

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly

Purpose

This paper reports on the progress of the Elderly Commission (EC)'s study on the feasibility (the feasibility study) of introducing a pilot scheme on residential care service voucher for the elderly (RCS voucher scheme).

The Position

2. As announced in his 2014 Policy Address, the Chief Executive tasked EC to conduct a feasibility study on introducing a RCS voucher scheme in a year's time. If it is considered feasible to run such a pilot scheme, the Government will provide the necessary resources. In this connection, about \$800 million has been earmarked to meet the expenses incurred in issuing a total of 3 000 residential care service vouchers in phases from 2015-16 to 2017-18.

3. 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 (LWB) to service EC in, among others, conducting the feasibility study. 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.

4. Meanwhile, EC agreed, at its meeting of 4 March 2014, to task its Working Group on Long Term Care Model (WGLTCM) to take forward the feasibility study and to engage consultants who have an in-depth understanding of the subject to provide assistance. The terms of reference and membership list of the WGLTCM 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**.

5. The consultant team has conducted a literature review, a survey on the elderly persons on the Central Waiting List for subsidised RCS places and a survey on the residential homes for the elderly (RCHEs) providing non-subsidised RCS places. The team has come up with some preliminary findings and recommendations for presentation to WGLTCM at its meeting on 27 January 2015.

The Next Steps

6. The consultant team will consult relevant stakeholders, including interested groups, non-governmental organisations, operators of RCHEs, etc., on the proposed pilot scheme design through public engagement sessions to be held later this month. The consultant team will review its preliminary findings and recommendations in the light of the full results of the above-mentioned surveys and the views gathered from the public engagement session before making a further report to WGLTCM.

7. The conduct of this feasibility study on the RCS voucher scheme would not detract from the Government's present commitment to providing subsidised RCS for elderly persons through a multi-pronged approach. Around 1 580 additional subsidised RCS places have commenced/will commence services from 2014-15 to 2016-17. Also, sites in 12 development projects have been earmarked for the construction of new contract RCHEs. In parallel, LWB and the Social Welfare Department are actively following up on about 60 projects under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses to assist social welfare organisations to pursue in-situ expansion or development to provide particularly more elderly and rehabilitation facilities.

Advice Sought

8. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and to offer views on the consultant team's preliminary findings and recommendations.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
February 2015**

**Elderly Commission
Working Group on Long Term Care Model**

Terms of Reference

To advise the Elderly Commission on:

- a. means to further enhance long-term care (LTC) services, including recommendations on re-engineering/enhancing existing services and formulating new measures, manpower development strategy and long-term policy on elderly services, with a view to facilitating “ageing in the community”, and enhancing the quality of residential care homes for the elderly;
- b. means to co-ordinate and enhance the interface among the medical, health, welfare, housing and other departments and the private sector in the provision of elderly care services, making reference to the discussions at the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee; and
- c. possible options for LTC financing, such as the feasibility and desirability of the proposed Fee Assistance Scheme.

Membership

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Background</u>
Chairman:	Dr LAM Ching-choi	Medical and Social Service
Member:	Dr CHAN Hon-wai, Felix	Medical
	Ms CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	Legal
	Miss CHAN Man-yee, Grace	Social Service
	Mrs CHAN LUI Ling-yee, Lilian	Education and Social Service
	Dr CHENG Kam-chung	Commercial
	Dr CHEUNG Moon-wah	Housing
	Dr CHONG Ming-lin, Alice	Academic

	Prof FUNG Yuk-kuen, Sylvia	Academic
	Mr MA Ching-hang, Patrick	Commercial
	Mr MA Kam-wah, Timothy	Social Service
	Mr SHIE Wai-hung, Henry	Commercial and Social Service
	Dr TUNG Sau-ying	Medical
	Mr WONG Fan-foung, Jackson	Commercial
	Mrs WONG WONG Yu-sum, Doris	Social Service
Co-Opted Member:	Dr LEUNG Man-fuk, Edward	Medical and Social Service
	Dr LUM Shun-sui, Susie	Academic
Ex-Officio Member¹:	Prof CHAN Cheung-ming, Alfred	Academic
Official Representative:	Secretary for Labour and Welfare 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:	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Special Duties)	

¹ The Chairman of the Elderly Commission is an ex-officio member to the Working Group on Long Term Care Model.

Membership of the Consultant Team

	<u>Name</u>	<u>University</u>
Principal Investigators:	Dr CHUI Wing-tak, Ernest	The University of Hong Kong
	Dr LAW Chi-kwong	The University of Hong Kong
Team Members:	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