

政府總部
勞工及福利局

香港添馬添美道
政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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30 March 2021

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LAM,

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Follow-up to Meeting on 11 January 2021**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services held on 11 January 2021, Members requested the Government to provide information on various matters. The relevant information is set out below.

Community Geriatric Assessment Team

The Hospital Authority (HA) has been strengthening the Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT) service in phases since 2015-16, and has deployed additional resources of around \$33.8 million to enhance end-of-life (EOL) care for elderly patients living in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). CGATs are working in partnership with the Palliative Care teams and RCHEs to improve medical and nursing care for elderly patients facing terminal illness living in RCHEs, and to provide training for RCHE staff. In 2021-22, HA plans to further strengthen EOL care for elderly patients in RCHEs and the additional resources involved is around \$13.2 million per year.

Pilot Scheme on Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the Elderly

To support the social and rehabilitation needs of the residents of private RCHEs, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has progressively launched a four-year Pilot Scheme on Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the Elderly (MOSTE) since mid-February 2019. MOSTE, comprising social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists, provides outreach support services for the residents of private RCHEs. MOSTE also provides speech therapy service by speech therapists for the service users with swallowing difficulties or speech impairment in contract RCHEs (including the Day Care Units attached to contract RCHEs) and self-financing RCHEs / Nursing Homes (NHs).

Since the implementation of MOSTE, the service users, carers and staff of RCHEs have responded positively to the Pilot Scheme in general, considering that MOSTE can address the social and rehabilitation needs of the service users. As at end-January 2021, a total of 633 RCHEs participated in MOSTE, accounting for 98% of the total number of all private RCHEs, contract RCHEs and self-financing RCHEs / NHs, with over 33 000 beneficiaries. SWD will continue to collect views from service users / stakeholders, review the effectiveness of MOSTE, and consider the resources situation and way forward of MOSTE in due course.

Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses

By the closing of application for Phase Two of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses on 30 August 2019, 25 project proposals submitted by 16 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had been received. It does not include one NGO applicant who subsequently withdrew a project proposal.

Enhanced Bought Place Scheme

SWD has since 1998 implemented the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) with a view to increasing the supply of subsidised residential care places for the elderly and enhancing the service quality of private RCHEs. As at end of December 2020, the private RCHEs joining the EBPS provided a total of 9 225 subsidised places; among which were 2 166 EA2 places.

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, SWD invited all the EA2 homes under the EBPS to participate in an upgrading exercise for enhancing to EA1 home standard, with a view to increasing the supply of subsidised places of a higher quality standard. A total of 21 homes participated in the upgrading exercise, which involved about 1 200 places upgraded to EA1 places. SWD will consider the overall supply of residential care places for the elderly and resources situation, and timely review and enhance the EBPS.

Yours sincerely,



(Renie LAI)

for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

c.c. Secretary for Food and Health (Attn: Miss Clarissa WAN)
Director of Social Welfare (Attn: Mr TAN Tick-ye)