC.</p>
9. District-based Scheme on Carer Training	9 February 2009	The Administration was requested to provide information on the number of District Elderly Community Centres which had developed or planned to develop fee-charging carer services and the details of the fee structure.	The Administration will provide the required information when available.