

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions (position as at 12 April 2013)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Provision of infirmary care for elders in a non-hospital setting	13 December 2004	The Administration undertook to provide more details of the tender exercise before the next meeting, including the criteria used in selecting operators to run the trial scheme, justification(s) for inviting private home operators to participate in the exercise, and the reason(s) for setting the unit subsidy for each subsidized infirmary bed in a non-hospital setting at around \$11,000.	The Administration is exploring various options, including upgrading some of the places in subvented residential care homes for the elderly to provide infirmary care. The Administration will report the progress in due course.
2. Assistance to elderly not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA")	8 June 2006	<p>The Administration was requested to –</p> <p>(a) provide a paper setting out the relevant figures to substantiate its saying that a pay-as-you-go retirement protection scheme was not feasible; and</p> <p>(b) consult employees in Hong Kong on whether they were willing to allocate part of their Mandatory Provident Fund contributions, say 50%, to a pool for distribution to the current cohort of elders, on the understanding that they too would receive a monthly sum of some \$2,500 in their old age.</p>	<p>The Administration has launched a new Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA") of \$2,200 per month in April 2013 as an additional form of financial assistance for Hong Kong elderly persons aged 65 or above who have insufficient means for a living and are in need of support.</p> <p>The Administration is</p>

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			conducting a study on retirement protection in Hong Kong.
3. OALA	12 November 2012	The Administration undertook to review OALA one year after its implementation and report the outcome of the review to the Panel.	The Administration will report the outcome of the review in due course.
4. Progress on the implementation of the licensing scheme for residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") and related complementary measures	14 January 2013	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <p>(a) the number of RCHDs which had not applied for a licence/certificate of exemption ("CoE") by the end of the grace period (i.e. 17 May 2013) and the reasons; and</p> <p>(b) the status of the applications of licences/CoE by RCHDs by the end of the grace period.</p>	The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest progress on the implementation of the licensing scheme for RCHDs at the meeting on 16 April 2013.
5. Briefings by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address	21 January 2013	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <p>(a) the supply and demand for residential care services and community care services including day care services and home-based care services in the next five years;</p> <p>(b) of the 1 700 new residential care places to be provided up to 2014-2015, the number of places to be provided by private residential care homes ("RCHs") participated in the Enhanced Bought</p>	The Administration's response to (c) was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)432/12-13(01) on 3 January 2013. The Administration's response to (e) was provided to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)447/12-13(06) and CB(2)620/12-13(15) on 8 January and 8

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		<p>Place Scheme and subvented RCHs respectively and their locations;</p> <p>(c) locations of the 11 development projects earmarked for the construction of new RCHs for the elderly;</p> <p>(d) the Administration's support for those living below the poverty line set by the Commission on Poverty and steps to be taken by the Administration to address the problem of inter-generational poverty;</p> <p>(e) new measures to be adopted and new resources to be allocated by the Administration to prevent and tackle domestic violence so as to live up to its zero-tolerance approach for domestic violence and tie in with the three-pronged strategy;</p> <p>(f) a list of social welfare problems existed in the community in the absence of social welfare planning since mid-1990s;</p> <p>(g) in respect of releasing the labour force of women who could not go to work because they had to take care of their families –</p> <p>(i) whether the Administration would consider extending the service hour of after-school learning support to 7 pm or 8 pm; and</p>	<p>February 2013 respectively. The Administration will provide the rest of the required information in due course.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) how the core values promulgated by the Family Council would help in this regard and the details on these values; and (h) the outcome of the Administration's discussion with the welfare sector on measures to meet the sector's demand for front-line care staff. 	
<p>6. Medium and long-term social welfare planning</p>	<p>19 February 2013</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the following views and requests of members and deputations before the special meeting on the subject matter scheduled for 26 March 2013 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Administration should reinstate the five-year planning mechanism for drawing up long-term solution to welfare services; (b) the anticipated size of people living in poverty (i.e. people whose income fell below the poverty line set by the Commission on Poverty) five years after the line was set; (c) its plans, if any, to review the seven-year residence requirement of CSSA Scheme and allow elders applying for CSSA on an individual basis; and plans to adjust the policy of portable elderly social security benefits (including the Disability Allowance ("DA") and OALA) so as to enable elders, who chose to retire in the Mainland, to receive social security payments; 	<p>The Administration has provided the Panel with the requisite information vide LC Paper No. CB(2)824/12-13(01) on 21 March 2013.</p>

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		<p>(d) a detailed roadmap and timetable for the implementation of universal retirement protection;</p> <p>(e) its plans, if any, to reform the tax system with a view to narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor;</p> <p>(f) long-term planning on elderly care services including - service pledges on shortening the waiting time for residential care homes for the elderly; and measures to increase the manpower supply for elderly care services, in particular allied health professionals and front-line care staff;</p> <p>(g) long-term planning on care services for persons with disabilities including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. service pledges on shortening waiting time for RCHDs;ii. conducting a comprehensive review on DA (especially the eligibility criterion of 100% loss of earning capacity);iii. collecting data on the population of elders with intellectual disabilities, and in the light of the findings, enhancing the elderly services for persons with intellectual disabilities; and	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. increasing the subsidies to self-help organizations; (h) its plans to formulate an economic strategy to address the structural cause of poverty through enhancing or sustaining the employability of elders, grass-roots women and young people. Specific requests included – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. setting up an elderly employment fund; ii. strengthening the child care support services to facilitate housewives to join the workforce; and iii. regularizing the 3 000 work opportunities under the special youth employment support measure introduced in 2008; (i) its plans to review the Lump Sum Grant subvention system with a view to enhancing staffing establishment of the subvented non-governmental organizations, improving the service quality and raising staff morale; (j) its plans to offer more training and further study opportunities to social workers; and (k) its plans to identify suitable sites and reserve land and premises for welfare facilities, including 	

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		<p>the 36 Government sites (with an area measuring 27 hectares in total) planned for housing development mentioned in the 2013 Policy Address.</p> <p>The Panel will discuss with the Administration progress of the subject matter at its regular meeting in June 2013.</p>	
	26 March 2013	The Administration was requested to provide the number of elderly who had applied for CSSA on individual basis on the grounds that they were not financially supported by their children.	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.
7. Integrated community-based services for offenders	11 March 2013	<p>The Administration was requested to provide –</p> <p>(a) information on the number of clinical psychologists participating in the Integrated Community-based Services for Offenders, and the amount of time they spent on preparing reports for the courts and providing counselling services to offenders respectively; and</p> <p>(b) a flow chart illustrating how the accused persons could receive advisory services from social workers before their trials under the integrated model.</p>	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.

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8. Manpower situation of non-professional front-line care-takers engaging in subvented homes and community care services for the elderly	11 March 2013	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the statutory staffing requirements for various types of residential care homes for the elderly;(b) its plan in offering more training places to meet manpower demand for long-term care services and enhance the promotion ladder for care staff;(c) whether the master's degree programmes in occupational therapy and physiotherapy currently offered by the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong would be suspended; and(d) whether the funding allocation under the Lump Sum Grant subvention system was adequate to meet the manpower requirements mentioned in paragraph (a), taking into consideration the staffing cost as per the statutory minimum wage.	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.