

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2660/10-11

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

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Panel on Welfare Services

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

**Minutes of the 12th meeting
held on Monday, 23 May 2011, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Member absent : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Public Officers attending : Item I

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

Ms Betty HO Siu-ping
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 3

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

Miss Cecilla LI
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly)

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. The Administration's response to issues of concern raised by members at previous meetings
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1771/10-11(01) to (02)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members noted the Administration's response to issues of concern raised by members at previous meetings. [LC Paper No. CB(2)1771/10-11(01)]

Residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs")

3. Noting that the four-year pilot Bought Place Scheme ("BPS") for private RCHDs was targeted to purchase 300 places by two phases, the Chairman asked whether the Administration would conduct an interim review to assess the effectiveness of the pilot scheme.

4. Commissioner for Rehabilitation advised that mid-term review would

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be conducted to keep track of progress and refine the operational details as appropriate. An overall review of the pilot BPS for RCHDs would be conducted before its expiry to assess its long-term feasibility in terms of the contract price, home fees, amount of government subsidies, the number of places to be bought as well as the overall service quality and performance of the operators of the private RCHDs.

5. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper, Dr PAN Pey-chyou expressed concern that the number of additional RCHD places in Hong Kong Island in the next five years (2012-2013 to 2016-2017) was comparatively low. The Administration explained that due to the relatively few new development projects in Hong Kong Island, only limited suitable sites were available for setting up new RCHDs in the district. To facilitate members' understanding, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide the number of applicants waitlisting for the various types of subsidised RCHDs by residential districts of applicants. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Rehabilitation & Medical Social Services) ("ADSW(RMSS)") agreed to provide the relevant information after the meeting.

Admin

Residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs")

6. Noting that the Administration had decided to focus its effort on increasing the provision of nursing home and long-term care places offering a continuum of care, the Chairman asked about the progress of the initiatives to provide more long-term care places with a continuum of care in existing subvented RCHEs under the conversion programme.

7. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly) said that to address the long-term care needs of the frail elders and provide them with a continuum of care, SWD had since 2005 launched the conversion programme by phases to convert those residential care places which did not have a continuum of care to provide long-term care services. As at the end of March 2011, 67 out of 75 subvented RCHEs had started conversion under the conversion programme. At present, 14 RCHEs had been granted Lotteries Fund to carry out physical conversion works. SWD would closely monitor the situation and continue to discuss with RCHE operators to speed up the conversion works.

Identifying suitable sites for the elderly and rehabilitation facilities

8. To alleviate the waitlisting situation for subsidised residential care

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places, members called on the Administration to take the initiatives in identifying potential suitable sites and earmark sites/premises for the construction of new contract residential care homes at the development stage, and particularly in all new public housing estate development projects. Members also reiterated the need for the Administration to set specific targets for admission to and shortening the waiting time for various types of residential care places.

9. Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)³ said that it was difficult to set targets for admission to subsidised residential care places as the provision of such places hinged on various factors including the availability of suitable sites/premises. She stressed that the Administration had been proactively identifying suitable sites for use by elderly and rehabilitation service facilities. To this end, SWD had maintained close contact with relevant government departments including the Lands Department, Planning Department and Housing Department, with a view to reserving sites in new development or re-development projects as far as practicable for setting up elderly and rehabilitation service facilities. SWD also kept a close watch on whether government properties, school premises, etc. released from re-engineering of services might be used for elderly and rehabilitation services.

Community care services for persons with disabilities

10. The Chairman noted that out of 16 District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities ("DSCs"), only 11 DSCs had commenced or would commence service in the coming one or two years at their permanent accommodation. He was concerned about the latest progress in securing permanent accommodation and the expected completion time for setting up all the 16 DSCs. ADSW(RMSS) advised that SWD had also identified suitable premises at development projects for four DSCs, and would continue to actively identify suitable premises for the remaining one DSC. At the request of the Chairman, ADSW(RMSS) agreed to provide the target completion time for those four DSCs which the Administration had earmarked suitable sites at development projects.

Admin

11. Pointing out that some Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness ("ICCMWs") would not be able to provide a full range of services because they had yet to secure suitable premises for the time being, the Chairman was of the view that the Funding and Service Agreements for these ICCMW service points should be adjusted accordingly to reflect their actual operation. The Chairman added that the prevailing rental support for

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ICCMWs to set up in commercial premises was unrealistic given that it was capped at \$45 per square metre, i.e. the standard provision for a full-scale set of welfare premises in the public sector. He called on the Administration to consider reviewing the level of rental support so as to facilitate the operators to set up ICCMWs in commercial premises. ADSW(RMSS) said that she would convey the Chairman's views to the Administration for consideration.

II. Any other business

12. The Chairman advised that the Subcommittee had concluded its work in accordance with its work plan. As agreed at the last meeting, the Subcommittee would report its deliberations to the Panel on Welfare Services in June 2011, and the draft report of the Subcommittee would be circulated for members' consideration.

13. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:08 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 September 2011

**Proceedings of the 12th meeting of the
Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services
for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly
on Monday, 23 May 2011, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – The Administration's response to issues of concern raised by members at previous meetings</i>			
000000 - 000147	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000148 - 001213	Administration Chairman	Briefing by the Administration on its response to issues of concern raised by members at previous meetings [LC Paper No. CB(2)1771/10-11(01)]	
001214 - 001423	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman was concerned whether the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") would conduct an interim review to assess the effectiveness of the 4-year pilot Bought Place Scheme ("BPS") for private residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs").</p> <p>The Administration's response that SWD would review and adjust the target groups and the number of places to be purchased where necessary, having regard to the response of service users, the number of new homes coming on stream and the quality of places to be provided by and the response of private RCHDs.</p>	
001424 - 001956	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concern about the progress of the initiatives to provide more long-term care places with a continuum of care in existing subvented residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") under the conversion programme.</p> <p>The Administration's response -</p> <p>(a) to address the long-term care needs of the frail elders and provide them with a continuum of care, SWD had since 2005 launched the conversion programme by phases to convert those residential care places which did not have a continuum of care elements to provide long-term care services;</p> <p>(b) as at the end of March 2011, out of the 75 subvented RCHEs, 67 had started conversion under the conversion programme and 14 RCHEs had been granted Lotteries Fund to carry out physical conversion works;</p>	

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		<p>(c) RCHEs could apply for the Lotteries Fund financial assistance for the renovation works; and</p> <p>(d) SWD would continue to work with the remaining home operators to speed up the conversion works.</p>	
001957 - 003624	<p>Chairman Administration Dr PAN Pey-chyou</p>	<p>The Chairman and Dr PAN Pey-chyou's enquiry about the timetable for providing the 2 300 subsidised residential care places for the elderly which would be coming into stream between 2011-2012 and 2014-2015.</p> <p>The Administration's elaboration on the projected supply of subsidised residential care places for the elderly from 2011-2012 to 2014-2015.</p> <p>Dr PAN Pey-chyou's concern that the number of additional RCHD places in Hong Kong Island in the next five years (2012-2013 to 2016-2017) was comparatively low.</p> <p>The Administration's explanation that due to the relatively few new development projects in Hong Kong Island, the number of new RCHD places would be fewer as compared with other districts. It would strive to identify suitable sites for setting up new RCHDs in order to maintain a steady increase in the provision of subsidised residential places for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>At the Chairman's request, the Administration would provide the number of applicants waitlisting for the various types of subsidised RCHDs by residential districts of applicants.</p>	<p>Admin to provide</p>
003625 - 005812	<p>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Administration Chairman Mr TAM Yiu-chung</p>	<p>Concerns raised by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan -</p> <p>(a) when SWD would start to identify and earmark a new site for residential care service purpose;</p> <p>(b) targets for setting up new residential care homes in new public housing estates and difficulties encountered so far; and</p> <p>(c) criteria for determining the number of places to be purchased from private residential care homes.</p> <p>The Administration's advice -</p> <p>(a) the number of bought places from RCHEs</p>	

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		<p>were capped at 50% of the total number of places in the private homes. This apart, the actual number of places to be bought would depend on the supply of quality places that met the higher requirements under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme. It believed that more private RCHEs would join the scheme; and</p> <p>(b) it would identify and earmark sites for the construction of new residential care homes when the development projects were still in the planning stage, including new public housing estate sites. The selection of sites for residential care homes would take into account the location, usable area, physical environment in the vicinity and long-term planning of the sites concerned.</p> <p>Mr TAM Yiu-chung's view that consideration should be given to converting vacant school premises into residential care homes so as to increase the provision of residential care places.</p>	
005813 - 010623	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Chairman Administration	<p>Views of Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung that the Administration should -</p> <p>(a) demonstrate its commitment in providing adequate resources to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places and setting targets for reducing the waiting time for such places; and</p> <p>(b) formulate policy to facilitate the elderly to retire on the Mainland if they so wished.</p>	
010624 - 011025	Dr PAN Pey-chyou Chairman Administration	<p>Dr PAN Pey-chyou's concern as to whether the enhanced spatial standards for Day Care Centres for the Elderly had posed difficulties to the service operators in the acquisition of suitable premises in order to meet the new standards.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that the enhancement of spatial standards was in response to the call from the welfare sector. It would assist the non-governmental organization operators to acquire new/additional premises to meet the enhanced spatial standards.</p>	
011026 - 011158	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concern about the latest progress in securing permanent accommodation and the target completion time for setting up 16 District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities ("DSCs").</p>	

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		<p>The Administration's advice that amongst the 16 DSCs, three DSCs had already commenced service at their permanent accommodation, eight DSCs were expected to commence service at their permanent accommodation by end of 2011 and 2012 respectively. SWD had also identified suitable premises at development projects for four DSCs and would continue to actively identify suitable premises for the remaining DSC. At the Chairman's request, the Administration would provide the target completion time for those four DSCs which the Administration had earmarked suitable sites at development projects.</p>	<p>Admin to provide</p>
011159 - 012209	Chairman Administration	<p>Views of the Chairman that -</p> <p>(a) as some Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness ("ICCMWs") would not be able to provide a full range of services simply because they had yet to secure suitable premises for the time being, the Funding and Service Agreements for these ICCMWs should be adjusted accordingly; and</p> <p>(b) the prevailing rental support for ICCMWs to set up in commercial premises was unrealistic given that it was capped by the standard provision for a full-scale set of welfare premises in the public sector at \$45 per square metre. The Administration should consider reviewing the level of rental support so as to facilitate the operators to set up ICCMWs in commercial premises.</p>	<p>Admin to consider</p>
012210 - 012807	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concern whether the Administration would strengthen the ordinary community care services for the elderly in tandem with the enhanced community care services for the frail elderly.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that the community care services for the elderly was being examined in the context of the consultancy study initiated by the Elderly Commission, which was expected to be completed in early July 2011. The Administration would brief the Panel on Welfare Services on the findings of the consultancy study at its meeting in July 2011.</p>	
012808 - 013704	Chairman Administration Mr LEE Cheuk-yan	<p>Concerns raised by the Chairman and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan on the impact of statutory minimum wage, rising rentals and inflation on the operation of private residential care homes.</p>	

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		The Administration's advice that there were about 14 000 vacant RCHE places in the market, this suggested that the private market was active and had the capacity to absorb additional service demand in case of contingencies. Nevertheless, SWD would continue to monitor the market situation closely and stay in touch with the operators of RCHEs and RCHDs with a view to safeguarding the interests of the residents.	
<i>Agenda item II – Any other business</i>			
013705 - 013830	Chairman	Timetable for reporting the deliberations of the Subcommittee to the Panel on Welfare Services.	

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22 September 2011