

**For information on
13 September 2021**

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Follow-up work on the Elderly Services Programme Plan**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the Government's follow-up work on the recommendations of the Elderly Services Programme Plan (ESPP).

Background

2. In response to the challenges to elderly services arising from an ageing population, the Government tasked the Elderly Commission (EC) to formulate the ESPP in 2014 to enhance the medium to long-term planning for elderly services. The EC and its Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan (WGESPP) submitted the ESPP to the Government in June 2017, proposing four strategic directions and 20 recommendations on the future development of elderly services. We briefed Members on the recommendations of the ESPP on 10 July 2017, and indicated that the Government have in principle accepted these recommendations.

Progress of the follow-up work

3. The Government regularly briefs the EC and the WGESPP on the progress of our follow-up work, details of which are set out at the Annex. Among the 20 recommendations of the ESPP, eight are completed or on-going, while work for the other 12 has commenced. Details of the major follow-up work accomplished in the past few years are set out below.

Strengthening community care services (CCS)

4. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has since October 2019 provided an additional 2 000 places under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) to provide services for frail elderly persons. Having taken into account the suggestions of the sector and reviewed the funding mode of EHCCS, the SWD

changed the contract-based funding mode to a more stable and standardised lump sum grant for EHCCS in September 2020 to enable service operators to provide continuous home care services to frail elderly persons within the district. This tallies with the funding mode of Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) (IHCS(FC)). To enhance service efficiency, all cluster teams have been converted to district teams to focus on serving a smaller catchment area.

5. With regard to IHCS(FC), the SWD increased a total of 3 000 service places in two phases in October 2020 and April 2021. Having reviewed the catchment areas of IHCS(FC) and discussed with various operators and relevant stakeholders, the SWD re-demarcated the catchment area of each IHCS Team to enhance service effectiveness. The new demarcation came into effect in October 2020.

6. In December 2017, the SWD launched the Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment to provide home care and support services to low-income elderly persons who are assessed to have mild impairment and waitlisted for IHCS (Ordinary Cases). The SWD commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong (CoA) to develop a simplified and standardised assessment tool for identifying elderly persons with mild impairment and to assess the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme. The Pilot Scheme has been extended to the end of December 2022. Making reference to the experience and effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme, the SWD will map out the way forward of the concerned services.

Strengthening the monitoring of Residential Care Services (RCS) and enhancing service quality

7. To enhance the regulation of residential care homes (RCHs), the SWD set up the Working Group on the Review of Ordinances and Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes in June 2017. The Working Group completed the review in May 2019 and put forward recommendations covering the classification of RCHs, statutory minimum staffing requirements, statutory minimum area of floor space per resident, requirements on operators, registration systems for home managers and health workers, and relevant penalties. The SWD amended the Code of Practice for the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) in accordance with these recommendations and the revisions took effect on 1 January 2020. Other recommendations of the Working Group involve legislative amendments. We are now drafting the amendment bill, and will introduce the bill to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for scrutiny upon completion.

8. At the same time, in order to continuously strengthen the monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and enhance their service quality, the SWD has put in place the following measures:

- (a) extending the Service Quality Group (SQG) Scheme for RCHEs to all districts and all types of RCHEs. Through courtesy visits, the SQGs observe and provide suggestions on facilities and services of the RCHEs. They also collect views from elderly residents, their relatives and staff members. Suggestions and views from SQGs are passed to the Licensing and Regulation Branch of the SWD for follow-up;
- (b) launching the Accreditation Subsidy Scheme for Private RCHEs to provide full subsidies for joining approved accreditation schemes under the Accredited Certification Body of Certification of Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Service Providers' Management System recognised by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service, which encourages private RCHEs to continuously enhance service quality;
- (c) increasing the subsidy for subvented homes for strengthening the Visiting Medical Practitioner Service (VMPS), and commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide residents of all private and self-financing RCHEs with VMPS in response to seasonal influenza and other episodic illnesses, which promotes the health of residents;
- (d) launching the Training Subsidy Scheme for Staff of Residential Care Homes to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all RCHEs to enrol in Qualifications Framework-recognised training courses; and
- (e) launching the SWD Elderly Information Website (www.elderlyinfo.swd.gov.hk), a one-stop information platform on fees, facilities, service performance, etc. of all RCHEs in Hong Kong, in order to enhance transparency.

9. The SWD is purchasing an additional 5 000 EA1 places through the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) in five years starting from 2019-20, which encourages private RCHEs to improve staff ratio, floor space per resident and service quality. In addition, the SWD launched the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly in March 2017, which subsidises elderly persons in need of RCS under the “money-following-the-user” principle. RCHEs

participating in the pilot scheme must meet the requirements on staffing and minimum floor space per resident of an EA1 home.

Updating of the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES)

10. To improve the SCNAMES, the SWD commissioned the CoA to update the SCNAMES based on the latest internationally recognised clinical assessment tool. The SWD and the CoA gathered views from different stakeholders from 2019 to 2020 through exchanges with NGO operators, social worker organisations, accredited assessors, frontline social workers, elderly persons, carers and concern groups as well as organising sharing sessions. The SWD submitted a progress report on the update of the SCNAMES to Members in July 2020. The implementation of the updated SCNAMES commenced in July 2021. The new SCNAMES can better demarcate the various needs for CCS and RCS of elderly persons, ensuring priority is given to those most in need of the required services.

Promoting the use of information technology

11. In December 2018, the Government has allocated \$1 billion to set up the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care, subsidising eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to try out and procure/rent technology products with a view to improving the quality of life of service users, and reducing the burden and pressure on care staff and carers. As at the end of July 2021, four tranches of grants totalling about \$290 million have been approved for about 1 100 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 7 000 items of technology products. The SWD is currently vetting the fifth tranche of applications.

12. In addition, the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund has appointed an intermediary to design, develop and operate an inclusive one-stop Gerontechnology Platform with the aim of promoting the development and application of gerontechnology, enhancing the quality of life and self-reliance of the elderly as well as providing support for their families, carers and care institutions. The Platform will comprise four basic functionalities, namely (a) a knowledge hub; (b) network and capacity building; (c) consultancy, localisation and testing support for gerontechnology products; and (d) impact assessment. The project commenced in January 2021 and will last for three years. Besides, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has introduced a number of measures, including the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Outreach Programme for the

Elderly, the Enriched ICT Training Programme for the Elderly as well as the setting up of a dedicated portal for the elderly to help them embrace digital life.

Increasing the supply of elderly service facilities

13. In view of the growing demand for elderly services, we must plan new elderly service facilities in a timely manner. In December 2018, the Government instated population-based planning ratios in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in respect of subsidised CCS, subsidised RCS, District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres. We are striving to increase welfare service facilities through a multi-pronged approach, which include

- (a) reserving floor areas in government development projects (for example, public housing developments and Joint-user Government Office Buildings) for inclusion of different types of welfare facilities, as well as developing stand-alone welfare blocks;
- (b) incorporating land sale conditions in suitable land sale sites, which require private developers to construct specified welfare facilities; and
- (c) encouraging NGOs to make better use of their sites through expansion, redevelopment or new development to provide or increase much-needed welfare facilities through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses.

14. Regarding item (a) of paragraph 13, in response to the new initiative announced by the Chief Executive in the 2020 Policy Address, the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society will reserve about 5% of the total domestic gross floor area in suitable public housing development projects in the future exclusively for welfare uses on the premise that the public housing supply and other ancillary facilities will not be affected, so as to continuously provide suitable welfare premises to meet the medium to long-term needs of the community.

15. Government departments are currently taking forward 66 development projects which will provide about 8 800 RCHE places (including subsidised and non-subsidised places) and about 2 800 subsidised day care service places for the elderly in the coming few years. On 19 April 2021, the Government briefed Members on new welfare facility projects that we plan to seek funding from the Lotteries Fund in 2021-22.

Providing more options and strengthening the financial sustainability of subsidised elderly services

16. The Government enhances the financial sustainability of elderly services and provides more service options for elderly persons in need through the promotion of public-private partnership. The SWD implemented the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly and the Pilot Scheme on RCSV for the Elderly, under which CCS and RCS services that meet our quality requirements are bought from the market to cater for service needs. In addition, the SWD adopted the “money-following-the-user” principle, through which CCSV and RCSV holders can select services / service packages from recognised service providers according to their needs. For instance, holders of CCSV may choose to receive day care service only, home care service only, or a mixed mode of service delivery as far as the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for the Elderly is concerned. Making use of market forces through the “money-following-the user” approach, CCSV and RCSV holders may also choose and change their choices of recognised service providers, which in turn encourages service providers to enhance their service quality. In addition, the “users pay in accordance with affordability” principle has been introduced in both Pilot Schemes whereby a sliding scale is adopted to determine the co-payment level of elderly persons having regard to their financial circumstances. The less a voucher holder can afford, the more the Government will subsidise. As at July 2021, there were more than 5 200 and 2 100 users of CCSV and RCSV respectively.

Views Sought

17. We will continue to take forward the relevant initiatives and report the progress to the EC as appropriate. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
September 2021**

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
1	Public education should be strengthened to promote positive image of elderly persons, enhance their status and role in society, and foster positive inter-generational relations	<p>The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched more intergenerational programmes in schools, youth organisations and the business sector through the Opportunities for the Elderly Project and the Elder Academy.</p> <p>To enhance publicity on the positive image of the elderly, the SWD produced two TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest (APIs), one to promote the positive image of the elderly, and the other to encourage family members/the younger generation to show more care for them. The two APIs are broadcast on TV and radio from June 2018 to June 2022 and from March 2019 to March 2022 respectively. In addition, the SWD produced in April 2019 teaching materials on ageing for use by primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, which were distributed with the assistance of the Education Bureau.</p>		✓
2	Service coverage should be based on age-related needs of the users and take into account the purposes of and resource implications on	The SWD's long-term care (LTC) services mainly provide residential care services (RCS) or community care services (CCS) for elderly persons aged 65 or above with proven needs as assessed by the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES). Persons aged between 60 and 64 with proven needs as assessed by the SCNAMES may also apply for LTC services.	✓	

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
	different types of services	The Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and the SWD have reviewed the functions and roles of District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs). One of the recommendations was to process applications for membership from persons aged between 55 and 59 with flexibility while members aged 60 or above remain the primary service recipients.		
3	Efforts should be made to promote active ageing and healthy ageing and development of age-friendly environment	<p>More activities on promoting active ageing/healthy ageing have been organised by DECCs and NECs. Some DECCs and NECs have adopted a self-programming group model by providing the elderly with necessary support, funding and facilities to empower them to organise programmes.</p> <p>The Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) has been providing funding support to social enterprises and innovative projects which are at different stages of development. Some of the funded projects have been employing / encouraging employment of the elderly, e.g. an elderly KOL platform that encourages elderly persons to discover their interests and broaden their social circles, and other projects that recruit elderly persons to become silver-haired models, mentors, sales staff, home repair technicians, etc..</p> <p>Besides, the Labour Department (LD) has continued to provide dedicated employment services (such as priority registration, job</p>	✓	

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
		referral and employment talks) for elderly job seekers. Since September 2020, the LD has increased the maximum amount of on-the-job training (OJT) allowance payable to employers under the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged (EPEM), and provided on a pilot basis a retention allowance to EPEM participants aged 60 or above to encourage them to undergo and complete OJT. The LD will continue to organise publicity activities to promote an age-friendly work environment.		
4	CCS should be strengthened to ensure that elderly persons are able to stay in the community for as long as possible and unnecessary institutionalisation is avoided	<p>The SWD has since October 2019 provided an additional 2 000 places under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS) to provide services for frail elderly persons. With regard to the Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases) (IHCS(FC)), the SWD increased a total of 3 000 service places in two phases in October 2020 and April 2021.</p> <p>In December 2017, the SWD launched the Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment, and has extended it to the end of December 2022.</p>	✓	
5	Respite and emergency placement services should be enhanced	To enhance residential respite service, the SWD provides designated residential respite places in private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS). The Scheme was regularised in October 2019. A total of 280 designated residential respite places are provided in 140 private		✓

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
		<p>RCHEs participating in the EBPS. If there is an urgent need for residential respite service during non-office hours, the elderly persons and their families or carers may directly approach the private RCHEs providing the designated places to arrange for admission without the need of referral by social workers.</p> <p>In December 2019, the SWD launched the “Vacancy Enquiry System for Residential Respite Service for Persons with Disabilities, Residential Respite Service for the Elderly and Emergency Placement for the Elderly” (vesrrsep.swd.gov.hk) webpage. This webpage is intended to facilitate citizens and service referral units to search for service information and vacancies of emergency residential services, so that they can promptly apply to the corresponding service units.</p>		
6	Services to support family carers should be enhanced	The LWB has commenced a study on support for carers to explore how government resources deployed could be effectively consolidated, and examine the relevant measures taken by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the academia and charitable organisations, with a view to better supporting the carers of frail elderly persons and persons with disabilities. The study will be completed within 2021.	✓	
7	Measures to ensure the quality of RCS should be strengthened	To enhance the regulation of residential care homes (RCHs), the SWD set up the Working Group on the Review of Ordinances and Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes in June 2017. The	✓	

Recommendation	Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going	
		<p>Working Group completed the review in May 2019 and put forward recommendations covering the classification of RCHs, statutory minimum staffing requirements, statutory minimum area of floor space per resident, requirements on operators, registration systems for home managers and health workers, and relevant penalties. The SWD amended the Code of Practice for the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) in accordance with these recommendations and the revisions took effect on 1 January 2020. Other recommendations of the Working Group involve legislative amendments. We are now drafting the amendment bill, and will introduce the bill to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for scrutiny upon completion.</p> <p>At the same time, in order to continuously strengthen the monitoring of RCHEs and enhance their service quality, the SWD has put in place a series of measures, including extending the Service Quality Group Scheme for RCHEs to all districts in the territory, covering all types of RCHEs; launching the Accreditation Subsidy Scheme for Private RCHEs; increasing the subsidy for subvented homes for strengthening the Visiting Medical Practitioner Service (VMPS), and commissioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide residents of all private and self-financing RCHEs with VMPS; launching the Training Subsidy Scheme for Staff of Residential Care Homes; and launching the SWD Elderly Information Website (www.elderlyinfo.swd.gov.hk).</p>		

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
		The SWD would purchase an additional 5 000 EA1 places through the EBPS in five consecutive years starting 2019-20, encouraging private RCHEs to improve staff ratio, area of floor space per resident and service quality. In addition, the SWD has launched the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly since March 2017, which adopts the “money-following-the-user” principle in subsidising elderly persons in need of RCS. RCHEs participating in the pilot scheme must meet the specified requirements on minimum area of floor space per resident, staffing of an EA1 home and track record.		
8	Improvements should be made to SCNAMES assessment tool and the service matching mechanism	To improve the SCNAMES, the SWD commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong (CoA) to update the SCNAMES based on the latest internationally recognised clinical assessment tool. The SWD and the CoA gathered views from different stakeholders from 2019 to 2020 through exchanges with NGO operators, social worker organisations, accredited assessors, frontline social workers, elderly persons, carers and concern groups as well as organising sharing sessions. The SWD submitted a progress report on the update of the SCNAMES to Members in July 2020. The implementation of the updated SCNAMES commenced in July 2021. The new SCNAMES can better demarcate the various needs for CCS and RCS of elderly persons, ensuring priority is given to those most in need of the required services.		✓

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
9	Efforts should be made to explore developing a case management model	The model of case management has been employed by the SWD in the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly, the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher (RCSV) for the Elderly and the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families.		✓
10	Services for elderly persons with dementia should be strengthened. The issue of dementia should be considered as an integral part in the whole spectrum of elderly services and a multidisciplinary approach should be adopted	<p>The SWD and the Hospital Authority (HA) launched the Dementia Community Support Scheme in February 2017 to enhance the support services for elderly persons with dementia and their carers in the community through a medical-social collaboration model. The scheme has been regularised since February 2019 and extended to cover all 41 DECCs and seven HA clusters, providing over 2 000 places per year.</p> <p>To enhance dementia care and support at the community level, the SWD has since October 2018 allocated additional resources for all day care centres / units for the elderly, IHCS Teams and EHCCS Teams to employ additional staff, thereby enhancing the care for persons with dementia who are recipients of day care services, IHCS(FC) and EHCCS as well as strengthening the support for their carers.</p> <p>The SWD has since September and October 2018 launched the Dementia Friendly Community Campaign and the Support for Carers Project to raise public awareness and concern about dementia, and to</p>		✓

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
		provide support for elderly persons and carers in need. Both the campaign and the project have been extended until the end of March 2023.		
11	Quality end-of-life (EOL) care should be strengthened as an integral part of elderly services	<p>In 2015, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) commissioned the Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct a three-year research study on the quality of healthcare for the aged, of which the report on improving EOL care was submitted to FHB in September 2018. Following the “Public Consultation on End-of-life Care: Legislative Proposals on Advance Directives and Dying in Place” in September 2019, the FHB published the consultation report in July 2020. The FHB is seeking to introduce a bill on advance directives and related matters into the LegCo in the next term of Legislative Council.</p> <p>In addition, the SWD has covered items such as Continuum of Care (COC) and EOL care services under the subvention for new contract RCHEs from 2015-16 onwards. As for the existing 35 contract RCHEs (providing a total of 2 724 subsidised places), the SWD has allocated additional resources through contract renewal or re-tendering for them to provide COC and EOL care services to elderly persons in need.</p>	✓	
12	A more sustainable workforce should be built up to meet the	In order to recruit and retain frontline care staff more effectively, the SWD has allocated additional resources since June 2018 for subsidised elderly service units to increase the salary provision for	✓	

	Recommendation	Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
	increasing demand and higher expectations for elderly services	<p>recognised posts of personal care workers, home helpers and ward attendants.</p> <p>On training, the SWD has launched a five-year scheme by phases since March 2019 to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of all RCHEs to enrol in Qualifications Framework (QF)-recognised training courses. A total of 1 200 training places are also provided under the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services within five years starting from 2020-21 with enhancement measures introduced. In addition, the SWD, in collaboration with the EDB/Qualifications Framework Secretariat, has expanded the career path of workers in the elderly service sector and introduced the Recognition of Prior Learning mechanism under the QF to provide existing care workers with a new pathway to obtain QF-recognised qualifications based on their work experiences as well as knowledge and competencies acquired at the workplace.</p> <p>The Employees Retraining Board adjusted the training and working hour arrangements of the “First-Hire-Then-Train” Scheme in March 2021 in order to attract more job seekers to work as frontline care staff for RCHEs.</p>		
13	Planning ratios and Schedules of Accommodation (SoA)	In December 2018, the Government instated population-based planning ratios in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in respect of subsidised CCS, subsidised RCS, DECCs and NECs.	✓	

	Recommendation	Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
	for elderly services should be reviewed to respond to changing needs	<p>In September 2017, the SWD updated the SoA for RCHEs. Besides, the LWB and the SWD examined the SoA for DECCs and NECs when they reviewed the roles and functions of DECCs and NECs, and suggested increasing the net operating floor area (NOFA) for these centres. After the SoA is updated, the NOFA of newly constructed centres will follow the updated SoA, while that of existing centres will be handled on a case-by-case basis according to existing mechanism (e.g. whether there are suitable sites near the existing centres).</p> <p>To plan for future services more effectively, the SWD will timely collect information and data on services provided by the subvented and non-subvented sectors, e.g. the age profiles of elderly service recipients, their physical conditions, care needs and reasons for admission to RCHEs.</p>		
14	There should be forward planning in the identification of sites for the provision of premises for accommodating the increasing number of	In view of the growing demand for elderly services, we have to plan new elderly service facilities in a timely manner. We are striving to increase welfare service facilities through a multi-pronged approach, which include earmarking sites in a number of government development projects for the construction of different types of welfare facilities; incorporating land sale conditions into suitable land sale sites, which require private developers to construct specified welfare facilities; and encouraging NGOs to make better use of their		✓

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
	elderly service facilities	<p>sites through expansion, redevelopment or new development to provide or increase much-needed welfare facilities through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses.</p> <p>In response to the new initiative announced by the Chief Executive in the 2020 Policy Address, the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society will reserve about 5% of the total domestic gross floor area in suitable public housing development projects in the future exclusively for welfare uses on the premise that the public housing supply and other ancillary facilities will not be affected, so as to continuously provide suitable welfare premises to meet the medium to long-term needs of the community.</p> <p>Government departments are taking forward 66 development projects which will provide about 8 800 RCHE places (including subsidised and non-subsidised places) and about 2 800 subsidised day care service places for the elderly in the coming few years.</p>		
15	A more forward looking approach should be adopted in public expenditure on elderly services in responding to the changing socio-	The Government enhances the financial sustainability of elderly services, the Government has introduced the “users pay in accordance with affordability” principle in the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for the Elderly and the Pilot Scheme on RCSV for the Elderly whereby a sliding scale is adopted to determine the co-payment level of elderly persons having regard to their financial circumstances. The less a voucher holder can afford, the more the Government will subsidise.	✓	

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
	economic profile of the elderly population and in promoting a more equitable sharing of financing LTC in the current population and across generations	Service providers of the two Pilot Schemes operate on a self-financing basis. In addition to NGOs, the Government has also enlisted the private sector and social enterprises as service providers.		
16	More effective partnership should be forged among pivotal players in the interface between welfare, healthcare and housing	<p>Regarding the interface between healthcare and welfare services, the Government will continuously enhance medical-social collaboration in district services through various schemes, such as the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients, the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals After Treatment and the Dementia Community Support Scheme, which have served a total of about 36 000 elderly persons in need per year. The Elderly Commission (EC) will continue to serve as a facilitator to forge discussions among bureaux and departments on various elderly-related issues.</p> <p>Regarding primary healthcare, the SWD will establish a collaborative mechanism among DECCs/NECs and District Health Centres (DHCs)/Elderly Health Centres under FHB. The former will refer vulnerable elderly persons with potential health issues to the latter for health assessment, preventive care and follow-up services. The various elderly centres will continue to co-organise health talks with</p>	✓	

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
		<p>the visiting health teams of the Department of Health and progressively extend the co-operation to DHCs.</p> <p>Regarding the interface between housing and welfare services, the Planning Department has introduced a number of age-friendly measures in its strategic study of the “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030”. These measures include continuing to adopt universal design in public housing to cater for the needs of the elderly; promoting universal design in private housing units through building design guidelines; encouraging universal design in government facilities and public spaces; encouraging the public and private sectors to provide a variety of housing choices for the public to choose; and identifying areas for implementing age-friendly public space improvement plan.</p>		
17	The role of the private sector should be recognised and public private partnership should be encouraged	We encourage public-private partnership. The SWD implemented the Pilot Scheme on CCSV for the Elderly and the Pilot Scheme on RCSV for the Elderly, under which CCS and RCS services that meet our quality requirements are bought from the market to cater for service needs. As at July 2021, there were more than 5 200 and 2 100 users of CCSV and RCSV respectively.	✓	
18	Efforts should be made and resources be deployed to further	In December 2018, the Government has allocated \$1 billion to set up the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care, subsidising eligible elderly and rehabilitation	✓	

Recommendation	Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
<p>enhance the utilisation of information and ICT by both elderly service users and service providers in promoting quality of life and service quality, effectiveness and efficiency</p>	<p>service units to try out and procure/rent technology products with a view to improving the quality of life of service users and reducing the burden and pressure on care staffs and carers. As at the end of July 2021, four tranches of grants totalling about \$290 million have been approved for about 1 100 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 7 000 items of technology products. The SWD is currently vetting the fifth tranche of applications.</p> <p>The SIE Fund has appointed an intermediary to design, develop and operate an inclusive one-stop Gerontechnology Platform with the aim of promoting the development and application of gerontechnology, enhancing the quality of life and self-reliance of the elderly as well as providing support for their families, carers and care institutions. The project commenced in January 2021 and will last for three years.</p> <p>The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has introduced a number of measures, including implementing the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Outreach Programme for the Elderly, the Enriched ICT Training Programme for the Elderly as well as setting up a dedicated portal for the elderly to help them embrace digital life.</p> <p>In addition, the LWB and the SWD have reviewed the functions and roles of DECCs and NECs, under which one of the recommendations</p>		

Recommendation		Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
		include encouraging elderly centres to organise activities for promoting the wider use of digital technology and gerontechnology.		
19	The interface between mainstream elderly services and existing services for people from minority groups or people with special needs should be strengthened to enable provision of suitable support for service users from different backgrounds	The SWD will continue to strengthen the training for RCH staff to enhance the care services for elderly residents with special needs.		✓
20	The ESPP should encompass goals and objectives that should be kept track of on a regular basis, with adequate stakeholders' participation in the planning, implementation and	The Government will regularly follow up the progress of various tasks and report to the EC as appropriate.		✓

Recommendation	Work Progress	Commenced	Completed/ On-going
evaluation at the district level and territory-wide levels			

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
September 2021**