

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2278/13-14
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 14 April 2014, at 9:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Members absent : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon CHAN Han-pan
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon TANG Ka-piu

**Public Officers : Item III
attending**

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

Miss Cecilla LI
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly)
Social Welfare Department

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

Item IV

Miss Maria LAU
Acting Deputy Director of Social Welfare
(Administration)
Social Welfare Department

Miss Sheila KONG
Principal Social Work Officer (Information Systems
and Technology)
Social Welfare Department

Mr LEE Tat-hong
Senior Systems Manager (Information Systems and
Technology)
Social Welfare Department

Item V

Miss Annie TAM, JP
Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr LAM Ka-tai
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)
Social Welfare Department

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

Mr KOK Che-leung
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Subventions)
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 Kay CHU
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1175/13-14(01)]

(The Deputy Chairman took the chair in the temporary absence of the Chairman.)

Members noted that a referral from the Public Complaints Office on policies relating to protection for working elders (LC Paper No. CB(2)1175/13-14(01)) had been issued since last meeting.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1255/13-14(01) to (02)]

2. Members noted that the Administration had proposed to discuss at the next meeting scheduled for 12 May 2014 the following items –

(a) Additional provision for social security recipients;

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(b) Progress report on the production of the Best Practice Manual for non-governmental organizations receiving Lump Sum Grant Subvention; and

(c) Setting up a day activity centre cum hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons and supported hostel for mentally handicapped persons in Cheung Sha Wan Estate, Shum Shui Po.

3. The Deputy Chairman said that the item "Rehousing matters relating to residential care home for the elderly ("RCHEs") (including the privately-run RCHEs at Dills Corner Garden ("DCG")) affected by the North East New Territories New Development Areas Project", which was originally scheduled for discussion at this meeting, had been deferred. He said that he and the Chairman had a meeting with representatives from the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Development Bureau to discuss the matters relating to RCHEs at DCG. Noting that the paper which the Administration intended to submit for this meeting did not contain information on the latest development, he and the Chairman had requested the Administration to include such information in its paper to facilitate a more fruitful discussion by the Panel. The Chairman had also relayed to the Administration the views of a professor from the Chinese University of Hong Kong on the development project. As the Administration had not considered in depth the professor's views and was unable to compile the required paper before this meeting, he and the Chairman suggested that the matter should be discussed at the next regular meeting.

4. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested that operators and residents of RCHEs at DCG and their family members should be invited to give views at the meeting. To allow sufficient time for discussion, the Deputy Chairman suggested that he and the Chairman would prepare a list of representatives of operators and residents of the RCHEs at DCG to be invited to attend the meeting. Members agreed.

III. Setting up a new contract residential care home for the elderly cum day care unit in a public rental housing development at ex-Kwai Chung Police Married Quarters site, Kwai Chung
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1255/13-14(03) to (04)]

5. The Deputy Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") concerning personal pecuniary interest to be disclosed. He reminded members to declare interests in the matter under

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discussion, if any.

6. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly) ("ADSW(Elderly)") briefed members on the proposed project on setting up a new contract RCHE ("the contract RCHE") with a 20-place Day Care Unit for the Elderly ("DCU") in the public rental housing ("PRH") development at the site of ex-Kwai Chung Police Married Quarters, Kwai Chung ("the site").

Public views on the proposed project

7. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that the residents in the vicinity of the site generally objected to the PRH development due to the lack of community facilities and poor traffic condition in the area, and suggested building community facilities instead. Chief Executive Officer (Subventions and Planning) ("CEO(S/P)") responded that Kwai Tsing District Council ("DC"), including its Housing Affairs Committee, had been consulted on the proposed PRH development since 2009. After considering the views of the DC members, it was decided to construct two blocks of PRH and the contract RCHE with DCU, inter alia, at the site. The whole development project was approved by the Town Planning Board.

8. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung said that the Kwai Tsing community worried that the contract RCHE with DCU might impose additional burden on medical services and traffic condition in the district. He requested the Administration to discuss with the Kwai Tsing DC and the Housing Authority to address the concern.

9. ADSW(Elderly) responded that during the course of planning, the Administration had already liaised with the concerned parties to consider the impact of the proposed project on different aspects of the district. She said that outreach medical consultation services were provided to the residents of subvented and contract RCHEs by visiting medical practitioners either of the Hospital Authority and / or from the private sector. Moreover, the frontline staff of subvented and contract RCHEs would assess whether sick residents had a genuine need for admission to hospital.

10. Mr Albert HO said that changes in the use of lands and buildings in developed areas would easily give rise to much controversy in the local community. The Administration should prepare and announce as early as possible the future plan of housing development, especially those with

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welfare facilities, so as to enlist public support for the concerned developments.

Completion time of and funding for the proposed project

11. Noting that the contract RCHE with DCU was expected to commence service in 2019, Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the construction works could be expedited so that it could come into operation as early as possible. Sharing Mr POON's view, the Deputy Chairman suggested that the Administration should invite tenders for service operation a few months before the completion of the construction works, so that the lead time required for selection of the operator could be shortened and the contract RCHE with DCU could come into operation by mid-2018.

12. ADSW(Elderly) explained that the Housing Department was entrusted to construct the bare-shell premises for the contract RCHE with DCU. Upon completion of the construction works, the premises would be handed over to the selected NGO/private operator, which would be expected to carry out and complete the necessary fitting-out works within nine months before service commencement. She reiterated that the Administration would make its best effort to compress the administrative procedures and aimed at awarding the service contract in 2019.

13. Dr Fernando CHEUNG noted with concern that the construction and fitting-out works of the proposed project, as well as the procurement of furniture and equipment for the subsidized section of the proposed project, would be funded by the Lotteries Fund ("LF"). He opined that the Administration should use one-off special grant to fund the aforesaid works while LF should be reserved for funding programmes which could promote social welfare developments. The Deputy Chairman supplemented that \$10 billion of LF was earmarked for the 62 in-situ expansion, redevelopment or development projects under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("the Special Scheme").

Review of policies on elderly services

14. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr Fernando CHEUNG requested the Administration to set up more day care centres for the elderly ("DEs") in Kwai Tsing district to serve the aging population. Noting the Government's policy to promote "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up", Dr CHEUNG stressed that provision of DEs, home care services and support for carers were equally essential for the elderly persons to stay in the community. Currently, the needy elderly could only

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choose either DEs or home care services. He urged the Administration to review the existing service delivery mode so that the elderly persons in need could benefit from both DEs and home care services.

15. ADSW(Elderly) responded that the 2014-2015 Budget had earmarked additional funding for providing 1 500 additional places for the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services, as well as enhancing the scope of home care services for these additional places and the nearly 5 600 existing places to strengthen the support for frail elderly persons living at home. In addition, resources would be allocated for upgrading social centres for the elderly ("SEs") to neighbourhood elderly centres ("NECs"), with manpower enhancement. As regards the support for Kwai Tsing district, there were a total of 17 elderly centres, comprising two district elderly community centres, 12 NECs and three SEs, which would be upgraded to NECs. In addition, the Administration had launched the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly in 2013, which enabled the eligible elderly persons to choose DEs or/and home care services to cater for their individual needs.

16. Noting that the proposed project would provide 60 subsidized residential care services ("RCS") places and 40 non-subsidized RCS places, the Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to change the ratio from 6:4 to 8:2 in the proposed project as well as future contract RCHEs so as to accommodate more elderly persons with financial difficulties. He also requested the Administration to increase the number of subsidized DCU places in the proposed project from 20 to 40.

17. Whilst noting members' proposal on changing the ratio of subsidized RCS places to non-subsidized RCS places in contract RCHEs from 6:4 to 8:2, ADSW(Elderly) said that the number of subsidized DCU places in the proposed project was considered optimal after taking into account the space limitation and manpower resources of the contract RCHE with DCU.

18. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern about the continuous decline in the service quality of subvented RCHEs. He criticized that the amount of government subvention was generally insufficient to cover the running costs of subvented RCHEs, of which about 40% had to be financed by non-subsidized services. In the face of inadequate resources, recruitment difficulty became more acute, thereby directly affecting the quality of service of subvented RCHEs. The Administration should review the subvention level to improve the service quality of subvented RCHEs. Dr CHEUNG also urged the Administration to consider opening DEs to persons aged below 60 who showed sign of dementia at the early

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stage.

Provision of residential care services places for the elderly

19. In response to Mr Albert HO's enquiry on the figures in respect of the provision of subsidized RCS places as set out in Annex 1 to LC Paper No. CB(2)1255/13-14(03), ADSW(Elderly) supplemented that there were some 1 600 elderly persons waiting for DEs and DCUs, and their average waiting time was about nine months. She further explained that with effect from 2003, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") ceased to accept new applications for placement in self-care hostels or homes for the aged as increasing frailty of elderly persons showed more needs for care-and-attention ("C&A") places. Starting from 2005-2006, self-care hostel places and home for the aged places were gradually converted into C&A places providing a continuum of care ("CoC"). As of today, there were less than 10 applications for home for the aged places which were submitted before 2003. SWD would continue to deal with the applications.

20. Noting that about 9 000 additional service places covering C&A homes with CoC, nursing homes and DEs would be provided under the Special Scheme, Mr Frankie YICK sought information on the timeline of the Special Scheme. The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to provide quarterly progress report on the Special Scheme.

21. Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)³ responded that the Administration and the Panel had deliberated on the Special Scheme before. At this stage, the proposals submitted by the welfare organizations under the Special Scheme were very preliminary and works schedule of individual projects might be subject to further changes when more project details were available. The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to provide quarterly progress reports on the in-situ expansion, redevelopment or development projects under the Special Scheme.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration had provided the required information vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1913/13-14(01) on 26 June 2014.)

22. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's concern about the development timeframe and progress of the 11 sites earmarked for the construction of new RCHEs, RCHEs with DCUs, and DEs, ADSW(Elderly) undertook to provide information on the supply forecast of RCS places and day care

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places of the aforesaid 11 sites from 2014-2015 to 2018-2019.

23. In response to the Deputy Chairman's invitation of view, members supported in principle the submission of the relevant funding proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC") for consideration.

IV. Redeployment of a permanent directorate post and establishment of next generation infrastructure for the information technology development of the Social Welfare Department

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1255/13-14(05)]

24. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Acting Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration) ("Ag. DDSW(A)") briefed members on the Administration's proposals to redeploy permanently one post of Principal Social Work Officer ("PSWO"), to be designated as Principal Social Work Officer (Information Systems and Technology) ("P(IST)"), to head and provide directorate steer to the Information Systems and Technology Branch ("ISTB") of SWD; and to establish the next generation information technology infrastructure ("ITI") ("the Project") for SWD.

25. The Deputy Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of RoP regarding personal pecuniary interest to be disclosed. He reminded members to declare interests in the matter under discussion, if any.

Contents of and implementation lead time for the Project

26. Pointing out that the Administration would, very often, require at least one year to update its IT systems for implementing new welfare initiatives, Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that the Administration should examine the contents of the Project carefully so that the lead time for updating IT systems could be shortened. Noting that it would take four years to implement the Project, he expressed concern that the new ITI might become outdated by the time of its implementation. He enquired whether the new ITI could reduce the time required for updating the SWD's IT systems.

27. Ag. DDSW(A) responded that the Project aimed at replacing the ageing hardware and software, leveraging new technology for improvement in system efficiency and effectiveness, as well as paving way for the development of new IT application systems to meet new and changing business needs of SWD. Regarding the lead time for implementing the

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Project, Senior Systems Manager (Information Systems and Technology) ("SSM(IST)") said that given the complexity of the new ITI, it would require about a year to carry out the tendering exercise and around two years for its establishment. Compared with the existing ITI, the new ITI would be more flexible in terms of developing new applications. The Administration would use the most up-to-date software and hardware for the new ITI as far as practicable.

28. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1255/13-14(05)) did not provide sufficient details about the Project. He asked whether there was a relationship between the Project and the one-stop service proposed to be provided by the Efficient Unit, and whether the Project would support the development of welfare services including services in relation to communication skills, language training and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities.

29. Ag. DDSW(A) responded that to improve system efficiency and effectiveness as well as IT security, the new ITI would involve setting up new data centres, network capacity enhancement, email and security systems upgrading, etc. The new ITI would help improve the performance of the application systems currently in use in SWD and would be compatible with the future one-stop service if so needed. However, the development of individual application systems would not be included under the Project; instead, they would be developed separately according to service and operational needs. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should take into account the development of the one-stop service in implementing the Project.

30. Mr Frankie YICK said that the new ITI should be able to bring about savings in software updating, hardware maintenance, etc. He sought information on the payback period of the Project.

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31. Noting that there were over 50 applications systems currently in use in SWD, the Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to provide information on the types of services currently supported by those application systems. The information would facilitate members to have a better understanding and give views on the improvements required for those systems.

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(Post-meeting note: The Administration provided information on the payback period of the Project and a list of the 52 application systems currently in use in SWD vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1595/13-14(01) on 23 May 2014.)

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The P(IST) post

32. In response to Mr TAM Yiu-chung's enquiry about whether the Administration had considered deploying an officer at non-directorate rank to head ISTB, Ag. DDSW(A) said that the requirement for the supernumerary P(IST) post had been reviewed annually since its creation in 2005. In view of the growing scale of IT development and the complexity of IT systems within SWD as well as in the social welfare sector, the Administration considered that ISTB should continue to be headed by a directorate staff.

Non-recurrent staff cost of the Project

33. Mr POON Siu-ping wondered why the additional non-recurrent staff cost of \$15,037,000 under the Project was not absorbed by the non-recurrent cost of the Project. Ag. DDSW(A) responded that the additional non-recurrent staff cost was required for deploying time-limited social work and IT grade staff to test the new ITI being developed and monitor the progress of its development. SSM(IST) supplemented that SWD would absorb the staff requirement through internal redeployment.

34. In response to the Deputy Chairman's invitation of views, members present supported in principle the submission of the staffing proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee and FC and the funding proposal to FC for consideration.

V. Redevelopment of Heep Hong Society's Catherine Lo Centre for the provision of pre-school rehabilitation and other support services

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1255/13-14(06) to (07)]

35. The Deputy Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of RoP regarding personal pecuniary interest to be disclosed. He reminded members to declare interests in the matter under discussion, if any.

36. At the invitation of the Deputy Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("PS(LW)") briefed members on the project to redevelop Heep Hong Society ("HHS")'s existing 3-storey Catherine Lo Centre ("CLC") at Sandy Bay Road, Pokfulam into a 10-storey building ("the Project"). Members noted that the Project sought to: (a) reprovision the existing Special Child Care Centre ("SCCC") with an expansion of the number of subvented places from 66 to 120 places; (b) set up an Early

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Education and Training Centre ("EETC") of 60 subvented places; and (c) provide other rehabilitation and support services on a self-financing basis by HHS to cater for the developmental and social needs of children and youth with disabilities and their families/carers.

Provision of pre-school rehabilitation services

37. While expressing support for the Administration's proposal which would help reduce the waiting time for pre-school rehabilitation services in the Southern District, Dr Fernando CHEUNG was gravely concerned about the large number of the waitlistees for such services. In his view, the Administration had not been effective in solving the acute shortage problem of pre-school rehabilitation services.

38. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that according to the Administration, there would be surplus Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres ("ICYSCs") arising from the decline in youth population. Given that the additional places to be provided under the Project could not accommodate all the 7 000 children waiting for pre-school rehabilitation services and there was serious shortage of services for older children and young people with special educational needs, the Administration should consider making use of some of these ICYSCs to replenish the supply of these services. The Administration should also draw up manpower training plans for the provision of these services.

39. PS(LW) responded that the Administration had endeavoured to identify sites for the provision of pre-school rehabilitation places so that the children in need could receive the necessary services as early as possible. Apart from the additional 1 500 pre-school rehabilitation places, some 3 800 places would be provided under the Special Scheme. These additional places would be of great help in relieving the tight supply. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) ("DDSW(S)") supplemented that the Administration would study the suggestion of using ICYSCs for rehabilitation services from the service integration perspective.

40. PS(LW) informed members that the number of preliminary proposals providing SCCC and EETC places and the estimated numbers of additional SCCC and EETC places to be provided under the Special Scheme, which were set out in footnote 3 of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1255/13-14(06)), were incorrect. The correct figures should be 25 preliminary proposals providing 2 540 additional EETC places and 1 302 additional SCCC places.

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41. Mr POON Siu-ping sought information on the number of similar redevelopment projects and their implementation timetable. PS(LW) responded that 25 projects under the Special Scheme would provide SCCC and EETC places. One of these projects was expected to be completed in 2017-2018 and the remaining projects would be completed by phases after 2017-2018.

42. Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the funding arrangement in case the total expenditure of the Project had exceeded the estimate. DDSW(S) responded that approval for additional funding from LF could be sought if necessary.

Transport and interim service arrangements for users of CLC

43. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that service users with mobility difficulties might have problems commuting to CLC where there was no wheelchair accessible public bus service. He sought information on the transport arrangement for these service users. He also expressed concern about the provision of services at CLC during redevelopment period.

44. Sharing similar concerns, Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the Southern District Council had been consulted on the temporary reprovisioning of the SCCC at CLC at Wah Fu Estate.

45. DDSW(S) responded that the premises at Wah Kin House in Wah Fu (I) Estate had been in use as temporary SCCC since 17 March 2014. The premises at Wah Tai House in Wah Fu (II) Estate, which would mainly be occupied by offices and facilities, were under renovation and would soon be in service. The Administration had consulted the Southern District Council and obtained its support for reprovisioning the SCCC at CLC at Wah Fu Estate.

46. As regards transport arrangement, DDSW(S) said that two coaches providing a total of 110 seats would be arranged for service users to commute to the SCCC at CLC. The Administration hoped that users would use the coaches so as to mitigate the burden on the traffic flow in the district. Noting that the coaches were mainly for users of SCCC, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung suggested that the Administration should consider making transport arrangement for users of other services at CLC as well.

Self-financing services under the Project

47. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed concern about whether the grass-root families could afford the self-financing support services

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provided by HHS. DDSW(S) responded that HHS was a non-profit making organization and the fee levels of its services were set on a cost-recovery basis. Families with financial difficulties could apply for fee subsidy from HHS and the maximum amount of subsidy was 75% of the fees.

48. In reply to Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's enquiry about the quota for self-financing service places under the Project, DDSW(S) said that according to the preliminary estimation of HHS, around 250 places would be provided for the community-based support centre ("CSC").

49. Regarding the Deputy Chairman's enquiry about the expenditure items under "other rehabilitation and support services" (Annex 4 to LC Paper No. CB(2)1255/13-14(06)) of the Project, DDSW(S) responded that these items included the construction cost for CSC, the parents resource centre and the social adaptation training area. Self-financing facilities which were above-standard provisions, such as the covered sitting-out area for SCCC and the larger area for parents resource centre, would not be fully supported by LF. HHS had to absorb around 8% of the total construction and fitting-out costs of the Project.

Ratio of subvented services to self-financing services

50. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that members had previously called on the Administration to increase the proportion of subvented welfare services under the Special Scheme but the ratio of subvented welfare services to self-financing welfare services under the Project remained at 6:4. He urged the Administration that the services to be provided under the Project should be subvented services only or the ratio should be increased to at least 8:2.

51. The Deputy Chairman said that the net operational floor area of CLC would be substantially increased after the redevelopment but the ratio of subvented services to self-financing services under the Project was only 6:4. He took the view that more subvented service places should be provided under the Project.

52. PS(LW) responded that CLC occupied a site of about 650 m². The site was granted to HHS by private treaty grant in 1970 for 75 years at nil premium for a non-profit making centre for children with physical disabilities. A strip of government land adjoining the lot (about 57 m²) had also been leased to HHS under a short term tenancy for use as a children playground CLC since 1999. HHS was required to surrender the

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site of 650 m² in exchange of a site of 707 m².

53. PS(LW) further said that all the additional SCCC and EETC places under the Project (54 SCCC places and 60 EETC places) would be provided under SWD subvention. Self-financing services provided by HHS under the Project were mainly support services which included community-based support centre, parents resource centre, social adaptation training area and supportive learning project.

Monitoring of self-financing services operated by welfare organizations

54. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that non-profit making organizations did not necessarily charge low fees for their self-financing services as the fee levels were not subject to the Administration's monitoring. He was concerned that some of these organizations would charge high fees for their self-financing services to make profit so as to increase the salaries of their senior management staff. He asked whether the Administration had any say on the salary levels of the senior management staff of non-profit making organizations.

55. PS(LW) responded that many parents of children with disabilities had requested HHS to provide more places for both subvented and self-financing services for their children. DDSW(S) supplemented that the Administration had liaised with HHS to ensure that the self-financing services to be provided under the Project would meet the users' needs. The Administration emphasized the importance of corporate governance. The operation of HHS was monitored by its Executive Committee comprising members from the professional sectors. The books of account of HHS were subject to audit and would be made available to parents of users of CLC. HHS had held meetings with these parents to explain its self-financing services. HHS's self-financing services were supported by these parents.

56. To facilitate his understanding on whether there was a relationship between the self-financing services and the remuneration (including bonus, allowances, salaries) of the senior management staff of HHS, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung requested the Administration to provide a table illustrating the remuneration received by the senior management staff of HHS since 1970. PS(LW) responded that it was not a practice for the Administration to request welfare organizations to provide information regarding the remuneration of their staff. She said that HHS had a long history of providing pre-school rehabilitation services, had earned a good reputation, and had a good track record. She further said that a visit to HHS could be

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arranged for members to understand more about HHS's services and the parents' views on HHS if members wished to see the operation of HHS on site.

57. Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's request reasonable. He said that many government-funded organizations, including institutions funded by the University Grant Committee, were required to disclose the salaries of their senior executives. He took the view that welfare organizations should follow suit. Welfare organizations should also disclose information on their transactions with related parties. He called on the Administration to seriously consider members' views in this regard.

58. While recognizing the needs for pre-school rehabilitation service, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was concerned that some welfare organizations might increase the provision of self-financing services for the purpose of generating more income so that their senior management could receive higher salaries. In his view, the services should be provided according to the users' needs and some parents might consider some self-financing services unnecessary. The Administration should seriously consider putting in place a mechanism to monitor the operation of self-financing services run by welfare organizations, including the fee levels and the remunerations of their senior management staff. PS(LW) hoped that members would not have a misperception that self-financing services would necessarily be expensive. To ease the worries about self-financing services, she suggested that members could compare the fees and the service quality in the private market with these welfare organizations.

59. The Deputy Chairman said that under the Lump Sum Grant ("LSG") Subvention System, non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") had the autonomy to decide on the pay levels and the disbursement of allowances/bonus for their staff members. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Subventions) said that the pay scale of staff of NGOs receiving LSG subvention had been delinked from that of the civil service. There were guidelines to require concerned NGOs to disclose information on the salaries of their staff members at the top three tiers to all staff members.

60. Mr Frankie YICK said that enhancing the transparency of the expenditure incurred by the senior executives of welfare organizations would facilitate corporations' consideration in making donations to or sponsoring these organizations. The Administration should encourage welfare organizations to make the relevant information available to the public.

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61. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should consider members' views regarding monitoring of the fees of self-financing services and the salaries of senior management staff of welfare organizations.

62. In response to the Deputy Chairman's invitation of views, members present supported in principle the submission of the funding proposal to FC for consideration.

VI. Any other business

63. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:30 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 September 2014