

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 3 June 2014)

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**1. Hong Kong Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access**

The Law Reform Commission ("LRC") has published its Report on Child Custody and Access putting forward 72 recommendations, the main thrust of which relates to the introduction into Hong Kong's family law of a new "parental responsibility model". The Administration has conducted a public consultation exercise on LRC's recommendations in January 2012. The Panel was briefed in July 2013 on the results of the consultation exercise and members' views were sought on the proposed way forward. The Administration will report the progress in due course.

To be decided

**2. Infirmity care in non-hospital setting**

The Administration consulted the Panel in December 2004 on a proposal to launch a trial scheme to provide infirmity care places for medically stable elders in a non-hospital setting. Various options are being explored, including upgrading some of the places in subvented residential care homes for the elderly to provide infirmity care. The Administration will report the progress in due course.

To be decided

**3. Charitable fund-raising activities**

Following the release of the Consultation Paper on Charities by the LRC Charities Sub-committee, the Panel held a special meeting on 24 August 2011 to receive public views on the subject. The LRC Charities Sub-committee has proceeded to

To be decided

work on concrete proposals for enhancing the monitoring measures for charitable fund-raising activities in light of the views collected from the public consultation which ended in October 2011.

On 6 December 2013, LRC released its report on charities, which put forward a number of recommendations including those on monitoring charitable fund-raising activities. As the recommendations of the report are relevant to various bureaux and departments, the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") is seeking their input and views with a view to formulating Government's responses to the report.

**4. Review of Disability Allowance ("DA") and the system for processing applications thereof**

(a) Review of DA by the Administration's Working Group

The Panel was briefed in February 2013 on the work of the Administration's inter-departmental Working Group to review DA, which would follow up the subject of allowing people with loss of one limb to apply for DA.

To be decided

The Panel received the Administration's briefing on the progress of the work of the Working Group at its meeting on 8 July 2013. The Chairman said that the subject matter should be further discussed as soon as possible.

(b) Amendments to the medical assessment form for DA

At the Panel meeting on 9 December 2013, a motion was passed whereby the Panel, inter alia, objected to the Administration's proposed removal of "work in the original occupation and performing any other kind of work" from the medical assessment form.

To be decided

**5. Review of the one-year-continuous-residence requirement under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme and Social Security Allowance ("SSA") Scheme**

Item raised by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung in 2010. He expressed concern about the High Court ruling on the judicial review of the one-year-continuous-residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme and proposed to follow up the matter as well as the residence requirement for Old Age Allowance ("OAA") applicants.

To be decided

In anticipation of the appeal proceedings, members agreed to revisit the need to discuss the matter in due course.

Pursuant to the Court of Appeal's ruling made in February 2012, the one-year-continuous-residence requirement was removed from the CSSA Scheme. Meanwhile, the Court of First Instance dismissed two cases of judicial review of the OAA one-year-continuous-residence requirement on 14 May and 17 September 2012 respectively, and ruled that the requirement was constitutional.

**6. Visiting Pharmacist Scheme**

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**7. Provision of barrier-free access and facilities for persons with disabilities**

The Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities submitted its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/11-12) to the Panel in May 2012 and recommended, inter alia, that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the matter in the fifth term of Legislative Council.

To be decided

The Administration will continue to provide quarterly reports on progress of the retrofitting programme for upgrading the barrier-free facilities in existing government premises and facilities and the Housing Authority properties to the Panel for information.

**8. Elderly care policy**

Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman.

To be decided

The Chairman suggested that the Panel should discuss residential care services for the elderly.

**9. Review of the tendering mechanism for elderly services contracts**

Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman.

To be decided

**10. Provision and enhancement of welfare service premises for the elderly**

Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman.

To be decided

**11. Social welfare planning**

The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Panel should discuss social welfare planning.

To be decided

The Panel discussed medium and long-term social

**Proposed timing for discussion**

welfare planning at its meetings on 19 February, 26 March and 8 July 2013. Members suggested that the Panel should discuss with the Administration progress of the subject matter as soon as possible.

**12. Work progress of the Family Council**

Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman.

9 June 2014

HAB has proposed to brief the Panel on the subject in June 2014.

**13. Proposal for formation of a subcommittee on issues relating to welfare of people with disabilities**

Item proposed by the Chairman at the Panel meeting on 12 November 2012. In deciding that the Panel would receive views from deputations on review of the system for processing applications for DA at the regular meeting to be held in December 2013, the Chairman suggested that the proposal for formation of a subcommittee on issues related to welfare of persons with disabilities should be included in the list of outstanding items for discussions by the Panel.

To be decided

**14. Promoting active ageing**

At the Panel meeting on 11 March 2013, the Panel discussed the initiatives relating to the promotion of active ageing and an age-friendly community. The Chairman said that the Panel could consider inviting the Elderly Commission to give views on the implementation of its projects on promoting active ageing.

To be decided

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**15. Policies on handling problems relating to domestic violence (including sexual violence)**

The Panel met the Administration and deputations on the "Welfare services to support the victims of domestic violence" and their families and "Policies on handling problems relating to domestic violence (including sexual violence)" at its meetings on 14 January and 19 February 2013 respectively.

The Panel accepted Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's proposal to form a Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence. The Subcommittee is now on the waiting list and will activate upon the completion of work of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy by end of July 2014.

The subject will be followed up by the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence after it is activated.

**16. Provision of child care services and after school care services**

In its submission to the Panel (LC Paper No. CB(2)601/12-13(01)), Hong Kong Women Workers' Association requests the Panel to discuss, as soon as possible, improving the provision of child care services and after school care services.

Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested on 20 January 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)748/13-14(01)) that the Panel fix a date for discussing the subject and receiving views from deputations.

To be decided

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**17. Shortage of supporting staff (including Programme Workers) in the social welfare sector**

A number of trade unions and concern groups from the social welfare sector have jointly requested the Panel to meet with deputations and the Administration on the subject of "converting the temporary post of Programme Worker to a permanent post".

To be decided

Arising from discussion of the subject at the case conference in September 2013, Members attending the conference requested the Panel to follow up the policy issue of "shortage of supporting staff (including Programme Workers) in the social welfare sector". The situation of supporting staff in the welfare sector was discussed at the Panel meeting on 13 January 2014, and the Administration was asked to report on the progress in six months' time.

**18. Review of Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA")**

Item proposed by Hon LEUNG Che-cheung.

To be decided

The Administration has undertaken to review OALA one year after its implementation and report the outcome of the review to the Panel.

The Chairman said that the issue might be discussed at the Panel meeting to be held on 14 July 2014.

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**19. Review of SWD's Standardised Care Needs Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services ("SCNAMES")**

Item proposed by Hon TANG Ka-piu.

14 July 2014

SWD has implemented SCNAMES since November 2000 to provide a standardized assessment for allocation of subsidized long-term care ("LTC") services for elderly applicants who are in need of the services most.

As the tool for assessing the LTC needs has been used for a long time, SWD has commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing, The University of Hong Kong to conduct a three-year consultancy study to, among others, update the assessment mechanism to assess the needs more effectively and allocate services according to the actual need of elderly persons.

**20. Progress report on the production of the Best Practice Manual for non-governmental organizations receiving Lump Sum Grant Subvention**

The item was discussed at the Panel meeting on 12 May 2014. The Chairman suggested that the Panel revisit the subject matter relating to Lump Sum Grant Subvention in the 2014-2015 session and invite deputations to give views thereon.

To be decided



**21. Targets for provision of residential care homes and hostels for mentally handicapped persons**

The Panel was consulted on the Administration's proposal to set 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 at its meeting on 12 May 2014. The Chairman suggested that the Panel consider discussing, in the 2014-2015 session, the subject of setting targets for the provision of residential care homes and hostels for mentally handicapped persons, e.g. setting a target waiting time and a specific percentage of the total area of a new public housing project for such provision.

To be decided

**22. Setting up a new contract residential care home for the elderly ("RCHE") with a day care unit ("DCU") at ancillary facilities block of Anderson Road Public Housing Development, Kwun Tong**

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will consult the Panel on its proposal to set up a new contract RCHE with a DCU at ancillary facilities block of Anderson Road Public Housing Development, Kwun Tong. Following the established arrangements, the construction cost of the proposed facilities is to be funded by the Lotteries Fund. As the proposed facilities are anticipated to give rise to an additional recurrent cost exceeding \$10 million per annum, the funding approval will rest with the Finance Committee ("FC"). The Administration intends to submit the relevant funding proposal to FC on 11 July 2014.

9 June 2014

**23. Funding mode for Enhanced Home and Community Care Services and matters relating to competitive bidding for such services**

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service requested (LC Paper No. CB(2)1542/13-14(01)) the Panel to discuss, at its meeting to be held on 9 June 2014, "Funding mode for Enhanced Home and Community Care Services and matters relating to competitive bidding for such services". At its meeting on 12 May 2014, the Panel acceded to the request.

9 June 2014

**24. Proposed injection of further funding into the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged ("PFD")**

Item proposed by the Administration. PFD was set up in 2005 to promote tripartite partnership among the welfare sector, the business community and the Government in helping the disadvantaged. To further encourage cross-sectoral collaboration to launch projects that may cater for the various needs of the disadvantaged, the Government proposed an injection of \$400 million into PFD, of which \$200 million will be dedicated to launching after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families.

14 July 2014