

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

Proposed Extension of Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members on the plan of the Hospital Authority (“HA”) to extend the Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit by increasing the number of “gazetted” beds from 180 to 220 (by adding 40 beds or 22%) by October 2018 to meet service demand.

BACKGROUND

Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit

2. The Mental Health Ordinance (“MHO”) (Cap. 136) and its subsidiary legislation provide a legal framework for the care and supervision of mentally incapacitated persons. Under section 3(1) of the MHO, the Chief Executive may by order declare any place which is the property of the Government to be a mental hospital for the detention, custody, treatment and care of mentally disordered persons. The mental hospitals so declared are specified in the Schedule to the Declaration of Mental Hospital (Consolidation) Order (Cap. 136B). Among them is the Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit.

Proposed Extension of the Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit

3. Currently, there are 180 psychiatric beds in the Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit for the detention, custody, treatment and care of mentally disordered persons residing in the catchment areas of the Kowloon Central Cluster (“KCC”) and the Kowloon East Cluster (“KEC”) of HA. In recent years, there is a growing demand for inpatient psychiatric services in KCC and KEC. In this connection, HA plans to extend the Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit by opening one more

“gazetted” ward, with the addition of 40 “gazetted” beds, in order to meet the growing demand.

4. HA has earmarked additional funding and manpower resources to cope with the setting up of the new “gazetted” wards. The new “gazetted” ward is expected to commence operation in October 2018, subject to the legislative process of the relevant amendment order under MHO which will be submitted to the Legislative Council for scrutinisation.

5. HA expects that upon the commencement of service of the new ward, the overcrowding situation of the Kowloon Psychiatric Observation Unit could be relieved. Patients will also benefit from the additional floor space to receive more therapeutic activities so as to enhance their recovery.

WAY FORWARD

6. The Declaration of Mental Hospital (Consolidation) (Amendment of Schedule) Order 2018 to give effect to the proposed extension will be gazetted in May 2018.

Food and Health Bureau
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