

**For information  
On 13 January 2020**

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services**

**Progress of Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support  
for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the progress of the Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (Pilot Scheme).

**Background**

2. The Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address in January 2017 that the Community Care Fund (CCF) would be invited to consider a Pilot Scheme to provide home care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment, to delay the deterioration in their health and facilitate their ageing in place. In May 2017, the Commission on Poverty endorsed a funding of about \$380 million from the CCF for a 3-year Pilot Scheme. It is estimated that about 4 000 service quota would be provided in three years under the Pilot Scheme. The Government launched the Pilot Scheme in December 2017.

**The Pilot Scheme**

3. The Pilot Scheme aims at providing earlier home care and support services to low-income elderly persons (with monthly household income not exceeding a specified percentage of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI): not exceeding 175% for one-person households; not exceeding 150% for two-or-more-person households) assessed to be with mild impairment and waitlisted for Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases) (“IHCS(OC)”). 55 service teams (including 54 IHCS teams and 1 Home Help Team) under 24 non-governmental organisations have joined the Pilot Scheme and become approved service providers (ASPs) to conduct assessments

for the elderly persons waitlisted for service, and provide them with home assistance services.

4. Service teams participating in the Pilot Scheme are provided with additional resources to hire social workers to conduct assessments for the elderly applicants, and discuss with eligible elderly persons to formulate their home assistance plans with reference to the assessment results, as well as providing services to prevent functional deterioration.

5. The services of the Pilot Scheme include personal care, home-making, simple nursing care, escort, purchase and delivery of daily necessities, etc. There are five co-payment categories on a sliding scale in the Pilot Scheme. Elderly persons may choose to receive services according to their individual needs.

### **Simplified and Standardised Assessment Tool**

6. To identify elderly persons with mild impairment, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of The University of Hong Kong (CoA) to develop a simplified and standardised assessment tool, with tablet computers provided to participating ASPs to conduct electronic assessment. The assessment includes various aspects such as the elderly persons' instrumental activities of daily living, activities of daily living, cognition and other factors for identifying elderly persons with mild impairment and their service needs, so as to provide them with suitable home assistance services.

7. To facilitate service implementation, SWD and CoA conducted training programmes on the use and application of the assessment tool from December 2017 to January 2019, and trained a total of 163 accredited assessors for the ASPs.

### **Service Provision**

8. Eligible elderly persons began to receive services of the Pilot Scheme in January 2018. Since the commencement of the Pilot Scheme, service teams under the ASPs have actively invited those elderly persons waitlisted for IHCS(OC) to join the Pilot Scheme, helped them submit their applications to CCF, conducted assessments and arranged services for them. The

implementation of the Pilot Scheme has generally been smooth. As at end-November 2019, around 3 400 elderly persons waitlisted for IHCS(OC) have undergone the simplified assessments upon invitation to join the Pilot Scheme, among whom around 3 100 were assessed to be with mild impairment, and approved by the CCF for referral to service teams. As at end-November 2019, around 2 800 elderly persons have received services and been subsidised by CCF, with a total amount of around \$62 million.

9. Among the around 2 800 elderly beneficiaries mentioned above, over half of the elderly persons (57.7%) received home services only, while those who received meal service only and those who received both home and meal services accounted for 20.7% and 21.6% respectively.

### **Progress of Evaluation**

10. SWD has commissioned CoA to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme. The preliminary findings of the evaluation study show that service users, frontline workers and ASPs respond positively to the Pilot Scheme in general.

11. As CoA still requires more time to comprehensively analyse the various data collected, the evaluation report has not yet been completed. SWD will study the evaluation report upon receipt and consider the way forward for the Pilot Scheme.

### **Advice sought**

12. Members are invited to note the progress of the Pilot Scheme.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**  
**Social Welfare Department**  
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