

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 3 March 2015)

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

Proposed timing for discussion

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 coordinating 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

The Administration will brief members on the findings of the consultancy study on practices of other places in respect of DA.

9 March 2015

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

Item raised by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung in 2010. He expressed concern about the residence requirement for Old Age Allowance ("OAA") applicants.

To be decided

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

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 Legislative Council.

To be decided

Retrofitting programmes for upgrading the barrier-free facilities at Government and Housing Authority ("HA") premises had been completed by 30 June 2014. The progress report will be submitted to the Panel and uploaded to the Labour and Welfare Bureau's website for public information.

The Administration will continue to enhance the barrier-free facilities in Government and HA premises and facilities and take forward any additional proposals having regard to views and suggestions of stakeholders in accordance with the established mechanism. Members of the public may continue to make use of the Access Co-ordinator and Access Officer Scheme to seek assistance, offer suggestions and lodge complaints in respect of the barrier-free facilities of Government and HA venues. The Administration will also continue to work closely with the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the rehabilitation sector and the community in building a barrier-free and inclusive society.

8. Elderly care policy

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che.

(a) Residential care services for the elderly

To be decided

Hon CHAN Yuen-han suggested that the Panel should discuss residential care services for the elderly. Both the long-term care policy and residential care services for the elderly have been studied by the former Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy ("former Joint Subcommittee") and covered in its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2154/13-14(01) Annex I).

(b) Elderly Services Programme Plan

November or
December 2015

The Administration reported to the Panel at its meeting on 8 December 2014 on the progress of the Elderly Commission ("EC")'s preparation of the Elderly Services Programme Plan. The Panel received deputations' views on the Programme Plan at its special meeting on 20 January 2015. The Chairman said that the Administration should prepare an interim report on the subject and brief the Panel on the report in November or December 2015.

9. Provision of welfare service premises for the elderly and enhancement of facilities therein

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che.

To be decided

10. Social welfare planning

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the Panel should discuss social welfare planning.

To be decided

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 as soon as possible.

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che has suggested that the Panel discuss planning for rehabilitation services.

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

Item proposed by Hon CHAN Yuen-han 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, Hon CHAN Yuen-han 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 discussion by the Panel.

To be decided

12. 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. Hon CHAN Yuen-han said that the Panel could consider inviting EC to give views on the implementation of its projects on promoting active ageing.

9 March 2015

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung suggested at the Panel meeting on 8 December 2014 that the Panel should discuss the subject "the development of an age-friendly community". The Administration and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service may be invited to join the discussion. Members agreed that the Panel should discuss that subject in March 2015.

The Administration will update members on the progress of various initiatives on promoting active ageing at the Panel meeting on 9 March 2015.

Proposed timing for discussion

13. 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.

To be decided

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. She has requested the Panel to deal with the subject as soon as possible.

14. Manpower of paramedical and supporting staff in the social welfare sector

In discussing the shortage of supporting staff (including Programme Workers) in the social welfare sector at the Panel meeting on 13 January 2014, the Panel passed a motion urging the Administration to, among others, submit a report on matters related to Programme Workers to the Panel within six months. The report was forwarded to members on 31 July 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2162/13-14(01)).

To be decided

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che has requested that the manpower situation of paramedical and supporting staff in the social welfare sector be discussed at a Panel meeting.

15. 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.

Proposed timing for discussion

16. 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. Hon CHAN Yuen-han 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

17. Targets for provision of 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. Hon CHAN Yuen-han suggested that the Panel consider discussing, in the 2014-2015 session, the subject of setting targets for the provision of 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

18. Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly

The subject was discussed at the meetings of the Panel on 13 January and 10 November 2014. Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che has suggested that the Panel follow up on the subject at a Panel meeting to be held in the second quarter of 2015.

To be decided

Proposed timing for discussion

19. Progress of implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("Special Scheme")

Item proposed by the Administration. At the Panel meeting on 10 February 2014, the Administration briefed the Panel on the implementation of the Special Scheme and sought members' support for the proposal to transfer \$10 billion to the Lotteries Fund to ensure the availability of sufficient resources to implement the feasible projects under the Special Scheme. The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of implementation of the Special Scheme on 13 April 2015.

13 April 2015

20. Setting up a new contract RCHE at Ancillary Facilities Block of the PRH development site at Choi Yuen Road, Sheung Shui

Item proposed by the Administration.

11 May 2015

21. Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly

The Administration reported on the progress of EC's feasibility study on the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly ("RCS Voucher Scheme") at the Panel meeting on 9 February 2015. The Panel will hold a special meeting on 23 March 2015 to receive deputations' views on the RCS Voucher Scheme.

23 March 2015

22. Ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che. The issue has been studied by the former Joint Subcommittee and covered in its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)2154/13-14(01) Annex I).

To be decided

Proposed timing for discussion

23. Additional provision for social security recipients

Item proposed by the Administration. The Financial Secretary proposed in the 2015-2016 Budget the provision of an extra allowance to Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") recipients, which is equal to two months of the standard rate CSSA payments, and an extra allowance to the recipients of OAA (including the Guangdong Scheme), OALA and DA, which is equal to two months of the respective allowances. The paper will inform members of the Government's proposal.

13 April 2015

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Legislative Council Secretariat
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