

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)673/11-12
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Tuesday, 5 July 2011, at 8:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Chairman)
Hon WONG Sing-chi (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Member absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG Fung Wing-ping
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 3

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

Mrs Anna MAK CHOW Suk-har
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)

Miss Cecilla LI
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly)

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

**Attendance by : Item I
invitation**

香港區私營院舍聯會

Ms NG Yuet-yee
Vice Chairman

The Elderly Services Association of Hong Kong

Ms LI Fai
Chairman

The Elderly Care Alliance

Ms TONG Leong-kwan
Convenor

私人院舍社會工作者同盟

Mr PONG Kwok-boon
Board Member

爭取私營院舍權益大聯盟

Ms WONG Yun-fong
Medical Superintendent

Community Care and Nursing Home Workers General
Union

Ms CHUNG Wai-ling
Chairperson

Social Welfare Organizations Employees Union

Mr CHENG Ching-fat
Member

SME Global Alliance Limited - Elderly Service Committee

Ms WONG Kam-wong
Chairman

新界東私營復康院舍聯會

Mr TSANG Kim-kwong
Convenor

HK Evergreen Association of the Elderly

Mr LO Wei-kai
Vice Chairman

Elderly Committee SME Global Alliance Limited

Ms CHAN Fong-tai
Vice Chairman

新界西私營院舍聯會

Mr CHEUNG Kin-wah

The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the
Mentally Handicapped

Mrs YU CHEUNG Pui-lan
ExCo Member

Disabled & Elderly Care Services Alliance

Mr Richard LEE Pak-ying
Chairman

HK Private Nursing Home Owners Association

Mr Thomas KWONG
Vice Chairman

Elderly Home Service Association

Mr CHAN Hok-man
Chairman

Direction Association for the Handicapped

Mr LAW Wai-cheung
Vice-chairman

HK Private Hostel for Rehabilitation Association

Mr Joe LI
Chairman

東九龍殘疾人士院舍大聯盟

Miss CHEUNG Chi-kam
Chairman

西九龍復康院舍聯會

Mr FONG Fu-leung
Chairman

Hong Kong & Kowloon Elderly Care Service Association

Mr LEUNG Shiu-wai
Chairman

Private Elderly Home Relative Concern Group

Mr TAM Ny-wai
Representative

Elderly Service Concern Group

Miss YUEN Shuk-yan
Community Organizer

Elderly Right League (HK)

Miss LAU Sau-kam
Committee Member

Society for Community Organization

Mr NG Wai-tung
Community Organizer

私營院舍社工聯合小組

Mr CHAN Tze-hau
Social Worker

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

Staff in attendance : Ms Yvonne YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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- I. Impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private residential care homes**
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1763/10-11(01), CB(2)2232/10-11(01) to (02) ,
CB(2)2244/10-11(01), CB(2)2264/10-11(01) and
CB(2)2306/10-11(01) to (06)]

The Chairman said that the special meeting was convened to receive views from deputations on the impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private residential care homes.

2. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) ("DDSW(S)") said that the Administration was aware of the concern over the impact of the statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private residential care homes. However, the current regulatory framework did not require operators to be accountable to the Government for the business decisions. Nonetheless, from the welfare point of view, the Administration had maintained close contact and monitored closely the operating conditions of the sectors, and had introduced supporting measures as appropriate. For instance, the Administration had taken into account the operating expenditure of residential care homes for the elderly

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("RCHEs") and residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") in setting the purchase prices for different types of bought places.

3. DDSW(S) further said that overall speaking, about 15 private RCHEs closed down per year between April 2008 and March 2011, while an average of 16 RCHEs commenced operation per year in the same period. While RCHEs and RCHDs did open and close from time to time for various reasons, the Administration would ensure that appropriate assistance would be rendered to the residents and their relatives, thus minimising disturbance to the residents on home closure as far as practicable. According to the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation (Cap. 459A) and the relevant Code of Practice, if an RCHE operator intended to close down the RCHE, the operator was required to inform the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") and the residents as well as their family members in advance and provide an evacuation plan for the residents. Similar requirements for RCHDs would be in place following the coming into force of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (RCHD Ordinance) (Cap. 613) and its Regulation.

4. DDSW(S) added that as at 31 May 2011, there were 52 974 private RCHE places (including Enhanced Bought Place Scheme ("EBPS") places) in Hong Kong, with about 38 788 residents. As regards private RCHDs, as at 31 May 2011, there were 71 private RCHDs known to SWD, providing about 3 700 places, with an average enrolment rate of 65%. By comparing the figures of the same period in 2009 and 2011, it was noticed that there was a trend of steady increase both in the number and capacity of private RCHDs (i.e. increased by 24 RCHDs and 1 250 places). The Administration anticipated that the private market had the capacity to absorb additional service demand in case of contingencies.

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, 26 deputations presented their views on the subject. A summary of the deputations' views is in the **Appendix**.

Discussions

6. Mr WONG Sing-chi noted with concern that most of the residents of private residential care homes were Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") recipients who relied on the CSSA payments to meet the home fees. He shared the concerns raised by most deputations that the standard payment rates of CSSA were inadequate to meet the latest home fees. He asked about the Administration's response to the concerns. Mr WONG took the view that the basic needs items included in determining

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the standard rates for elderly CSSA recipients had not taken into account their needs for care. As such, the Administration should actively consider providing a care subsidy of \$1,500 to private RCHE residents to meet their specific needs for long-term care. In his view, private residential care home operators had played an important role in supporting the Government and filled the existing service gap in residential care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

7. DDSW(S) said that the CSSA Scheme provided a safety net for those who could not support themselves financially. It was designed to bring their income up to a prescribed level to meet their basic needs. The CSSA recipients could make use of the CSSA payments according to their own wish and needs. While acknowledging the role played by commercially operated private residential care homes, DDSW(S) advised that the Administration would continue to steadily increase the number of subsidised RCHE places to be provided by new contract homes and EBPS places.

8. DDSW(S) further said that the Administration maintained close contact with private RCHEs and RCHDs. For instance, SWD had set up a working group in June 2011 to explore practicable and feasible measures to improve EBPS as well as the operating environment and service quality of the RCHEs concerned. As for RCHDs, in tandem with the implementation of the licensing scheme for RCHDs, the Administration had formulated suitable complementary measures to help operators meet the licensing requirements and help the market develop quality residential care services for persons with disabilities. To this end, the Administration had launched in October 2010 a pilot Bought Place Scheme for private RCHDs, with a view to encouraging private RCHDs to upgrade their service standards and help the market develop more service options for persons with disabilities. This apart, the Administration would implement a Financial Assistance Scheme after the implementation of the licensing scheme for RCHDs to provide subsidies for private RCHDs to carry out improvement works in compliance with the licensing requirements on building and fire safety. Furthermore, to allow time for individual RCHDs to put in place suitable arrangements for application for a new licence or certificate of exemption, there would be a grace period of 18 months starting from the commencement of the RCHD Ordinance.

9. Regarding the proposal of providing a care subsidy for private residential care home residents, DDSW(S) said that the Government's elderly care policy was "ageing in place", and there was no intention to change the policy at this stage.

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10. Responding to the proposal of adopting the concept of "money following users" made by some deputations, DDSW(S) said that the Administration would need to consider the proposal carefully and thoroughly having regard to the far-reaching implication on the possibility of giving rise to premature and unnecessary institutionalisation. On the suggestion of importation of labour for private residential care homes, DDSW(S) said that the home operators could file applications with the Labour Department under the Supplementary Labour Scheme, but not private RCHEs participating in EBPS.

11. Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)3 advised that "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up" was the Government's elderly care policy, which was in line with the wish of most elders. At the next regular meeting of the Panel on 11 July 2011, the Administration would brief members on the consultancy study on community care services for the elderly initiated by the Elderly Commission. Apart from providing community care services for the elderly, the Administration would continue to increase the supply of subsidised RCHE places. In addition to setting up new contract homes, an additional 793 places would be purchased under EBPS from private RCHEs in the current and following year. This apart, the purchase price for an EBPS place had been adjusted upwards by 3.1% in 2011-2012, representing an additional recurrent expenditure of \$17 million.

12. Mr WONG Sing-chi pointed out that taking into account the projected inflation rate of 7% and the impact of the statutory minimum wage on the operating cost of private RCHEs, the purchase price of an EBPS place should be adjusted upwards by 20%. In his view, the Administration should review the mechanism for determining the level of purchase price under EBPS.

13. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said that the Panel had held lengthy discussion on issues relating to the adequacy of CSSA payments in meeting home fees of private RCHEs, despite the Administration had stated time and again that CSSA payments were not disbursed to the elderly recipients for this purpose. In his view, CSSA payments should not be used to meet the home fees as the basic needs items provided for under CSSA payments did not include the care needs of the elderly recipients. Considering the job nature and the long working hours in residential care homes, Mr LEE said that it was understandable that private home operators faced manpower shortage and high wastage problem notwithstanding the implementation of statutory minimum wage. In the light of the operating difficulties encountered by the private RCHE sector, he was concerned that some private RCHEs would close down. In the circumstances, it was the

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Government's responsibility to address squarely the problem of inadequate subsidised residential care places for the elderly, instead of relying on the spare capacity of the private RCHE sector to absorb the waitlistees for various types of subsidised residential care services. To resolve the problem at root, Mr LEE urged the Administration to raise the level of purchase price and purchase all of the recognised capacity of private RCHEs.

14. At the invitation of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr CHAN Tze-hau of 私營院舍社工聯合小組 reiterated the impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private RCHDs and the financial viability of private RCHDs after the implementation of the licensing scheme for RCHDs. He cautioned that a number of private RCHDs would close down after the implementation of the licensing scheme for RCHDs because of the inability to meet the rising operating and compliance costs.

15. Mr LO Wei-kai of the HK Evergreen Association of the Elderly expressed dissatisfaction at the Administration's reluctance to address the problems faced by private residential care homes and the well-being of the residents thereof.

16. Ms TONG Leong-kwan of The Elderly Care Alliance appealed to the Administration to consider providing a subsidy for private RCHEs or making reimbursement to private RCHEs on an accountable basis to meet the additional expenses arising from the long-term care needs of the elderly residents.

17. Ms LI Fung-ying disagreed that the operating difficulties of private residential care homes was attributable to the implementation of the statutory minimum wage, as the statutory minimum wage merely sought to help ensure that employees' take-home pay would be commensurate with their working hours. In her view, the fundamental causes for the operating difficulties of private home were rising rentals and inflation. Ms LI said that under the existing adjustment mechanism for CSSA, the adjustment of payments was based on outdated market information which was lagged behind the prevailing market prices. In the light of the soaring food prices, she took a strong view that the Administration should introduce immediate measures to relieve the financial pressure of private homes in a bid to ensure the healthy and nutritious diets of the residents. Ms LI further said that as a majority of private RCHE residents were on CSSA, the Administration should actively consider the co-payment arrangement to enable the RCHE residents to receive quality service. Ms LI stressed that the Administration should take immediate concrete

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measures to address the concerns of the private RCHE and RCHD sectors.

18. DDSW(S) said that the Administration was mindful of the inflationary impact on private residential care homes and the residents. The Administration would monitor closely the latest situation and would adjust the CSSA standard payment rates in accordance with the established mechanism. She reiterated that a working group had been set up to explore feasible measures to improve EBPS as well as the operating environment and service quality of RCHEs.

[To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Chairman suggested and members agreed to extend the meeting for 10 minutes.]

19. Taking into account the concerns raised by members and deputations, the Chairman made the following observations -

- (a) as a result of recruitment difficulty faced by private residential care homes, ageing staff had been employed to take care of the residents. This was detrimental to service quality and well-being of residents of private homes;
- (b) to better understand the operating difficulties of private residential care homes, the Administration should make an estimation on the unit operating cost with a view to assessing the adequacy of CSSA payments in meeting the home fees;
- (c) after the implementation of the licensing scheme for RCHDs, the private RCHD operators had to reduce the number of beds in order to meet the spatial requirement. As such, the Administration had overestimated the spare capacity of the private market to absorb decanted residents resulting from closure of private RCHDs due to various reasons;
- (d) given that the CSSA Scheme only provided a safety net for those who could not support themselves financially to meet their basic needs, it did not take into account the recipients' needs for care. The proposal of providing a care subsidy to residents of private homes was considered justifiable; and
- (e) as there were concerns as to whether the performance of on-call and stand-by duties was within the meaning of work hours, the Administration should state explicitly that the residential care home operators must observe the requirements under the Minimum Wage Ordinance in arranging duty hours

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of staff.

20. DDSW(S) said that the Administration would consider the Chairman's views and suggestions, and consult the RCHE and RCHD sectors when necessary.

21. Ms LI Fai of The Elderly Services Association of Hong Kong stressed that private RCHE operators supported the implementation of the statutory minimum wage, as RCHE workers were well deserved for a higher wage level. Members' attention was drawn to the fact that private homes were unable to recruit and retain workers after the implementation of statutory minimum wage.

22. Mr Richard LEE Pak-ying of the Disabled & Elderly Care Services Alliance expressed support for the implementation of the statutory minimum wage. He shared the view of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan that it was incumbent upon the Administration to meet the full demand for residential care services from the elderly and persons with disabilities by, say, purchasing all of the recognised capacity of private homes. Having regard to the operating difficulties and the concerns over the financial viability of private residential care homes, the Administration should be more proactive to provide immediate supporting measures for the sectors.

23. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private residential care homes would become more serious when the existing vacancies in private homes were filled and upon renewing tenancies of the premises. He appealed to the Administration to keep track of the developments and be more proactive in maintaining contact with the operators to safeguard the interests of the residents.

II. Any other business

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:40 am.

Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Tuesday, 5 July 2011

Impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private residential care homes

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
1.	香港區私營院舍聯會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the waiting time for a place in subvented residential care home for the elderly ("RCHE") would generally be longer if the waitlistee was living at home, as compared with an elder who was residing at the private RCHE. Private RCHEs served as an interim arrangement for those elders with long-term care needs while waiting for admission into subvented RCHEs • the Administration should consider providing a monthly care subsidy of \$1,500 to residents of private RCHEs to ease their financial burden in meeting the home fees
2.	The Elderly Services Association of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2264/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • private RCHEs encountered multi-faceted operating problems arising from inflation and the implementation of statutory minimum wage, and in particular facing extreme difficulties in recruiting RCHE workers because of the comparatively lower wage level and working environment. The Administration should introduce supporting measures to alleviate the operating difficulties of private RCHEs • the Administration should conduct an overhaul of the policy on elderly care services, with a view to rectifying the unhealthy development of over-reliance on private residential care market
3.	The Elderly Care Alliance [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as most of the private RCHE residents were Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") recipients, they were unable to afford higher home fees of quality homes • private RCHEs provided an alternative service option for those elderly with long-term care needs while waiting for subsidised RCHE places. Otherwise, these elders would have no alternative but admitted to public hospitals for healthcare services

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Administration should abolish the requirement for the elderly to apply for CSSA on a household basis and adopt the co-payment arrangement such that family members of private RCHE residents could top up the difference between the monthly fees of better quality homes and CSSA payments
4.	私人院舍社會工作者同盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highlighted the role of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") in providing professional care for and relieving the burden of families in taking care of persons with disabilities was concerned about the operating difficulties and financial viability of private RCHDs after the implementation of the licensing scheme having regard to the impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private RCHDs the Administration should consider providing a care subsidy for private RCHD residents to help them meet the increased home fees as 90% of them relied on CSSA payments to meet the home fees
5.	爭取私營院舍權益大聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highlighted the difficulties and local opposition encountered by private RCHD operators in finding suitable premises for setting up RCHDs was concerned about the financial viability of private RCHDs having regard to the impact of the licensing scheme, the statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operating cost of private RCHDs the Administration should provide a nursing care subsidy for private RCHD residents to ease their financial burden in meeting the increased home fees
6.	Community Care and Nursing Home Workers General Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the employment terms of over 80% of the union's members working in RCHEs had been revised since the implementation of the statutory minimum wage. Under the new terms of employment, they were not entitled to paid leave, meal hours and stand-by duty hours instead of importing labour to resolve the manpower shortage problem of RCHEs, local workers

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		could be attracted to join the sector if they were paid for the entire period of duty hours in accordance with the requirements under the Minimum Wage Ordinance ("MWO")
7.	Social Welfare Organizations Employees Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Administration should state explicitly in the relevant Code of Practice that all the operators of residential care homes, including private residential care homes, must comply with MWO in arranging the duty shifts and working hours of staff ● SWD should make reference to the arrangement of providing an allowance for staff working in residential care homes for children and provide similar allowance for those working in RCHEs and RCHDs
8.	SME Global Alliance Limited – Elderly Service Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● highlighted the operating difficulties and financial viability of private residential care homes having regard to the impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private RCHEs ● the Administration should provide more resources and supporting measures for private RCHEs such that the elderly living in private RCHEs would receive the same level of service as those living in subvented RCHEs ● highlighted the difficulties faced by private RCHEs in recruiting adequate staff
9.	新界東私營復康院舍聯會 [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● highlighted the operating difficulties faced by private RCHD operators as a result of the soaring rentals and strong local opposition ● expressed concern about the difficulties and constraints of private RCHDs in complying with the licensing standards on fire and building safety, and land lease and town planning requirements for setting up RCHDs, as well as the opposition from residents raised during local consultation in connection with licence applications
10.	HK Evergreen Association of the Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the most pressing problem of elders was the long waiting time for subvented RCHE places ● instead of asking the elderly who had long-term care needs to admit to private RCHEs and meet the home fees by the CSSA payments, the Administration should, in formulating the long-term

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		policy on elderly care services, consider adopting the concept of "money following users" such that the elderly could make their own choice of quality private RCHEs and timing for admission into RCHEs
11.	Elderly Committee SME Global Alliance Limited [LC Paper No. CB(2)2244/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● over 80% of private RCHE residents were CSSA recipients who had long-term care needs, but their standard CSSA payment rates were inadequate to meet the expenses of professional care they required. As revision to CSSA payment levels would have far reaching implications on other CSSA households, the Administration should consider raising the level of Disability Allowance ("DA") and providing RCHE residents with DA in lieu of the CSSA standard rate payments ● the Administration should consider relaxing the importation of labour scheme for private RCHEs to solve their manpower shortage problem
12.	新界西私營院舍聯會 [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● after the implementation of the statutory minimum wage, the operating cost of private RCHDs had gone up by 40% ● it was difficult for RCHDs to recruit adequate workers because of the obnoxious work nature
13.	The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● expressed no views on the subject
14.	Disabled & Elderly Care Services Alliance [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Administration lacked of commitment in allocating adequate resources for the provision of subsidised residential care places to meet the rising demand from an ageing population. As an interim measure, the Administration should increase the number of places to be purchased from private homes ● the Administration should provide a care subsidy for private RCHE and private RCHD residents to ease their financial burden in meeting home fees of higher quality homes
15.	HK Private Nursing Home Owners Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Administration lacked of a long-term policy on the provision of elderly care services ● the unit operating cost of a private RCHE place was in the region of \$5,000 to \$5,500 and the major cost components of RCHEs were staff cost (43% to 47%) and rental (40%), whereas the

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		monthly CSSA payments of a RCHE resident was some \$3,800. This explained the constraints faced by private RCHEs if the residents relied on CSSA to meet the home fees
16.	Elderly Home Service Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(05)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● notwithstanding that the wage level of RCHE workers had increased by 15% after the implementation of statutory minimum wage, the staff wastage in RCHEs had gone up because the workers could take up other types of less obnoxious work which offered a similar wage level. As such, service quality of private homes was inadvertently affected ● as most private RCHE residents relied on CSSA for a living, private homes dared not increase the home fees despite of rising rentals and inflation. The service quality was compromised. To help maintain the service quality of private homes, the Administration should provide a care subsidy for private RCHE residents to ease their financial burden in meeting the increased home fees
17.	Direction Association for the Handicapped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the number of places to be purchased under the pilot BPS for RCHDs was on the low side, the Administration should increase the number of bought places so as to increase the supply of higher quality RCHD places ● the service standards of private RCHDs had been compromised because of the increased operating cost of private RCHDs ● apart from providing residential care services for persons with disabilities, the Administration should adopt a new mindset to enhance and diversify the support services for persons with disabilities
18.	HK Private Hostel for Rehabilitation Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● while the operation of private homes was obliged to comply with the monitoring mechanism, the Administration had not provided support and resources for the sector ● highlighted the operating difficulties of private RCHDs in meeting the increased operating cost of private RCHDs as a result of the statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation ● the Administration should review the policy on residential care services, with a view to creating a win-win situation for the RCHD sector and the residents

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
19.	東九龍殘疾人士院舍大聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highlighted the impact of the statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation (in particular food prices) on the operation of private RCHDs
20.	西九龍復康院舍聯會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highlighted the impact of soaring rentals on the operation of private RCHDs highlighted the difficulties faced by private RCHD operators in finding suitable premises for setting up RCHDs private RCHD operators were not merely targeted at profit making, but had also shouldered the social responsibility for providing residential care services for persons with disabilities
21.	Hong Kong & Kowloon Elderly Care Service Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(06)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for those elderly CSSA recipients who aged at home, they were provided with various subsidised home-based community care services. However, private RCHE residents were payable with CSSA payments only, which were inadequate for them to meet the expenses for care services the Administration should increase the provision of subsidised RCHE places as it was not suitable for the elderly to age at home if they had long-term care needs
22.	Private Elderly Home Relative Concern Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the home fees and miscellaneous charges of private RCHEs had adjusted upwards as a result of inflation, which was higher than the monthly CSSA payments of individual residents. The Administration should increase the CSSA payments for elderly recipients with disabilities and provide a care subsidy for private RCHE residents to ease their financial burden in meeting the increased home fees
23.	Elderly Service Concern Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> home fees of private RCHEs had increased by 10% in the last year, whereas the upward adjustment to CSSA payments was 3.4% only in the corresponding period. Although SWD had increased the subsidy for EBPS places, over 75% of private RCHE residents who were on CSSA had to meet the increased home fees on their own accord. It was Government's responsibility to protect the well-being of private RCHE residents, therefore the Administration should increase the number of places to be purchased from private RCHEs to meet the staffing and spatial requirements under the licensing scheme for RCHEs and RCHDs, the operators of private homes faced extreme operating difficulties

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
24.	Elderly Right League (HK) [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(07)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● institutionalisation of the elderly could relieve the burden of their family members in taking care of them at home. However, the increased home fees had imposed financial burden to the RCHE residents and their family members ● the Administration should be committed to providing quality services for the elderly in recognition of their contribution to the society
25.	Society for Community Organization [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(07)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● most private RCHE residents were on CSSA who were payable with CSSA standard payment rates and rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme, but the monthly CSSA payments remained lower than the home fees which had increased recently as a result of inflation and the statutory minimum wage. The Administration should make an upward adjustment to CSSA payments to enable the private RCHE residents to meet the home fees ● the Administration should provide a subsidy to private RCHEs to help enhance the service quality. The level of subsidy would be the difference between the purchase price of an EBPS place and the private home fees
26.	私營院舍社工聯合小組 [LC Paper No. CB(2)2306/10-11(08)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● it was envisaged that nearly one-half of private homes would close down in the next year having regard the impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private RCHEs ● the Administration should adjust upwards the CSSA payments by 10% and provide a care subsidy, with retrospective effect from 1 April 2011, for private residential care home residents to ease their financial burden in meeting the increased home fees