

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 9 April 2015)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. Assistance to elderly not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA")</p>	<p>8 June 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to –</p> <p>(a) provide a paper setting out the relevant figures to substantiate its saying that a pay-as-you-go retirement protection scheme was not feasible; and</p> <p>(b) consult employees in Hong Kong on whether they were willing to allocate part of their Mandatory Provident Fund contributions, say 50%, to a pool for distribution to the current cohort of elders, on the understanding that they too would receive a monthly sum of some \$2,500 in their old age.</p>	<p>The Administration has launched a new Old Age Living Allowance in April 2013 as an additional form of financial assistance for Hong Kong elderly persons aged 65 or above who have insufficient means for a living and are in need of support.</p> <p>The Commission on Poverty expects that the public consultation on retirement protection will be launched in the fourth quarter of this year.</p>
<p>2. Briefings by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and the Secretary for Home</p>	<p>21 January 2013</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on, among others, –</p> <p>(a) the supply and demand for residential care</p>	<p>The Administration will provide the required information in due course.</p>

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<p>Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address</p>		<p>services and community care services including day care services and home-based care services in the next five years;</p> <p>(b) steps to be taken by the Administration to address the problem of inter-generational poverty;</p> <p>(c) a list of social welfare problems existing in the community in the absence of social welfare planning since mid-1990s;</p> <p>(d) in respect of releasing the labour force of women who could not go to work because they had to take care of their families, whether the Administration would consider extending the service hour of after-school learning support to 7 pm or 8 pm; and</p> <p>(e) the outcome of the Administration's discussion with the welfare sector on measures to meet the sector's demand for front-line care staff.</p>	
<p>3. Planning and inadequate provision of rehabilitation services for pre-school children</p>	<p>10 June 2013</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on the number of staff required for working and staff shortfall in each category of the rehabilitation sector as well as the lead time for training the relevant staff.</p>	<p>The Administration will provide the required information in due course.</p>

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4. Medium and long-term social welfare planning	8 July 2013	The Administration was requested to provide information on the needs for the elderly and rehabilitation services in the next five years.	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.
5. Ways to improve situation of refugees, torture claimants and asylum seekers ("protection claimants") in Hong Kong	22 July 2013	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number of minor claimants who had been denied access to schooling during their stay in Hong Kong; (b) the average processing time for determination of a claim lodged by a protection claimant and whether it could be shortened; and (c) a detailed breakdown of the expenditure, including the administration fee, for provision of humanitarian assistance to protection claimants through the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch, which amounted to \$203 million in 2012-2013. 	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.

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	13 January 2014	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <p>(a) the number of convicted cases concerning unlawful employment which involved protection claimants; and</p> <p>(b) the practice of neighbouring countries, including Singapore, regarding the provision of assistance to protection claimants.</p>	
6. Shortage of supporting staff (including Programme Workers) in the social welfare sector	13 January 2014	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <p>(a) the number of youth population and the number of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres by district from 2014 to 2021; and</p> <p>(b) staff establishment of the non-governmental organizations operating under the Lump Sum Grant ("LSG") Subvention System.</p>	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.
7. Pilot scheme on community care service voucher for the elderly ("CCS Voucher Scheme")	13 January 2014	The Administration was requested to provide information on the reasons for the non-participation of eligible elderly persons in the CCS Voucher Scheme.	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.

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	10 November 2014	<p>The Administration was requested to provide –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the interim report of the evaluation study conducted by the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong on the first phase of the Pilot Scheme before June 2015;(b) information on the number of vouchers received by each recognized service provider ("RSP"); and(c) in relation to the 184 participants who had withdrawn from the Pilot Scheme for reason of "no suitable services providers/service packages", information on –<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) the types of services required by these participants;(ii) whether there were RSPs in the districts where these participants were residing; and if so, whether the RSPs concerned were able to provide the services required by these participants; and(iii) whether lack of service quota was a reason for withdrawal of these participants.	<p>The Administration will provide the required information in due course.</p>

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<p>8. Briefings by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2014 Policy Address</p>	<p>23 January 2014</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a paper on its measures to unleash the women workforce with details on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) justifications for setting the upper age limit of children eligible for the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project; and (b) whether it had any plans to reserve space for the provision of child care services in the vicinity of newly built residential care homes for the elderly to encourage women to join the workforce of elderly care services. 	<p>The Administration will provide its response in due course.</p>
<p>9. Programmes and initiatives relating to the purview of the Panel on Welfare Services set out in the 2014-2015 Budget</p>	<p>10 March 2014</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the unit cost of the Pilot Scheme on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities ("HCS") and the unit cost after the Pilot Scheme had been regularized; and (b) the implementation of and the assessment tool for the regularized HCS Scheme. 	<p>The Administration reported to the Panel on Welfare Services at the meeting held on 12 January 2015 on the progress of the implementation of home care service for persons with severe disabilities. An information paper was issued (LC Paper No. CB(2)553/14-15(05)).</p>

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<p>10. Setting up a new contract residential care home for the elderly ("RCHE") cum day care unit ("DCU") in a public rental housing ("PRH") development at ex-Kwai Chung Police Married Quarters site, Kwai Chung</p>	<p>14 April 2014</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide quarterly progress report on the in-situ expansion, redevelopment or development projects under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("Special Scheme").</p>	<p>The Administration will report on the progress of the implementation of the Special Scheme at the Panel meeting to be held on 13 April 2015.</p>
<p>11. Support for elderly persons who are in need of dental care</p>	<p>30 June 2014</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) provide the reasons for not being able to set up government dental clinics in all the 18 districts; (b) provide the report of the strategic review on health care manpower planning and professional development in Hong Kong; and (c) revert to the Panel regarding the suggestion of soliciting help from private dentists to provide dental services for the needy elderly at elderly health centres and government dental clinics outside the normal opening hours. 	<p>The Administration will provide the required information in due course.</p>

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12. Services and policies relating to family support	30 June 2014	The Administration was requested to provide information on the Lam Tin incident happened in early May 2014 and on the Police's review of the handling of the aforesaid incident.	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.
13. Extending the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to Green Minibuses ("the Scheme")	10 November 2014	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number of beneficiaries of the Scheme taking long-haul buses for short trips; (b) the green minibus ("GMB") routes which were covered by the Scheme; and (c) the public transportation serving the 83 GMB routes which were not covered by the Scheme. 	For (a), the Transport Department ("TD") advised that there are no data on the number of beneficiaries taking long-haul buses for short trips because the designated Octopus used by them to enjoy the concessionary fare do not record where they board and alight a bus. Based on the general observations of TD and bus operators, there has not been a noticeable phenomenon of elderly passengers under the Scheme to take long haul buses for short trips, which affects the bus carrying capacities and general bus service levels to all passengers.

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			<p>For (b) and (c), the Administration's paper providing details on the GMB routes involved in the first phase of the extension was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1065/14-15(01) on 17 March 2015.</p> <p>The first phase includes 127 GMB operators (80% of the total 159 operators) running 407 routes (81% of the total 503 routes). For the remaining 32 operators running 96 routes, a majority of them are already covered by existing railway services, bus services or other GMB services under the Scheme with fare concessions offered. TD has been closely liaising with the remaining operators, encouraging them to join the Scheme and offering assistance to them as far as practicable.</p>

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<p>14. Setting up a new contract RCHE with DCU at Welfare Block of Shek Mun Estate Phase II PRH development, Shatin</p>	<p>8 December 2014</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the number of subsidized residential care places to be provided in PRH units in the coming five years; (b) which of the seven new contract RCHEs/RCHEs with DCUs commencing service from 2014-2015 to 2016-2017 would be located on the ground floor of PRH domestic blocks; and (c) a list of the vacant or idle space/premises in PRH estates, Home Ownership Scheme courts and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department public markets. 	<p>The Administration will provide the required information in due course.</p>
<p>15. Updated progress of Child Development Fund ("CDF")</p>	<p>12 January 2015</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the ratio of CDF's target participants to the number of children in poverty; and (b) detailed information on the training programmes and activities organized by non-governmental organizations and schools operating CDF projects. 	<p>The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1122/14-15(01) on 24 March 2015.</p>

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16. Progress on the implementation of HCS	12 January 2015	<p>The Administration was requested to provide –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) information on the number of users receiving services from each of the six HCS operators when the regularized HCS Scheme had been implemented for one year; and (b) a paper on the Administration's review of home and community care services for persons with disabilities. 	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.
17. Briefings by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2015 Policy Address	26 January 2015	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a breakdown of the usage rate of Extended Hours Service ("EHS") provided by aided child care centres and kindergarten-cum-child care centres, and by districts; (b) the amount incurred in providing 1 200 EHS places at aided child care centres and kindergarten-cum-child care centres; and (c) the number of places to be provided under the On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services Pilot Scheme. The information should be provided to the Panel by April 2015. 	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.

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18. Setting up a new contract RCHE in the PRH development at Fo Tan, Shatin Areas 16 & 58D	9 February 2015	The Administration was requested to provide information on stand-alone RCHEs and RCHEs located in PRH development sites under the 12 sites earmarked for the construction of new contract RCHEs and contract RCHEs with DCUs before submitting the relevant funding proposal to the Finance Committee.	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.
19. Revision of fees under the Adoption Ordinance (Cap. 290)	9 February 2015	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) policy guidelines and legislative provisions in relation to the criteria and requirements for adoption; (b) the number of cases under which adoption could not be arranged for children who had not been visited by their parents for one or two years; and (c) the number of cases under which a court order was obtained for adoption of a child without the consent of his/her parents. 	The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1082/14-15(01) on 18 March 2015.

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20. Review of Disability Allowance ("DA")	9 March 2015	<p>The Administration was requested to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) provide information on the number of appeal cases lodged with the Social Security Appeal Board ("SSAB") on DA applications in the past five years, and the number of cases under which SSAB's decisions were different from the original ones;(b) for places outside Hong Kong where applicants of financial assistance for persons with disabilities were required to undergo a means test, advise whether the means test was household-based or individual-based; and(c) suitably update the Panel before its regular meeting in April 2015 on –<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) whether the Administration would revise the medical assessment form ("MAF") by removing the reference to "100% loss of earning capacity" and at the same time retaining a DA applicant's condition regarding his or her ability to "work in the original occupation and perform any other kind of work for which he or she is suited" as a criterion for assessing an applicant's "other physical, mental conditions including visceral diseases"; and(ii) the timetable for amending MAF.	<p>The Administration will provide the required information in due course.</p>

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21. Promoting active ageing	9 March 2015	The Labour and Welfare Bureau was requested to follow up the blockage of the pathway near the market in Kai Yip Estate by kiosks with the Transport and Housing Bureau so as to ensure a barrier-free access for the elderly residents in Kai Yip Estate.	The Administration will provide the required information in due course.
22. Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly ("pilot scheme on RCS voucher")	23 March 2015	<p>The Administration was requested to –</p> <p>(a) provide, before 28 March 2015, information on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the breakdown of the average living space per person and staffing requirements of some 11 000 vacant places in non-subsidized Care and Attention Homes for the Elderly ("C&A Homes"); and (ii) the actual amount of the monthly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payment received by the 5 968 elderly persons who were living in non-subsidized places in private residential care homes for the elderly and were waiting for subsidized C&A Home places; and <p>(b) invite the Chairman or representative(s) of the Elderly Commission ("EC") to attend the Panel's special meeting on the pilot scheme on RCS voucher scheduled for 28 March 2015;</p>	The Administration's response to (a) was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1144/14-15(01) on 27 March 2015. Regarding (b), the Vice-Chairman of EC had attended the special meeting on 28 March 2015 at the invitation of the Administration. The Administration will provide its response to (c) and (d) in due course.

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		(c) provide the Panel with the consultancy report on the pilot scheme on RCS voucher at the same time when it was submitted to EC; and (d) brief the Panel on how EC would take forward the pilot scheme on RCS voucher.	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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