

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1906/09-10

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Report of the Panel on Welfare Services for submission to the Legislative Council

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Welfare Services during the 2009-2010 Legislative Council ("LegCo") session. It will be tabled at the Council meeting on 7 July 2010 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution of the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to welfare (including women welfare) and rehabilitation services, poverty, social enterprise and the Family Council.

3. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

4. The Panel comprises 17 members, with Hon WONG Sing-chi and Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

Major work

Provision of additional residential care places for the elderly

Long-term planning for subsidised residential care services

5. The provision of residential care services for the elderly was high on the agenda of the Panel. Following the release of the Consultancy Study on Residential Care Services for the Elderly initiated by the Elderly Commission ("EC") in December 2009, the Panel held two meetings to discuss the recommendations made therein on the long-term planning for subsidised residential care services for the

elderly. The Panel noted that the consultant had made three recommendations for EC's consideration –

- (a) to consider putting in place a proper means-test mechanism to target subsidised residential care services at elders who had genuine financial need;
- (b) to consider the introduction of a mandatory trial period for community care services for those who offered a "dual option" under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism (i.e. either residential or community care services); and
- (c) to consider expanding the scope and coverage of community care services with the participation of social enterprises and the private sector which should be the prerequisite for the introduction of any voucher scheme for long-term care services.

6. The Panel also noted that EC agreed in principle with the policy options put forward by the consultant. While raising no objection to the policy direction of "ageing in place" and the introduction of a means-test mechanism to shorten the waiting time for subsidised residential care services, members took the view that the criteria for assessing the financial means of applicants on the central waiting list should not be too stringent to ensure that the limited public resources would be allocated to those elderly most in need of long-term care services. Members also agreed with the consultant's recommendations that the introduction of a mandatory trial period of requiring "dual option" holders to use community care services before choosing residential care services should be taken forward until the community care services were enhanced to such an extent that they became a viable alternative to residential care.

7. Members were strongly of the view that the promotion of "ageing in place" and the provision of additional places in subsidised residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") were not mutually exclusive. They strongly urged the Administration to increase the provision of subsidised RCHE places having regard to the ever-growing demand from an ageing population and the public impression that subvented RCHEs were better than private RCHEs.

8. The Administration advised that it had yet to form a position on the consultant's findings and recommendations. It and EC would further study how the existing community care services could be further developed and enhanced before considering whether and how the dual option would be adjusted.

New initiatives to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places

9. The Panel had examined a number of initiatives in respect of the provision of additional subsidised residential care places for the elderly, as announced in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 Budget. According to the

Administration, it would adopt a novel multi-pronged approach to accelerate the provision of subsidised nursing home ("NH") places and places with continuum of care, viz. increasing the proportion of NH places in existing contract RCHEs, purchasing vacant NH places from self-financing RCHEs, and making use of the space in existing subvented RCHEs to provide more long-term care places with continuum of care under the conversion programme.

10. Pointing out that the supply of subsidised RCHE places was far from adequate in meeting the ever-increasing demand arising from an ageing population, members were gravely concerned about the waitlisting situation. Members urged the Administration to expedite the provision of subsidised residential care services for the elderly with a view to shortening the average waiting time to a reasonable time frame.

11. The Administration assured members that it had endeavoured to increase the number of and shorten the waiting time for subsidised RCHE places. Specifically, the Administration had allocated funding for some 1 000 subsidised residential care places for the elderly, including about 800 NH places, in the 2010-2011 Budget; and some 1 000 residential care places for the elderly would be provided upon completion of the 12 development projects for the construction of new contract homes. It also planned to purchase around 500 additional places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme from private RCHEs. According to the Administration, not all elders needed to reside in RCHEs and many elders preferred to age at home. Moreover, some elders were staying at private homes while waiting for subsidised RCHE places. For those elders who stayed at home, 56% were receiving home-based community care services.

Provision of community care services for the elderly

Integrated Discharge Support Trial Programme for Elderly Patients

12. The Administration informed the Panel that in line with the policy of supporting "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up", the Government had been providing elders with subsidised community care services including centre-based day care services and home-based services. The Panel was updated on the implementation of the three-year pilot Integrated Discharge Support Trial Programme for Elderly Patients ("the Programme") in Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun to provide an integrated support service for the elderly hospital dischargees and their carers. According to the Administration, about 6 000 elderly hospital dischargees had been served as at end-June 2009 and the feedback was positive.

13. Expressing support for the launch of the Programme to reduce the unplanned hospital re-admission rate of high-risk elderly hospital dischargees and relieve the stress of carers, some members expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Programme. These members pointed out that some elderly patients refused to be discharged from hospitals simply because they were waiting for admission to subsidised RCHEs and lacked family support to stay at home. Members remained of the view that the Administration should expedite the provision of additional subsidised

residential care places to meet the needs of elderly hospital dischargees who required residential care services and fill the service gap for the dischargees while they were waiting for admission to RCHEs.

14. The Administration advised that in addition to the training provided to the carers to enhance their capability in the post-discharge care for elders, medical and para-medical professionals would arrange transitional rehabilitation services and a range of community care and support services would be provided to discharged elderly patients. The Administration would evaluate the effectiveness of the Programme towards the completion of the Programme in May 2011 and then consider the way forward. The Administration was requested to keep the Panel abreast of the review findings.

Pilot Scheme on Home Care Services for Frail Elders

15. Following the announcement of the 2010-2011 Budget, the Panel noted that a one-off funding of \$55 million would be sought from the Lotteries Fund for implementing the Pilot Scheme on Home Care Services for Frail Elders residing in six districts and waiting for NH places. The pilot scheme was expected to commence within 2010-2011 and would last for three years, serving about 510 elders in total.

16. While welcoming the introduction of the pilot scheme, members were concerned whether and how the enhanced home care services for frail elders would better address the special care needs of frail elders. Members cautioned that the new home care services could not relieve the pressure faced by the family carers in taking care of severely impaired elders at home, and thus such services should under no circumstances be regarded as a substitute for residential care services.

17. The Administration advised that while ageing in place was the policy direction, residential care places would be provided to those who were in need of such services. The pilot scheme aimed to provide a new package of intensive and tailor-made home care services with emphasis on rehabilitation and nursing care elements to cater for the special care needs of elders on the waiting list for NH places. Elders who joined the pilot scheme would remain on the waiting list for subsidised residential care services. The Administration further advised that an interim review would be conducted to be followed by a final review upon the completion of the pilot scheme. The Administration would take into account the review findings in considering the need for extending the scheme to other districts in the territory.

Provision of residential care places for persons with disabilities ("PWDs")

New initiatives to increase the provision of residential care services

18. The Panel continued to follow up the subject of the provision and allocation of subsidised residential care places for PWDs. When the Panel was briefed on the new initiatives as announced in the Policy Address 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 Budget, members noted that the Government had earmarked sites for the provision of an

additional 939 residential care places for persons with severe disabilities in the coming two years.

19. On the other hand, members noted with concern that there were some 6 000 PWDs waiting for subsidised residential care homes for PWDs ("RCHD") places, and the waiting time for Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons ("HSPH") and Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons ("HSMH") places in 2008 was as long as 106 months and 83 months. Members held a strong view that the Administration should draw up a concrete timetable for improving the waitlisting situation, actively consider introducing an allowance scheme for carers of PWDs, and put in place interim measures to enhance relief support services for carers. The Panel passed a motion urging the Administration to launch immediately an allowance for home carers of PWDs so as to provide an additional option for PWDs waiting for RCHD places.

20. The Administration assured members that it was mindful of the acute waitlisting situation for RCHD places. The waiting time might vary among individual PWDs due to various factors, such as their preferences for specific RCHDs or locations. For some cases, the waiting time was about 13 months only. To alleviate the waitlisting situation, the Administration would continue its efforts in providing additional RCHD places.

Pilot Bought Place Scheme ("BPS") for private RCHDs

21. The Panel held two meetings to discuss the Administration's proposal of introducing the four-year pilot BPS and received views from 24 deputations including private RCHD operators and self-help groups. According to the Administration, BPS placement would be offered to those being waitlisted for Long Stay Care Home or Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons, having regard to the fact that existing private RCHDs already possessed the necessary experience, skills and knowledge in taking care of service users with mental illness and mental handicap of moderate grade. It would be more appropriate for persons with severe mental/physical handicap to be taken care of by subvented RCHDs given that the latter were equipped with the necessary facilities to meet their specific needs. Private RCHDs that had joined the Voluntary Registration Scheme ("VRS") and had reached the BPS standards were eligible to join BPS.

22. Concern was raised by some private RCHD operators about the BPS standards. They pointed out that the entire home was required to comply with the upgraded standards under the pilot BPS, and it would be financially viable for private RCHD operators to carry out improvement works only if a reasonable percentage of the recognised capacity was to be bought from each home. Members also noted with concern that of the 54 private RCHDs known to the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"), only six had joined VRS. Members expressed grave concern about the availability of quality RCHD places in the market.

23. The Administration advised that the pilot BPS aimed to encourage private RCHDs to upgrade their service standards, increase the supply of subsidised RCHD places and help the market develop more service options for PWDs. The number of places to be bought under the pilot BPS in each home was proposed to be capped at 50% of its recognised capacity. As a start, the Administration would be careful in identifying quality places in order to ensure the quality service standards of BPS homes which were stipulated in the relevant service agreements. The Administration stressed that it would further consult the private RCHD sector on their operation costs and staffing requirement in determining the appropriate level of contract price and the number of places to be bought. Mid-term reviews would be conducted to keep track of progress and refine the operational details as appropriate.

Pilot Scheme on Home Care Services for PWDs

24. In the course of discussion on the new initiatives for residential care services for PWDs, members noted that the Administration would seek a one-off funding of \$163 million from the Lotteries Fund for implementing a three-year pilot scheme on home care services for persons with severe disabilities and who were on the waiting lists for subvented residential care services at HSMH, HSPH and care and attention home for severely disabled persons, with a package of home-based support services to meet their specific care and training needs.

25. Notwithstanding that the Administration had stressed that these enhanced support services sought to facilitate PWDs' continued living at home while waiting for subvented residential care services, and help relieve the stress of their family carers, members took the view that the pilot scheme, which was expected to serve about 540 persons with severe disabilities, was far from adequate to meet the caring needs of some 6 500 PWDs living in the community. In their view, the Administration should formulate a long-term plan for relieving the waitlisting situation of subvented residential care services. More importantly, the provision of home care services was by no means a substitute for residential care services.

26. The Administration advised that while subsidised residential care services were meant for those who had long-term care needs but could not be taken care of at home, it assured members that those who joined the pilot scheme on home care services would remain on the waiting lists for subsidised residential care services. Should the review findings of the pilot scheme be encouraging, the Administration would consider financing the projects receiving recurrent funding after the three-year pilot period.

Appointment of Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for PWDs and the Elderly

27. To enable more focused discussion on the Government's effort in increasing the provision of subsidised residential places and enhancing care and support for the elderly and PWDs in the community, the Panel decided at its meeting on 11 January 2010 to appoint a subcommittee to study policies and measures relating to the

provision of residential care places and community care services for PWDs and the elderly, and make recommendations where necessary. The approval of the House Committee was obtained on 5 February 2010 for the Subcommittee to commence work. The Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for PWDs and the Elderly held five meetings between March and June 2010. It will hold another meeting in July 2010 to further discuss the provision of community care services for PWDs.

Licensing scheme for residential care services for PWDs

28. The Panel continued to follow up on the progress on the preparation of the Residential Care Homes (Personals with Disabilities) Bill. In April 2010, the Panel was briefed on the legislative proposal before its introduction into the Council on 30 June 2010. According to the Administration, the Bill aimed to provide for the control of RCHDs through a licensing system administered by the Director of Social Welfare. As part of the statutory licensing system, a Code of Practice would be drawn up to set out the minimum licensing standards for compliance by RCHDs. The Panel subsequently held a further meeting to discuss with the Administration and receive views from 15 deputations on the legislative proposal.

29. Concern was raised by some operators of private RCHDs about the financial viability of their homes should there be an increase in the spatial and staffing requirements in RCHDs as set out in the proposed licensing standards. They pointed out that some private RCHDs would close down for being unable to meet the standards.

30. Members expressed grave concern about the impact of the licensing scheme on the operation of private RCHDs and the well-being of RCHD residents. They urged the Administration to make necessary decanting arrangements for the affected residents in the event that some private homes discontinued operation after the implementation of the licensing scheme. However, some members were concerned that the proposed licensing requirements for space and staffing were lower than those in the existing non-statutory Code of Practice for RCHDs issued in 2002. In their view, the proposal was a retrograde step.

31. The Administration stressed that the proposed licensing requirements were set to balance the practical situations of RCHDs and the needs of PWDs. It would formulate suitable complementary measures to encourage private RCHDs to upgrade their service standards. To this end, a pilot BPS would be introduced prior to the implementation of the statutory licensing system to encourage the private RCHD operators to enhance their service quality, and a Financial Assistance Scheme would be implemented upon enactment of the Bill to provide subsidies to private RCHDs to carry out improvement works for compliance with the licensing requirements in building and fire safety. Besides, a grace period would be provided to allow time for RCHDs to put in place suitable arrangements for application for a licence after the passage of the Bill.

Implementation of Lump Sum Grant subvention system ("LSGSS")

32. To follow up on the discussions in the last session, the Panel discussed the progress of the implementation of the 36 recommendations made by the Lump Sum Grant Independent Review Committee ("LSGIRC") in its Review Report on LSGSS. The Administration advised that the implementation of the LSGIRC recommendations followed the planned schedule: of the 36 recommendations, 33 were implemented by the end of 2009, and the remaining three in January 2010.

33. Most members were of the view that the Review Report had not thoroughly resolved the problems arising from the implementation of LSGSS, such as the practice of capping staff salaries at the mid-point of the corresponding civil service pay scale, the offer of time-limited employment contracts and high staff wastage and turnover in NGOs. While noting that the reconstituted LSG Steering Committee would work with the sector in drawing up a Best Practice Manual for NGOs on various management issues as recommended by LSGIRC, members expressed grave concern about the compliance of the Manual given that it was non-binding on NGOs.

34. Members remained concerned about the salary adjustment arrangements adopted and the excess reserves kept by subvented NGOs. Although the Administration had explained that since the inception of LSGSS, NGOs could devise and implement their own staffing and remuneration structures to best suit their unique financial management and human resource management needs in accordance with the performance standards and conditions stipulated in the Funding and Service Agreements, some members considered that the Administration should introduce measures to ensure the use of subventions solely for subvented services. Consideration should be given to imposing a clear condition on the exclusive use of the additional funding provided in line with the civil service pay adjustments for the increase of salary for NGO staff.

Adjustment of social security payments

35. The Panel had examined the latest 12-month moving average of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices ("SSAIP") compiled by the Census and Statistics Department on a monthly basis to measure inflation according to the expenditure pattern of Comprehensive and Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") households. Under the existing adjustment mechanism, the CSSA and Social Security Allowance ("SSA") rates were adjusted annually according to the movement of SSAIP.

36. In December 2009, members noted that the payment rates of CSSA and SSA would be frozen for one year as evidenced by a cumulative decrease of 0.7% in the latest SSAIP when compared with the corresponding period in the last year. They called upon the Administration to closely keep track of the market situation and seek approval for any inflationary adjustments to the market rates ahead of the next annual adjustment cycle where necessary.

37. The Panel was later advised in April 2010 that to ease the impact of the financial turmoil, the Administration proposed to provide an extra allowance to CSSA recipients equal to one month of the standard rates of CSSA, and an extra allowance to Old Age Allowance and Disability Allowance recipients equal to one month of the allowances. The funding proposal was approved by the Finance Committee on 14 May 2010.

38. Members were supportive of the funding proposal of providing additional payment to the CSSA and SSA recipients. However, some members considered that these recipients were not under the direct hit of the financial tsunami, the Administration should consider adjusting upwards the standard payment rates of CSSA and SSA if it was proven that the current payment levels were inadequate for the recipients even at times of economic downturn. These members urged the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review on the adequacy of the CSSA standard payment rates expeditiously.

Work progress of the Family Council

39. The Administration reported to the Panel on the work progress of the Family Council, and briefed members on the major initiatives of the Family Council in the coming year as set out in the Chief Executive's 2009-2010 Policy Address, viz. the launch of the territory-wide Happy Family Campaign and the building of an e-platform Happy Family Info Hub. The Campaign aimed to encourage the community to attach importance to the family, and to foster a culture of loving and happy families, while the Happy Family Info Hub would provide an e-platform to collate useful information for the family and to facilitate sharing of family-related information and family core values.

40. Pointing out that pro-family employment environment was the key element to a happy and healthy family life, members considered that the Family Council should accord priority to studying the promotion of family-friendly employment practices and to encourage government bureaux and departments to consider the family perspectives in the policy formulation process.

41. The Administration stressed that while the Family Council would advise the Government on policies and strategies for supporting and strengthening the family, the related programmes and activities across different bureaux and departments would be implemented by the relevant bureau/department. As announced in the Chief Executive's 2009-2010 Policy Address, the Family Council would be invited to study a wide range of topics, including juvenile drug abuse, prostitution and the neglect of elderly and children, and find new policy options to alleviate them at the family level. In addition, the Family Council would commission a survey-based study on the families in Hong Kong with a view to providing better insights into the state of Hong Kong families. The study would cover areas such as family forms, the quality of family life and family value.

Implementation of the Integrated Family Service Centre ("IFSC") service mode

42. Following the release by the Consultant Team of the Report of Review on the Implementation of IFSC Service Mode in May 2010, the Panel discussed the findings and recommendations of the Review report. Members noted that the Administration accepted in principle all the 26 recommendations in the Review report and would take them forward in collaboration with the stakeholders. Although the Administration had advised that SWD had/would set up working groups or liaison groups comprising administrators, supervisors and frontline staff of IFSCs and other stakeholders to follow up the implementation of recommendations, members remained concerned about the concrete implementation plan and timetable.

43. Members noted with concern that the frontline social workers in IFSCs were overstretched due to insufficient manpower to cope with the increasing service demands, as each IFSC was serving a population of 100 000 to 150 000. Members considered that the Administration should examine whether the existing resources and staff establishments of IFSCs were sufficient to deliver the service mode of providing a continuum of preventive, supportive and remedial services to the community. Members also shared the concern raised by frontline staff of IFSCs about the handling of housing assistance cases, and considered that SWD and the Housing Department should enhance communications and coordination in the referral system in respect of compassionate rehousing arrangement. The Panel held another meeting in late June 2010 to gauge views from the deputations on the findings and recommendations of the Review report.

New Dawn Project

44. The Panel was briefed on the outcome of the evaluation study on the New Dawn Project ("ND Project") and the Administration's plan to launch a new phase of ND Project in March 2010. Under the existing arrangement, for CSSA recipients whose youngest children were aged 12 to 14, they were required to join the ND Project to actively seek paid employment with working hours of not less than 32 per month. Members cast doubt about the effectiveness of the ND Project in assisting the participants to move towards self-reliance given that only about 30% of them were able to secure paid jobs and their average hourly wage level was about \$30, as shown from the findings of the study. Some members took the view that as the primary objective of the ND Project was to assist CSSA recipients who were single parents or family carers to integrate into the community, consideration should be given to recognising the performing of community services and attendance at training courses as meeting working requirement under the ND Project. Members also called on the Administration to keep a close eye on the impact of the introduction of a statutory minimum wage level on the low-skilled participants in seeking employment.

Child Development Fund ("CDF")

45. Members noted that the Administration planned to roll out the second batch of CDF projects to promote the longer-term development of children from a

disadvantaged background. However, some members expressed concern about the slow progress in rolling out CDF projects having regard to the fact that only 750 children were recruited to the first batch of seven pioneer projects and that 1 500 were to be recruited under the second batch of projects.

46. The Administration advised that in the light of the experience gained in the first two batches of projects, it would roll out the subsequent rounds to benefit about 13 600 children, having regard to the operating NGOs' capacity, the availability of suitable mentors and the need to ensure effective management of projects. The Administration further advised that it had commissioned a consultant to evaluate the pioneer projects and make recommendations on how to further develop CDF. While the study was expected to be completed by mid-2012, the consultant's initial observations showed that the projects were bringing about positive changes to the participants.

Reports of the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong ("LRC") on Guardianship of Children and on International Parental Child Abduction

47. During the session, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's position on the recommendations made by LRC in its Report on Guardianship of Children, and its Report on International Parental Child Abduction. Members noted that the Administration had accepted in principle all the recommendations of the two reports, and would proceed with the legislative exercise to implement the recommendations with a view to introducing the relevant legislative proposals into LegCo in the 2011-2012 session.

48. Noting that the Administration had yet to report on the progress of implementing the recommendations made by LRC in its Report on Child Custody and Access, members were concerned about the implementation timetable of the recommendations contained therein. The Administration advised that it would take a cautious approach on the matter and carefully consider the views of the relevant stakeholders before deciding on whether and how to adopt the recommendations of the report.

Long-term social welfare planning

49. Following the launch of the Consultation Paper on the Long-term Social Welfare Planning in Hong Kong by the Social Welfare Advisory Committee ("SWAC"), the Panel held a meeting in early June 2010 to receive views from deputations on the strategic directions for planning and provision of welfare services.

50. Concerns were raised by some deputations and members that despite the numerous requests from the welfare sector for a blueprint on the long-term development of social welfare services in Hong Kong, the Administration was responding to changing circumstances in a piecemeal manner by adopting an annual consultation mechanism with the welfare sector. Some members took the view that the long-term social welfare planning exercise should be led by the Government rather

than SWAC. The absence of representatives of the Administration at the Panel meeting showed a lack of commitment and evasion of responsibility of the Government. Members were advised that the Administration considered it inappropriate to get involved in the discussion of the consultation paper while the consultation was still underway. It would study the recommendations of SWAC and consult LegCo in due course.

51. The Panel held a further meeting in late June 2010 to continue to listen to the views of other deputations on the long-term welfare planning.

Poverty alleviation

52. Pointing out that the Gini Co-efficient of Hong Kong was comparably higher than those of other affluent economies, members expressed grave concern about the widening income disparity between the rich and the poor, and took the view that the Administration should put more efforts and formulate additional concrete measures to tackle the problem of poverty. To better understand the poverty situation in Hong Kong, the Panel had also examined the definition of poverty.

53. The Administration stressed that it was very concerned about the poverty problem and had all along adopted a pragmatic and multi-pronged approach to assist the socially disadvantaged, among others, through creating job opportunities, providing training and retraining opportunities to raise the competitiveness and skills of the workforce, introducing a minimum wage system and providing various services to the needy. A set of 24 poverty indicators was adopted for monitoring the poverty situation in Hong Kong and providing the basis for the formulation and evaluation of policies to assist the needy.

54. Members were advised that the Task Force on Poverty, headed by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, had duly followed up on the recommendations of the former Commission on Poverty ("CoP"). The Administration would continue to monitor the progress in implementing the former CoP's recommendations, as well as to monitor the overall poverty situation and any need for new initiatives and measures.

55. The Panel set up a subcommittee in January 2009 to study policies and measures relating to poverty alleviation. The Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation held 12 meetings, including six in the 2009-2010 session, to discuss with the Administration and receive views from deputations on policies and measures relating to poverty alleviation. These included the use of poverty indicators to monitor the poverty situation and district-based poverty alleviation measures. The Subcommittee concluded its work in June 2010 and drew up a series of recommendations, as detailed in its report to the Panel, for the Administration's consideration. The Chairman of the Subcommittee will move a motion on the Subcommittee's report at the Council meeting on 7 July 2010.

Other issues/items discussed

56. Other issues discussed by the Panel included policy initiatives in respect of welfare services in 2009-2010, the proposal to inject further funding to the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, and the proposal to appoint a select committee by LegCo to inquire into issues relating to the professional autonomy of social workers in Tai O Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project in serving the community.

57. Between October 2009 and June 2010, the Panel held a total of 15 meetings and one joint meeting with the Panel on Transport.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 June 2010

Legislative Council

Panel on Welfare Services

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to welfare (including women welfare) and rehabilitation services, poverty, social enterprise and Family Council.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Welfare Services

Membership list for 2009 - 2010 session

Chairman	Hon WONG Sing-chi
Deputy Chairman	Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Members	Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
	Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
	Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
	Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
	Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
	Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
	Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
	Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
	Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
	Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
	Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
	Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
	Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (up to 28 January 2010) (rejoined on 19 May 2010)
	Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (up to 28 January 2010) (rejoined on 18 May 2010)
	Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (up to 28 January 2010) (rejoined on 19 May 2010)
	 (Total : 17 members)
Clerk	Miss Betty MA
Legal adviser	Mr YICK Wing-kin
Date	19 May 2010