

Panel on Welfare Services

List of issues suggested to be considered
(position as at 18 October 2016)

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

1. Annual adjustment of social security payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme, and issues relating to rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will brief members on: November 2016

(a) the latest position of the Social Security Assistance ("SSA") Index of Prices and the estimated corresponding adjustment to the rates of allowances under the SSA Scheme and standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme as from 1 February 2017. The Administration intends to submit the relevant funding proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC") in December 2016; 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 2017, as well as relevant information on the maximum rent allowance.

2. Elderly Services Programme Plan

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will brief members on the progress of the formulation of the Elderly Services Programme Plan. November 2016

Proposed timing for discussion

3. Review of Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance

To be decided

The Panel of the Fifth Legislative Council ("LegCo") ("the former Panel") had acceded to Prof Hon Joseph LEE's request for holding a joint meeting with the Panel on Health Services to discuss the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) with a view to improving the quality of these residential care homes ("RCHs").

4. Residential care homes for the elderly development on a site at Lam Tei, Tuen Mun

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

5. Setting up of rehabilitation service facilities at the public housing development site at Sha Tin Area 52 (Shui Chuen O) and Lei Yue Mun Phase 3, Kowloon

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

The rehabilitation service facilities in question include a hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons cum day activity centre, a hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons and a hostel for severely physically handicapped persons cum an integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre at the public housing development site at Sha Tin Area 52 (Shui Chuen O); and a new special child care centre cum early education and training centre at the public rental housing development in Lei Yue Mun Phase 3, Kowloon.

6. Charitable fund-raising activities

On 6 December 2013, Law Reform Commission ("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

To be decided

coordinating comments from relevant bureaux and departments for formulating the Administration's responses to the report.

The Administration's responses and actions with regard to LRC reports are to be 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.

7. Exploring a way out for young people in respect of welfare, education and employment, etc. under deep-rooted social conflicts in light of the Mongkok Riot occurred on 8 February 2016

The former Panel had agreed to explore holding a special meeting to discuss "Exploring a way out for young people in respect of welfare, education and employment, etc. under deep-rooted social conflicts in light of the Mongkok Riot occurred on 8 February 2016".

To be decided

8. Setting up an integrated welfare service complex in the vacant school premises in Sai Kung

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

9. Setting up an integrated welfare service complex in the vacant school premises in Tuen Mun

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

10. Setting up a hostel for moderately mentally handicapped persons, an integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre and an integrated children and youth services centre in the Comprehensive Development Area development at Yau Tong Bay

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

11. Setting up an integrated welfare service complex in a set of vacant school premises in Tai Po

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

12. Infirmiry care in non-hospital setting

The Administration consulted the Panel of the Third LegCo 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 RCHs for the elderly to provide infirmiry care. The Administration will report the progress in due course.

To be decided

13. 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 of the Fourth LegCo in May 2012 and recommended, inter alia, that the former Panel should follow up with the Administration on the matter.

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 former 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.

Retrofitting of barrier-free access facilities for grade-separated walkways is covered in the Public Accounts Committee Report No. 66 presented to the Council on 13 July 2016.

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

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che.

To be decided

15. Social welfare planning

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the former Panel should discuss social welfare planning.

To be decided

The former 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.

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che had suggested that the Panel should discuss planning for rehabilitation services.

16. Proposal for formation of a subcommittee on issues relating to welfare of people with disabilities

Item proposed by Miss CHAN Yuen-han. In deciding that the former Panel would receive views from deputations on review of the system for processing applications for Disability Allowance at the regular meeting held in December 2013, Miss CHAN Yuen-han, as the Panel Chairman for the 2013-2014 session, suggested that the proposal for formation of a subcommittee on issues related

To be decided

to welfare of persons with disabilities should be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel.

17. Provision of child care services and after-school care services

In its submission to the former Panel (LC Paper No. CB(2)601/12-13(01)), Hong Kong Women Workers' Association requested the former 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 former Panel should fix a date for discussing the subject and receiving views from deputations. She had requested the former 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 former 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 former Panel to join the discussion at that meeting.

18. 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 former Panel meeting on 13 January 2014, the former Panel passed a motion urging the Administration to, among others, submit a report on matters related to Programme Workers to the former 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

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che had requested for discussion of the manpower situation of paramedical and supporting staff in the social welfare sector at a Panel meeting.

19. Review of Old Age Living Allowance

Item proposed by Hon LEUNG Che-cheung.

To be decided

The Administration has undertaken to review the Old Age Living Allowance one year after its implementation and report the outcome of the review to the Panel.

20. Targets for provision of hostels for mentally handicapped persons

Miss CHAN Yuen-han had suggested that the Panel should 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

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

The former Panel discussed the captioned subject at its meeting on 11 May 2015. Mr 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

Proposed timing for discussion

22. **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 Miss CHAN Yuen-han. She had suggested that the Panel should hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Security to discuss the subject matter with the Administration.
- To be decided
23. **Community care support for persons suffering from dementia and their carers**
- Item proposed by Dr Hon Helena WONG.
- To be decided
24. **Review of mental health services - welfare-related issues**
- Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che.
- To be decided
25. **Community care and support services for persons with disabilities**
- The former Panel had acceded to Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's request (LC Paper No. CB(2)401/15-16(02)) for discussion of issues relating to community care and support services for persons with disabilities.
- To be decided
26. **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 former Panel discussed the captioned subject at its meeting on 13 June 2015. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the subject matter should be further discussed at a Panel meeting.
- To be decided

Proposed timing for discussion

- 27. 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 Miss CHAN Yuen-han. To be decided
- 28. Review of Disability Allowance and the system for processing application thereof**
- The subject was discussed at the special meeting of the former Panel on 3 May 2016. The former Panel has suggested that the subject should be revisited in the Sixth LegCo. To be decided
- 29. Mechanism for handling abuse cases relating to children from high risk families**
- The subject was discussed at the special meeting of the former Panel on 28 May 2016. The former Panel has suggested that the subject should be revisited in the Sixth LegCo. To be decided
- 30. Retirement protection**
- The former Panel and its Subcommittee on Retirement Protection had studied the subject of retirement protection in the Fifth LegCo. The Subcommittee submitted its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1871/15-16) to the former Panel in July 2016 and made a number of recommendations for the Administration's consideration. The Subcommittee also recommended that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the matter. To be decided

Proposed timing for discussion

31. Care services for elderly persons with special needs

The Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Future Development of Elderly Services Schemes formed under the former Panel had studied, inter alia, the care services for elderly persons with special needs. The Subcommittee submitted its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1902/15-16) to the former Panel in July 2016. In its report the Subcommittee has suggested that the Panel should follow up the provision of services by the Administration for elderly persons with chronic diseases, dementia or disabilities as well as elderly persons from ethnic minorities and from sexual minorities.

To be decided

32. Policies on preventing abuse of elderly persons and of persons with intellectual disabilities

The former Panel has suggested that the Panel should discuss policies on preventing abuse of elderly persons in RCHs and of persons with intellectual disabilities in schools/hostels for persons with intellectual disabilities.

To be decided