

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1855/15-16

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 14 March 2016, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu

Members absent : Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

**Public Officers : Item III
attending**

Mr Kenneth CHENG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 1
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr FUNG Man-chung
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family & Child
Welfare)
Social Welfare Department

Items III and IV

Miss Annie TAM, JP
Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Item IV

Mr Donald CHEN, JP
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Steve TSE
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Special Duties)
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr LAM Ka-tai, JP
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)
Social Welfare Department

Dr Ernest CHUI
Principal Investigator
Consultant Team

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, GBS, JP
Principal Investigator
Consultant Team

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)884/15-16(01) to (02), CB(2)1007/15-16(01), CB(2)1008/15-16(01), CB(2)1009/15-16(01) and CB(2)1050/15-16(01) to (02)]

Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting:

- (a) Submissions from 爭取資助院舍聯席 requesting the Panel and the Panel on Security to hold a joint meeting to receive views from deputations on issues relating to service quality and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly and persons with disabilities [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)884/15-16(01) to (02)];
- (b) Referral from the Public Complaints Office on issues relating to the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme and Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme [LC Paper No. CB(2)1007/15-16(01)];
- (c) Letter dated 26 February 2016 from Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung requesting the Panel to discuss how the social welfare system responds to a spate of student suicide incidents [LC Paper No. CB(2)1008/15-16(01)];
- (d) Referral memo and an extract from the Public Accounts Committee Report No. 65 concerning promoting the development of social enterprises and the provision of long-term care services for the elderly [LC Paper No. CB(2)1009/15-16(01)];

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- (e) Letter dated 8 March 2016 from Hon WONG Kwok-hing requesting the Panel to discuss Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities [LC Paper No. CB(2)1050/15-16(01)]; and
- (f) Joint letter dated 9 March 2016 from Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok, Hon Dennis KWOK, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan and Hon IP Kin-yuen requesting the Panel and the Panel on Education to hold a joint meeting to discuss a spate of student suicide incidents [LC Paper No. CB(2)1050/15-16(02)].

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1033/15-16(01) to (02)]

2. Members noted that the Administration had proposed discussing at the next meeting scheduled for 11 April 2016 the following items:

- (a) Setting up a hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons and an integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre at the public rental housing site at Hung Shui Kiu Area 13;
- (b) Setting up a new day activity centre cum hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons at Pokfulam Shine Skills Centre, Pokfulam; and
- (c) Additional provision for social security recipients.

3. Mr TANG Ka-piu said that following the elder abuse cases occurred at Tai Po Cambridge Nursing home in mid-2015, the Administration had been requested to adopt measures to improve the monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs"). Noting that the Administration had suggested discussing at the Panel meeting in May 2016 its proposal to create a supernumerary post of Assistant Director of Social Welfare to strengthen the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities, he hoped that the monitoring of RCHEs could be discussed earlier.

4. The Chairman said that the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Future Development of Elderly Services Schemes would discuss "Residential care services for the elderly" at its meeting on 22 March 2016

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and issues relating to monitoring of RCHEs could be discussed at that meeting. He suggested that the Panel consider discussing at the next meeting "on-street fund raising activities", "ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities", or "issues relating to student suicide". He said that the Panel on Education ("the ED Panel") would hold a special meeting on 21 March 2016 to discuss issues relating to student suicide.

5. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that issues relating to student suicide were more pressing than the other two proposed items. As the focus of the special meeting of the ED Panel would be on education aspect rather than welfare-related matters, and social work services provided for primary and secondary students were subvented and monitored by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"), he suggested that the Panel should discuss at the next meeting issues relating to school social workers. Mr Albert HO said that inadequate psychology consultation services for students should also be discussed.

6. Mr TANG Ka-piu and Mr YIU Si-wing said that the discussion on issues relating to student suicide might not be comprehensive if the subject was discussed by the Panel and the ED Panel separately. Mr TANG said that the Panel might consider holding a joint meeting with the ED Panel to discuss school social worker services. SWD should be requested to conduct a review of the subject matter. Mr YIU Si-wing said that the Panel could decide whether issues relating to student suicide should be discussed, having regard to the discussion at the special meeting of the ED Panel.

7. The Chairman suggested that the Administration should be invited to advise which of the following items should be discussed at the next meeting, taking into account the availability of the information required for the discussion of the items:

- (a) problems of social work services for primary and secondary schools arising from student suicide;
- (b) ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities; and
- (c) on-street fund raising activities.

Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that in view of public concerns about "ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities", this item should have higher priority than "on-street fund raising activities". Besides, the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee ("RAC") had prepared a report on

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ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities and a working group of RAC was following up the subject matter.

8. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that at the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") on 17 February 2016, he sought information about the details/progress of the reprovisioning of the existing RCHEs at the Dills Corner Garden. The Administration was also requested to brief the Panel on the latest reprovisioning arrangements for these RCHEs. The Chairman suggested that the Administration should be requested to provide a written response in this regard.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to Mr CHAN's request raised at the PWSC meeting was issued to members of PWSC vide LC Paper No. PWSC154/15-16(01) on 11 March 2016.)

III. Implementation of the Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1033/15-16(03)]

9. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("PS(LW)") briefed members on the preparation work in respect of the Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents ("the Pilot Project").

Provision of incentives for attending training courses

10. Mr TANG Ka-piu said that the Pilot Project would help strengthening family ties but should not replace subsidized child care services. He took the view that some grandparents who considered themselves well-versed in taking care of babies/small children might not be interested in the Pilot Project. To attract these grandparents to participate in the Pilot Project, the Administration should provide them with incentives for attending the training course concerned, e.g. offering them an allowance or providing them with respite child care services.

11. PS(LW) responded that the Pilot Project did not seek to replace conventional subsidized child care services. The Administration would continue to explore ways to increase the provision of child care services. She said that the nine non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"), which were appointed as training bodies of the Employees Retraining Board ("ERB"), would be responsible for offering the training courses and recruiting trainees under the Pilot Project. To ensure active participation, the

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training bodies could charge a registration fee, subject to SWD's approval. Registration fee collected should be used on the implementation of the Pilot Project only.

12. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiry about whether trainees would be required to pay for the training materials, PS(LW) said that apart from the registration fee, which could be set by individual training bodies subject to SWD's approval, trainees would not be required to pay any course fee. The Administration was considering funding the Pilot Project by the Continuing Education Fund in future.

Child care needs of needy families

13. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that some children from needy families had to be taken care of by their grandparents because their parents were in prison or were divorced. According to a survey conducted by the Hong Kong Baptist University and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong some six years ago, many children of these families lacked self-confidence and self-recognition. While he did not object to the implementation of the Pilot Project, he opined that the Pilot Project was gilding the lily and was unable to help the aforesaid families which were most in need of assistance. In his view, the Administration should collect information on the number of these families and the difficulties they were facing. The Administration should provide them with the necessary support and pecuniary assistance. The Census and Statistics Department should also conduct a survey on inter-generation problems.

14. PS(LW) responded that results of many surveys had indicated that many grandparents assisted in minding children in their family. The Pilot Project would help enhance grandparents' skills and reduce family conflicts.

15. Mr Gary FAN said that while the Pilot Project might help middle-class families strengthen family ties, it was not meaningful for grass-root families. Many grandparents of grass-root families might still need to work to make ends meet and these families with both parents working were most in need of child care services. These families would not be interested in the Pilot Project. To address their child care needs, the Administration should allocate resources for providing more full-time kindergartens and increasing child care services.

16. PS(LW) responded that in addition to reinforcing support for nuclear families by enabling grandparents to become well-trained child carers in the home setting, the Pilot Project aimed to help promote active ageing of

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grandparents through life-long learning. The Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") and SWD attached great importance to the provision of child care services, particularly child care services for children aged from birth to under six. LWB and SWD would continue actively looking for premises which could be conveniently accessed for the provision of child care services and would be flexible in the mode of providing subsidy to welfare organizations for delivery of child care services.

17. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that unlike grandparents of grass-root families who were required to take care of their grandchildren full time, grandparents of middle-class families only played a supporting role in minding their grandchildren. He took the view that the Pilot Project was not worth implementing as it was not beneficial to grass-root families. The Administration should make use of the resources allocated to the Pilot Project to assist the most needy. The Administration should consider engaging ERB to provide child care training programmes so that grass-root trainees could receive a retraining allowance upon completion of the programmes. He also doubted whether the class size of 20 trainees could be achieved, given that only grandparents of children aged from birth to under six or persons who would become grandparents in six month or so would be eligible for the Pilot Project. The Chairman said that the Administration should step up publicity for the Pilot Project in order to increase participation and make the training courses more cost-effective.

18. PS(LW) responded that ERB had appointed some NGOs to provide two child care certificate courses, with a view to providing training for those persons who would wish to pursue employment in the child care field. These two certificate courses would continue following the implementation of the Pilot Project the focus of which was to train grandparents to take care of their grandchildren. Having completed the training courses under the Pilot Project, the grandparents would be equipped with roughly the same child care skills as the trainees who had completed the two certificate courses of ERB. However, some employment-focused elements of the ERB's certificate courses would be replaced by family-oriented elements in the Pilot Scheme. Grandparents who wished to join the workforce and receive the retraining allowance could enrol in ERB's certificate courses.

19. The Chairman said that he did not object to the launch of the Pilot Project in view of its pilot nature. He, however, shared the view that the Pilot Project was gilding the lily. He hoped that the Administration would come up with a child care training programme which was dedicated to grass-root families.

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Identification of families in need of child care training

20. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung said that parents from grass-root families could not afford to hire domestic helpers to take care of their children. The grandparents of families in which both parents had to work had no choice but to take care of their grandchildren, although they might not be willing to do so. As such, these grandparents could not spare the time and also did not see the need to attend the training courses offered under the Pilot Project. It was, however, not the case for grandparents from some middle-class families who were only assisting their domestic helpers in taking care of their grandchildren. He was of the view that the Administration should assess the types of families which would benefit most from the Pilot Project and provide incentives to attract more trainees if the Pilot Project was to be expanded in future. PS(LW) responded that the LWB and SWD would take follow-up actions and review the mode of implementation having regard to the results of the evaluation of the Pilot Project.

Funding allocation under the Pilot Project

21. Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the basis for determining the funding required by the Pilot Project and for the setting of output indicators. He also asked whether the Administration had assessed the demand for the training courses offered under the Pilot Project.

22. PS(LW) responded that in estimating the funding for the Pilot Project, the LWB and SWD had discussed with the training bodies and made reference to the costs incurred by ERB in conducting the certificate courses on child care. Based on the costs of the ERB courses, which ranged from \$39.5 to \$63.4 per place per hour, the cost of \$64 per place per hour was adopted for the Pilot Project. The cost per place would therefore be around \$3,840 and the total cost allocated to the training bodies would be around \$2.07 million. Funds were also allocated for promoting the Pilot Project and organizing self-help groups and family programmes. Unused funds should be returned to the Administration.

23. PS(LW) further said that the number of training places allocated was based on the training bodies' assessment of the demand for the training courses in the districts concerned. As regards the output indicators, the training bodies would evaluate whether the grandparents joining the Pilot Scheme had strengthened their confidence, child care skills and relationship with their family upon completion of the training courses. SWD would design a standardized evaluation form to measure the effectiveness of the training courses in meeting the objectives of the Pilot Project. SWD would

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review the way forward for the Pilot Project (such as the target participants, training bodies, funding mode, etc.) having regard to the overall evaluation results.

24. The Chairman said that after deducting the training costs which were around \$76,000 per year, the amount of money left for a training body to engage social workers for the Pilot Project would only be around \$38,000 a year. Based on the average class size of 20 trainees, each training body would be required to conduct three classes. The funds available for each training body to engage social workers would therefore be around \$10,000 for the two-year pilot period (i.e. around \$5,000 a year) which was far too low. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family & Child Welfare) responded that as the vocational element was removed from the training programmes and replaced by family programmes, the Administration had provided social workers for the Pilot Project and allocated some \$900,000 for provision of support services and social work services.

25. The Chairman said that as the funds allocated for social work services were insufficient for each training body to employ a full-time social worker for the Pilot Project, the training bodies would therefore need to deploy their existing manpower to provide social work services. In his view, such an arrangement was undesirable. He called on the Administration to discuss with the training bodies the manpower arrangements for the Pilot Project.

Allocation of training places

26. Noting from the Annex to the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1033/15-16(03)) that the 20 training places allocated to Wong Tai Sin under Caritas – Hong Kong also covered Sai Kung and the 20 training places allocated to Tai Po under Yan Oi Tong Limited also covered North District, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen was concerned about the inadequate supply of training places in these districts. In this connection, he sought information on the basis for allocating training places to individual districts. PS(LW) responded that in addition to the 20 training places to be provided by Caritas-Hong Kong for Wong Tai Sin which also covered Sai Kung, Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association would provide another 20 training places in the district. In discussing the allocation of training places with the training bodies, LWB and SWD had requested that training places should be provided in all the 18 districts as far as practicable. The training bodies should ensure that they had the ability to provide training according to the number of places allocated. LWB and SWD would keep in view the situation and review the allocation of training places if necessary.

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27. Mr YIU Si-wing said that although the demand for the training courses in districts such as Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong and Central & Western District would be great, only a small number of training places were allocated to these districts. He enquired about the selection mechanism if training places were oversubscribed. PS(LW) responded that grandparents of children aged from birth to under six or people who would become grandparents in six months or so would be eligible for attending the training courses under the Pilot Project. The training bodies could decide the selection criteria in the event of oversubscription of places.

Course content and requirements for trainers

28. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that some grandparents and parents might have conflicts about the ways of taking care of children and better communication skills might therefore be useful in enhancing inter-generation relationship. He enquired whether the content of the training courses offered under the Pilot Project covered training on communication skills and skills to enhance inter-generation relationship. In response, PS(LW) provided information on the content of training programmes set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Administration's paper.

29. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for the Pilot Project as conflicts between generations could be reduced when grandparents enhanced their child care skills after attending the training courses. In view of the course content, the age of trainees and the number of training bodies involved, he asked whether there was a set of standardized requirements for trainers. PS(LW) responded that the training bodies were required to adopt ERB's qualification requirements for their trainers of the training courses. Supportive programmes should be conducted and supervised by registered social workers.

IV. Elderly Services Programme Plan

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1033/15-16(04) to (05)]

30. At the invitation of the Chairman, PS(LW) briefed members on the progress of the preparation of the Elderly Services Programme Plan ("ESPP") and LWB's proposal to retain one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2), designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Duties)("PAS(SD)"), in LWB for a further period of 12 months ("the staffing proposal"), with effect from 11 July 2016 or upon approval of the Finance Committee, whichever was the later, to continue providing support for the formulation and implementation of ESPP.

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Directions and coverage of the Elderly Services Programme Plan

31. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that ESPP should be policy-driven. In drawing up ESPP, the Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan ("WGESPP") under the Elderly Commission ("EC") should follow the policy directions and take account of population projection, service needs and the required resources. However, the Administration's paper (LC Paper No.CB(2)1033/15-16(04)) only contained information on the mechanism and process of preparing ESPP but not the directions and contents of ESPP. He called on the Administration to provide members with such information.

32. PS(LW) responded that having considered the views gathered in the public engagement exercise of the Scoping Stage and the consultant team's analysis, the scope of ESPP had been set. The discussion topics of the Formulation Stage included six discussion themes covering 19 discussion topics. WGESPP had considered 11 discussion topics so far and would deliberate on the remaining eight topics in the coming months. Given the complexity of certain discussion topics, WGESPP would need more time for the discussion. Preliminary recommendations to be put forward in ESPP would be drawn up at the end of the Formulation Stage. EC would engage stakeholders at the Consensus Building Stage with a view to finalizing and building consensus on the recommendations.

33. Dr LAW Chi-kwong, Principal Investigator of the Consultant Team, said that upon completion of the discussion on all the 19 topics, WGESPP would draw up the preliminary recommendations and prepare the report on Formulation Stage for EC's consideration. The report would be published on the ESPP's website. He said that it was not suitable to provide information on WGESPP's deliberation at this stage as WGESPP had yet to finish considering the recommendations of all the 19 topics. Stakeholders' views on the WGESPP's recommendations would be collected at the Consensus Building Stage with a view to finalizing and building up a consensus on the recommendations.

34. In the light of ageing population and the growing demand for long-term care services, Mr TANG Ka-piu expressed concern about whether the Administration would be committed to formulating long-term plans in respect of supply of land, manpower and financial resources for the provision of elderly services.

35. PS(LW) responded that "manpower and training issues", "premises and space" as well as "sustainable financing of elderly services"

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were some of the discussion topics of the Formulation Stage. In the meantime, the Administration had taken steps e.g. through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, to secure more sites to increase the provision of residential care services for the elderly. The resources committed to elderly services had continued to increase throughout the years.

36. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that an analysis of the existing situation of elderly poverty, needs for elderly services, etc. should be conducted to facilitate the preparation of ESPP. He also sought information on the relationship between ESPP and the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher ("the CCS Voucher Scheme").

37. Dr LAW Chi-kwong responded that an analysis on the existing situation and issues relating to the ageing population had already been covered by the report on the Scoping Stage. To assist WGESPP in formulating ESPP, the Consultant Team would complement the implementation progress of provision of those elderly services which were still in their pilot stage (e.g. the CCS Voucher Scheme) or under review as far as practicable. The Consultant Team would keep in view the development of these pilot schemes and update ESPP as and when necessary. The review of the CCS Voucher Scheme was a separate exercise.

38. Mr TANG Ka-piu asked whether the Consultant Team would take into account the views collected from the public engagement exercise on retirement protection in projecting financial resources for implementing ESPP. He also sought information on the timetable for launching the public engagement exercise of the Consensus Building Stage.

39. PS(LW) responded that public views on retirement protection were collected under the framework of the Commission on Poverty ("CoP"). Upon completion of the public engagement exercise on retirement protection in June 2016, a report would be submitted to CoP. As regards ESPP, EC and WGESPP would draw up preliminary recommendations on the 19 discussion topics for collecting stakeholders' views at the Consensus Building Stage. The report of ESPP would be submitted for LWB's consideration.

40. Mr Albert HO said that given limited land, financial and human resources, the deployment of these resources to meet different service needs would premise on the values held by the Administration. As the values held by the general public and professional bodies could be very different, they would have diverse views on the deployment of resources for the provision

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of welfare services. In this connection, he was concerned about whether the public engagement exercise could facilitate forging consensus in this regard.

41. Dr Ernest CHUI, Principal Investigator of the Consultant Team, responded that during the public engagement exercise of the Scoping Stage and the Formulation Stage, views of different stakeholders including elderly services providers, user groups, interest groups, professional bodies, community representatives and individuals were collected. In addition to public forums, focus group discussion sessions were held at the Formulation Stage for more focused discussions on the 19 topics. Views on values, specific measures, resource allocation, etc. were widely collected from the public forums and focus group discussions. The report on Scoping Stage had summarized the views gathered from the public engagement exercise and had been submitted to WGESPP for consideration. The Consultant Team would prepare a report summarizing the views collected from the public engagement exercise of the Consensus Building Stage.

42. Mr YIU Si-wing took the view that the directions and targets of ESPP were not clear enough. The Administration should set targets for ESPP and draw up work plan for its implementation. Such information was also necessary for justifying the Administration's staffing proposal. The Deputy Chairman said that in addition to setting targets for ESPP, a timeframe for implementing ESPP should be set.

43. PS(LW) responded that given the complexity of the issues involved and the large number of stakeholders and interested groups to be engaged, the PAS(SD) post would need to be retained to provide continued support to assist EC and WGESPP in devising suitable engagement plans of the Consensus Building Stage and drafting the report. Upon the end of the 12-month extension period of the post, work in relation to the implementation of ESPP would be taken up by Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare)³ which was a permanent post. Mr YIU Si-wing said that the duties to be taken over from PAS(SD) should be clearly spelled out. Sharing a similar view, Mr Frederick FUNG and the Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should be more specific on the duties of PAS(SD) during the 12-month extension period in order to justify its staffing proposal.

44. Mr Frederick FUNG said that the Administration had decided to launch a public consultation on its proposals for retirement protection, even though the consultant team led by Professor Nelson CHOW had already made recommendations on retirement protection after having considered public views collected during the consultancy study. The way the Administration handled the consultancy study on retirement protection had

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set a bad precedent for the formulation of ESPP. He was gravely concerned that the Administration would drag on the study on elderly services and would not take on board the recommendations of ESPP. To signify its commitment, the Administration should set aside a sum of money for implementing ESPP.

45. PS(LW) said that in response to the suggestion of the sector, the Chief Executive had decided to task EC to formulate ESPP. LWB and SWD had been maintaining close communication with the sector and the formulation of ESPP was well-received by the sector. She said that the Administration would carefully study the final report of ESPP and if deemed necessary and appropriate seek the required resources for implementing the recommendations of ESPP. Meanwhile, LWB and SWD would continue to take measures to improve elderly services.

46. Mr Frederick FUNG said that since WGESPP comprised representatives from relevant government bureaux/departments, the recommendations of ESPP had already included inputs from the Administration. He did not see the need for the Administration to study further the recommendations of ESPP. The Administration should implement ESPP when WGESPP completed its work. He further said that if PAS(SD) mainly provided secretarial support to WGESPP, the post holder's duties should be performed by a lower rank officer. In that case, the retention of the PAS(SD) post for a further 12 months would not be necessary. PS(LW) responded that upon receipt of the final report of ESPP, the Administration would need to, having regard to the financial implications and other relevant considerations, draw up short, medium and long-term plans for implementing ESPP.

47. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the objectives of the Consultant Team's study and the timetable for finalizing the report on the Formulation Stage, Dr LAW Chi-kwong said that the formulation of ESPP was the objective of the study. He further said that the contents of ESPP would comprise targets for elderly services, specific recommendations on the implementation of ESPP and follow-up actions to be taken by LWB. The report on the Formulation Stage was expected to be completed in around July 2016.

48. The Chairman enquired whether the Consultant Team would propose priorities for implementing the recommendations, whether there were services that, in the Consultant Team's view, must be provided and whether the Consultant Team would, according to the outcome of the discussions on the topic on "sustainable financing of elderly services", propose financial arrangements for consideration by the Administration.

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49. Dr LAW Chi-kwong responded that preliminary recommendations would be made to each of the 19 discussion topics of the Formulation Stage including fiscal sustainability of elderly services. As ESPP covered the planning for elderly services up to 2030, many of these recommendations should be implemented in the near future. On-going reviews of ESPP would be conducted.

50. Given that there would be a one-year delay in the submission of the report of ESPP by EC, the Chairman asked whether the Administration was required to provide extra fees for the Consultant Team to continue its work for one more year. PS(LW) responded that LWB was discussing with the Consultant Team the relevant arrangements.

Financial arrangements for the Elderly Services Programme Plan

51. Mr Albert HO said that inadequate provision of elderly services boiled down to insufficient resources. While the public expected that the formulation of ESPP would bring about improvements to elderly services, it might not be the case unless the Administration was willing to deploy more resources to implement ESPP. He expressed concern that it would be difficult to build consensus regarding deployment of more resources to the provision of elderly services.

52. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that some deputations who had attended the relevant public engagement exercises were given to understand that the Consultant Team did not have the ability to deploy resources, make changes to existing policies or resolve the Administration's fiscal shortfall. He opined that the public engagement exercise concerned was fruitless if the Administration did not have regard to the views collected and was unwilling to make financial commitments to improve elderly services. In his view, the Administration should provide a framework setting out the target provision of elderly services and the amount of funds to be allocated for sustainable provision of such services. He further said that as the report on the Scoping Stage was published nearer the end of the Formulation Stage, members of the public did not have the required information to give concrete views. He expressed concern that if the report on the Formulation Stage was not published before the commencement of the Consensus Building Stage, members of the public would not be able to give views without knowing the outcome of the Formulation Stage.

53. PS(LW) responded that the report on the Scoping Stage covered a wide spectrum and was published on the ESPP's website. The topic on "sustainable financing of elderly services" was one of the 19 discussion

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topics of the Formulation Stage. It was expected that WGESPP would come up with recommendations on fiscal sustainability of elderly services. In considering the recommendations of ESPP, whether and how funding arrangements should be made to take forward the recommendations as well as the mode of implementing the recommendations would be carefully considered.

54. Dr LAW Chi-Kwong responded that projections on the needs for some elderly services were made and information on the development of elderly services was readily available at various sources. The report on the Formulation Stage would contain the views of and preliminary recommendations put forward by WGESPP on the 19 topics and the report would be made public before the commencement of the Consensus Building Stage. He said that the Consultant Team was tasked to assist EC in studying the service needs and formulating the directions for elderly services. Neither EC nor the Consultant Team was in a position to make financial commitment on behalf of the Administration to the provision of elderly services in the next 15 years. In his view, the Administration should not make financial commitment without any basis. The recommendations of ESPP would form a basis for the Administration's assessment of its financial capability and projections of funding required for elderly services.

Submission of staffing proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee

55. The Chairman put the Administration's staffing proposal to vote. Four members voted for the proposal and no member voted against it. Mr Frederick FUNG said that as the Administration failed to answer his questions regarding the role of PAS(SD) during the 12-month extension period of the post, he abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that the Panel supported in principle the submission of the staffing proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for consideration.

V. Any other business

Report of the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1032/15-16(01)]

56. Members supported the proposal of the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence ("the Subcommittee") to seek the House Committee's agreement for the priority allocation of a debate slot to the Chairman of the Subcommittee,

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with the recommendation that in addition to the debate on the Subcommittee's Report, only one other debate on a Member's motion not intended to have legislative effect should be held at the Council meeting of 18 May 2016.

57. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:48 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 July 2016