

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

Elderly Services Programme Plan

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of the preparation of the Elderly Services Programme Plan (the Programme Plan).

Background

2. As announced in his 2014 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has tasked the Elderly Commission (EC) to prepare the Programme Plan within two years. On 10 March 2014, this Panel agreed to support the creation of one supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) post in the Labour and Welfare Bureau to service the EC in, among others, formulating the Programme Plan. The proposal was approved by the Establishment Subcommittee of the Legislative Council on 30 April 2014 and the funding involved was approved by the Finance Committee on 11 July 2014. The post was filled in July 2014.

3. Meanwhile, at its meeting of 4 March 2014, EC agreed that a working group, adopting the name of “Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan” (WGESPP), should be set up to take forward the task and consultants who have an in-depth understanding of the subject should be engaged to provide assistance. Apart from inviting members of EC to join the WGESPP, EC also agreed to co-opt five members outside EC. The terms of reference and membership list of the WGESPP are at **Annex A**. A consultant team, led by Dr CHUI Wing-tak, Ernest and Dr LAW Chi-kwong from the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of The University of Hong Kong and comprising members of other universities, was subsequently engaged to provide assistance. The composition of the consultant team is set out at **Annex B**.

Methodology for Formulating the Programme Plan

4. The formulation of the Programme Plan is structured into three stages, namely Scoping, Formulation and Consensus Building. The Scoping Stage is to open up the discussion with stakeholders and solicit their views on elderly

services so as to assist the WGESPP in defining the scope of the Programme Plan. After defining the scope and identifying the key issues that need to be addressed, the WGESPP will consult stakeholders on the directions and possible alternatives for handling these issues, and draw up at the end of the Formulation Stage the preliminary recommendations of the Programme Plan. At the Consensus Building Stage, the WGESPP will engage stakeholders with a view to finalising and building up a consensus on the recommendations. The preliminary timeline adopted by EC is as follows: Scoping (from July 2014 to February 2015); Formulation (from March to November 2015); and Consensus Building (from December 2015 to May 2016). Public engagement exercises will be arranged in each Stage. After deliberation at the WGESPP, EC aims to put its report to the Government in around July 2016.

5. Apart from soliciting stakeholders' views, EC will also take account of –

- (a) the existing and projections on profile of the elderly persons including their demographic data, health condition, life expectancy, living condition, participation in labour market and financial capability;
- (b) the stock-taking of existing and planned elderly services, particularly those of long-term care (LTC) services covering subsidised, self-financing and private market. There will also be projections on demand for subsidised elderly services and supply of premises for subsidised elderly services up to 2030;
- (c) the mission, policy objectives and strategic principles of elderly services;
- (d) the projections on supply of manpower for elderly services; and
- (e) fiscal sustainability and diversity of elderly services.

6. In Director of Audit's Report No. 63 (the Audit Report), Director of Audit (the Audit) reviewed the Government's provision of long-term care services for the elderly. One of Audit's recommendations was that the findings in the Audit Report should be taken on board when formulating and implementing the Programme Plan. In its response, the Government stated that Audit's findings would be forwarded to EC for it to take into account as it deems appropriate when formulating the Programme Plan. The Audit Report was provided to EC and the consultant team on 20 November 2014, in time for them to take the Audit Report into account in the present Scoping Stage where the scope of the Programme Plan is being defined.

Public Engagement Exercise of the Scoping Stage

7. The public engagement exercise of the Scoping Stage was carried out from October to November 2014 (paragraph 4 above refers). For this exercise, a dedicated website¹ of the Programme Plan was set up to disseminate the latest information to the public and to collect public opinion with its online opinion submission form. In addition, a press release was issued on 25 September 2014 to announce the commencement of the public engagement exercise of the Scoping Stage (copy attached at **Annex C**).

8. Five engagement sessions were conducted in the form of focus group discussions to gather views of stakeholders². Topics covered include community care and support services for the elderly, residential care services for the elderly, carer support services, as well as active ageing and other related elderly-friendly measures etc. We had sent out invitation letters to the possible interested groups/individuals and welcomed them and other interested parties to join one or any other one of these focus group discussions. The WGESPP has also received 15 written submissions by the end of November 2014.

Way Forward

9. The consultant team will analyse the views of stakeholders gathered from the public engagement exercise and report back to the WGESPP on the basis of which the WGESPP will prioritise key issues to be addressed and define the scope of the Programme Plan. After the scope is finalised, the WGESPP plans to commence its public engagement exercise of the Formulation Stage in March 2015 (as referred to in paragraph 4 above).

¹ Web address: espp.socialwork.hku.hk

² Details of the five engagement sessions are as follows:

	Date	Stakeholders
1.	22 October	Advocacy/concern groups, carer groups, individuals and community representatives
2.	1 November	Operators providing subsidised elderly service
3.	5 November	Elderly service users
4.	15 November	Operators providing non-subsidised elderly service
5.	22 November	Industry and professional associations related to elderly services

Advice Sought

10. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and to offer views on the scope of the Programme Plan. The views expressed by Members will be included as appropriate in the report to be submitted by the consultant team to the WGESPP as referred to in paragraph 9 above.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
December 2014**

**Elderly Commission
Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan**

Terms of Reference

To assist the Elderly Commission in the formulation of the Elderly Services Programme Plan.

Membership

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Background</u>
Chairman:	Prof CHAN Cheung-ming, Alfred	Academic
Member:	Dr LAM Ching-choi	Medical and Social Service
	Prof FUNG Yuk-kuen, Sylvia	Academic
	Dr CHAN Hon-wai, Felix	Medical
	Dr CHEUNG Moon-wah	Housing
	Dr CHONG Ming-lin, Alice	Academic
	Mr MA Kam-wah, Timothy	Social Service
	Mr YAU How-boa, Stephen	Social Service
	Mrs CHAN LUI Ling-ye, Lilian	Education and Social Service
	Mr SHIE Wai-hung, Henry	Commercial and Social Service
	Mr WONG Fan-fong, Jackson	Commercial
	Mrs WONG WONG Yu-sum, Doris	Social Service
	Miss CHAN Man-ye, Grace	Social Service
Co-Opt Member:	Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling	Social Service
	Ms Anita WONG	Social Service
	Ms CHOW Mee-tim	Social Service

Mr Kenneth CHAN Chi-yuk Commercial and Social Service

Mr LEE Pak-ying Richard Commercial and Social Service

**Official
Representative:**

Secretary for Labour and Welfare or representative

Secretary for Food and Health or representative

Secretary for Transport and Housing / Director of Housing or
representative

Director of Social Welfare or representative

Director of Health or representative

Chief Executive, Hospital Authority or representative

Secretary:

Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Special Duties)

Membership of the Consultant Team

	<u>Name</u>	<u>University</u>
Principal Investigators:	Dr CHUI Wing-tak, Ernest	University of Hong Kong
	Dr LAW Chi-kwong	University of Hong Kong
Team Members:	Dr CHOW Oi-wah, Esther	City University of Hong Kong
	Prof Daniel LAI	University of Calgary
	Dr MA Hok-ka, Carol	Lingnan University
	Mrs TSIEN WONG Bik-kwan, Teresa	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
	Dr BAI Xue	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
	Dr DAI Lok-kwan, David	Chinese University of Hong Kong

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Elderly Commission to engage public in defining scope of Elderly Services Programme Plan

The following is issued on behalf of the Elderly Commission:

The Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan (the Working Group) under the Elderly Commission (EC) held a meeting this afternoon (September 25) to discuss arrangements for public engagement activities in defining the scope of the Elderly Services Programme Plan (Programme Plan).

The Chief Executive announced in the 2014 Policy Address to task the EC with formulating the Programme Plan. The EC set up the Working Group to assist in taking forward the task. A consultant team from the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Hong Kong has been commissioned to provide assistance.


"We attach great importance to the views of service users, service providers and other relevant stakeholders," said Professor Alfred Chan, Chairman of the EC and the Working Group.

"The Working Group will conduct a public engagement exercise to help it define the scope of the Programme Plan," Professor Chan added.

The engagement exercise will be carried out from late October to November 2014. Members of the public who are interested to join the focus groups concerned or who have any views or enquiries, please call Ms Rose Yu (Tel: 3917 5013) or email to espp@socwork.hku.hk.

Ends/Thursday, September 25, 2014
Issued at HKT 18:15

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