

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

Supplementary Information on Setting up a New Contract Residential Care Home for the Elderly with a Day Care Unit at Ancillary Facilities Block of Anderson Road Public Housing Development, Kwun Tong

At the Panel meeting on 9 June 2014, Members requested the Administration to provide information related to the following requests from Members before submitting the relevant proposal to the Finance Committee –

- (a) to increase the ratio of subsidised residential care places to non-subsidised residential care places in contract residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) from 6 : 4 to 8 : 2; and
- (b) to carry out the construction works and the tendering exercise for selecting suitable operator for the proposed contract RCHE with day care unit for the elderly (DCU) in tandem so that the proposed RCHE with DCU can come into operation earlier, say, about three to six months after the completion of the construction works.

The Administration's response is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

The ratio of subsidised to non-subsidised residential care places in contract RCHEs

2. Since 2001, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has awarded contracts through open tenders to non-governmental organisations or private operators in respect of 24 contract RCHEs. Services at these contract RCHEs including both subsidised and non-subsidised portions are governed and monitored in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant contracts to ensure quality. It is considered that the non-subsidised residential care services provided in these contract RCHEs will provide frail elderly persons in need of residential care services with suitable choices outside the public arena.

3. When planning for new contract RCHEs, a 6:4 ratio of subsidised to non-subsidised places is adopted as a general practice. SWD would, where appropriate, take into account the characteristics of the socio-economic condition of the districts where the RCHEs are located and the availability of other non-subsidised residential care places in the vicinity when determining the number of subsidised and non-subsidised places in individual contract RCHEs. As a result, not all contract RCHEs provide the 6:4 ratio of subsidised to non-subsidised places. It is, however, appropriate to continue adopting the 6:4 ratio as a general guideline so as to provide SWD with a basis to consider the provision of subsidised and non-subsidised places for individual contract RCHEs.

Service commencement of the proposed RCHE with DCU

4. For the proposed contract RCHE with DCU, the Housing Department is entrusted to construct a set of bare-shell premises for the proposed facilities. Upon completion of the bare-shell premises, there is a need to carry out other works procedures, such as inspection and rectification of defects, before the premises can be formally handed over to the selected service operator of the proposed facilities. Based on past experience, service operator would on average need around 11 months to prepare for service commencement. Preparatory work would include fitting-out works, purchase furniture and equipment, application for relevant licenses, etc. It is not feasible for the contract RCHE with DCU to commence services within three to six months after the completion of the bare-shell premises.

5. To help expedite the commencement of service, SWD has planned to start the tendering procedures early before the completion of the construction works. This would enable SWD to award the service contract to the selected service operator at an earlier time, thus advancing the completion of the RCHE facilities and the commencement of the elderly services to be provided thereat.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
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