

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1231/13-14

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seen by the Administration)

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Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

Minutes of the eleventh meeting
held on Monday, 16 December 2013, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 2 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
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Members Absent : Hon WONG Yuk-man
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Member Attending : Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Public Officers Attending : Item I

Mr Stephen SUI, JP
Commissioner for Rehabilitation
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Eureka CHEUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Health)³
Food and Health Bureau

Dr K L CHUNG
Chief Manager (Integrated Care Programmes)
Hospital Authority

Mr FONG Kai-leung
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Rehabilitation &
Medical Social Services)
Social Welfare Department

Dr Kitty HSE
Senior Dental Officer (Administration)
Department of Health

**Attendance by
invitation**

Item I

Mr YIP Kei-chun

Grace Parent Association

Ms Wendy LEUNG
Secretary

The Hong Kong Society for the Blind Morning Glory
DAC cum Hostel

Ms LI Po-ling
Superintendent

The Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association

徐菊敏女士

The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the
Mentally Handicapped

Ms Eva MOK
Chairperson

St. James' Settlement Family Club of Rehabilitation
Services

Miss CHEUNG Lai

Miss Lilian HO

智障人士老齡化關注組

Mr WU Shing-choy

Miss TAM Fung-yung

Mr CHIU Kin-leung

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

Staff in Attendance : Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Ageing problem of persons with intellectual disabilities
[LC Paper No. CB(2)493/13-14(01) to (03)]

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

2. The Joint Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide –

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- (a) the number of doctors recruited from overseas with the approval of the Medical Council of Hong Kong in the past five years, with a breakdown by their specialties, to facilitate members to have a clear picture about the manpower supply for psychiatric services for persons with intellectual disabilities; and
- (b) the respective unit costs of subsidized services in day training including Day Activity Centres, Sheltered Workshops /

Action

Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres, the Work Extension Programme and Extended Care Programme.

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

[LC Paper No. CB(2)272/13-14]

3. The Chairman advised that the Joint Subcommittee would discuss the item "Integrated Home Care Services for the elderly" at its next meeting scheduled for 14 January 2014.

III. Any other business

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:40 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
2 April 2014

**Proceedings of the eleventh meeting of the
Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy
on Monday, 16 December 2013, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Ageing problem of persons with intellectual disabilities</i>			
000250 - 002211	Chairman Administration	Opening remarks Briefing by the Administration on its support to persons with intellectual disabilities and measures taken in response to the ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities. [LC Paper No. CB(2)493/13-14(01)]	
002212 - 002754	Mr YIP Kei-chun Chairman	Presentation of views – (a) the Administration should set up a working group on services for persons with intellectual disabilities to advise the Government on its policy formulation for the welfare of persons with intellectual disabilities; (b) in view of Hong Kong's ageing population, the Administration should enhance its support services for persons with intellectual disabilities given that their ageing parents could no longer take care of them; and (c) the psychiatric outreach services by the Hospital Authority ("HA") should be offered for persons with severe, moderate and mild intellectual disabilities as it did before the year 2003.	
002755 - 003110	Grace Parent Association Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)493/13-14(03)] (a) given that persons with intellectual disabilities would face the problems at an earlier stage in their 40s and 50s, the Administration should re-define the age limit of eligibility for elderly services; (b) the Administration should set up a working group dedicated to oversee the provision of services for persons with intellectual disabilities;	

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		<p>(c) allowance for carers should be offered to alleviate the financial burdens of households with persons with intellectual disabilities; and</p> <p>(d) the psychiatric outreach services should be resumed for persons with intellectual disabilities in mild and moderate levels.</p>	
003111 - 003430	The Hong Kong Society for the Blind Morning Glory DAC cum Hostel Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)550/13-14(03)]</p> <p>The Administration was urged to –</p> <p>(a) psychiatric outreach services for persons with intellectual disabilities by Siu Lam Hospital had not been expanded for years, and the outreach services should also cover persons with intellectual disabilities in moderate and mild levels as before 2003; and</p> <p>(b) review the manpower requirements at Hostels for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons, Supported Hostels, Day Activity Centres ("DACs") and Sheltered Workshops ("SWs"), in particular the recruitment of nurses and Health Workers.</p>	
003431 - 003741	The Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association Chairman	<p>Presentation of views –</p> <p>(a) elderly persons should not be defined rigidly as people at or above the age of 65 given that many persons with disabilities including down syndrome patients would face deterioration physically and mentally at a very early stage;</p> <p>(b) group application should be allowed for subsidized residential care home places to cater for the special needs of persons with intellectual disabilities and their ageing parents;</p> <p>(c) the home-based support services for down syndrome patients should be strengthened to serve those patients who were not institutionalized; and</p> <p>(d) more out-patient clinics for down syndrome patients should be set up by the Government to meet the service demand in the community.</p>	

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003742 - 004124	The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped Chairman	<p>Presentation of views – [LC Paper No. CB(2)550/13-14(01)]</p> <p>(a) no retirement age should be set for persons with intellectual disabilities who had placement at SWs;</p> <p>(b) temporary accommodation should be provided for persons with intellectual disabilities at hostel during the renovation period of the hostels; and</p> <p>(c) persons with intellectual disabilities and their ageing parents should be allowed for having group application for residential care home places to address their wish to move into the same residential care home for the elderly ("RCHE") with their spouse and family members.</p>	
004125 - 005103	智障人士老齡化關注組 Ms TAM Fung-yung Mr CHIU Kin-leung Chairman	<p>Presentation of views/enquiries as follows – [LC Paper No. CB(2)550/13-14(02)]</p> <p>(a) measures taken by the Administration to take forward the recommendations of the Task Group on Ageing of Users of Rehabilitation Services set up by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") were piecemeal. The Administration should provide more input to develop enhanced rehabilitation programme with adequate funding support to address the genuine needs of ageing service users;</p> <p>(b) whether the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly could be extended to persons with intellectual disabilities so that they could be subsidized for support services, including influenza vaccinations;</p> <p>(c) the Administration should revise the age element in the definition of elderly persons taking into consideration the early onset of ageing symptoms among persons with intellectual disabilities; and</p> <p>(d) the Administration should review the provision of short-term residential care services ("RCS") and community care services ("CCS") to address the difficulties of persons with intellectual disabilities in their 40s or 50s whose ageing parents could no longer take care of them full-time at home.</p>	

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005104 - 010703	Chairman Administration	<p>Summing up of deputations' concerns/enquiries by the Chairman on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) detailed plans and timetable of the Administration on its work to examine the service needs of aged persons with intellectual disabilities; (b) any concrete long-term plan to be rolled out to meet the needs of ageing service users in training and rehabilitation; (c) ways to improve the shortage of manpower and difficulties encountered by non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to hire care staff, in particular Health Worker; and (d) any plans to restore the psychiatric outreach services for persons with intellectual disabilities in moderate and mild levels as before 2003. <p>Response of the Administration that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee ("RAC") of the Labour and Welfare Bureau had set up a Working Group on Ageing of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities to advise the Administration on related policies. The Working Group included parents of persons with intellectual disabilities and experts in welfare and healthcare sector. The Working Group would put forward recommendations on long, medium and short term; (b) a Task Force on Rehabilitation Services was set up recently under the Working Group to study in depth related issues and develop concrete proposals. In this connection, the Task Force would conduct a survey on service users of rehabilitation services to obtain relevant data of aged persons with intellectual disabilities and their functional capacity etc. with a view to developing concrete proposals for service enhancement and a long and medium-term plan. The study would be undertaken in the first half of 2014; (c) the Task Force would also work with NGOs concerned to explore the development direction of day services for persons with 	

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		<p>intellectual disabilities having regard to the ageing trend of service users and, where appropriate, consider the feasibility of launching pilot projects with funding support from the Lotteries Fund;</p> <p>(d) places for short-term residential and day respite service would be increased and home-based support services would continue to be strengthened to address different needs of persons with intellectual disabilities; and</p> <p>(e) due to manpower shortage, currently psychiatric outreach services were mainly provided for persons with severe intellectual disabilities. To enhance the psychiatric service for persons with intellectual disabilities, HA had assigned designated timeslots for psychiatric specialist out-patient services for persons with intellectual disabilities in the clusters of New Territories West, Kowloon West and Hong Kong West, and planned to extend such services to other clusters in 2014.</p>	
010704 - 011547	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Administration Chairman	<p>Views of Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung that the Administration should allocate adequate resources and have long-term planning for measures to address the needs of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that it had been increasing funding for the well-being of persons with disabilities having regard to their ageing problems and additional recurrent funding in this respect amounted to \$120 million in the past few years. The Working Group under RAC was striving to work out feasible plan and measures.</p>	
011548 - 012449	Mr POON Siu-ping Administration Chairman	<p>Enquiries of Mr POON Siu-ping on –</p> <p>(a) the timetable for concrete long, medium and short-term measures to be advised by the Working Group under RAC;</p> <p>(b) whether the increase in recurrent funding would help alleviate the problem of manpower shortage for front-line care staff and doctors rendering services for persons with intellectual disabilities; and</p> <p>(c) further details on the set up of psychiatric clinics for persons with intellectual disabilities by HA.</p>	

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		<p>Reply of the Administration that the Working Group under RAC would advise on both the future direction and feasible immediate improvement measures in residential and community support services for persons with intellectual disabilities, with details as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the future direction would be worked out in the light of the findings of the survey on the profile of service users, which would be conducted by the Task Force on Rehabilitation Services in the first half of 2014; (b) extended programmes had been launched to meet the training needs of ageing service users of the existing day training services; (c) designated timeslots for psychiatric specialist out-patient services for persons with intellectual disabilities were currently available in the clusters of New Territories West, Kowloon West and Hong Kong West. To enhance the services in response to carers' concerns, HA aimed to extend the designated timeslot service to other clusters in the first half of 2014; and (d) HA was experiencing a shortage of doctors. The situation was complicated by the fact that different specialties and sub-specialties within HA were competing to recruit doctors to meet the demand for their services. Addressing the manpower issue within the team specializing in services for persons with intellectual disabilities would depend on the overall supply of doctors, but also the personal preference of individual psychiatrists. <p>Declaration of interest by the Chairman that his daughter was a user of the services.</p> <p>Remarks by the Chairman that the acute shortage of doctors would undermine the consistency in follow-up consultation for patients.</p>	
012450 - 013440	Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan Administration Chairman	<p>Enquiries of Mr CHUNG Kwok-pun –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) whether the inadequacy of services for persons with intellectual disabilities was due to a lack of funding support; 	

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		<p>(b) whether the Administration would consider inviting private service providers to offer the related services through subvention; and</p> <p>(c) in view of the manpower shortage of psychiatric doctors, whether the Administration would consider employing overseas doctors to strengthen the manpower support.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) the key mission of the Working Group under RAC was to formulate long-term strategies on the provision of services for persons with intellectual disabilities, having regard to the ageing trend. It would develop long, medium and short-term measures to enhance the existing services in the light of the findings from the survey on the profile of service users to be undertaken by the Working Group under RAC and the coming report on statistics of persons with disabilities in Hong Kong to be completed by the Census and Statistics Department by the end of 2014; and</p> <p>(b) overseas-trained doctors were required to pass the Licensing Examination administered by the Medical Council of Hong Kong in order to register for practice in Hong Kong. HA also sought to recruit overseas doctors by way of Limited Registration subject to the approval of the Medical Council of Hong Kong. A review on the manpower supply of healthcare professionals conducted by the Food and Health Bureau would be completed by the end of 2014, based on which the Administration would project more accurately the required manpower to cope with the challenges arising from the ageing population.</p> <p>Request of the Chairman that to facilitate members to have a clear picture about the manpower supply for psychiatric services for persons with intellectual disabilities, the Administration should provide the number of doctors recruited from overseas with the approval of the Medical Council of Hong Kong in the past five years, with a breakdown by their specialties.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
013441 - 014529	Deputy Chairman Administration Chairman	<p>Views/enquiries of the Deputy Chairman –</p> <p>(a) recruiting psychiatric doctors from overseas</p>	

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		<p>might not be a desirable option given the socio-cultural differences;</p> <p>(b) any specific goals the Administration would set for its services to address the ageing problems of persons with intellectual disabilities; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would consider deputations' request for lowering the existing age limit of 65 for the eligibility for subsidized elderly care services, in view of the early onset of ageing symptoms among persons with intellectual disabilities in their 40s and 50s.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) the Working Group under RAC targeted to release a report regarding the future direction of services for ageing persons with intellectual disabilities within two years;</p> <p>(b) in the meantime, it would put forward recommendations to the Administration on feasible improvement measures and would be taken forward if they were found to be feasible and appropriate. In this connection, the Task Force was actively taking forward the survey on users profile and considering the new service mode of day services in collaboration with NGOs concerned; and</p> <p>(c) the Working Group had carefully examined whether an age benchmark could be set to define elderly persons with intellectual disabilities but noted that there had yet to be a consensus internationally. The Working Group considered that the care and support required should primarily be based on the functional capacity of individual persons with intellectual disabilities.</p> <p>Views of the Chairman that –</p> <p>(a) the existing long-term care services were fragmented with unnecessary categorization under "elderly" and "persons with disabilities", which was against the international trend of no distinct age limit; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should conduct a comprehensive review on its long-term care</p>	

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		policy with a view to offering services according to the needs of the recipients, instead of the age.	
014530 - 015631	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration Chairman	<p>Views of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che that –</p> <p>(a) there was an urgent need to review the age requirement for long-term care services in view of the early onset of ageing symptoms among persons with intellectual disabilities;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should play a leading role in working out a service model to revamp the existing vocational rehabilitation services for the need of ageing users. Subvented NGOs should be guided to develop their services with well planned funding allocation and manpower supply to enhance the cost effectiveness; and</p> <p>(c) the statistics on users profile compiled by SWD regarding ageing of users of rehabilitation services should be made available to the public, and service users should be invited as members of the Task Group.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) findings under the survey on users profile to be conducted by the Working Group of RAC would shed light on the correlation amongst age, medical background and functional capacity; and</p> <p>(b) the Task Force comprised NGOs and parents groups which had a good understanding of the needs of service users.</p> <p>View of the Chairman that RAC should provide more channels to gauge the views of users and general public on issues relating to ageing problems of persons with intellectual disabilities.</p>	
015632 - 020203	St. James' Settlement Family Club of Rehabilitation Services Administration 智障人士老齡化關注組 Chairman	<p>Views of St. James' Settlement Family Club of Rehabilitation Services that –</p> <p>(a) persons with intellectual disabilities having placements at DACs or SWs (who were not residents at hostels) should also be entitled to receiving free influenza vaccinations;</p>	

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		<p>(b) psychiatric outreach services for persons with intellectual disabilities should be enhanced; and</p> <p>(c) the manpower of DAC should be strengthened.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration that with reference to findings of scientific research, influenza vaccinations were currently offered to high-risk persons including children and elderly persons.</p> <p>Declaration of the Chairman that his daughter was having placement at DAC of St. James' Settlement.</p> <p>Views and requests of the Chairman that the Administration should review the provision of influenza vaccination, which should not be limited to persons with intellectual disabilities staying in hostels but extended to those non-residents at DACs and SWs.</p> <p>Views of 智障人士老齡化關注組 that –</p> <p>(a) it was unfair that influenza vaccinations were provided for persons with intellectual disabilities in hostels but not those in SWs; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should expeditiously conduct a review on the age limit for the provision of long-term care services.</p> <p>Extension of meeting for 10 minutes.</p>	
020204 - 020740	The Hong Kong Society for the Blind Morning Glory DAC cum Hostel Administration	<p>Views of/enquiries by the Hong Kong Society for the Blind Morning Glory DAC cum Hostel –</p> <p>(a) immediate measures should be worked out to address the manpower shortage faced by the Hostels for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons, SWs and Supported Hostels;</p> <p>(b) some NGOs had hesitation in running the extended rehabilitation programmes given that the number of places subsidized by the Government was small;</p> <p>(c) enquiry about the number of the existing service places for the Work Extension</p>	

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		<p>Programme ("WEP") and the Extended Care Programme ("ECP"), and the number of participating NGOs;</p> <p>(d) the scope of psychiatric services should cover persons with autism, and more should be done to increase the manpower for medical consultation as well as quality control of prescription of drugs; and</p> <p>(e) long-term care services should be provided for persons with genuine needs without age limitations.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) the staffing establishment for WEP was 0.5 enrolled nurse, 1 ward attendant and 0.5 programme assistant for every 15 places, and that for ECP was 0.5 occupational therapist or physiotherapist and 1.5 health care assistant for every 10 places when the services commenced operation in 2005. In 2010, 1 occupational therapist/physiotherapist was allocated for every 50 places for Hostels for Severe Mentally Handicapped Persons, and 1.5 health workers for every 50 places for Hostels for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons. Additional manpower had also been allocated to the aforesaid services with effect from November 2013; and</p> <p>(b) 130 service places for ECP were offered by 13 programmes run by 11 NGOs; and 195 service places for WEP were offered by 13 programmes run by nine NGOs.</p>	
020741 - 021315	Chairman	<p>Request/views of the Chairman that –</p> <p>(a) the existing measures to meet the training needs of ageing service users were contingency plans which were not cost effective in addressing the genuine needs of ageing users for vocational rehabilitation;</p> <p>(b) for better planning and resource management, the Administration should provide the respective unit costs of subsidized day training services including DACs, SWs / Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres, WEP and ECP;</p>	Admin

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		<p>(c) the Administration should also consider increasing funding to attract more psychiatric doctors from overseas to provide psychiatric outreach services in Hong Kong, so that it could cope with the manpower shortage of psychiatric doctors specialized in services for persons with intellectual disabilities; and</p> <p>(d) whether the target recipients of the Pilot Project on Dental Services for Persons with Intellectual Disability would be extended to those with severe intellectual disabilities; and whether outreach services would be offered to persons with intellectual disabilities in residential care homes.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration to the enquiry (d) that the Pilot Project was launched in August 2013 providing services for persons with moderate intellectual disabilities who were receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. The Administration would consider the feasibility of extending the service scope after the end of the four-year trial period.</p> <p>Summing up by the Chairman that the Administration should address members and deputations' concerns about the ageing problems of persons with intellectual disabilities and work out feasible initiatives to cope with the lack of residential care homes and DACs and the shortage of manpower, in particular psychiatric doctors and front-line care staff.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II – Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting</i>			
021316 - 021328	Chairman	Item for discussion at the next meeting Closing remarks	