

For discussion
on 11 April 2016

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

**Setting up of New Day Activity Centre cum Hostel for Severely
Mentally Handicapped Persons in
Pokfulam Shine Skills Centre, Pokfulam**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the Government's proposal to set up a new 60-place Day Activity Centre (DAC) cum a 30-place Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons (HSMH) in Pokfulam Shine Skills Centre (PSSC), Pokfulam with the financial provision to be met from the Lotteries Fund (LF)¹.

Residential Care and Day Training Services

2. The overall objective of the Government's rehabilitation policy is to support the full integration of persons with disabilities into society. We provide various rehabilitation services with a view to assisting persons with disabilities to develop their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent and promoting their integration into the community.

3. We have been taking comprehensive measures to meet the residential care needs of persons with disabilities who are unable to live independently or cannot adequately be taken care of by their families so as to improve their quality of life and help them develop independent living skills. To this end, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has

¹ LF is established for the purpose of financing social welfare services. It is primarily used to finance the capital expenditure of welfare projects and provide one-off grants to experimental projects with limited duration. Under section 6(4) of the Government Lotteries Ordinance (Cap. 334), the Financial Secretary has the authority to approve payments from LF to finance the development of social welfare services. Subject to certain conditions, the authority to approve grants from LF has been delegated to the Director of Social Welfare (DSW), acting on the advice of the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee.

been continuously increasing the provision of subsidised HSMH which provides home living for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who lack basic self-care skills and require assistance with personal and nursing care. As at end-February 2016, there were a total of 3 611 subsidised HSMH places for persons with disabilities.

4. At the same time, SWD has also been striving to make available training and support for persons with disabilities with a view to assisting them to develop their potential, enabling them to continue to live independently at home and preparing them for full integration into the community. These services also aim at strengthening the carers' caring capacity and relieving their stress. To this end, SWD provides, among others, DAC service which provides day care and training for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who are unable to benefit from vocational training and the training programmes include training on motor skills, self-help skills, communication skills, domestic living skills, community living skills, simple work skills, social and interpersonal skills, and provision of social and recreational activities. As at end-February 2016, there were a total of 5 198 subsidised DAC places in the territory for persons with disabilities in need.

5. SWD will continue to actively identify suitable premises for setting up rehabilitation facilities to meet the existing and future demands. Sites have been reserved for providing about 793 additional HSMH and 883 DAC places. In addition, additional places will be provided through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Scheme), under which NGOs are encouraged to make use of their land through expansion, redevelopment or new development to provide diversified subvented and self-financing welfare facilities. According to the preliminary estimate by the NGOs participating in the Special Scheme, 607 additional HSMH and 1 201 DAC places could be provided if these 60-plus projects are implemented.

Provision of Residential Care and Day Training in the new DAC cum HSMH

6. PSSC, located at Aberdeen Inland lot No. 440, is a nine-storey building shared by the Vocational Training Council (VTC) and different NGOs for providing rehabilitation services. The location map of PSSC is at **Annex**. The second floor and seventh floor of the building (with a total internal floor area of 1 057 square metres) have been vacant. SWD has proposed to convert the relevant premises into the proposed DAC cum HSMH. The Labour and Welfare Bureau has convened meetings with VTC, SWD and the Lands Department (Lands D) to help coordinate the conversion projects including, among others, VTC's application for Lands D's approval for the proposed changed use of the two vacant floors.

7. The new DAC cum HSMH is scheduled to commence operation in mid-2017. SWD will invite NGOs to submit project proposals and select a suitable operator on the merits of service quality pledged in individual project proposals. The NGO selected will be required to carry out fitting-out works and to put in place furniture and equipment in the premises for operation.

Funding Arrangement

8. The setting-up costs of the new DAC cum HSMH will be funded by the LF. In December 2015, the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee endorsed the capital funding of \$18.428 million for the setting-up costs, including \$13.737 million for fitting-out works, \$1.806 million for acquisition of furniture and equipment as well as \$2.885 million for improvement works and lift door alteration works for the common areas of PSSC relating to the new DAC cum HSMH.

9. The estimated full-year recurrent subvention for the operation of the new DAC cum HSMH, including personal emoluments, other charges, reimbursement of rates and government rent and after netting off income from service users' fees where applicable, is about \$12.6 million. The necessary recurrent provision will be included in the draft Estimates of the relevant years.

Public Consultation

10. In January 2016, the Community Affairs and Tourism Development Committee of the Southern District Council was consulted, and supported, the proposal for setting up of the DAC cum HSMH in PSSC.

Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to comment on the SWD's proposal to set up the new DAC cum HSMH.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
April 2016

**Location Map of New DAC cum HSMH
at Pokfulam Shine Skills Centre, Pokfulam**

