

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 14 March 2006)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Review of the Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme

Members requested the Administration to report the progress of its review of the Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme in the regular meeting of the Panel in March 2006.

April 2006

2. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund

In line with the usual practice, the Administration would like to report the latest progress of this Fund.

2nd quarter of 2006

3. 2005 Rehabilitation Programme Plan Review

Item proposed by the Administration.

2nd quarter of 2006

4. Charitable fund-raising activities

The Administration's paper on enhancing the monitoring of charitable fund-raising activities was discussed at the Panel meeting on 19 July 2004. Members agreed that the proposal of regulating funding-raising activities by mail should be followed up by the new Panel in the next legislative session.

2nd quarter of 2006

The Reference Guide on Best Practices for Charitable Fund-raising Activities has been promulgated in November 2004. The Administration is conducting a review.

5. Subsidy arrangements for residential care services for frail elders

The Administration aims to report progress on the work relating to the feasibility of developing the proposed Fee Assistance Scheme for residential care services for frail elders, taking into account the suggestion of establishing a separate financial assistance scheme for elders and other views expressed by members on the matter on 12 May 2003.

2nd quarter of 2006

Proposed timing for discussion

6. Infirmity care in non-hospital setting

The Administration consulted the Panel in December 2004 on a proposal to launch a trial scheme to provide infirmity care places for medically stable elders in a non-hospital setting. In the light of feedback from the Panel and the sector during the consultation process, the Administration is considering the best way to bring forward the proposal.

2nd quarter of 2006

7. Retirement protection

Item proposed by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG.

3rd quarter of 2006

8. Social security assistance for needy elderly in Hong Kong

Discussions were held at the Panel meeting on 13 June 2005. The Administration was requested to brief the Panel about its thinking on how better to provide retirement protection to the current and future generation of older persons by the end of the year.

3rd quarter of 2006

9. Progress report on the pilot implementation of the Comprehensive Child Development Service

The Administration wishes to report progress of the implementation of this pilot scheme.

3rd quarter of 2006

10. Latest situation on the implementation of review of family services

Item proposed by Hon Albert CHAN at the Panel meeting on 12 October 2004.

3rd quarter of 2006

The Administration has advised that transformation of all existing Family Services Centres/counselling units into 61 Integrated Family Services Centres was completed in March 2005. A review on the implementation of the aforesaid transformation would take place after one year.

Proposed timing for discussion

11. Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged

The Administration would like to report the progress of this Fund. 3rd quarter of 2006

12. Report of the Subcommittee on Guardianship and Custody of the Law Reform Commission

At the meeting held on 11 March 2002, members agreed that the Administration should brief the Panel on the above report when it became available. 4th quarter of 2006

The Report on Custody and Access by the Subcommittee on Guardianship and Custody of the Law Reform Commission was released on 7 March 2005. The Administration is studying the recommendations carefully and will consider how to take forward the relevant recommendations together with the recommendations made in the other two earlier reports, namely, the Report on Guardianship of Children and Report on International Parental Child Abduction.

13. Evaluation of the re-engineered community support services for elders

Item proposed by Hon CHAN Yuen-han. 4th quarter of 2006

14. Workload of social workers

Item proposed by Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG at the Panel meeting on 12 October 2004. To be decided

The Administration is now studying the subject and will discuss the issue with members upon completion of the work.

Proposed timing for discussion

15. Establishing formal arrangements on adoption with the Mainland

At the request of the Bills Committee on Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2003, the Administration undertook to study the need to establish formal arrangements on adoption with the Mainland and consult the relevant Panel in due course.

To be decided

The Administration has raised this with the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA). The Central People's Government (CPG) has already put in place legislation and mechanism to handle adoption of Mainland children by Hong Kong people. As regards adoption of children in Hong Kong by Mainlanders, the CPG does not see an urgent need for it at the moment because there is little demand, according to the MCA. The CPG may however consider adoption by close relatives on a case-by-case basis. The Administration will continue to liaise with the CPG.

16. Social welfare planning mechanism, subvention system for the welfare sector and efficiency savings with regard to the welfare sector in the period from 2005-06 to 2008-09

At the Panel meeting on 8 March 2004, the Administration was requested to brief members in June 2004 on the progress made for implementing the 0-0-X funding proposal for the welfare sector and the development of a blueprint for the social welfare policies, and to respond to the Hong Kong Council of Social Service's requests for reviewing the Lump Sum Grant subventions system, in particular the aspect relating to funding of personal emoluments.

To be decided

It is announced in the 2006 Budget Speech that the Administration will exempt non-government welfare organizations from the additional efficiency savings measures that are originally planned to help restore fiscal balance for 2006-07.

Proposed timing for discussion

17. Incorporating the posts of programme assistant, youth ambassador, peer counsellor and other similar temporary frontline posts into the staff establishment of the subvented organisations providing welfare services

The Panel was requested by Duty Roster Members to follow up the matter with the Administration. To be decided

The Administration's position on the issue had been sent to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1022/04-05(01) on 8 March 2005 (Chinese version only).

The Manpower Panel was briefed on the Administration's proposal to retain the existing 11 600 temporary jobs in the public sector, including 3 836 jobs in the Social Welfare Department, at its meeting on 19 January 2006.

18. Rehab buses for disabled persons

Referred for follow-up by the Panel at a special meeting of the Finance Committee held on 13 April 2005. To be decided

19. Provision of after death services to the needy elders, including raising the amount of burial grant under the CSSA Scheme

Referred for follow-up by Duty Roster Members following their meeting with a deputation on 27 September 2005. To be decided

20. Early release of CSSA to adult discharged offenders

Referred for follow-up by Duty Roster Members following their meeting with a deputation on 6 October 2005. To be decided

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

21. Setting up of a refuge centre for abused men

Referred for follow-up by Duty Roster Members following their meeting with a deputation on 13 June 2005. To be decided

22. Developing strategy and measures to promote a self/mutual help culture in the community

Item proposed by Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG. To be decided

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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