

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 7 October 2013)

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**1. Infirmatory care in non-hospital setting**

The Administration consulted the Panel in December 2004 on a proposal to launch a trial scheme to provide infirmatory 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 infirmatory care. The Administration will report the progress in due course.

To be decided

**2. Retirement protection**

(a) Study on retirement protection in Hong Kong

At its meeting on 21 May 2013, the Panel agreed that it should discuss the subject matter when the Central Policy Unit ("CPU") provided the Panel with its five reports on retirement protection or when Professor Nelson CHOW Wing-sun was ready to brief members on his study on retirement protection. The Administration's response to the Panel's request for the CPU's reports was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1281/12-13(01). Professor CHOW has indicated that, if the Panel so wishes, he could attend the Panel meeting in around the fourth quarter of 2013 to brief members on the progress of the study.

To be decided

(b) Universal Retirement Protection

The Panel and its Subcommittee on Retirement Protection had studied the subject of universal retirement protection in the last legislative term. The Subcommittee submitted its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1942/11-12) to the Panel on 14 May 2012 and made a number of recommendations for the Administration's consideration. The Subcommittee also recommended that the Panel

The subject will be followed up by the subcommittee after it is activated

should follow up with the Administration on the matter in the next legislative term.

The Panel accepted the joint proposal of Hon Alice MAK and Hon TANG Ka-piu to form a Subcommittee on Retirement Protection. The Subcommittee is in the first place on the waiting list.

**3. Charitable fund-raising activities**

The existing framework for the monitoring of charitable fund-raising activities was discussed at the meeting on 11 June 2007. Members agreed to further discuss the matter in the next session, especially the monitoring of the use of income generated from public charitable fund-raising activities.

To be decided

Following the release of the Consultation Paper on Charities by the Charities Sub-committee of the Law Reform Commission ("LRC"), 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 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.

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

The Panel met the Administration and deputations on the review of the system for processing applications for DA under the Social Security Allowance ("SSA") Scheme at its regular meeting on 10 December 2012.

Around fourth quarter of 2013

The Panel held a special meeting on 25 February 2013 to discuss with the Administration its response to the views and concerns expressed by members and deputations, the Panel was also briefed on the work of the Administration's

inter-departmental Working Group to review DA, which would follow up on the subject of allowing people with loss of one limb to apply for DA.

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 at the first regular meeting of the next Legislative Council session.

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

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung 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 in the 2011-2012 session.

To be decided

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**7. Review of rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme**

At the joint meeting of the Panel and the Panel on Housing held on 13 April 2012, members expressed concern about the inadequacy of the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme for street sleepers on CSSA to meet rental expenses of private housing and considered it necessary for the Panel to follow up on the review mechanism for the maximum rate of the rent allowance.

To be decided

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

The Panel and its Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities had studied the subject of provision of barrier free access and facilities for persons with disabilities in the last legislative term. The Subcommittee submitted its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/11-12) to the Panel on 29 May 2012 and made a number of recommendations for the Administration's consideration. The Subcommittee also recommended that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the matter in the next legislative term. The Administration will continue to provide a quarterly report on the 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.

To be decided

**9. Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Lump Sum Grant Independent Review Committee**

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

**Proposed timing for discussion**

- |            |  |               |
|------------|--|---------------|
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Pilot scheme on community care service voucher for the elderly</b>  |               |
|            | Item proposed by the Administration in the 2012-2013 session.  | To be decided |
| <br>       |  |               |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Elderly care policy</b>   |               |
|            | Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman of the Panel.   | To be decided |
| <br>       |  |               |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Social enterprise development policy</b>  |               |
|            | Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman of the Panel.   | To be decided |
| <br>       |  |               |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Review of the tendering mechanism for elderly services contracts</b>  |               |
|            | Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman of the Panel.   | To be decided |
| <br>       |  |               |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>Provision and enhancement of welfare service premises for the elderly</b>   |               |
|            | Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman of the Panel.   | To be decided |
| <br>       |  |               |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>Social welfare planning</b>   |               |
|            | The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Panel should discuss social welfare planning.   | October 2013  |
|            | The Panel discussed medium and long-term social 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 in October 2013. |               |

**Proposed timing for discussion**

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

Item proposed by the Deputy Chairman of the Panel.

To be decided

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

Item proposed by the Panel Chairman.

To be decided

**18. 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

**19. 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 subject will be followed up by the subcommittee after it is activated

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 in the second place on the waiting list.

**20. Provision of child care services**

In its submission to the Panel (LC Paper No. CB(2)601/12-13(01)), Hong Kong Women Workers'

To be decided

**Proposed timing for discussion**

Association requests the Panel to discuss, as soon as possible, improving the provision of child care services.

**21. Converting the temporary post of Programme Worker to a permanent post**

A number of trade unions and concern groups of the welfare sector have made a joint submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1444/12-13(01)) requesting the Panel to meet with deputations and the Administration on the captioned subject.

To be decided

The Administration advised on 25 September 2013 that the subject was discussed at the case conference on 9 September 2013.

**22. Ways to improve situation of refugees, torture claimants and asylum seekers in Hong Kong**

The issue was discussed at the special meeting of the Panel on 22 July 2013. The Chairman will explore whether: (a) a joint meeting of the Panel on Welfare services ("WS Panel") and Panel on Security or a special meeting of the WS Panel can be held to further discuss the issue; and (b) a visit to the accommodation of the protection claimants at Ping Che can be arranged.

To be decided

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG made a request (LC Paper No. CB(2) 1774/12-13(01)) on 4 September 2013 that the Panel, when it resumes after the summer break, should hold a meeting as soon as possible to further discuss the issue.

The Administration advised on 25 September 2013 that the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch is ready to arrange the aforesaid visit in October/November 2013.

**23. Annual Adjustment of the Standard Payment Rates under the CSSA and the SSA Schemes**

Item proposed by the Administration. Approval of the Finance Committee ("FC") is required for the annual adjustment of social security payment rates. In accordance with the established mechanism, the Administration would brief members in November each year on the adjustment proposal based on the latest available Social Security Assistance Index of Prices figure, with a view to seeking FC's approval in December. The revised rates would take effect in February of the following year. The Administration intends to seek FC's approval in December 2013.

November 2013

**24. Setting up of rehabilitation and elderly service facilities in the development of Urban Renewal Authority at Hai Tan Street / Kwelin Street / Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po**

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will consult members on the proposal to set up rehabilitation and elderly service facilities in the development of the Urban Renewal Authority at Hai Tan Street / Kwelin Street / Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po. The proposed welfare facilities include a Special Child Care Centre cum Early Education and Training Centre, a Day Care Centre for the Elderly ("DE") and a Sub-base for Neighbourhood Elderly Centre. 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 FC. The Administration intends to seek FC's approval in December 2013.

November 2013



**Proposed timing for discussion**

**25. Setting up a New Contract Residential Care Home for the Elderly ("RCHE") and a DE at Tuen Mun Town Lot 499 (Ex-Kwong Choi Market, Tuen Mun)**

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will consult members on the proposal to set up a new contract RCHE and DE at the ex-Kwong Choi Market, Tuen Mun. 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 FC. The Administration intends to seek FC's approval in December 2013.

November 2013