

Panel on Welfare Services

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

Proposed timing for discussion

1. The proposed legislation to implement the 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 to the Panel on the progress.

14 December 2015

The Administration plans to conduct a public consultation by the end of 2015 on the proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the LRC Report on Child Custody and Access. The Administration will brief members on the progress at the Panel meeting on 14 December 2015.

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

Proposed timing for discussion

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 formulating Government's responses to the report.

To be decided

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. Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che requested the Administration to report to the Panel on the outcome of its review on the eligibility criteria for DA and related matters.

15 February 2016

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.

Proposed timing for discussion

7. Elderly care policy

(a) Residential care services for the elderly

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.

1st or 2nd quarter of 2016

(b) Elderly Services Programme Plan

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("EC")'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.

14 March 2016

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.

Proposed timing for discussion

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.

Proposed timing for discussion

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.

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. Salary adjustment arrangements for staff in non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") receiving Lump Sum Grant ("LSG") subvention and implementation of the LSG Best Practice Manual ("BPM")

The Panel was briefed on the progress report on the implementation of the LSG BPM at its meeting on 12 May 2014. Hon CHAN Yuen-han suggested that the Panel revisit the subject matter relating to LSG Subvention.

11 January 2016

The Panel discussed salary adjustment arrangements for staff in NGOs receiving LSG subvention at its meeting on 11 May 2015. Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the Panel should follow up the matter.

The Panel agreed that deputations should be invited to give views on these matters.

Proposed timing for discussion

15. Targets for provision of hostels for mentally handicapped persons

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

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.

11 July 2016

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. Child Fatality Review ("CFR") Report

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG proposed to discuss issues relating to child fatality review mechanism.

14 December 2015

The purpose of CFR is to facilitate the enhancement of social service systems pertaining to child welfare with focus on inter-sectoral collaboration and multi-disciplinary cooperation for prevention of occurrence of avoidable child death cases. Further to its first report published in May 2013, the Review Panel of the Pilot Project on CFR released its second report in July 2015 covering the review findings of the 238 child death cases which occurred in 2010 and 2011. Including the cases reviewed in the pilot project on CFR, a total of 685 child death cases occurred from 2006 to 2011 were reviewed. The Administration will brief members on the CFR Report at the Panel meeting on 14 December 2015.

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

The Administration will brief members on –

9 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.

Proposed timing for discussion

21. The situation of lead in drinking water in child care centres and residential care homes and the follow-up actions by the Administration

Item proposed by Dr Hon Helena WONG.

9 November 2015

22. Pilot Scheme on Peer Supporters for ex-mentally ill patients

Item proposed by the Administration.

9 November 2015

23. Issues relating to welfare of refugees, torture claimants and asylum seekers and proposed legislative amendments to the unified screening mechanism for non-refoulement claimants

Item proposed by Hon CHAN Yuen-han. Hon CHAN Yuen-han suggested that the Panel hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Security to discuss with the Administration the subject matter.

To be decided

24. Community care support for persons suffering from dementia and their carers

Item proposed by Dr Hon Helena WONG.

To be decided

25. The Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration plans to brief members on a two-year pilot scheme which provides on-site rehabilitation service for children with special needs studying in kindergartens and kindergartens-cum-child care centres participating in the scheme.

14 December 2015

The Administration suggested that members of the Panel on Education should be invited to join the discussion of this item.

Proposed timing for discussion

- 26. Setting up a new contract residential care home for the elderly ("RCHE") at Social Welfare Facilities Block of the public rental housing ("PRH") development site at North West Kowloon Reclamation Site 6 in Shamshuipo**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 11 January 2016
- 27. Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (Second Phase)**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 11 January 2016
- 28. Progress of the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of the Elderly Persons from Low Income Families**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 15 February 2016
- 29. Setting up a hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons ("HMMH") and an integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre ("IVRSC") at the PRH site at Hung Shui Kiu Area 13**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 15 February 2016
- 30. Pilot project on child care training for grandparents**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 14 March 2016
- 31. Setting up integrated welfare service complexes in two vacant school premises in Tuen Mun and Sai Kung**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 11 April 2016

Proposed timing for discussion

- 32. Setting up an HMMH, an IVRSC and an integrated children and youth services centre in the Comprehensive Development Area development at Yau Tong Bay**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 9 May 2016
- 33. Setting up a hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons cum day activity centre, an HMMH and a hostel for severely physically handicapped persons cum IVRSC at the public housing development site at Shatin Area 52 (Shui Chuen O)**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 9 May 2016
- 34. Setting up an integrated welfare service complex in a set of vacant school premises in Tai Po**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 13 June 2016
- 35. RCHE development on a site at Lam Tei, Tuen Mun**
- Item proposed by the Administration. 11 July 2016
- 36. Review of mental health services - welfare-related issues**
- Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che. To be decided
- 37. Enforcement agencies' procedures for dealing with persons with disabilities or persons with special needs (including mentally incapacitated persons) and support provided under the social welfare system for the above persons on law-related matters**
- The Panel discussed the captioned subject at its meeting on 13 June 2015. Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the subject matter be further discussed at a Panel meeting. To be decided

Proposed timing for discussion

38. Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly ("RCS Voucher Scheme")

The Administration reported on the progress of EC's feasibility study on the RCS Voucher Scheme at the Panel meetings on 9 February, 23 March and 28 March 2015. Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the Panel follow up on the subject matter at a Panel meeting.

To be decided.

39. Women-related issues (e.g. measures to unleash women workforce, female employees receiving less pay than male employees for equal work, long working hours, etc.)

Item proposed by Hon CHAN Yuen-han.

To be decided

40. Work progress of the Family Council

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che and Hon CHAN Yuen-han.

1st or 2nd quarter of 2016