

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 Service Mode of
Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness**

Purpose

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly on 24 January 2011, Members discussed the progress of the implementation of the service mode of Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) and requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the progress of identifying premises for ICCMWs and the measures to alleviate the manpower problem encountered by the operators. This paper sets out the required information.

Identification of ICCMW premises

2. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has revamped the community mental health support services and set up ICCMWs since October 2010. At present, there are 24 service points operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across the territory to provide one-stop and district-based support services ranging from prevention to crisis management to discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families and carers and residents living in the community.

3. Apart from the Wellness Centre (安泰軒) in Tin Shui Wai currently situated in a permanent accommodation, five “Training and Activity Centres for Ex-mentally Ill Persons” in Wanchai, Kwun Tong,

Shamshuipo, Shatin and Tuen Mun have been converted into permanent accommodation for ICCMWs. SWD has also secured premises at public housing estates for the ICCMWs in Hong Kong Island and East Kowloon, and for the ICCMW in Yuen Long at a new development site in Tin Shui Wai. Furthermore, SWD has identified six sites at public housing estates in Eastern, Islands, Shatin, Tai Po, Tsing Yi and Tuen Mun, and is now undertaking the necessary preparatory work which includes consultation with the local communities to enlist support for setting up these service points. For the remaining ICCMWs, SWD will continue to keep in close contact with relevant government departments for identifying suitable premises in new development or redevelopment housing projects, vacant government properties, school premises and public housing units, etc.. In tandem, SWD is actively exploring the feasibility of supporting NGOs to set up temporary accommodation for use as ICCMWs at suitable commercial premises. SWD, together with the operating NGOs, will continue to enlist local support with a view to securing permanent accommodation for ICCMWs.

Manpower of ICCMWs

4. With the pooling of the existing resources and provision of additional funding, SWD has allocated a total of about \$135 million in 2010-11 to implement the ICCMW service mode and strengthen the manpower of ICCMWs with a view to providing comprehensive and accessible services to more persons in need, and dovetailing with Hospital Authority's Case Management Programme for discharged patients with severe mental illness.

5. To tie in with the extension of the Case Management Programme to five more districts (i.e. Eastern, Shamshuipo, Shatin, Tuen Mun and Wanchai) in 2011-12 and to serve more persons in need, the Administration has reserved an additional annual recurrent provision of \$39 million in 2011-12 to further strengthen the manpower of ICCMWs. With the enhanced provision, it is estimated that the ICCMWs will be able to serve a total of about 24 000 discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems and their family members/carers per year. SWD will work in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders on the operational details, such as the level of government subsidy, the staffing requirements and the number of service users to be served by individual service points in due course.

6. SWD is fully aware of the competing demands for the allied health manpower (e.g. psychiatric nurses, occupational therapists, etc.) in both the medical and welfare sectors. As reported at the last meeting, SWD will organise two additional two-year full-time enrolled nurse training classes, which will offer 60 enrolled nurse (psychiatric) places, in 2011-12 to increase the manpower supply of psychiatric nurses in the welfare sector. On allied health staff, apart from increasing the overall supply through the University Grants Committee's triennium funding mechanism (please refer to LC Paper No.CB(2)839/10-11(01) for background details), we have been actively exploring with the welfare sector on possible measures to relieve the keen demand of allied health professionals in the short run, e.g. launching a blister-programme.

Advice Sought

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

Social Welfare Department
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