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

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 31 May 2010**

**Provision of subsidised community care services for persons with disabilities**

**Purpose**

This paper gives a brief account of past discussions of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the Panel") on the provision of subsidised community care services for persons with disabilities ("PWDs").

**Background**

2. According to the Administration, the overall objective of the rehabilitation policy is to support full integration of PWDs into the community. To this end, the Administration provides a series of rehabilitation services, community support and training to facilitate PWDs to live independently, and/or to live with their families and friends in the community. For those who cannot live on their own and cannot be adequately cared for by their families, the Administration has taken measures to meet their residential care needs, to improve their quality of life and to help them develop independent living skills.

**Deliberations by members**

Community care and support services for PWDs

3. The provision of subsidised residential care services was high on the agenda of the Panel. Members were advised that apart from increasing the number of subsidised residential care places, the Administration had provided community support for PWDs on the waiting lists for various types of subsidised residential care places and their family carers. The majority of PWDs on the waiting lists for subsidised residential care places were receiving various day training, vocational

rehabilitation and community support services provided by non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") under Social Welfare Department ("SWD")'s subvention. These included services at day activity centres and sheltered workshops, services at supported employment and day care services for persons with severe disabilities, etc. Through the provision of rehabilitation services in accordance with individual needs, PWDs were given the necessary support and assistance which enabled them to continue to live in the community while relieving the burden on and the stress of their families or carers.

4. At the meeting on 14 December 2009 when members discussed the initiatives announced in the Chief Executive's 2009-2010 Policy Address, the Administration advised that at present, the Government provided over 16 300 places for day and vocational rehabilitation training for PWDs and the total expenditure in this respect amounted to over \$760 million in 2008-2009. In 2010-2011, it would provide additional places for pre-school training, day training, vocational rehabilitation and residential care services, in accordance with the directions set out in the 2007 Rehabilitation Programme Plan to strengthen day training and vocational rehabilitation service.

5. Members were further advised that the Administration had introduced a new service mode for enhancement of community support services. In January 2009, SWD set up 16 district support centres for PWDs to provide one-stop service for strengthening the support for PWDs residing in the community and their family members through re-engineering the home-based training and support service. This apart, as undertaken in the 2009-2010 Policy Address, the Administration would expand the service mode of the first Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness in Tin Shui Wai across the territory in 2010-2011 to provide district-based, one stop and integrated community support services for persons with mental health problems and their family carers.

#### Pilot scheme on home care services for persons with severe disabilities

6. At the meeting on 8 March 2010, the Panel noted that some 6 500 PWDs were on the waiting lists for various types of subsidised residential care service and the situation was most acute for those with severe disabilities. By end-September 2009, the number of persons with severe physical and/or mental disabilities on the waiting lists were 1 970 for hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons, 407 for hostel for severely physically handicapped persons and 345 for care and attention home for severely disabled persons. The average waiting time for these services in 2008-2009 was 4.3 years, 9.4 years and 3 years respectively. In the light of this, the Administration advised that, as announced in the 2010-2011 Budget, a one-off funding of \$163 million would be sought under the Lotteries Fund for implementing a three-year pilot scheme on home care services for persons with severe disabilities, which was expected to serve a total of about 540 persons with severe disabilities upon its full operation.

7. On the details of the pilot scheme, the Administration advised that a new package of home-based support services would be tried out in Tuen Mun and Kwun Tong which had the largest number of persons with severe disabilities (273 and 264 persons respectively) waiting for subvented residential care services at hostel for severely mentally handicapped, hostel for severely physically handicapped persons and care and attention home for severely disabled persons. To meet their care and training needs, the support services included personal care and escort service, occupational therapy/physiotherapy rehabilitation training service and nursing care service. Taking into account the lead time for securing funding and identification of NGO operators, the pilot scheme would commence in the fourth quarter of 2010-2011 and end in the third quarter of 2013-2014.

8. While welcoming the pilot scheme, members took the view that the Administration should under no circumstances regard community care services as a substitute for the provision of subsidised residential care services. The Administration assured members that PWDs who joined the pilot scheme would remain on the waiting lists for subsidised residential care services. As undertaken in the Chief Executive's 2009-2010 Policy Address, the Government would provide 939 additional places in the coming two years, including the setting up of two integrated rehabilitation service centres in Kwai Chung and Ho Man Tin in the coming year, providing a total of 490 residential places. The Administration advised that the enhanced support services sought to facilitate PWDs' continued living at home while waiting for residential care services, and help relieve the stress of their family carers.

9. Members were also advised that the pilot scheme was in line with the strategic directions of providing support for service users and their family carers. Reviews would be conducted in the course of and upon the completion of the pilot scheme. The Administration would not rule out the possibility of increasing the quota of service users or expanding the pilot scheme to cover all districts if the schemes were proven effective.

### **Relevant papers**

10. Members are invited to access the Legislative Council website at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/> to view the Administration's papers for the meetings of 14 December 2009 and 8 March 2010, and the relevant minutes of meetings.