

LEGCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Private Homes for People with Disabilities

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the measures the Administration intends to take with regard to private homes for people with disabilities (PWD).

Background

2. On 20 January 2006, the Sub-committee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment Opportunities for Children with Special Education Needs of the Legislative Council raised concerns about the quality of services in the private homes for PWD and requested the Administration to consider regulating these private homes.

3. As in March 2006, there are 27 private homes for PWD, known to the Social Welfare Department (SWD). The total capacity and enrolment of these private homes is about 1,650 and 1,190 respectively. Among these private homes, while five are located in Kowloon, majority of the rest are scattered in the New Territories occupying village houses. The updated list of these private homes is at Annex I.

4. These private homes admit a mixture of disabilities, which include mentally handicapped, mentally ill, physically handicapped and stroke patients. The majority of the residents are adults and there are also a few teenagers who are attending special schools.

5. There are various reasons for staying in private homes. Some are waiting for placement in subvented homes. Others stay there because their family members prefer private homes' convenient location and less restriction such as not being required to take the residents for home leave.

Administration's Guidance and Support

6. In 2002, SWD issued a Code of Practice for Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (Code of Practice), which serves as a guide to operators on the minimum standard of service as well as a basis for SWD to provide advice and guidance to the private homes.

7. District staff of SWD have been paying regular liaison visits to the private homes at a six-month interval to give advice on drug administration, use of physical constraints on residents, meals, hygiene and infectious control, etc. Apart from the regular visits, SWD has given other support to these private homes. This includes financial support from the Lotteries Fund for installation of cohorting facilities for combating infectious diseases, provision of influenza vaccination for the residents and staff, and provision of staff training places.

Proposed Monitoring Measures

8. The condition of the private homes has been an issue of concern to the Administration. The Administration in principle agrees to introduce in the long run a licensing scheme for these homes in order to further safeguard the welfare of those residents living in these private homes. However, any sort of licensing regime should also apply to the 232 subvented homes and self-financing homes run by NGOs. Furthermore, we need to consider the appropriate licensing requirements, taking into account the special situation of these homes, as well as the experience gathered from the licensing of elderly homes. A detailed survey of the situation of all the 259 homes needs to be conducted for the above purpose. Finally, a bill on the licensing regime has to be introduced into LegCo and we need to map out the detailed implementation plan covering manpower requirement, renovation works or reprovisioning. We envisage that it will take at least about 2 years before a bill can be introduced into LegCo.

9. In the interim, measures are proposed to strengthen the monitoring of the quality of services in these private homes. First of all, SWD will through internal redeployment of manpower establish a designated team in April 2006 to map out the above measures as well as the long term licensing regime. Secondly, the frequency of regular liaison visits will be increased from two to four times per year. In addition, ad hoc and unscheduled visits will be conducted as and when necessary e.g. in response to complaints. On-site training will be provided to staff of the

private homes through the current Home-based Training and Support Service.

10. A voluntary registration scheme (VRS) for the private homes will also be implemented to encourage the operators to enhance the quality of their services. SWD would discuss with individual homes on improvements to be made and funding support may be considered, on a case by case basis, for individual private homes to carry out improvement works. For those private homes which have made such improvements, their names would be listed in SWD's home page to help the public to better identify suitable private homes for their disabled family members and hopefully as an incentive to the homes to make improvement. However, for those private homes already on the VRS list but later found to provide unsatisfactory services, they will be removed from the list.

11. The preparation work for the VRS for private homes will start immediately and it is estimated that the scheme can be implemented by end of 2006.

Advice Sought

12. Members are invited to note the above measures for monitoring the private homes for PWD.

Social Welfare Department
March 2006

List of existing private hostels for people with disabilities (as at 16 March 2006)**現行私營殘疾人士院舍的名單 (截至 2006 年 3 月 17 日)**

機構 Private hostels	地區 District
1. Excel Health Care Training Centre & Hostel 澤群訓練中心暨宿舍	Kowloon 九龍
2. HK Society for Rehabilitation Centre 懷智康復福利中心	Kowloon 九龍
3. Graceful Home (Holding) Ltd 沐恩之家	Kowloon 九龍
4. Graceful Home (Holding) Ltd 沐恩之家 2 院	Kowloon 九龍
5. The Never-land for Mental Health Services of Hong Kong 藝緒心理健康服務會	Kowloon 九龍
6. Bridge of Rehabilitation Co. 康橋之家	New Territories 新界
7. Kai Shing Physically Handicapped Nursing Home 啟成傷殘護理院	New Territories 新界
8. Fuka Home for the Disabled 富嘉扶智院	New Territories 新界
9. Empower Rehabilitation Centre Ltd. 自強發展中心 (扶障院舍)	New Territories 新界
10. Everbright Rehabilitation Centre 樂天復康中心	New Territories 新界
11. Comfort Rehabilitation Home 溫馨康復中心	New Territories 新界
12. Beautiful Life Hostel 康樂園[古洞]宿舍	New Territories 新界
13. Tung Fong Rehabilitation Home 東方復康中心	New Territories 新界
14. Pui Chak Association for the Mentally Handicapped Co. Ltd. – Pui Chak Hostel 培澤弱智協會 - 培澤居	New Territories 新界
15. Ming Sum Home for the SEN 明芯扶智之家	New Territories 新界
16. Ka Lok Association - Home for Rehabilitation Limited 家樂協會 - 復康宿舍	New Territories 新界
17. Mei Wun Care Centre for the Mentally Retarded & Disabled 基督教美奐弱智之家	New Territories 新界
18. Hoi Yuet Mentally Retarded Home 愷悅弱智人士之家	New Territories 新界
19. Happy Home for the Mentally Handicapped 樂恆扶智之家	New Territories 新界
20. Pui Chak Association for the Mentally Handicapped Co. Ltd. – Ma Tin Hostel (I) 培澤弱智協會 - 馬田一舍	New Territories 新界
21. Pui Chak Association for the Mentally Handicapped Co. Ltd. – Pui Chak Garden 培澤弱智協會 - 培澤花園	New Territories 新界
22. Pui Chak Association for the Mentally Handicapped Co. Ltd. – Pui Chak Lodge 培澤弱智協會 - 培澤軒	New Territories 新界
23. Ming Sum Home for the SEN 明芯扶智之家 (復康宿舍)	New Territories 新界
24. Joyful Dynamics Centre Ltd. 彩雲軒持續發展中心	New Territories 新界
25. Downing Hostel 塘寧宿舍	New Territories 新界
26. Graceful Home Rehabilitation Hostel 欣樂軒康復院舍	New Territories 新界
27. The Blessings Well-Being Services Ltd 恩典之地健康服務有限公司	New Territories 新界