

LegCo Panel on Welfare Services
List of issues to be considered

1. Guardianship Board under the Mental Health Ordinance

At the Finance Committee meeting on 30 March 1998 when the proposed remuneration for the chairperson, honoraria for non-official members and allowances for witnesses of the Guardianship Board to be established under the Mental Health Ordinance were approved, the Administration undertook to review the relative values of honoraria and allowances paid to Board members and witnesses and to report its findings to Members. The Administration has indicated in item 9 below that the subject will be ready for discussion in March 1999.

2. Review of the rapid expansion of the Social Welfare Department and its role in provision of direct social services

The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 9 May 1997 during which members expressed concern on the division of work between SWD and NGOs in the provision of social welfare services and the allocation of resources to SWD and NGOs for providing new services. Mr LAW Chi-kwong proposed to further discuss this item at a future meeting.

3. Creation of over 200 posts in the social security field units and the Special Investigation Team

The subject was discussed at the policy briefing on 12 October 1998 during which members expressed concern about the creation of over 200 additional posts to strengthen the social security field units and the Special Investigation Team. The Administration has undertaken to brief members on the operation and manpower arrangement at a future meeting.

4. Review of School Social Work Service

The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 27 July 1998. At the meeting on 9 November 1998, the Chairman proposed that subject to the availability of the Final Report, the item be discussed at the meeting in January 1999. The Administration advised on 11 January 1999 that the subject was not yet ready for discussion.

5. Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (PCSSA) Scheme

Mr LAW Chi-kwong proposed to discuss the “Hong Kong Red Cross Report on the Operation of the PCSSA Scheme and Recommendation for the Review of the Scheme”. Agreed by the Panel for discussion on 11 January 1999, the item was deferred to a later meeting at the request of the Administration.

6. Funding problems of NGOs with reduced subsidy from the Community Chest

This item proposed by Hon LAW Chi-kwong was agreed for discussion at the meeting on 25 January 1999 but was deferred at the request of the Administration to the meeting in March.

7. CSSA inflationary adjustment

Members agreed to discuss the subject in June 1999.

8. Review of the Subvention System - contracting out of services

At the meeting on 11 January 1999, members expressed concern about the proposal to contract out selected services such as the new home-help service units. The Administration was requested to keep members informed of the programme of the pilot test and to consult members before full scale implementation.

9. Items proposed by the Administration

Please see Appendix.

Appendix

Items for Welfare Panel of the Legislative Council

1. Review of School Social Work Services to be advised
學校社會工作服務檢討
2. Report on Consultancy Study on Senior Citizen Card Scheme to be advised
長者咭計劃顧問研究報告
3. Outcome of the Consultation on Review of the Adoption Ordinance Mar 99
領養條例檢討諮詢結果
4. Guardianship Board - Allowances Mar 99
精神健康監護委員會 - 津貼
5. Report of Consultancy Study on the Social Networking for the Elderly Project Mar 99
長者社區網絡計劃顧問研究報告