

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)904/11-12
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 22 August 2011, at 9:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Members absent : Hon WONG Sing-chi (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mr Roy TANG Yun-kwong, JP
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1

Ms Wendy LEUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare)1

Mr LAM Ka-tai
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Subventions)

Attendance by : Item I
invitation

Staff Union of Medical Health Association of Hong Kong

Mr CHEUNG Chor-kin
Chairman

Hong Kong Social Workers Association

Mr Frederick LAI Wing-hoi
President

The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped

Mrs LO CHAU Sook-haan
Vice-chairperson

Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong

Mr KWONG Chi-fai
Chairman of Executive Committee

North District Employment Concern Group

Ms Venny KWOK
Group Member

Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (New Territories)

Mr Augustine YU Siu-po
Program Officer

Concerning Group for Women Poverty

Ms IP Lai-hing
Chairwoman

關注社會福利規劃平臺

Mr Ivan YAU Tat-yu
Convenor

Hong Kong Policy Viewers

Mr KUNG Wai-sum
Executive Committee Member

The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Social
Affairs Committee

Mr Michael LUK
副主任

Alliance for the Underprivileged

Mr CHAN Yee-fei
Member

Ms YU Sau-chu, BBS, MH, JP, member of Sha Tin
District Council

Frontline Welfare Employees Union

Ms KONG Mei-chu

Hong Kong Voluntary Service Network

Ms LAU Yuen-yee
Committee

Hong Kong Christian Institute

Mr FAN Lap-hin
Director

Department of Social Work, The Chinese University
of Hong Kong

Dr CHEUNG Mei-chun
Instructor

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr CHUA Hoi-wai
Business Director

Hong Kong Federation of Social Work Students

Mr CHI Pang-san
External Vice-President

New Home Association

Miss TANG Xiaojiao
Acting Executive Director

NWSC YTU

Mr TSE Hoi-kin
Officer

NWSC Youth

Mr LAW Wai-chun
Officer

HK Social Workers' General Union

Mr NG Wai-chiu
Director

The Association for the Advancement of Feminism

Miss Jodie HUI
Organiser

Concern Group, Small NGOs

Miss WONG Sau-wa
Deputy Convenor

Hong Kong Social Welfare Employee Association

Mr CHAN Man Luen Ying
Vice-president

Courtyard – Mutual Support Networks among
Self-help Groups

Mr CHOW Tak-wai
Community Organizer

New Women Arrival League

Mr YEUNG Kin-bun
Organizer

進步社會工作網絡

Mr CHENG Wai-him
發言人

Concerning CSSA Review Alliance

Mr CHEUNG Man-lung
Member

Mr AU YEUNG Tat-chor
Social Worker

Civic Party

Mr Bill LAY
Secretary General

The Grassrooteer

Ms LEE Choi-kwan
Chairperson

The Forthright Caucus

Mr Fernando CHEUNG

Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre

Miss LEUNG Ching-shan

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

Action

I. Long-term social welfare planning

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2279/10-11(03), CB(2)2505/10-11(01) to (04), CB(2)2509/10-11(01), CB(2)2523/10-11(01) to (02), CB(2)2533/10-11(01) to (13), CB(2)2539/10-11(01) to (02) and CB(2)2662/10-11(01) to (02)]

The Chairman said that the special meeting was convened to receive views from deputations on the findings and recommendations of the report of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee ("SWAC") on long-term social welfare planning in Hong Kong ("the Report").

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, 33 deputations presented their views on the long-term social welfare planning in Hong Kong and the Report. A summary of the deputations' views is in the **Appendix**.

Discussions

3. In response to deputations' views, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 ("DS(W)1") made the following salient points -

(a) SWAC had conducted a study on long-term social welfare

Action

planning in Hong Kong and submitted a report entitled "Long-term Social Welfare Planning in Hong Kong" to the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") on 4 July 2011. The Panel was briefed on the key findings and recommendations of the Report at its meeting on 11 July 2011. As explained at that meeting, the Administration was studying SWAC's recommendations and would revert to the Panel on how it would take forward the recommendations at the next legislative session;

- (b) on the consultation arrangements, since the release of its consultation paper on the long-term social welfare planning in mid-April 2010, SWAC had organised six consultation sessions between May and July 2010 to seek the views of the welfare sector and other stakeholders. Invitations to the consultation sessions were made to non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") and relevant bodies, including self-help/user groups. Among the submissions received, 17 of them were submitted by self-help/user groups;
- (c) SWAC proposed to put in place a planning mechanism which dovetailed with the delivery of the Policy Address by the Chief Executive in October each year. This would allow full and interactive participation of the welfare sector and other stakeholders, and ensure that consultation and planning for the development and the delivery of welfare services would be conducted on an ongoing and regular (i.e. annual) basis. The proposed new initiatives and pilot schemes did not mean that they were short-term in nature or to be implemented for one year only;
- (d) the Government played three major roles in social welfare, namely principal resources provider, policy maker and policy executor; and SWAC had recognized these roles in the Report. Notably, the Government had all along been investing heavily in the development and provision of social welfare services, with sustained growth in expenditure. The recurrent expenditure for social welfare programmes had been increased by 111% from 1997-1998 to 2011-2012. The recurrent expenditure for various aspects of social welfare accounted for 13.4% of the total Government Recurrent Expenditure in 1997-1998, while the relevant figure for 2011-2012 had been

Action

increased to 17.4%, which represented a significant increase of 30% for the same programme. It was also noteworthy that the recurrent expenditure on social welfare doubled over the past 14 years at a growth rate faster than those of the Gross Domestic Product and total Government Recurrent Expenditure;

- (e) some stakeholders had confused the user-pay principle and the principle of cost-sharing by the financially capable. SWAC was of the view that those who were financially capable could choose to pay for specific welfare services so as to optimise the effective use of the limited public resources in helping people who were most in need;
- (f) the Administration would endeavour to identify suitable premises for setting up new residential care homes for the elderly, residential care homes for persons with disabilities and Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness. Given that the set-up of these homes and centres would depend on the availability of suitable premises, support from the local community and physical constraints of the sites, it would not be in the best interests of the users to commence the services until permanent premises were secured;
- (g) the Administration had been providing additional resources for NGOs to strengthen manpower support. It had also put forward the manpower requirement projection for the welfare sector to the University Grants Committee for consideration and planning purpose;
- (h) as a special measure introduced during the economic downturn, 3 000 temporary work opportunities were created for young people. The Labour Department was also running a number of youth employment support programmes, including the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme; and
- (i) the requirement to apply for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme on a household basis was in line with the policy of encouraging family support. The statement of non-provision of financial support to the applicant was used to provide a complete assessment of the

Action

financial circumstance of the CSSA applicant. Elderly CSSA recipients were payable with higher standard rates than able-bodied recipients and other special grants, having regard to their special needs arising from old age.

4. Mr Ronny TONG expressed great disappointment that the Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") did not attend the Panel meeting to receive and respond to views expressed by the welfare sector and members. He was surprised to learn that nearly all the deputations attending the meeting did not support the Report. In his view, the Administration should have better understood the problems faced by the frontline staff so as to restore the confidence of the stakeholders.

5. DS(W)1 said that as the subject officer, he had attended the Panel meetings five times and met with deputations to gauge views on SWAC's study. This arrangement was considered appropriate. He stressed that the Administration had regularly gauged views of the sector through various established channels. DS(W)1 added that the planning mechanism proposed in the Report would allow full participation of the welfare sector and other stakeholders in the consultation and planning process for future development and delivery of welfare services.

6. Mr Frederick FUNG took the view that it was the Government's responsibility to make a blueprint for the long-term social welfare planning and formulate concrete timetable and work plan to develop and deliver the welfare services. It was fallen down on the public expectation to task SWAC to conduct a study on the long-term social welfare planning. Having regard to the terms of reference of SWAC, the study was confined to make recommendations relating to welfare services, and draw up a timetable on taking forward specific recommendations. In his view, social welfare planning involved the future development and delivery of services which straddled various policy areas including welfare, housing, education and labour. Mr FUNG was strongly of the view that the Administration should formulate concrete action plan on the development and delivery of welfare services.

7. DS(W)1 said that SWAC was formed in 1947 to advise the Government through SLW on all social welfare policy matters and keep social welfare services under continuous review. It was not uncommon for an advisory body like SWAC to be tasked to conduct consultation and gauge the views of the public on policy issues. To his knowledge, in preparing the Report, SWAC had requested the SWAC Secretariat to

Action

provide supplementary information on various policy issues to facilitate its study. He reiterated that the Administration was carefully studying SWAC's recommendations made in the Report and would revert to the Panel in due course.

8. Mr Alan LEONG said that the Report had reaffirmed the Administration's stance that it was unnecessary to reinstate a Five-Year Plan mechanism. He wondered how the welfare sector could formulate development plan and make manpower projection in the absence of a longer term planning mechanism, notwithstanding that the Administration considered that the current mechanism would respond flexibly to changing circumstances and social needs.

9. At the invitation of Mr Alan LEONG, Mr CHUA Hoi-wai of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service said that to better plan for future service development, the Administration should first identify the shortfall of existing services, and then set objective targets and timetable for meeting the specific service needs. Mr CHUA further said that as the membership of SWAC did not fully reflect the interests of the welfare sector, more representatives from the sector should be appointed as members of SWAC.

10. DS(W)1 said that the Chairman and Members of SWAC were appointed to the Committee in their personal capacities. Nonetheless, this did not prevent individual SWAC members from expressing views from the perspective of the welfare sector and other stakeholders. DS(W)1 stressed that the Administration fully understood the needs of various welfare services. It was noteworthy that some service users could not be provided with immediate services due to various reasons. For instance, the fact that there were waiting lists for certain types of services did not necessarily imply that the service provision was inadequate. Notably, the waitlisting situation for subsidized residential care services was sometimes due to the applicants' own preference for specific homes. While the Administration endeavoured to identify suitable premises for the provision of subsidized residential care homes, it would occasionally face strong local opposition.

11. Ms LI Fung-ying shared the deputations' concern that no concrete implementation plans were set out in the Report. Noting that the Administration had advised that it would revert to the Panel in the next legislative session, Ms LI asked whether the Administration would be prepared to take heed of the views and concerns expressed by the welfare

Action

sector and address fully the service needs, and whether the Administration would set concrete targets for enhancing existing services and meeting the service needs. Given that the provision of welfare services involved different bureaux and departments, she took a strong view that the Administration should improve the collaboration and coordination among bureaux and departments in policy formulation and service planning.

12. DS(W)1 said that as explained earlier, the Administration was carefully studying the Report, and would provide its response to the findings and recommendations of the Report later. DS(W)1 stressed that the Administration would endeavour to meet the service needs as far as practicable, irrespective of whether SWAC had conducted the study or not. Regarding the collaboration of different bureaux and departments in social welfare planning at district level, DS(W)1 said that the respective District Social Welfare Officers would be responsible for the coordination work.

13. Sharing the views of the depositions, Mr Albert HO took the view that the Report did not recommend formulating concrete proposals for the provision of welfare services, nor setting out specific targets, timetable and priorities for planning and delivery of services. Notably, the Report did not touch upon the need to draw up a poverty line for tackling the poverty problem or to conduct a review of the requirement to apply for CSSA on a household basis in the light of its labelling effect on the elderly applicants. In his view, the Administration had yet to show its sincerity to make a blueprint for the long-term development of social welfare, despite repeated strong requests from the welfare sector. Mr HO was strongly of the view that the Administration should reinstate the Five-Year Plan mechanism for planning the social welfare services. In order to ensure sustainable development of the welfare services in the longer term, he urged the Administration to introduce a progressive tax to achieve wealth redistribution.

14. DS(W)1 said that the Administration held no diverse views from the welfare sector to provide appropriate and timely assistance to all service users. Being the principal resources provider of social welfare services in Hong Kong, the Government must ensure that the limited resources were allocated to the most needy.

15. Mr IP Wai-ming considered that the Administration had turned a deaf ear to the strong calls from the welfare sector and cast doubt as to whether the Administration would provide concrete responses to the recommendations in the Report. In his view, the crux of the matter was

Action

how the limited resources would be allocated to the needy. Therefore, the Administration should formulate concrete policies and plans for the long-term development of welfare services. Mr IP commented that the study on the long-term social welfare planning should be led by the Government rather than SWAC. He strongly called on the Administration to reinstate the Five-Year Plan mechanism for planning the social welfare services and to review the impact of the Lump Sum Grant subvention system on the welfare sector.

16. DS(W)1 advised that the Lump Sum Grant Independent Review Committee had completed a review of the Lump Sum Grant subvention mode and made 36 recommendations in its report. The Administration had accepted in principle all of them and had been taking them forward. On the allocation of resources for welfare services, DS(W)1 said that recurrent resources would be provided to ongoing and regular services. Priority for new service requests would be accorded in accordance with the established resources allocation mechanism. The welfare sector and other stakeholders were welcome to put forward new service requests through different channels, including the proposed planning mechanism, at both the central and district levels.

17. Mr Alan LEONG said that there was a consensus among members that the Administration should reinstate the Five-Year Plan mechanism for planning the social welfare services. At the invitation of Mr LEONG, all deputations attending the meeting indicated support of the request.

18. In summing up the discussion, the Chairman said that the study on the long-term social welfare development plan should be led by the Government, instead of SWAC as it was an advisory body only. In tasking SWAC to conduct the study, he expected the Government would, in the light of the findings of the Report, come up with concrete action plans to address the problems of the sector and bid more resources for the delivery of welfare services. The proposed annual consultation mechanism could by no means replace the need for putting in place a longer term planning mechanism, such as the Five-Year Plan mechanism. In addition to the rolling planning process and action agenda put in place by the Administration, the Chairman remained of the view that the Administration should reinstate a fixed term planning mechanism for the future development and delivery of welfare services. He strongly called on the Administration to actively consider the request when reverting to the Panel in the next legislative session.

Action

19. DS(W)1 stressed that as highlighted in the action agenda, the Administration had been striving to provide welfare services on a holistic and integrated mode of service, and expected that the Government would not change its role in the foreseeable future. The proposed planning mechanism would enhance the existing planning arrangements, which would not affect the duration and implementation of ongoing and regular services.

II. Any other business

20. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:30 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 January 2012

Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Monday, 22 August 2011 at 9:30 am

Long-term social welfare planning

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
1.	Staff Union of Medical Health Association of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2523/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under the existing annual resources allocation mechanism, government departments would not formulate long-term policy and work plan, including welfare services • the report of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee ("SWAC") on the long-term social welfare planning in Hong Kong ("the Report") lacked of a blueprint, quantifiable objectives and timetable for future welfare planning, nor a consultation mechanism for welfare service development • different bureaux and departments lacked of collaboration in the development and delivery of welfare services
2.	Hong Kong Social Workers Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed planning mechanism for the future development of welfare services was unacceptable as this was a consultation mechanism only • while SWAC had made a series of recommendations on the guiding principles and strategic directions for welfare development, the Report failed to make recommendations on the priority for service development and draw up concrete proposals to deal with the problems of the welfare sector, such as lack of suitable welfare premises and manpower resources in response to social changes
3.	The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • called on the Administration to allocate resources for the provision of visiting dentists to residents of residential care homes for persons with disabilities

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the support and community care services for persons with disabilities should be further enhanced ● the requirement for making applications for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") on a household basis should be abolished
4.	Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2539/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the implementation of the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness ("ICCMWs") was far from satisfactory to be cited as a successful example of district-based service in the Report. It was pointed out that a lot of difficulties were encountered by ICCMWs, such as lack of permanent premises, opposition from the local community and shortage of manpower. Of the 24 ICCMWs to be set up, only five had secured premises for operation ● problem relating to ICCMW premises was attributed to the lack of collaboration among government departments in identifying suitable premises at the planning stage and soliciting support from the local community
5.	North District Employment Concern Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a lack of extensive public consultation on the SWAC study on long-term social welfare planning ● strongly opposed to the proposal of adopting the principle of the cost-sharing by the financially capable as set out in the Report ● expressed regret at the non-attendance of the Director of Social Welfare ("DSW") at the Panel meeting to receive and respond to views raised by deputations
6.	Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (New Territories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Report failed to make recommendations on income redistribution and tax reform so as to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor and thereby reduce the demand for welfare services ● considered that the public consultation on the SWAC study was inadequate ● cast doubt as to whether the next Government would commit to taking forward the recommendations in the Report

7.	Concerning Group for Women Poverty [LC Paper No. CB(2)2523/10-11(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● highlighted the inadequacy of existing welfare services for women from low-income groups and called on the Administration to enhance the employment support, child care services and adult education for women in order to enable them to join the labour market and move from welfare to self-reliance ● the Administration should review the CSSA Scheme, with a view to restoring the CSSA payment rates to the 2003 level and maintaining the purchasing power of the payments to cope with rising inflation
8.	關注社會福利規劃平臺 [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● considered the Report unacceptable as it (i) had not recommended putting in place a specific planning mechanism for the development of welfare services nor elaborated on the directions for future development; (ii) had made no commitment, in particular financial commitment, in establishing a sustainable social welfare system; and (iii) had not reflected truly the problems of lacking suitable welfare premises and insufficient manpower encountered by the welfare sector, which could only be resolved by enhancing the collaboration among different bureaux and governments in the planning for future development and priorities of welfare services
9.	Hong Kong Policy Viewers [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● considered the Report unacceptable as it had not touched upon issues relating to social justice. If the recommendations in the Report were to be adopted, the responsibilities of welfare service delivery would be shifted to individual community organizations ● SWAC should further elaborate on the meaning of "financially capable" as referred to in the principle of cost-sharing by the financially capable
10.	The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Social Affairs Committee [LC Paper No. CB(2)2539/10-11(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Report had yet to set out concrete targets and proposals for the long-term social welfare planning. As regards the planning mechanism, the Government should reinstate the practice of preparing a White Paper on social welfare services ● the Administration should consider the proposals put forward in its submission, including (i) replacing the low-income CSSA by introducing a low-income supplement for the low-income earners and unemployed; (ii) enhancing the retirement protection for the elderly; (iii) introducing a living supplement for poor elders; (iv) extending the portability of social security schemes; (v) introducing a progressive tax to narrow the wealth disparity; and (vi) promoting the development of social enterprises

11.	Alliance for the Underprivileged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered the Report unacceptable as it evaded from responding to the strong community calls for the adoption of a long-term planning mechanism for the development of welfare services under the Lump Sum Grant subvention system, small welfare non-governmental organisations ("NGOs"), especially non-subsented ones did not have enough resources for staff training the Administration lacked of long-term social welfare planning for new arrivals
12.	Ms YU Sau-chu, BBS, MH, JP, Member of Sha Tin District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWAC had left out non-subsented NGOs in its study on the long-term social welfare planning the Government should set up a working group to enhance the collaboration and coordination among bureaux and departments in the provision and delivery of welfare services the Government should allocate more resources for providing support services for the disadvantaged to help them to be self-reliant
13.	Frontline Welfare Employees Union [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in view of the manpower shortage in the welfare sector and heavy workload of social workers, the Administration should convert the 3 000 temporary work opportunities created for young people in the subsented welfare NGOs into permanent posts, and provide long-term career development for these young people
14.	Hong Kong Voluntary Service Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Administration should allocate additional resources to enhance the provision of residential care services and community care services for the elderly in the light of the ageing population the Administration should study the needs of the disadvantaged and demonstrate its commitment in providing more welfare services for the disadvantaged
15.	Hong Kong Christian Institute [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(05)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered that the Report had an established position in drawing up the recommendations contained therein, i.e. ruling out the possibility of adopting a long-term planning mechanism and rationalising the existing consultation mechanism for the delivery of welfare services the Government should demonstrate its commitment to providing welfare services to all the needy persons as appropriate

16.	Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● was disappointed that SWAC had not taken heed of the welfare sector's views and the stakeholders in drawing up the recommendations in the Report, although it had received 160 submissions from them ● opposed to the introduction of the cost-sharing principle by the financially capable. It was Government's responsibility to provide welfare services for the disadvantaged to uphold social justice and equality. Instead of relying on the social security schemes, the Administration should formulate specific plans to assist the social security recipients to move from welfare to self-reliance. In doing so, the Administration should enhance cross-departmental collaboration in the planning and development of welfare services ● in pursuit of social justice, the Administration should conduct an overhaul of the social security system, implement a universal retirement protection scheme and introduce a tax reform to redistribute wealth
17.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(06)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● expressed disappointment at the Report as it had reiterated the Government's stance on the current flexible approach to social welfare planning, i.e. lack of long-term planning. Nor did the Report provide clear directions on the objectives and timetable for meeting the service demand ● the Administration should honour its undertaking to adopt long, medium and short-term planning mechanism for welfare services as set out in the Manual for Lump Sum Grant subvention system issued in 2000 when the Five-Year Plan mechanism for social welfare was discontinued in 1999 ● the Administration should set specific targets and priorities for welfare services, e.g. the targets for shortening the waiting time for subsidised residential care services, drawing up specific programme plan (e.g. manpower requirements and premises) for individual welfare service areas ● the Administration should adopt a review mechanism for the service delivery for individual service areas

18.	Hong Kong Federation of Social Work Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Report failed to formulate a blueprint and timetable for the long-term social welfare planning, nor putting concrete proposals to address the welfare service demand and needs of the disadvantaged ● opposed to the introduction of the principle of cost-sharing by the financially capable for welfare services ● the Government should demonstrate its commitment and responsibility in the provision of welfare services for the disadvantaged
19.	New Home Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Report had not regarded non-subsidized welfare organisations as stakeholders in the delivery of welfare services. Hence, non-subsidized organisations had to formulate their own work plan without support ● the Administration should provide assistance for non-subsidized welfare organisations to collaborate with the business sector to further develop and deliver welfare services, e.g. the development of social enterprises ● the Administration should give an account of the concrete actions to be taken in respect of the views and suggestions put forward in the 160 submissions responding to the SWAC's consultation paper on the long-term welfare planning
20.	NWSC YFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● it was Government's responsibility to provide welfare services to the disadvantaged, and the Government should allocate more resources in this respect ● it was unfair to welfare service users for adopting the principle of cost-sharing by the financially capable for welfare service users from the perspective of social justice ● the Government should reinstate the Five-Year Plan mechanism for planning the social welfare services, instead of adopting the proposed one-year planning mechanism
21.	NWSC Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the prime objective of welfare services should aim to achieve wealth redistribution, but the Report did not elaborate on this and the role of the Government in the development and delivery of welfare services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Government as the resources provider's should demonstrate its commitment to upholding the principle of social justice and adopting a long-term planning mechanism for the development and delivery of welfare services as well as allocation of resources, and should not put in place a consultation mechanism merely to gauge views on the service needs
22.	Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(07)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered that the Report had not responded to calls from the middle class and the low-income groups for welfare services as well as ignored the concerns raised by the welfare sector regarding the need for a long-term planning mechanism for welfare services the adoption of the principle of cost-sharing by financially capable would mean moving a step towards privatisation of welfare services, which was detrimental to the interests of the users. Instead, the Administration should consider introducing tax reform to achieve wealth redistribution the Report should set out the vision for long-term social welfare planning, e.g. abolition of various pilot schemes for welfare service programmes
23.	The Association for the Advancement of Feminism [LC Paper No. CB(2)2509/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Report attached great importance to the provision of district-based and family services, but it had neglected the specific welfare service needs of women and persons with homogenous sexual orientation the proposed central level planning mechanism should include representatives of the Women Commission with a view to providing inputs from the gender perspective regarding the development and priorities of welfare services
24.	Concern Group, Small NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the planning mechanism proposed in the Report was only an annual consultation mechanism, the Report had failed to map out a long-term planning for the development of welfare services while the Report had formulated the guiding principles and strategic directions of social welfare, the welfare sector did not have information on how to implement the recommendations of the report. The Administration should provide its responses to the recommendations as early as practicable. The Administration should also advise on whether and how it would take forward the views expressed by the stakeholders during the consultation conducted by SWAC, and the reasons for not adopting specific views

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered that the setting up of a centralised database would provide vital information for the future planning and development of individual welfare service areas
25.	Hong Kong Social Welfare Employee Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> called on the Administration to address the concerns about job insecurity and unfavourable employment terms of contract staff of the welfare sector, and which had affected adversely the service quality the Report failed to formulate a concrete work plan for the long-term social welfare planning, nor making any commitment to providing welfare services for the disadvantaged
26.	Courtyard – Mutual Support Networks among Self-help Groups [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(08)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the study on long-term welfare planning should be led by the Labour and Welfare Bureau and conducted jointly with relevant government departments, given that it was beyond the terms of reference of SWAC to formulate welfare policies NGOs were unable to plan and launch long-term welfare services under the current practice of providing one-off grant for implementing service projects the guiding principles set out in the Report, e.g. the principle of cost-sharing by the financially capable for welfare services, were contradictory to the fundamental value of providing welfare services
27.	New Women Arrival League [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(09)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strongly dissatisfied with the findings and recommendations of the Report which had not taken heed of the concerns and views expressed by the stakeholders in the submissions and the consultation sessions opposed to the strategic directions of providing integrated welfare services and collaborating with the business sector in the delivery of welfare services called on the Administration to allow for further active participation of service users in planning the long-term development of social welfare
28.	進步社會工作網絡 [LC Paper No. CB(2)2662/10-11(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expressed dissatisfaction at the Report as it had not acceded to the strong request for a Five-Year Planning mechanism for welfare services apart from setting out the strategic directions of social welfare, the Report had not examined the

		<p>specific needs of different types of service users in planning for the future development of welfare services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more widely consultation should be conducted in respect of the long-term planning for social welfare
29.	Concerning CSSA Review Alliance [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(10)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expressed regret that DSW and representatives of SWAC had not attended the meeting to receive views of deputations • the Report had not studied issues relating to the CSSA Scheme, in particular the requirement to apply for CSSA on a household basis
30.	Civic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Report was beyond the expectation of the public for a long-term plan and timetable for the development and delivery of welfare services in the coming years
31.	The Grassrooteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expressed concern that CSSA recipients living in Tenants Purchase Scheme flats were not eligible for rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme, and that the rent allowance for those CSSA recipients living in private housing was lower than the actual rent paid by them • it was an opportune time for the Administration to review the CSSA Scheme, particularly the requirement to apply for CSSA on a household basis
32.	The Forthright Caucus [LC Paper No. CB(2)2523/10-11(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the planning mechanism so proposed by SWAC was an annual consultation, which was departed from the long and medium-term planning for welfare services as stated in the LSG Manual issued in 2000. It was doubtful whether the Government would honour its undertaking to put in place a planning mechanism to make sure that appropriate and timely resources would be provided to meet the service needs • cast doubt as to whether the Administration would honour the pledge made by the Chief Executive in 2007 to study the long-term development planning for social welfare, having regard to the fact that the tenure of the current Government would soon expire
33.	Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre [LC Paper No. CB(2)2533/10-11(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it was Government's responsibility to provide welfare services and the rights of individuals to receive the services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• called on the Administration to allocate adequate resources and convert the 3 000 temporary work opportunities created for young people to work in the subvented welfare NGOs into permanent posts, given that such temporary posts helped relieve the workload of social workers and improve the service quality
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Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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