

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

**Setting up a New Contract Residential Care Home for the Elderly
with a Day Care Unit, and a Day Care Centre for the Elderly
in Long Ping, Yuen Long**

**The Administration's response to issues of concern
raised by Members at the meeting
on 12 November 2012**

Purpose

This paper provides the Administration's response to issues of concern raised by Members at the meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the Panel") on 12 November 2012 regarding the proposed 125-place residential care home for the elderly (RCHE) with a 20-place day care unit (DCU) and a 60-place day care centre for the elderly (DE) at Yuen Long Town Lot No. 513 of the property development at West Rail Long Ping Station (North) (the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE).

Issues of concern

2. At the meeting of the Panel on 12 November 2012, Members asked for the following information:

- (a) *Measures to be taken by the Administration to address the disproportionate provision of nursing home ("NH") places and care-and-attention ("C&A") places;*
- (b) *whether the Administration would rely mainly on purchasing C&A places from private RCHEs to meet the demand for C&A places, and how the Administration would ensure these private homes could meet the needs of elderly who required special care services e.g. elderly with dementia;*

- (c) *a detailed breakdown of the recurrent expenditures with staff establishment for the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE;*
- (d) *details of the 11 development projects earmarked for the construction of new RCHEs (with/without DEs/DCUs);*
- (e) *the categories including the number of places under each category and locations of the 1 700 additional residential care places to be provided up to 2014-15; and*
- (f) *justifications for locating the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE near a bus terminus.*

The Administration's Response

Provision of subsidised residential care places

3. The Administration closely monitors the demand for various types of subsidised residential care places and deploys resources to address service needs. As NH homes provide more intensive professional nursing care and require more sophisticated supporting facilities, the supply of NH places in the private sector is very limited. At present, the waiting time for subsidised NH places is notably longer than that of C&A places¹. The Administration sees a need to fill the service gap. We have taken various measures to increase the supply of subsidised NH places, one of which is to increase the proportion of NH places in contract RCHEs from an average of 50% to 90%². Accordingly, the planned number of NH and C&A places in the proposed project is 68 NH and 7 C&A places respectively. From 2008-09 to 2011-12, 766 additional subsidised NH places were provided.

¹ As at end November 2012, the average waiting time for NH places was about 38 months, while that for overall C&A places was about 24 months.

² Other approaches include purchasing vacant NH places from self-financing elderly homes, and making full use of the space in existing contract homes to provide additional places.

4. As regards subsidised C&A places, our strategy is to increase the provision of places, inter alia, through the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). In doing so, we are making good use of the readily available C&A places in the private sector, and at the same time helping to enhance the quality of private RCHEs because they have to meet the higher service standards stipulated in the EBPS agreements. Of the 1 583 additional C&A places provided from 2008-09 to 2011-12, 949 (about 60%) were from EBPS. The remaining 634 additional places were generated through (i) maximisation of surplus areas in subvented RCHEs to provide places with a continuum of care; (ii) construction of new contract RCHEs; and (iii) conversion of self-financing places/utilisation of available space in existing contract RCHEs.

Enhancing the quality of EBPS places

5. To further enhance the quality of EBPS places, the Administration has been providing additional resources to encourage the private RCHEs concerned to upgrade their services. For example, the unit subsidy for EA1 homes was raised in 2011-12 such that physiotherapy training and rehabilitation service could be provided to frail elders therein. Additional resources have also been earmarked in 2012-13 for purchasing about 600 additional higher quality places (i.e. EA1 places) and upgrading more than 600 EA2 places to EA1 level.

6. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has also put in place the following measures to enhance the manpower and service quality of RCHEs that provide subsidised places, including EBPS homes, so that quality service will be provided in particular to elders who require special care services.

(i) Increase in care supplements

Infirmity Care Supplement (ICS) and Dementia Supplement (DS) have been provided to subvented RCHEs and EBPS homes since 1996 and 1998 respectively for them to engage professional staff or procure related professional services for infirm and demented elders. DS for subvented RCHEs and EBPS homes has been significantly increased by \$128 million starting from 2012-13. The total provision of ICS and DS for RCHEs in 2012-13 is \$90 million and \$191 million

respectively.

(ii) Supplement for employing paramedical staff

SWD has sought additional resources of \$356 million for a further period of three years from 2012-13 to 2014-15 to enable welfare non-governmental organisations and EBPS EA1 homes to offer more competitive salaries for the recruitment and retention of paramedical staff (including nurses) or for the hiring of paramedical services.

Recurrent expenditure of the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE

7. The breakdown of estimated full-year recurrent funding for operating the proposed RCHE (subsidised portion) with DCU and DE is as follows –

The 75-place RCHE (the subsidised portion of the proposed RCHE)

| | | \$'000 |
|-----|--|---------------|
| (a) | Personal emoluments (PE) | 10,440 |
| (b) | Other charges (OC) [including food, insurance (employees' compensation, public liability), site specific costs, etc.] | 2,768 |
| (c) | Rate and government rent | 183 |
| (d) | Higher care supplement | 145 |
| (e) | Maintenance and management (M&M) fee | 557 |
| (f) | <i>Less</i> Income from service users' fee | -1,746 |
| | Sub-total (A) | 12,347 |

The 20-place DCU

| | | \$'000 |
|-----|---|---------------|
| (a) | PE | 1,273 |
| (b) | OC [including food, insurance (employees' compensation, public liability)] | 376 |
| (c) | Rate and government rent | 18 |
| (d) | Dementia supplement | 113 |
| (e) | M&M fee | 47 |

| | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| (f) | <i>Less</i> Income from service users' fee | -310 |
| | <i>Sub-total (B)</i> | 1,517 |

The 60-place DE

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| | | \$'000 |
| (a) | PE | 4,705 |
| (b) | OC [including food, insurance (employees' compensation, public liability)] | 993 |
| (c) | Rate and government rent | 94 |
| (d) | Dementia supplement | 339 |
| (e) | M&M fee | 238 |
| (f) | <i>Less</i> Income from service users' fee | -816 |
| | <i>Sub-total (C)</i> | 5,553 |
| Annual government funding required (A+B+C) | | 19,417 |

The above estimate is derived from a notional staffing of 112 professional, care and ancillary staff for the proposed RCHE (covering both the subsidised and non-subsidised portion) with DCU and DE. In working out the notional staffing requirements, reference has been made to the standard notional staffing of subvented NH, C&A home and DE/DCU, with adjustment in proportion to the capacity of the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE. The breakdown of notional staff establishment is tabulated below –

The 125-place RCHE³

| Item | Staff Establishment |
|--|----------------------------|
| Professional Staff (e.g. director of administration, social worker, nurse, physiotherapist/ occupational therapist, dispenser, dietician, visiting medical officer) | 20.88 |
| Care staff (e.g. personal care worker, welfare worker, | 50.88 |

³ The operator of the RCHE with DCU can freely deploy the contract sum to engage suitable staff as necessary, but the operator should comply with the minimum staffing requirements as committed in the contract including, but not limited to, director of administration, nurses, social worker and care workers.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| physiotherapist artisan) | |
| Supporting Staff (e.g. workman, clerk, cook, driver) | 11.34 |
| <i>Sub-total (A)</i> | 83.10 |

The 20-place DCU³

| Item | Staff Establishment |
|---|------------------------|
| Professional Staff (e.g. nurse) | 1.00 |
| Care staff (e.g. personal care worker, welfare worker, physiotherapist artisan) | 4.17 |
| Supporting Staff (e.g. workman, driver) | 1.69 |
| <i>Sub-total (B)</i> | 6.86 |

The 60-place DE⁴

| Item | Staff Establishment |
|--|------------------------|
| Professional Staff (e.g. nurse, physiotherapist II) | 3.69 |
| Care staff (personal care worker) | 11.27 |
| Supporting Staff (e.g. clerical assistant, workman, driver) | 7.38 |
| <i>Sub-total (C)</i> | 22.34 |
| Total Notional Staff Establishment (A+B+C) | 112.30 |
| Say | 112 |

We will include the necessary recurrent provision in the draft Estimates of the relevant years.

⁴ Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, the selected operator has the flexibility to deploy the allocated provision to engage suitable staff to meet service requirements.

Proposed new contract RCHE projects

8. The location and district of the 11 development projects, and the estimated number of residential and community care places are provided in the following table. Item 2 is the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE. The number of places to be provided is a preliminary estimate and is subject to change as we continue to work out the details of the projects, having regard to the service demand and the availability of resources.

| | Location and District | Estimated number of residential care places (including both subsidised and non-subsidised places) | Estimated number of places of DE/DCUs |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | West Rail Tsuen Wan West Station, Tsuen Wan | 120 | DCU: 20 |
| 2 | West Rail Long Ping Station (North), Long Ping, Yuen Long | 125 | DE: 60 DCU: 20 |
| 3 | Hoi Fai Road, Yau Tsim Mong | 150 | Nil |
| 4 | Ex-Cheung Sha Wan Police Married Quarters, Sham Shui Po | 150 | Nil |
| 5 | Lee Tung Street /Mcgregor Street, Wan Chai | 93 | DCU: 20 |
| 6 | Po On Road / Wai Wai Road, Sham Shui Po | 100 | Nil |
| 7 | Government Joint | 100 | Nil |

| | Location and District | Estimated number of residential care places (including both subsidised and non-subsidised places) | Estimated number of places of DE/DCUs |
|----|---|--|--|
| | User Complex at Lei King Wan, Sai Wan Ho, Eastern | | |
| 8 | Shui Chuen O, Shatin | 100 | Nil |
| 9 | Un Chau Street / Hing Wah Street /Fuk Wing Street, Sham Shui Po | 100 | Nil |
| 10 | Anderson Road, Kwun Tong | 100 | DCU: 20 |
| 11 | Tung Chung, Area 56, Islands | 100 | Nil |

Future provision of subsidised residential care places

9. From 2012-13 to 2014-15, more than 1 700 additional residential care places have commenced / will commence operation in the territory. Details are as follows:

| Type of residential care places / Year | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Total |
|--|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Number of NH places | 342 | 386 | 154 | 882 |
| Number of C&A places | 805 | 15 | 12 | 832 |
| Total | 1 147 | 401 | 166 | 1 714 |

Environmental impact

10. The approved Master Layout Plan (MLP) shows that a sheltered bus terminus will be provided in the northern part of the subject site,

whereas the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE will be located to the immediate south of the bus terminus. The proposed bus terminus will provide for two double-width bus bays of 7.3 metres in width, each bay to accommodate two 12-metre long double deck buses.

11. The environmental impact of the proposed development in the subject site had been assessed before the MLP was approved. The environmental assessment has confirmed, inter alia, that all habitable rooms within the proposed RCHE would comply with the road traffic noise standard with respect to domestic premises. Nevertheless, in order to minimise any possible noise nuisance generating from the terminus to the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE, the developer has agreed to implement additional noise mitigation measures such as covering the bus terminus with lightweight roofings which are made of solid material to shield noise generated within the bus terminus, providing a self-protecting building design for the proposed RCHE with DCU and DE, and installing openable double glazing windows at the dormitory units of the proposed RCHE where necessary, etc.

Advice Sought

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

Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
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