

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 11 November 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:

14 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 ("the Programme Plan").

14 November 2016

The Administration advised that the Elderly Commission is expected to submit the report of the Programme Plan in the second quarter of 2017. The Administration plans to brief members on the report in July 2017.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**3. Progress of implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses**

Item proposed by the Administration.

12 December 2016

The item is to report on the latest position of the implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses to the Panel after the last progress report made by the Administration on 13 June 2016.

**4. Proposed creation of a supernumerary post of Assistant Director of Social Welfare to strengthen the inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities**

Item proposed by the Administration.

12 December 2016

The item is to consult the Panel with a view to seeking FC's approval for creating a supernumerary post of Assistant Director of Social Welfare, to be designated as Assistant Director (Licensing and Regulation), to head the proposed Licensing and Regulation Branch of the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") for strengthening the inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities. Assuming the item will be discussed at the Panel meeting in December 2016, it will be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee in January 2017 and then to FC in February 2017. The post would be created on a time-limited basis up to 31 March 2021 upon FC's approval.

**3. Looking into the quality problem of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities in light of the "Bridge of Rehabilitation Company" incident**

The item was discussed at the special Panel meeting on 1 November 2016. Members agreed to further discuss the item with the Administration at the Panel regular meeting on 12 December 2016. The Administration will brief members on the measures taken and being planned to strengthen the monitoring of the service quality of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities.

12 December 2016

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**6. Setting up 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.

9 January 2017

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.

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

Item proposed by the Administration.

9 January 2017

The Panel is to be briefed on the proposed conversion of the vacant school premises in Sai Kung into an integrated welfare service complex which will provide both elderly and rehabilitation services.

**8. Support measures for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance**

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun. He suggested discussing the "One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance" programme under the Community Care Fund ("CCF"). The Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter jointly with the Panel on Home Affairs ("the HA Panel"). The Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") has advised that the CCF Secretariat is planning to report the half-yearly CCF progress to the HA Panel on 21 December 2016.

9 January 2017

**Services for elderly**

**9. Review of Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459)**

The Panel of the Fifth Legislative Council ("LegCo") ("the former Panel") 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").

To be decided

**10. 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 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

**11. 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

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**Social security**

**12. 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.

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen has requested that the Administration should complete the review and report the outcome to the Panel as soon as possible.

**13. 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 suggested that the subject should be revisited in the Sixth LegCo.

To be decided

**Support for underprivileged groups with special needs in the community**

**14. 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 LWB's website for public information.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

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.

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

Item proposed by Miss CHAN Yuen-han.

To be decided

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

Item proposed by Dr Hon Helena WONG.

To be decided

**17. Review of mental health services – welfare-related issues**

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che.

To be decided

Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested discussing the review of services provided by Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness of SWD.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**18. Community care and support services for persons with disabilities**

The former Panel 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

**19. 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

Issues regarding the policies, measures and guidelines of the Police and the law enforcement agencies on the handling of mentally incapacitated persons have been included in the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel on Security.

**20. Issues relating to students with special educational needs**

Item proposed by Hon Alvin YEUNG. He also suggested that the Panel on Education be invited to join the relevant discussion.

To be decided

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**Welfare services for families, youth and children**

**21. The proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access**

Item proposed by the Administration.

Second quarter of  
2017

Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the discussion should also cover support services for divorced parents.

**22. Welfare measures for facilitating children and youth development**

The former Panel agreed to explore whether to discuss the issue "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

Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested discussing as soon as possible the captioned subject matter which also covers the issue mentioned above.

**23. Provision of child care services and after-school care services**

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.

To be decided

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.

Dr Hon Helena WONG expressed concern at the Panel meeting on 18 October 2016 about support measures for carers and the progress of the consultancy study on the long-term development of child care services.



**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**24. 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 suggested that the subject should be revisited in the Sixth LegCo.

To be decided

**25. Review of the role and staff establishment of Integrated Family Service Centres of the Social Welfare Department**

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

**Social welfare planning and administration**

**26. Progress of implementing the Best Practice Manual under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System**

Item proposed by the Administration.

First quarter of  
2017

**27. 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 suggested that the Panel should discuss planning for rehabilitation services.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

Miss CHAN Yuen-han 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.

Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should discuss planning targets for the provision of child care places and residential care places for elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

**28. Manpower of paramedical and supporting staff in the social welfare sector**

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

To be decided

**29. Estate-based social welfare services planning**

The former Panel discussed setting up social welfare facilities (excluding welfare blocks) in public housing premises 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

Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested discussing estate-based social welfare services planning which should cover community service planning for new estates.

**30. Amending Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505)**

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**Provision of welfare facilities**

- 31. Setting up a care and attention home for severely disabled persons and a special child care centre cum early education and training centre in So Uk Estate Redevelopment Phase 1, Sham Shui Po**

Item proposed by the Administration.

First quarter of  
2017

- 32. Setting up an integrated welfare service complex in the vacant school premises in Tuen Mun**

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be decided

- 33. 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

- 34. 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

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

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che.

To be decided

**Poverty alleviation**

- 36. Possible support for deprived communities**

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun. He wishes to discuss as soon as possible support measures for deprived communities (i.e. people living in urban slum areas).

To be decided

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**37. Welfare support for grass-roots facing "Energy Poverty"**

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

**Women welfare**

**38. 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

**Retirement protection**

**39. Retirement protection**

The former Panel and its Subcommittee on Retirement Protection 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

The House Committee ("HC") has agreed at its meeting on 28 October 2016 to appoint the Subcommittee on Retirement Protection. The Subcommittee will hold its first meeting on 23 November 2016.

The Administration has advised that it plans to brief the Panel on the updates of retirement protection in the policy briefing to be held in January/ February 2017.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**Others**

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

To be decided

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 ("the AJLS Panel"). HAB is planning to report progress to the AJLS Panel later when the responses are ready.

**41. 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 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

HC has agreed at its meeting on 28 October 2016 to appoint a subcommittee to follow up issues relating to the Unified Screening Mechanism for Non-refoulement Claims.

The Panel on Security discussed the subject of "Comprehensive review of strategy of handling non-refoulement claimants" at its meeting on 11 November 2016.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

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

The former Panel 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

**43. Social service support for street sleepers**

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun. He wishes to explore as soon as possible social service support for street sleepers. LWB suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter jointly with the HA Panel. According to HAB, while the item does not fall within the policy of HAB, it is prepared to provide inputs where appropriate together with other bureau such as LWB, depending on the specific issues which the Panel may wish to discuss under this broad subject.

To be decided

**44. Support services for singletons**

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided