

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 September 2021)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. **Consultancy study for developing a central databank on children**

Item proposed by the Administration.

11 October 2021

The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest development of the consultancy study for developing a central databank on children commissioned by the Commission on Children.

2. **Registration of social workers**

Hon SHIU Ka-chun proposed in the 2019-2020 session that amending the Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505) should be discussed.

11 October 2021

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan suggested in the 2020-2021 session that the Panel should discuss registration of social workers.

Services for elderly

3. **Updating of the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services**

Hon SHIU Ka-chun, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG and Hon Andrew WAN suggested in the 2018-2019 session that the item should be discussed and deputations should be invited to give their views.

To be confirmed

(Note: A paper entitled "Updating of the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(2)1316/19-20(01)) was issued on 7 July 2020 for members' information.)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. **Old Age Living Allowance**

Hon Michael TIEN suggested via his letter dated 12 October 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)102/18-19(01)) that *enhancement* of the Old Age Living Allowance should be discussed.

To be confirmed

Women welfare

5. **Work relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**

Item proposed by Hon Elizabeth QUAT via her letter dated 12 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)316/20-21(01)).

To be confirmed

(Note: At the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs ("CA Panel") on 12 October 2017, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that a joint meeting should be held with the Panel to discuss the work of the Women's Commission ("WoC") and the Equal Opportunities Commission relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW") in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The CA Panel referred the suggestion to the Panel for follow-up on 26 October (LC Paper No. CB(2)232/17-18(01).)

(Note: The CA Panel is responsible for monitoring the implementation of various conventions on human rights (including CEDAW) in Hong Kong, whilst in assisting the Government in the implementation of CEDAW, WoC plays an important role in promoting the well-being and interests of women. As women welfare is under the purview of the Panel,

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for discussion**

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan suggested that the Panel might consider inviting members of the CA Panel to attend the meeting and join the discussion of this item.)

Support for underprivileged groups with special needs in the community

6. **Living subsidy programme for households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance**

Hon Michael TIEN suggested via his letter dated 12 October 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)102/18-19(01)) that *regularization* of the captioned programme, which was launched by the Community Care Fund ("CCF") in 2014, 2015 and 2016, should be discussed.

To be confirmed

The Panel on Home Affairs ("HA Panel") discussed CCF which covered the captioned programme at its meetings on 3 December 2019, 8 June and 9 November 2020. Members of the Panel were invited to join the discussion of CCF.

7. **Provision and accreditation of sign language interpretation services**

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun in the 2019-2020 session.

To be confirmed

(Note: The Labour and Welfare Bureau will provide an information paper on this item for members to consider whether further follow-up is required.)

8. **Progress of building age-friendly community and disabled-friendly community**

Item proposed by Hon Wilson OR at the special meeting on 3 November 2020. At the meeting on 8 March 2021, Hon Wilson OR urged the Administration to brief the Panel on the subject

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

as early as possible.

9. **Review of the Working Family Allowance Scheme**

Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2019-2020 session that the review of *the effectiveness* of the Working Family Allowance ("WFA") Scheme should be discussed.

To be confirmed

Hon Alice MAK suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that the review of *the working hour requirements* under the WFA Scheme should be discussed.

(Note: The Panel was briefed by the Administration on the latest implementation position of the WFA Scheme as well as the proposal of the time-limited reduction of WFA working hour requirements in response to the protracted coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic at its meeting on 8 February 2021.)

10. **Statutory staffing requirement of residential care homes for persons with disabilities**

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG suggested via her letter (LC Paper No. CB(2)843/20-21(01)) that the Panel should discuss the manpower shortage of residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") and the review of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) with a view to improving the manning ratio of RCHDs.

To be confirmed

(Note: The Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy was briefed on the proposed amendments to the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance at its meeting on 23 June 2020.)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

11. **Latest statistics relating to street sleepers and the support measures**

Hon Wilson OR proposed at the meeting on 8 March 2021 that the Panel should discuss the subject which should cover, among others, the recent increase in the number of young street sleepers.

To be confirmed

12. **Food assistance services for the needy**

Item proposed by Hon Vincent CHENG at the meeting on 8 March 2021.

To be confirmed

(Note: The Panel was briefed on the Administration's proposals of regularizing the Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects ("STFASPs") and the time-limited relaxation of the asset limits of STFASPs at the informal meeting for policy briefing on 30 December 2020 and the meeting on 8 February 2021.)

Social welfare planning and administration

13. **Progress of purchase of premises for welfare uses**

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be confirmed

The Administration originally proposed in January 2021 to discuss the item in end-2021. In the light of members' concern about the progress of the purchase of premises for welfare uses in the context of the discussion on long-term planning for provision of child care services at the meeting on 8 March 2021, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, Chairman of the Panel, requested the Administration in April 2021 to brief the Panel on the subject at an earlier time in the 2020-2021 session. At the Panel meeting on 12 July 2021, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare agreed that

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

the Administration would brief members on the subject at the Panel meeting in October 2021. The Administration has subsequently advised in August 2021 that it would brief/update the Panel on the subject in due course.

Others

14. Charitable fund-raising activities

The Panel discussed the existing framework for the monitoring of charitable fund-raising activities at its meeting on 11 June 2007, and held a special meeting on 24 August 2011 to receive public views on the Consultation Paper on Charities released by the Charities Subcommittee under the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong ("LRC").

To be confirmed

On 6 December 2013, LRC released the report and put forth a recommendation on monitoring charitable fund-raising activities. The Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") was assigned to coordinate inputs from relevant bureaux and departments and report the progress to LRC, which would in turn submit an annual report on the progress of implementation of its recommendations to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("AJLS Panel").

(Note: According to the annual report submitted by LRC to the AJLS Panel in June 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(4)715/19-20(01)), the Government had introduced a series of administrative measures by phases on 1 August 2018 and 1 April 2019, with a view to enhancing the transparency of charitable fund-raising activities, safeguarding the interests of donors and facilitating the conduct of fund-raising activities.)

The Panel was briefed by the Administration at

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

its meeting on 11 April 2016 on the regulation of on-street charitable fund-raising activities. At present, the Director of Social Welfare may, in accordance with Section 4(17)(i) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), issue permits for any collection of money or sale for donations of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purpose.

Hon YIU Si-wing suggested in the 2020-2021 session that the item should be discussed.

15. **Emergency welfare measures and community services for handling typhoons**

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun in the 2019-2020 session.

To be confirmed

Hon KWONG Chun-yu further suggested that the Panel should hold a joint meeting with the HA Panel to discuss the item and invite views from relevant deputations.

The Panel on Security discussed "Review of the Government's handling of super typhoon" at its meeting on 7 May 2019.

The Panel on Development discussed "Management of typhoon season flood risk" at its meeting on 26 May 2020.

(Note: HAB will provide an information paper on this item for members to consider whether further follow-up is required.)

16. **Work progress of the Family Council**

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan suggested in the 2020-2021 session that this item should be discussed, in particular the work on promoting family harmony and enhancing communication between parents and children.

To be confirmed

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