

For discussion
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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

**Setting up a new Day Activity Centre cum Hostel for Severely
Mentally Handicapped Persons and Supported Hostel for Mentally
Handicapped Persons in Cheung Sha Wan Estate, Sham Shui Po**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' support for the Government's proposal to set up a new Day Activity Centre cum Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons (DAC cum HSMH) and Supported Hostel for Mentally Handicapped Persons (SHOS) in Cheung Sha Wan Estate, Sham Shui Po (the proposed project).

Background

2. The overall objective of our rehabilitation policy is to support the full integration of persons with disabilities into society. The Government provides a host of rehabilitation services with a view to assisting persons with disabilities develop their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent and promoting their integration into the community.

Development of Residential Care Services for Persons with Disabilities

3. The Government aims to provide appropriate residential care and necessary training and support services for those persons with disabilities who are unable to live independently or cannot be adequately taken care of by their families, with a view to improving their quality of life and helping them develop independent living skills. In accordance with the strategic directions enshrined in the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan, the Government has been adopting a three-pronged approach to encourage participation from different sectors to provide diversified residential care services for persons with disabilities, namely -

- (a) regulating residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs), so as to ensure the service quality on the one hand and help the market develop residential care homes of different types and operational modes on the other;

- (b) supporting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to develop self-financing homes; and
- (c) continuing to steadily increase the number of subsidised residential care home places.

4. In line with the above approach, the Government has introduced a statutory licensing scheme for RCHDs, which has come into full operation since June 2013, to regulate the standards and operation of RCHDs. As a complementary measure to the licensing scheme, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched the four-year pilot Bought Place Scheme for Private RCHDs (BPS) since October 2010 with a view to encouraging private RCHDs to enhance their service standards, increasing the overall supply of subsidised residential care places and helping the market develop more service options. As at end-March 2014, SWD had purchased a total of 302 residential care places from six private RCHDs. The pilot BPS will be regularised in 2014-15, with the cap of subsidised places in each home to be raised from 55% to 70% and the target number of places increased from 300 to 450.

Provision of Subsidised Residential Care Places

5. The Government continues to steadily increase the provision of subsidised residential care places¹. The proposed project will increase the provision of two types of residential care services, namely HSMH and SHOS. HSMH provides residential care for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who lack basic self-care skills and require assistance in personal and nursing care. SHOS provides group home living for persons with disabilities who can live semi-independently with a fair degree of assistance from hostel staff in daily activities. As at end-March 2014, there were a total of 3 978 subsidised HSMH and SHOS places for persons with disabilities.

¹ SWD provides various types of subsidised residential care services to meet the diversified residential needs of persons with disabilities at different stages of their lives. These services include (a) Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons; (b) Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons; (c) Supported Hostel; (d) Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons; (e) Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons; (f) Long Stay Care Home; (g) Halfway House; (h) Care and Attention Home for the Aged Blind; (i) Small Group Home for Mildly Mentally Handicapped Children/Integrated Small Group Home; (j) Residential Special Child Care Centre; and (k) Integrated Vocational Training Centre (Residential Service).

Provision of Day Training Services

6. In tandem with the provision of residential care services to those in need, the Government also provides day care and training services for persons with disabilities. These services aim at making available training and support to persons with disabilities with a view to assisting them to develop their potential, enabling them to continue to live independently at home and preparing them for full integration into the community; as well as strengthening the carers' caring capacity and relieving their stress. To this end, the Government provides a wide range of day, employment and vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities². The proposed project will increase the provision of DAC service which provides day care and training for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who are unable to benefit from vocational training. As at end-March 2014, a total of 4 801 subsidised places were provided in DAC in the territory for persons with disabilities in need.

7. SWD will continue to actively identify suitable premises for setting up rehabilitation facilities to meet the existing and future demands. On an ongoing basis, SWD maintains close contact with relevant government departments including the Lands Department, Planning Department and Housing Department, with a view to reserving sites in new development or re-development projects as far as practicable for setting up rehabilitation service facilities. SWD will continue bidding for vacant premises in government buildings and vacant school premises and actively identifying vacant public housing units for conversion for the provision of rehabilitation services. Additional places will also be provided through redevelopment or expansion on the sites owned by the non-governmental organisations, particularly those under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses.

The Proposed Project

8. There is a substantial demand for the services of DAC, HSMH and SHOS. A table setting out the latest position on the provision,

² SWD provides various types of day, employment and vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. These services include (a) Day Activity Centre; (b) Sheltered Workshop; (c) Supported Employment; (d) Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre; (e) Integrated Vocational Training Centre; (f) On the job Training Programme for People with Disabilities; (g) Sunnyway - On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities; and (h) Work Extension Programme.

waiting list and average waiting time of these services is at **Annex A**.

9. To facilitate shared use of common support facilities for enhanced cost-effectiveness and to enable the continuum of care and training, SWD adopts as far as possible an integrated service mode for the provision of day training and residential care services. Having regard to the service demand, SWD has identified suitable premises in the new Cheung Sha Wan Estate, Sham Shui Po, for setting up a new DAC cum HSMH and SHOS.

Details of the New Service Facilities

10. SWD proposes to set up a DAC cum HSMH and SHOS at the newly constructed purpose-built Ancillary Facilities Block³ in Cheung Sha Wan Estate. This proposed DAC cum HSMH and SHOS will occupy Unit 101, 1/F and Unit 301, 3/F of the Ancillary Facilities Block respectively with a total internal floor area of 1 705 square metres. A location map is at **Annex B**. The future operator of the proposed DAC cum HSMH and SHOS will be required to provide 70 residential care places and 50 day training places for persons with disabilities. Details are as follows -

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Internal Floor Area</u> <u>(m²)</u>
HSMH	50	877
DAC	50	444
SHOS	20	384

11. The proposed DAC cum HSMH and SHOS is targeted to commence operation in the first quarter of 2015. SWD will invite NGOs to submit project proposals in the third quarter of 2014, and select a suitable operator on the basis of service quality. The selected NGO will be required to carry out fitting-out works and put in place furniture and equipment in the premises for operation of the services funded by the Lotteries Fund (as referred to in paragraph 12 below).

Funding Arrangement

12. The setting-up costs of the proposed DAC cum HSMH and

³ The purpose-built Ancillary Facilities Block in Cheung Sha Wan Estate is a four-storey standalone building which provides communal and social welfare facilities for local community.

SHOS will be funded by the Lotteries Fund (LF). SWD obtained endorsement of the LF Advisory Committee on 19 March 2014 for the capital funding of \$22,948,000 (i.e. \$20,806,000 for fitting-out works and \$2,142,000 for acquisition of furniture and equipment) for the setting up of the DAC cum HSMH and SHOS.

13. Under section 6(4) of the Government Lotteries Ordinance (Cap. 334), the Financial Secretary has the authority to approve payments from LF to finance the development of social welfare services. In line with the established practice, we will seek the Finance Committee (FC)'s approval for the proposed allocations from LF which will give rise to additional recurrent financial implications exceeding \$10 million per annum.

14. The estimated full-year recurrent subvention for the operation of the Cheung Sha Wan DAC cum HSMH and SHOS, including personal emoluments, other charges, reimbursement of rates and government rent and after netting off income from service users' fees where applicable, is about \$15.71 million. The recurrent funding estimate is derived with reference to the standard notional staffing of the relevant welfare facilities at present. The necessary recurrent provision will be included in the draft Estimates of the relevant years.

Public Consultation

15. The Transport and Housing Affairs Committee of the Sham Shui Po District Council was consulted on the public housing development (including the provision of the proposed DAC cum HSMH and SHOS) in June 2008. Members of the Committee supported the proposed project.

Advice Sought

16. Members are invited to comment on our proposal to set up the proposed DAC cum HSMH and SHOS in Cheung Sha Wan Estate. Subject to Members' views, we plan to seek FC's approval for the allocation from LF for meeting the capital cost of the proposed project.

Social Welfare Department
May 2014

**Current Provision, Waiting Lists and Average Waiting Time
for HSMH, SHOS and DAC**

Service type	Provision as at March 2014 (places)	Persons with Disabilities on the waiting list as at March 2014	Average waiting time in 2013-14 (months)
<i>Residential care services</i>			
Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons (HSMH) ¹	3 382	2 200	105.6
Supported Hostel (SHOS) ²	596	1 340	16.5
<i>Day training service</i>			
Day Activity Centre (DAC) ³	4 801	1 293	57.6

¹ HSMH provides residential care for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who lack basic self-care skills and require assistance in personal and nursing care.

² SHOS provides group home living for people with disabilities who can live semi-independently with a fair degree of assistance from hostel staff in daily activities.

³ DAC provides day care and training for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who are unable to benefit from vocational training. The programmes include training on motor skills, self-help skills, communication skills, domestic skills, community living skills, simple work skills, social and interpersonal skills, and provision of social and recreational activities.

Location Map of Cheung Sha Wan DAC cum HSMH and SHOS

