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Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services

**Proposed continuation of work of
the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy**

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of work of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy ("the Joint Subcommittee") and seeks members' endorsement of the Joint Subcommittee's proposal to continue its work up to 31 July 2014.

Background

2. The Joint Subcommittee was jointly appointed by the Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services in November 2012 to study the long-term care policy and services (including home-based, community based and residential care services for the elderly, people with disabilities and the chronically ill), discuss the policy concerned with the Administration and make timely recommendations.

Progress of work of Joint Subcommittee

3. The Joint Subcommittee has identified the following 12 subjects for discussion –

- (a) planning for provision of residential care, home care and community care services and quality of such services;
- (b) Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly;

- (c) support and allowance for carers;
- (d) respite service for the elderly and persons with disabilities;
- (e) ageing problem of persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (f) care services for people with dementia;
- (g) review of the discharge support programme for the elderly;
- (h) mental health case management;
- (i) financial assistance on medications and medical/rehabilitation appliances;
- (j) guardianship system for mentally incapacitated persons;
- (k) Integrated Home Care Services for the elderly; and
- (l) quality and monitoring of private residential care homes for the elderly and person with disabilities.

4. The Joint Subcommittee has, since 14 December 2012, held nine meetings with the Administration and received views from deputations at five of these meetings. The Joint Subcommittee has studied the first four subjects listed in paragraph 3 above.

Need for continuation of work

5. The Joint Subcommittee has yet to study the eight subjects listed in items (e) to (l) of paragraph 3 above which are important issues to be addressed by the long-term care policy. In its study of these subjects, the Joint Subcommittee will, apart from meeting with the Administration, receive views from relevant non-governmental organizations, concern groups and the general public on each of the eight subjects. It is envisaged that for completing its study on the remaining subjects, the Joint Subcommittee will need to hold at least nine meetings, eight for the study of the eight subjects and another one for wrapping up the Joint Subcommittee's study and deliberation of its observations and recommendations.

6. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules provides that if a subcommittee appointed by Panel(s) considers it necessary to work beyond 12 months of its commencement, it should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel(s), report to the House Committee ("HC") and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period. The Joint Subcommittee agreed, at its meeting on 25 October 2013, that it should complete its study of all the 12 subjects listed above before drawing up recommendations on the long-term care policy and services. For doing so, the Joint Subcommittee proposed to continue its work beyond the 12-month period for another seven and a half months until 31 July 2014.

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to note the progress of work of the Joint Subcommittee and endorse the Joint Subcommittee's proposal to continue its work up to 31 July 2014. Subject to members' views, the proposal will be submitted to HC for endorsement at its meeting to be held on 15 November 2013.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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