

**For discussion
on 31 May 2010**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

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

**Community Care Services
for Persons with Disabilities**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the Government's provision of community care and support services for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Overview

2. As set out in the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan 2007, the policy objectives of the Government for the provision of community care and support services for PWDs are to make available training and support to PWDs according to their needs, assist them in developing their potential, enable them to continue living independently at home and prepare them for full integration into the community. These services also aim at strengthening the caring capacity of their family members/carers so as to provide a better quality of life for PWDs and their family members/carers. To this end, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides a range of community care and support services which seek to assist PWDs in developing their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent, to promote their integration into the community as well as to relieve the stress of their family members/carers. Details of various community care and support services being provided to PWDs and their carers are set out at **Annex** for Members' reference.

3. To cater for the increasing service demand and changing needs of PWDs, SWD has introduced a series of new initiatives in recent years to enhance the community care and support services for PWDs. Details of these initiatives are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

New Service Initiatives for Persons with Intellectual Disability/Physical Disability

District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities

4. To better cater for the needs of persons with different types of disabilities and provide them with services in a one-stop manner, SWD set up 16 District Support Centres for PWDs (DSCs) through re-engineering of existing community support services in January 2009. Under this district-based approach, DSCs provide PWDs and their family members/carers with one-stop community support services which aim at enhancing the domestic and community living skills of PWDs, thereby facilitating their integration into the community. DSCs also provide training and support services to the family members/carers of PWDs so as to strengthen their caring capacity and to relieve their stress.

Pilot Scheme on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities

5. Given the conditions of persons with severe physical and/or intellectual disabilities and the level and intensity of care they require, the Government is mindful of their special care needs and the immense pressure faced by their family carers at home. To strengthen the support for this most vulnerable group, the Government has earmarked \$163 million under the Lotteries Fund to implement a three-year pilot scheme for providing persons with severe disabilities who are living in the community and are on the waiting lists for subvented residential care services with home care services.

6. Under this pilot scheme, PWDs who are on the waiting lists for subvented residential care service of Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons, Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons, and Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons will be provided with a package of home-based support services to meet their care and training needs including personal care and escort service, occupational therapist/physiotherapist rehabilitation training service and nursing care service. These enhanced support services seek to facilitate home living of these PWDs while waiting for residential care services, and help relieve the stress of their family carers. The pilot scheme will be tried out in Tuen Mun and Kwun Tong districts which have the largest number of persons with severe disabilities (a total of around 540 PWDs) waiting for such services. The pilot scheme will commence in the fourth quarter of 2010-11.

New Service Initiatives for Persons with Mental Health Problems

7. In recent years, SWD has launched a number of new initiatives to enhance the community support services for persons with mental health problems and their families and carers. These schemes, including the Community Mental Health Intervention Project, Community Rehabilitation Day Services, Community Mental Health Link and Community Mental Health Care Services, cater for the different stages of the social rehabilitation of the service users, and seek to improve their social adjustment capabilities, prepare them to re-adjust to community living, help them develop their social and vocational skills and raise public awareness of the importance of mental health. SWD has also set up a Parents/Relatives Resource Centre to provide emotional support and counselling service for their families and carers and strengthen the caring ability of their carers.

8. For further service enhancement, SWD set up the first Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in Tin Shui Wai in March 2009 to provide one-stop, accessible and integrated community mental health support services to discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families and carers and residents living in the district. These integrated services range from early prevention to risk management through casework counselling, outreaching visits, therapeutic groups, day training, occupational therapy training, supportive groups, public education programmes and, where required, direct liaison with the cluster-based community psychiatric service of the Hospital Authority (HA) for urgent medical consultation.

9. In light of the successful experience of the pilot operation of the ICCMW in Tin Shui Wai, SWD has secured additional annual provision of about \$70 million to expand this integrated service model across the territory. SWD is in the course of finalising the operational logistics with the concerned NGOs e.g. demarcation of service boundary, service output standard, identification of premises etc., and aims to put in place this integrated service model in all the 18 districts within 2010-11.

10. The ICCMWs will work closely with HA to provide timely community support to persons with severe mental illness discharged from hospitals under HA's Case Management Programme. In tandem, SWD and HA have also strengthened their collaboration by setting up communication and co-ordination

platform both at the headquarter and district levels, with participation of relevant stakeholders, e.g. the NGOs, government departments, etc. in order to develop strategies and enhance co-ordination in handling problems relating to mental health services. To complement HA's new initiatives in providing support for newly discharged psychiatric patients, SWD has also secured additional funding of about \$6 million to provide 14 additional medical social workers to strengthen the psychiatric medical social service for psychiatric patients and their family members/carers.

11. The Government will continue to keep under review the community care and support services for PWDs and make necessary adjustment and enhancement to the services in response to service needs.

Advice Sought

12. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
May 2010

Existing Community Care and Support Services

District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities (DSC)

DSC adopts a district-based approach for the provision of one-stop community support services for PWDs and their family members/carers. It aims at enhancing the domestic and community living skills of PWDs so as to facilitate their integration into the community. The range of services provided at DSC include individual/group training programmes, care and support service, personal development programmes, social and recreational activities, volunteer development programmes, programmes for autistic persons, day care service for persons with severe disabilities and community education.

Specialised Home-based Training and Support Service (SHBTS)

SHBTS provides territory-wide specialised support services to severely physically handicapped persons. In addition to short-term and intensive therapy or maintenance exercises to service users, SHBTS also assists PWDs in overcoming the adaptation problem at home so as to enhance their quality of life.

Community Rehabilitation Day Centre (CRDC)

CRDC provides short-term, goal-oriented and time-defined community-based rehabilitation services for discharged patients with a view to enhancing their independent living in the community and social integration. Services provided include individual or group rehabilitation training programmes, outreaching individualised therapy services for patients discharged from hospitals who are homebound, professional support on home modification, mutual support group, day care respite and day care service for persons with severe disabilities.

Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients (TCSC)

TCSC provides time-defined and goal-oriented community-based rehabilitation programme for tetraplegic patients with a view to improving their physical, cognitive, communicative, behavioural, psychological and social functioning in a non-medical setting in order to facilitate their return to the community. Services provided include transitional residential service, ambulatory day training programme, residential respite service, social programmes and peer support groups.

Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (DC/SD)

DC/SD provides centre-based day care for persons with severe disabilities. Its objective is to promote care in the community by strengthening the caring capability of families or carers through provision of regular day care including nursing, rehabilitation, social and personal care services so as to enhance opportunities of persons with severe disabilities to continue living in the community.

Residential Respite Service

Residential respite service provides family members or carers of PWDs a planned short break so that they may attend to their personal business such as undergoing a medical operation or taking vacation tour. Its purpose is to make life for those involved in routine care for PWDs less stressful.

Parents/Relatives Resource Centre (PRC)

PRC provides emotional support and practical advice to parents and relatives of PWDs to enhance their acceptance of their disabled dependents, facilitate them in securing appropriate training opportunities to strengthen their abilities in taking proper care of their disabled family members at home.

Social and Recreational Centre for the Disabled (S&RC)

S&RC organises a variety of activities to fulfil the social, recreational and developmental needs of PWDs and assists them in integrating into the community.

Community-based Support Projects

Community-based support projects aim at providing PWDs living in the community and their families a better quality of life. The current batch of community support projects include home-based rehabilitation training service, training and caring service for people with special needs, specialised programme for persons with autism/challenging behaviour, support service for working PWDs and their families, home care service, personal development programme, junior gateway club, support scheme for newly blind persons, etc..

Gateway Club (GC)

GC provides leisure and recreational activities for persons with intellectual disability. Through these activities, persons with intellectual disability are encouraged to exercise their personal choice, independence and full participation.

Rehabilitation and Training Centre for Visually Impaired Person (RTC)

RTC provides a comprehensive rehabilitation training programme for visually impaired persons to develop skills for independent living and help them regain self-confidence. The programme covers orientation and mobility training, communication and social skills, home management, work practice and community life education.

Multi-service Centre for the Deaf

The Multi-service Centre for the Deaf provides various services, including casework and counselling service, sign language interpretation service, ear-mould production and repair service and audiological and speech therapy service, to persons with hearing impairment.

Communication and Information Service for Visually Impaired Persons

Communication and Information Service for Visually Impaired Persons provides library services, including reading aids, talking or Braille books/magazines/CDs to meet the educational and recreational needs of persons with visual impairment.

Aftercare Service for Dischargees of Halfway Houses

Aftercare service is to facilitate dischargees of half-way houses to reintegrate into the community and help them adjust to their daily living as well as social and working environment.

Training and Activity Centre for Ex-mentally Ill Persons (TAC)

TAC is set up to enhance the social adjustment capability of ex-mentally ill persons. It aims to help them become more independent in daily living and develop their social and vocational skills. A social club is attached to each centre providing them with social and leisure activities.

Community Mental Health Link (CMHL)

CMHL attached to halfway houses or TAC provides additional care and support to ex-mentally ill persons and their families/carers in the community. The district-based services include tangible service (e.g. meals, laundry and shower), outreaching visits, consultation on employment, counselling, networking to local resources, social/recreational/educational programmes, programmes for families/carers and public education programmes.

Community Mental Health Care Services

Community Mental Health Care Services provide care and support to ex-mentally ill persons in the community. The services, which consist mainly of outreaching visits and other kinds of assistance, aim to provide continuous support to mental patients newly discharged from psychiatric wards/hospitals and halfway houses so as to help them solve their adjustment problems and re-integrate into the community.

Community Rehabilitation Day Services (CRDS)

CRDS provides a time-defined outreaching occupational therapy training (OT) to those ex-mentally ill persons living in the community with a view to helping them minimise their relapse to hospitalisation and better re-integrate into the community. The OT training programmes include a variety of skills training in the areas of self care, home management, health management and community living.

Community Mental Health Intervention Project (CoMHIP)

CoMHIP provides specialised social work intervention, including casework, outreaching visits, therapeutic and supportive group services with a view to assisting persons aged 15 and above living in the community with suspected mental health problems and/or their family members to deal with problems arising from their poor mental health conditions. CoMHIP adopts a multi-disciplinary and district-based approach in service delivery through close collaboration among SWD, the Hospital Authority and non-governmental organisations.