

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

Minutes of the third meeting
held on Tuesday, 26 February 2013, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon TANG Ka-piu (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Members absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon CHAN Han-pan

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mrs Elina CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 3
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Stephen SUI
Commissioner of Rehabilitation
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Miss Cecilla LI
Assistant Director (Elderly)
Social Welfare Department

Mr LAM Ka-tai
Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social
Services)
Social Welfare Department

Mr Kenneth WOO
Chief Executive Officer (Subventions/Planning)
Social Welfare Department

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

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

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Planning for provision of residential care services and inadequacy of such services

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)548/12-13(02) and CB(2)673/12-13(01) to (04)]

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

2. The Joint Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide –

- (a) the number of newly joined applicants under the Central Waiting List ("CWL") and the number of persons who had withdrawn from CWL for residential care places for the elderly and the total provision of such places in a year;
- (b) information on the waiting mechanism and how waiting time was calculated for residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs");

Action

- (c) the number of applicants who had declined the Social Welfare Department's offer of residential care place at RCHEs, the reasons and number of rejections, the number of causal vacancies in different types of RCHEs arising from the rejections and the idle time of these vacancies;
- (d) information on how the application of an elderly person who had rejected an offer on the grounds of the district or location of an RCHE would be handled;
- (e) the number of elderly persons who were receiving community care services ("CCS"), and the types of CCS (including centre-based and home-based care services) provided to the applicants (including those who passed away before they were allocated a residential care place) for residential care places at RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities; and
- (f) service specifications for the recognized service providers of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly.

II. Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper No. CB(2)548/12-13(07)]

3. Members agreed that the subject of "Planning for provision of community care services for the elderly and quality of such services" should be discussed at the next meeting. Members also agreed that deputations should be invited to give views on the subject matter.

III. Any other business

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:48 pm.

**Proceedings of the third meeting of the
Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy
on Tuesday, 26 February 2013, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Planning for provision of residential care services and inadequacy of such services</i>			
000218 - 001317	Chairman Administration	Opening remarks Briefing by the Administration on long-term care ("LTC") policy.	
001318 - 001703	Chairman Administration	The Administration's clarification on the provision of residential care places for persons with disabilities ("PWDs") which was mentioned in the newspaper clippings provided by the Chairman.	
001704 - 002814	Chairman Dr LEUNG Ka-lau Administration	Dr LEUNG Ka-lau's view that the Administration should use a mathematical model to project the future demand for residential care places. The Administration's response that since the demand for residential care places hinged on a number of variables, it would be difficult to project accurately the future demand for the services. The Administration undertook to provide the number of newly joined applicants under the Central Waiting List ("CWL"), the number of persons who had left CWL for residential care places for the elderly and the total provision of such places in a year which should be used in the projection to Dr LEUNG for projecting future demand for residential care places for the elderly and PWDs.	Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)
002815 - 003046	Chairman Mr POON Siu-ping Administration	Given that 196 861 out of 224 557 assessments were confirmed with LTC need but only around 75 000 residential care places would be provided, Mr POON Siu-ping's concern on how the Administration would address the shortfall of such places. The Administration's response that the numbers quoted by Mr POON was an accumulated figure of assessments conducted since the implementation of the Standardised Care Needs Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services ("SCNAMES") in 2000. Elderly persons who had passed the assessments would be	

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		eligible for community care services ("CCS") or residential care services ("RCS").	
003047 - 004529	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Administration	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu's view that –</p> <p>(a) the Administration should address the shortfall of residential care places and CCS for the elderly. Targets should be set to reduce the waiting time for residential care places as well as to ensure that all elders with LTC needs would be provided with the required CCS while waiting for residential care places; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should relax the requirement for putting on hold the applicants for RCHEs who opted to use vouchers under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly ("the Pilot Scheme").</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) about half of the applicants for subvented RCHEs were receiving different kinds of subsidized services. It had strengthened the provision of CCS over the past few years, e.g. an additional 2 000 home care places were provided in the past two years. It would continue to strengthen CCS;</p> <p>(b) the waiting time for subvented RCHEs would be affected by an applicant's readiness to reside in an RCHE at the time a place was offered. In 2012, 19.1% and 30% of the applicants had declined the offers of nursing home ("NH") places and care and attention ("C&A") places of their preferred locations respectively;</p> <p>(c) the position in the waiting list of RCS of an elderly person who chose to use the voucher under the Pilot Scheme would not be affected. His/her application for RCS could be re-activated if he/she so wished; and</p> <p>(d) it had earmarked sites in 11 development projects for the construction of new contract RCHEs and would continue to identify suitable sites for this purpose.</p> <p>The Chairman's view that the Administration should find out the reasons why applicants declined the offers of RCS.</p>	

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004530 - 010236	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's view that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the long waiting time boiled down to the inadequate supply of RCHEs; (b) the Administration should set the target number of subvented, bought and self-financing residential care places to be provided for the elderly and PWDs in the next five and ten years; (c) adopting "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as a back-up" would mix up the needs for residential care and home care services, resulting in inaccurate projection of the demand for such services. The Administration should assess the demand for these services; and (d) declining an offer by a waitlistee for RCHE should not affect the waiting time as the offer could be taken by another waitlistee. <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) SCNAMEs would assess the type of care services an elderly person required; and (b) an applicant for RCS being offered a place could change his/her preferences over the choice of RCHEs and await a new offer. His/her position in the waiting list would remain unchanged. <p>The Chairman's view that the Administration should review the allocation mechanism for RCHEs if repeated rejection of offers had adversely affected the waiting time.</p>	
010237 - 010938	Chairman Mr TAM Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Mr TAM Yiu-chung's concern that only about 14% of residential care places for the elderly were bought from private RCHEs. His call for the Administration to purchase more places from private RCHEs so as to reduce the waiting time.</p> <p>The Administration responded that the number of places to be bought hinged on the demand for such places. It would continue to monitor the situation and secure resources for increasing the supply of such places.</p>	
010939 - 012204	Chairman Dr Helena WONG Administration	<p>Dr Helena WONG's view that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Administration should increase the 	

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		<p>supply of residential care places for the elderly, thereby reducing the waiting time. Pledges should be made to address the serious imbalance of the supply of and demand for such places;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should assess the demand for RCHEs having regard to the elderly population in each district and include the provision of RCHEs in its town planning; and</p> <p>(c) applicants for RCHEs which were located near their residence or the residence of their carers/family members should be given priority in the allocation.</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) it had been adopting short, medium and long-term measures to increase the provision of residential care places for the elderly. In the short run, it would purchase places from private RCHEs. For the medium-term, new contract RCHEs would be built and in the long run, new sites would be identified for new RCHEs; and</p> <p>(b) the planning for the provision of residential care places for the elderly and PWDs was not based on the population of elderly and PWDs in individual districts but a basket of factors. The Planning Department would liaise with the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") on the use of suitable sites in new development or re-development projects for welfare facilities.</p> <p>The Chairman's view that since the discontinuation of the "Five-Year Plan" mechanism, the Administration in effect had no planning for residential care services. As a result, members were unable to monitor the provision of welfare services.</p>	
012205 - 013011	Chairman Dr LEUNG Ka-lau Administration	Dr LEUNG Ka-lau's view that since the application of a waitlistee who had turned down an offer would not be re-activated until the next offer came up and the offer would be taken by another waitlistee, the method currently used by the Administration might not accurately reflect the waiting time for RCHEs. The Administration should make adjustments to the existing calculation method.	

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		<p>The Administration undertook to provide information on the waiting mechanism and how waiting time was calculated for RCHEs.</p> <p>Members' concurrence with the Chairman's suggestion that the Joint Subcommittee would decide whether to visit an SWD office to understand the waiting mechanism upon receipt of the aforesaid information from the Administration.</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)</p>
013012 - 013554	<p>Chairman Dr Joseph LEE Administration</p>	<p>Dr Joseph LEE's view that –</p> <p>(a) to identify the problems of the existing allocation system for residential care places for the elderly, the Administration should analyze the reasons for rejecting the offers, maintain a database on the number of rejections and the number of waitlistees involved, the estimated number of places to be provided in a year and the number of vacancies in RCHEs; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should review the existing allocation system and explore ways to resolve the shortfall of RCHEs.</p> <p>At the request of the Chairman, the Administration undertook to provide information on the number of applicants who had declined SWD's offer of residential care place at RCHEs, the reasons and number of rejections, the number of causal vacancies in different types of RCHEs arising from the rejections and the idle time of these vacancies.</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)</p>
013555 - 014030	<p>Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration</p>	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's view that buying places from private RCHEs alone could not solve the problem of inadequate supply of RCHEs. The Administration should increase the provision of subsidized residential care places for the elderly and set specific targets in this regard.</p> <p>In response to Mr LEUNG's enquiry about whether an applicant would be removed from the waiting list if the reason of his/her rejection of an offer was the location of the RCHE concerned, the Administration stated that the majority of the applicants would not reject the offer but would change their preferences for choice of RCHEs so as to keep their place on the waiting list.</p> <p>The Administration undertook to provide information on how the application of an elderly person who had rejected an offer on the grounds</p>	<p>Admin (paragraph 2 of the</p>

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		of the district or location of an RCHE would be handled.	minutes)
014031 - 014132	Chairman Mr POON Siu-ping Administration	Mr POON Siu-ping's view that the Administration should study the reasons for declining offers by waitlistees for RCHEs.	
014133 - 015043	Chairman Dr Helena WONG Administration	<p>Dr Helena WONG's enquiry on –</p> <p>(a) whether the Administration had conducted visits to private RCHEs the fees of which were on the low side to monitor their service quality and the actions it would take against sub-standard private RCHEs; and</p> <p>(b) whether elderly care training would be provided for domestic helpers who were required to take care of elders.</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) unannounced inspections of private RCHEs would be conducted to monitor the performance of private RCHEs. Depending on the nature of the substandard performance, the Administration would issue advisory or warning letters to the RCHEs concerned. Prosecution actions would be taken if these RCHEs failed to rectify the problems; and</p> <p>(b) SWD had launched the District-based Scheme on Carer Training to strengthen the support for carers of elders. The Scheme was also open to domestic helpers.</p>	
015044 - 015653	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Administration	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu's view that the Administration should project the demand for different types of residential care places in the next five and 10 years by elders who were aged 60 to 90 or above.</p> <p>The Administration was requested to provide information on the number of elderly persons who were receiving CCS, and the types of CCS (including centre-based and home-based care services) provided to applicants (including those who passed away before they were allocated a residential care place) for places at RCHEs and residential care homes for PWDs.</p> <p>In response to the Chairman's and Mr TANG's request for a pledge from the Administration that care services would be provided to elderly persons who were waiting for residential care</p>	Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)

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		places within a certain period of time, the Administration said that it had all along endeavoured to provide such services to the elderly and would continue to do so.	
015654 - 020113	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's view that the Administration should conduct a review on the tendering mechanism for contract RCHEs. The Administration responded that interested operators generally welcomed the existing mechanism as evidenced by the very good response to tendering exercises for contract RCHEs.	
020114 - 020647	Chairman	The Chairman's view that the provision of care and support services for elders and PWDs could not catch up with the demand. The Administration should set policy direction and draw up concrete plans to address the serious shortfall of various care services for elders and PWDs. To achieve the Administration's objective of promoting ageing at home, specific plans to strengthen home-based care and support services should be formulated.	
<i>Agenda item II – Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting</i>			
020648 - 021930	Chairman Administration Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Mr TANG Ka-piu Dr Helena WONG	Members' concurrence that the subject of "Planning for provision of community care services for the elderly and quality of such services" should be discussed at the next meeting. The Administration undertook to provide service specification for the recognized service providers of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly for members' information.	Admin (paragraph 2 of the minutes)