

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1562/09-10
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/09

Panel on Welfare Services

**Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services
for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly**

**Minutes of the second meeting
held on Monday, 29 March 2010, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH

Member absent : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

Public Officers attending : Item II

Mr CHEUNG Hing-wah
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)

Mrs Cecilia YUEN
Assistant Director of Social Welfare
(Rehabilitation & Medical Social Services)

Mr Stephen SUI Wai-keung
Commissioner for Rehabilitation
Labour and Welfare Bureau

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

Staff in attendance : Ms Yvonne YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1163/09-10]

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2010 were confirmed.

II. Long-term strategy for increasing the provision of subsidised residential care places for persons with disabilities
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1149/09-10(01) to (02)]

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).
3. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) briefed members on the Government's long-term strategy for increasing the provision of subsidised residential care places for persons with disabilities ("PWDs") as detailed in the Administration's paper.

Discussions

4. Members expressed the following views –
 - (a) it was Government's responsibility to provide subsidised residential care services for PWDs. As such, the Administration should be committed to increasing the number of subsidised residential care home places. Although there would be an additional provision of around 1 400 subsidised residential care places for PWDs in the next five years, the additional places were far from adequate to meet the demand given that 5 559 cases (91%) were assessed under the Standardised Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for PWDs to be in need of various types of residential services. The Administration should consider earmarking sites and identifying suitable premises such as vacant schools and industrial buildings for conversion into subsidised residential care homes for PWDs ("RCHDs");

Action

- (b) members were concerned about the specific plan in place to support non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") to develop self-financing homes as adopted under the three-pronged approach to encourage participation from different sectors in providing residential care services for PWDs;
- (c) in the light of the difficulties encountered in securing suitable premises for setting up new rehabilitation facilities, the Administration should enhance public understanding of such facilities with a view to soliciting local support for the proposed projects;
- (d) noting that the average waiting time for hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons and hostel for severely physically handicapped persons in 2008-2009 was 51.6 months and 112.4 months respectively, members held the view that the average waiting time for RCHD places was unacceptable. To monitor the progress of provision of subvented residential care services for PWDs, the Administration should set specific targets for admission to various types of residential care services; and
- (e) given that the additional residential care places for PWDs to be provided in the next five years (i.e. around 1 400 places) could not meet the full demand of the waitlistees, the Administration should consider studying the feasibility of delivering residential care services for PWDs through the participation of social enterprises (SEs) formed by parents of PWDs.

5. The Administration made the following responses –

- (a) it would continue to step up its efforts in identifying new resources and suitable sites for setting up new RCHDs. An additional 939 residential care places would come on stream in the next two years, of which 490 places were to be provided upon the service commencement of two new integrated rehabilitation services centres in Kwai Chung and Ho Man Tin, which were converted from the ex-Ma Tau Wai Girls' Home and Ex-South Kwai Chung Jockey Club Polyclinic. The remaining places would be provided in other locations such as Ex-O Pui Shan Boys' Home, vacant hospital staff quarters and vocational training centres, earmarked sites in public housing estate developments, as well as re-development projects such as Cheung Sha Wan Police Quarters. The Administration estimated that there would be altogether around 1 400 additional subsidised residential care places for PWDs in the next five years, subject to the progress of project development and preparation works;

Action

- (b) the provision of new RCHDs would depend on the availability of suitable premises, and physical constraints of the sites, and would on occasion take longer time for the local community to understand the nature of the facilities. In conducting local consultation, the Social Welfare Department at district level would solicit assistance of relevant stakeholders, such as the psychiatrists of the Hospital Authority and RCHD service users in explaining the nature of proposed rehabilitation services to local residents. The Administration would continue to overcome difficulties in identifying suitable premises and solicit local support for setting up rehabilitation facilities including RCHDs. This apart, the Labour and Welfare Bureau continued to launch regularly educational and promotional programmes to promote a barrier free society. The Rehabilitation Advisory Committee had also visited all 18 District Councils to solicit their support in setting up rehabilitation service units and collaboration in organising activities to promotion inclusion. In 2009-2010, funding for public education programmes on rehabilitation services had been increased from some \$2 million to \$12 million;
- (c) the Administration had been adopting a three-pronged approach to encourage participation from different sectors in providing residential care services for PWDs. On the support for NGOs to develop self-financing homes, the Government would provide assistance to NGOs in identifying suitable premises, rendering support for concessionary rental and funding for fitting-out cost in setting up the welfare facilities. To this end, a total of 325 residential places for persons with various types of disabilities operated on self-financing basis were being provided; and
- (d) while the Administration fully acknowledged the contribution, knowledge and skills of family carers in taking care of PWDs, the suggestion of delivering residential care services through the participation of SEs formed by parents of PWDs would require careful consideration. Pointing out that SEs should run like a business, the operation of RCHDs would need both professional knowledge and skills in taking care of PWDs as well as having a business mindset in running an enterprise. To cater for the special needs of PWDs, a wide range of community care and support services for home carers were being provided. The policy objective was to help them discharge their family responsibilities and alleviate their stress, rather than substituting family functions.

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6. To facilitate members' future deliberations on the provision of additional residential care places for PWDs, the Administration was requested to provide the breakdown of the 1 400 additional residential care places to be provided in the next five years by types of services, together with their district distribution and the respective project development stage, and information on the planning parameters for identifying suitable premises for setting up RCHDs. The Subcommittee would also request the relevant Government bureaux and departments to provide information on the policy and plan for earmarking sites in development projects and allocation of vacant premises for provision of residential care services for PWDs.

III. Any other business

Discussion item of the next meeting

7. Members agreed to discuss the long-term strategy for increasing the provision of subsidised residential care places for the elderly at the next meeting to be held on 27 April 2010 at 10:45 am.

8. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:25 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
14 May 2010

**Proceedings of the second meeting of the
Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services
for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly
on Monday, 29 March 2010, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Confirmation of minutes</i>			
000000 - 000256	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes	
<i>Agenda item II – Long-term strategy for increasing the provision of subsidised residential care places for persons with disabilities</i>			
000257 - 001225	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration on the long-term strategy for increasing the provision of subsidised residential care places for persons with disabilities ("PWDs") [LC Paper No. CB(2)1149/09-10(01)]	
001226 - 001905	Mr TAM Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Views of Mr TAM Yiu-chung that –</p> <p>(a) although there would be an additional provision of around 1 400 subsidised residential care places for PWDs in the next five years, the additional places were far from adequate to meet the demand given that 5 559 cases (91%) were assessed under the Standardised Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for PWDs to be in need of various types of residential services; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should identify more suitable premises such as vacant schools and industrial buildings for conversion into subsidised residential care homes for PWDs ("RCHDs")</p> <p>The Administration's advice that it was committed to identifying suitable premises for setting up new rehabilitation facilities including RCHDs. For instance, the Ex-Ma Tau Wai Girls' Home and Ex-Kwai Chung Jockey Club Polyclinic would be converted for setting up two integrated rehabilitation services centres in the coming year, providing a total of 490 residential care places. However, the provision of additional RCHDs would depend on the availability of suitable premises. Some available vacant schools were not suitable for conversion having regard to the physical constraints for it-situ conversion works, lack of transport and community support network, etc. The proposal of turning vacant industrial buildings into RCHDs would be proceeded with only if the premises concerned satisfied the relevant fire and building requirements as well as the environmental impact assessment. The Social Welfare Department ("SWD") would continue to step up efforts in identifying new resources and suitable sites for setting up new RCHDs</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
001906 - 003449	Mr IP Wai-ming Administration	<p>Issues raised by Mr IP Wai-ming –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) he enquired about the planning parameters for identifying suitable premises for setting up new rehabilitation facilities including RCHDs; (b) he considered that the Government should assume the responsibility for providing residential care services for PWDs, instead of relying on the private RCHD sector for the provision of such services; and (c) he held the view that the Administration should enhance educational publicity in a bid to solicit local support for setting up new rehabilitation facilities <p>Response of the Administration –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the provision of new RCHDs would on occasion be met with opposition by the local community and physical constraints of the sites such as height restriction. To solicit local support, public consultation would be conducted by the district welfare officers, with the assistance of the relevant District Offices; and where appropriate relevant parties such as psychiatrists of the Hospital Authority ("HA"), parent group and RCHD service users would assist in explaining the proposed projects to local residents; and (b) the Labour and Welfare Bureau continued to launch regular educational and promotional programmes to promote a barrier free society. The Rehabilitation Advisory Committee had also visited all 18 District Councils to solicit their support in setting up rehabilitation service units. In 2009-10, funding for public education programmes on rehabilitation services had been increased from some \$2 million to \$12 million 	Admin to provide
003450 - 004000	Mr IP Wai-ming Chairman Administration	<p>Mr IP Wai-ming and the Chairman's enquiry on the breakdown of the additional 1 400 subsidised RCHD places coming on stream in the next five years</p> <p>The Administration's advice that an additional 939 residential care places would come on stream in the next two years, of which 490 places were to be provided upon the service commencement of two integrated rehabilitation services centres in Kwai Chung and Ho Man Tin, and the remaining places were to be provided in other locations such as Ex-O Pui Shan Boys' Home, vacant hospital staff quarters and vocational training centres, earmarked sites in public housing estate developments as well as redevelopment of the Cheung Sha Wan Police Quarters. The Administration estimated that there would be altogether around 1 400 additional subsidised residential care places for PWDs in the next five years, subject to the progress of project development and preparation works</p>	

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004001 - 005144	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Administration Chairman	<p>Issues raised by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number of additional subsidised residential care places for PWDs coming on stream in the next two years by types of services and the target clients of the pilot Bought Place Scheme ("BPS") for private RCHDs; (b) the specific plan to support non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") to develop self-financing homes; and (c) more resources and premises should be earmarked for the provision of additional RCHD places <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) about half of the additional 939 residential care places to be provided in the next two years were for hostels for persons with severe disabilities which had a longer waiting time; (b) the 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; (c) the Government would encourage NGOs to develop self-financing homes through providing assistance in identifying suitable premises, rendering support for concessionary rental and funding for fitting-out cost in setting up self-financing homes. To this end, a total of 325 residential places for persons with various degrees and types of disabilities operated on a self-financing basis were being provided; and (d) the Administration would maintain its commitment to increasing the number of subsidised residential care home places and overcoming difficulties encountered in identifying suitable premises for setting up new RCHDs 	
005145 - 010924	Mr WONG Sing-chi Chairman Administration	<p>Issues raised by Mr WONG Sing-chi –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to be eligible for subsidised community care services, PWDs should be waitlistees for subsidised residential care services. This would inevitably result in a longer waiting time for various types of subsidised residential care services. To alleviate the waitlisting situation, the Administration should consider providing an allowance for family carers of PWDs so as to relieve their financial burden and to enable them to take care of their family members; 	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(b) the Administration should consider the proposal of operating RCHDs by parents/carers of PWDs on their own accord through the participation of social enterprises ("SEs"); and</p> <p>(c) concerns about the impact of the proposed licensing scheme for RCHDs on the operation of private RCHDs</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) while the Administration acknowledged the important roles of family carers in taking care of PWDs, the suggestion of providing an allowance to their family carers to relieve the demand for residential care services would require thorough and careful consideration in view of the fact that severely handicapped persons required various kinds of care, which involved professional knowledge and skills;</p> <p>(b) SEs should run like a business. As such, the delivery of residential care services through the participation of SEs would need both professional knowledge and skills in taking care of PWDs as well as having a business mindset in running an enterprise. To cater for the special needs of PWDs, a wide range of community care and support services for home carers had been provided. The policy objective was to help them discharge their family responsibilities and alleviate their stress, rather than substituting family functions; and</p> <p>(c) it would further consult and take into views of the stakeholders and parents of PWDs on the legislative proposals to regulate the operation of RCHDs</p> <p>The Chairman's proposal for setting up small group homes by parents of PWDs for providing residential care services for PWDs</p>	
010925 - 012648	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Issues raised by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung –</p> <p>(a) he supported Mr WONG Sing-chi's suggestion of delivering residential care services for PWDs by SEs and requested the Administration to form a task group to study the feasibility of the proposal;</p> <p>(b) he enquired about the specific targets in place for shortening the waiting time for various types of residential care services for PWDs;</p> <p>(c) in view of the difficulties encountered in soliciting local support for setting up RCHDs, SWD should take the initiative to identify potential suitable sites at the development stage and request the Government to earmark the sites for setting up RCHDs; and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(d) the Administration should actively consider providing an allowance for family carers and employment of domestic helpers so as to provide an additional option for PWDs to live in the community</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) it was premature to form a task group to study Mr WONG Sing-chi's proposal, as the Administration would have to consult the stakeholders on their preliminary response in the first place;</p> <p>(b) the Administration was fully aware of the waitlisting situation and had accorded priority to the provision of new subvented residential places for PWDs. However, the provision of additional RCHDs would also depend on the availability of suitable premises. On some occasions, the proposed projects could not be proceeded with right away on account of objection by the local communities;</p> <p>(c) it was difficult to set targets for admission to subsidised residential care places as the provision of subsidised residential care places was subject to change having regard to various factors. In tandem with the provision of additional places, the Administration would enhance the community care and support services for PWDs; and</p> <p>(d) Eligible PWDs could apply for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") or Disability Allowance to meet the special needs arising from disability. For instance, discretionary grant/supplement was provided under the CSSA Scheme for eligible PWDs to employ domestic helpers to take care of them at home. The Administration would keep a close watch on the needs of PWDs and their carers and continue to provide them with diversified community support services with a view to helping PWDs integrate into society</p> <p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's emphasis on the need for setting up specific targets for admission into residential care services</p>	
012649 - 014631	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's enquiry on –</p> <p>(a) the basis for projecting the future demand for RCHD places;</p> <p>(b) the breakdown of the additional 1 400 subsidised RCHD places coming on stream in the next five years by types of services, district distribution and their respective project development stage; and</p> <p>(c) the Government's policy and plan for earmarking sites/premises in public housing estate</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>developments, projects under the Urban Renewal Authority as well as vacant Government premises for setting up welfare facilities, including residential care services for PWDs</p> <p>The Administration's response that it would make reference to the relevant statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department in estimating the demand for residential care services, although the actual demand would be affected by a number of factors. Information relating to (b) and (c) above would be provided/sought after the meeting</p> <p>The Chairman's concern about the number of places to be purchased under the pilot BPS, the incentives for private RCHD operators to join the pilot BPS, the complementary measures to help operators meet the requirements and the monitoring of RCHDs</p> <p>The Administration's response that SWD would further consult the private RCHD sector and take into account the views of the stakeholders in working out the operational details, including the number of places to be bought and the performance of the operators of the private RCHDs</p>	<p>Admin to provide</p>
014632 - 015507	Mr WONG Sing-chi Chairman Administration	<p>Request of Mr WONG Sing-chi –</p> <p>(a) the Administration to give an account of the difficulties encountered in identifying suitable premises for setting up new RCHDs, such as the districts concerned and the number of local opposition encountered; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration to actively consider converting the vacant school located adjacent to Choi Po Court in the North District into a RCHD</p> <p>Response of the Administration –</p> <p>(a) on some occasions, the proposed RCHD projects could not be proceeded with right away on account of objection by the local communities. Local support for the proposed projects could be solicited eventually upon repeated consultations with and explanation to the communities concerned; and</p> <p>(b) the vacant school adjacent to Choi Po Court had been earmarked for conversion into a residential care home for the elderly</p>	
<i>Agenda item III – Any other business</i>			
015508 - 015622	Chairman Administration	Date and discussion item of the next meeting	