

For discussion
on 28 March 2011

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

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

**Progress of Implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Home Care
Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the progress of implementing the Pilot Scheme on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (the Scheme).

Background

2. As stated in the 2010-11 Budget Speech, the Administration would implement a three-year pilot scheme to provide a package of home-based personal care, rehabilitation training and nursing care services for persons with severe disabilities who are living in the community and are on the waiting lists for subvented residential care services of Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons, Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons, and Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons with a view to strengthening community support for them and relieving the pressure of their family carers. The Scheme would be tried out in Kwun Tong and Tuen Mun districts which have the largest numbers of persons with severe disabilities waiting for the abovementioned residential care services. A total of about 540 persons with severe disabilities will be served upon full implementation of the Scheme. Please refer to papers LC Paper no. CB(2)1010/09-10(03), CB(2)1618/09-10(01) and CB(2)1986/09-10(01) for details.

Service Preparation and Commencement

3. To ensure that the Scheme can meet the special needs of persons with severe disabilities, SWD has collected views of service users, their family members / carers, referring workers and parents' associations on the service needs in the course of service planning. SWD has also worked in close collaboration with rehabilitation non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and relevant stakeholders in drawing up service outcome indicators. Two NGOs, the Christian Family Service Centre (CFSC) and the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (NAAC), have been selected through a competitive quality-based system to operate the Scheme in Kwun Tong and Tuen Mun respectively.

4. Subsequent to funding allocation for the operating costs and office furnishing, etc. under the Lotteries Fund, the Scheme has come into operation since 1 March 2011. Under the Scheme, the home care services are delivered by the multi-disciplinary teams comprising social workers, nurses, physiotherapists (PT), occupational therapists (OT) and the caring staff recruited by CFSC and NAAC. A tailor-made package of home-based personal care and escort service, nursing care and PT/OT rehabilitation training service is provided in accordance with the care needs of individual service users. Support service is also provided to their family carers to relieve their stress.

Office Base

5. To facilitate effective service delivery, co-ordination of work and sharing of information on the rehabilitation progress of service users among members of the multi-disciplinary teams, SWD has provided office base respectively to CFSC and NAAC in Shun Lee Estate, Kwun Tong and Tai Hing Estate, Tuen Mun.

Publicity

6. To enhance the community's understanding of the Scheme, a series of publicity including briefings for the referring workers and a demonstration cum media briefing were jointly conducted by SWD and the operating NGOs in December 2010 and February 2011 respectively.

Fee Charging

7. A monthly fee of \$988, which is comparable to the prevailing fee scale of the centre-based Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities, is charged for a full package of services which comprises about 76 hours of personal care and escort service, two visits by a PT/OT and one visit by a nurse. For services users who do not need a full package of services, they are given an option of charging at an hourly rate of \$33 for personal care and escort service, and \$42 and \$51 per visit respectively for nursing care and PT/OT rehabilitation training service. The hourly rates are in line with the prevailing fee scale of District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities. A fee reduction/waiving mechanism is in place should service users encounter financial difficulties in acquiring the services under the Scheme.

Way Forward

8. SWD will continue to monitor the operation of the Scheme and conduct a mid-term review in 18 months with a view to keeping track of the progress and refining the operational details as appropriate. A final review of the Scheme will also be conducted in 30 months to assess the overall effectiveness and long-term feasibility of the Scheme.

Advice Sought

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

Social Welfare Department
March 2011