

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 9 October 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. Infirmiry care in non-hospital setting**

The Administration consulted the Panel in December 2004 on a proposal to launch a trial scheme to provide infirmiry 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 infirmiry care. The Administration will report the progress in due course.

To be decided

**3. Charitable fund-raising activities**

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. The Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") is responsible for

To be decided

formulating Government's responses to the report.

The Government's responses and actions with regard to LRC reports are reported to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("AJLS Panel"), HAB is planning to report progress to the AJLS Panel later when the responses are ready.

**4. Review of Disability Allowance ("DA") and the system for processing applications thereof**

The Administration briefed members on the findings of the consultancy study on practices of places outside Hong Kong in respect of financial assistance for persons with disabilities at the Panel meeting on 9 March 2015. The Chairman requested the Administration to report to the Panel on the outcome of its review on the eligibility criteria for DA and related matters in due course.

To be decided

**5. Visiting Pharmacist Scheme**

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

**6. 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 (LC Paper No. CB(2)93/14-15(01)) was submitted to the Panel on 23 October 2014 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. 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.

**7. Elderly care policy**

(a) Residential care services for the elderly

To be decided

The Panel acceded to Prof Hon Joseph LEE's request for holding a joint meeting with the Panel on Health Services in the 2015-2016 session to discuss the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) with a view to improving the quality of these residential care homes.

(b) Elderly Services Programme Plan

December 2015

The Panel requested the Administration to prepare an interim report on the Elderly Services Programme Plan and brief the Panel on the report in November or December 2015. The Panel also appointed a subcommittee to follow up Elderly Commission's preparation of the Programme Plan and study the policies and measures relating to the future development of elderly services schemes. The subcommittee is currently on the waiting list pending activation.

**Proposed timing for discussion**

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

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che.

To be decided

**9. 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.

**10. 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

**11. 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.

The subject was covered in the discussion of "Measures to unleash labour force in families for increasing the grassroots' income" by the Subcommittee on Poverty at its meeting on 28 April 2015. Apart from meeting with deputations and the Administration, the Subcommittee had also invited members of the Panel to join the discussion at that meeting.

**12. 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.

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**13. 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.

**14. 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 and invite deputations to give views thereon.

To be decided

**15. Targets for provision of hostels for mentally handicapped persons**

The Panel supported 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 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

**Proposed timing for discussion**

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

The Administration briefed the Panel in February 2014 on the implementation of the Special Scheme and obtained Finance Committee's approval of its 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 updated the Panel on the progress of implementation of the Special Scheme on 13 April 2015. Hon TANG Ka-piu requested the Administration to provide a paper to update the Panel every six months on the progress of the Special Scheme.

To be decided

**17. 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

**18. Setting up social welfare facilities (excluding welfare blocks) in public housing premises**

The Panel discussed the captioned subject at its meeting on 11 May 2015. Hon Frederick FUNG suggested that the subject be further discussed at a Panel meeting. Representatives of the Development Bureau and Planning Department should also be invited for the discussion.

To be decided

**19. Issues relating to child fatality review mechanism**

The Panel acceded to Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's request to discuss the captioned subject at a Panel meeting in the 2015-2016 session.

To be decided

**20. Annual adjustment of social security payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme and the SSA Scheme, and issues relating to rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme**

The Administration will brief members on –

November 2015

- (a) the latest position of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices and the estimated corresponding adjustment to the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme and standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme as from 1 February 2016. The Administration intends to submit the relevant funding proposal to the Finance Committee in December 2015; and
- (b) the latest position of the Consumer Price Index (A) rent index for private housing and the estimated corresponding adjustment to the maximum rates of the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme as from 1 February 2016, as well as relevant information on the maximum rent allowance.