

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

Supplementary Information on Health Worker Training and Outreaching Support Services for Residential Care Homes for the Elderly

At the meeting on 14 December 2009, Members discussed the “Provision of additional subsidised residential care places as announced in the Policy Address 2009-2010” [LC Paper No. CB(2)450/09-10(03)], and requested the Administration to provide information on the number of health workers in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) who had attended relevant training courses and details of the outreaching support services provided by the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Department of Health (DH) to RCHEs. This note provides the requested information.

Training for health workers in RCHEs

2. According to Section 4 of the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation, a person who has completed a course of training approved by the Director of Social Welfare (DSW) in writing shall be qualified to be registered as a health worker for the purposes of employment at an RCHE.

3. So far, DSW had approved 38 health worker training courses provided by 27 training bodies. By the end of December 2009, 10 555 persons had completed such courses and obtained health worker registration certificates. About 3 100 of them are now working in RCHEs.

4. In addition, the Social Welfare Department (SWD), together with DH and HA, have been organising regular training courses, workshops and seminars, to enhance the care knowledge and capability of RCHE staff, including health workers. In the past two years, SWD and DH had organised a series of training sessions for RCHE staff on drug management and care and management skills which had recorded a total

attendance of about 3 000.

Outreaching support services for RCHEs

5. Both HA and DH have been providing outreaching support services to RCHEs, with a view to improving their quality of care. These services are mainly provided by:

- (a) HA's Community Geriatric Assessment Teams (CGATs) – Through regular visits to RCHEs, CGATs provide comprehensive multi-disciplinary services (including assessment and care management) and community based rehabilitation programmes for the elderly residents there. CGATs also provide carer training and assess the eligibility of elderly residents for infirmary placement. At present, about 650 RCHEs are supported by CGATs. The total number of attendances by RCHE residents for outreach CGAT services was 555 124 in 2008-09 and 299 302 in the six-month period from April to September 2009;
- (b) HA's Psychogeriatric Teams (PGTs) – PGTs provide outreach care and consultations to manage the psychiatric problems of elderly residents in RCHEs. They also offer carer training to staff of RCHEs and residents' families, and liaise with CGATs to ensure proper care of those residents with psychiatric problems. By the end of March 2009, all subvented RCHEs and 57 private RCHEs were receiving services from PGTs. It is expected that a total of 100 private RCHEs will be supported by PGTs by March 2010. The total number of attendances by RCHE residents for outreach PGT services was 66 617 in 2008-09 and 42 116 in the six-month period from April to September 2009; and
- (c) Visiting Health Teams (VHTs) of DH's Elderly Health Service (EHS) – DH runs health promotion programmes and tailor-made outreach training for RCHE staff to enhance their knowledge and skills in taking care of elderly residents. From January 2008 to June 2009, VHTs paid 13 649 visits to RCHEs, with a

total attendance of 121 030 RCHE staff. During the same period, EHS had also organised nine infection control training workshops or sharing forums for RCHE staff, with a total attendance of 2 375.

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