

Panel on Welfare Services**List of follow-up actions**
(position as at 8 June 2006)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. The provision of disregarded earnings (DE) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme	13 April 2004	The Administration was requested to expeditiously review the measure of allowing no DE for all categories of recipients in the initial determination of eligibility and in cases which had been on CSSA for less than three months.	The Administration is taking forward the review and the results are expected to be available later this year.
2. Provision of infirmary care for elders in a non-hospital setting	13 December 2004	The Administration undertook to provide more details of the tender exercise before the next meeting, including the criteria used in selecting operators to run the trial scheme, justification(s) for inviting private home operators to participate in the exercise, and the reason(s) for setting the unit subsidy for each subsidised infirmary bed in a non-hospital setting as around \$11,000.	The Administration is considering the best way to provide infirmary care to elders in a non-hospital setting on a trial basis, in the light of feedback from Panel members and the sector during the consultation process.
3. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) - Progress Report as at 20 December 2004	10 January 2005	The Administration undertook to convey members' concerns about the limitations posed by the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) on the formation of co-operatives to the relevant parties within the Administration for consideration.	The Administration informed members at the Panel meeting on 8 May 2006 that the issue has been referred to the Commission on Poverty which is considering how best to help social enterprises, including cooperatives. This item can therefore be deleted.

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<p>4. Conversion of self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care and attention places providing continuum of care</p>	<p>14 March 2005</p>	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to provide further information on how the conversion exercise would impact on the existing staff of the 75 homes operating S/C and H/A places; (b) to provide its plan on providing long term care for the elderly in the medium and long terms, including financing for residential care services for the elderly; and (c) to re-consider including the staff unions concerned in its Task Group set up last year to work out the conversion arrangements. 	<p>The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched Stage I of the conversion programme in June 2005. By now, 18 homes have commenced conversion through the in-situ mode. SWD is making preparations for launching Stage II of the conversion programme by July 2006. Upon completion of the vetting, SWD will be in a better position to assess the implications of the conversion proposals on the staff in those homes.</p> <p>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 in the 1st quarter of 2007.</p> <p>The Administration met the staff unions in April 2005 and February 2006,</p>

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			and will continue to maintain dialogue with them as appropriate.
5. Implementation of the Integrated Family Service Centre Model and closure of time-limited Single Parent Centres	9 May 2005	The Administration was requested to revert to members on considerations whether to re-open the Single Parent Centres after the completion of its review on the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in one year's time.	The Administration will review the effectiveness of the operation of IFSCs in 2007.

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6. Policy on assisting women in poverty	9 May 2005	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <p>(a) to convey to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in providing a progress report on the study being undertaken by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) on how to implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in Hong Kong to the relevant Panel(s); and</p> <p>(b) to come up with a comprehensive policy on assisting women in poverty, taking into account deputations' views/suggestions.</p>	<p>The Administration has conveyed the Panel's request to the HAB for providing progress report on the study being undertaken by the EOC on equal pay for work of equal value. The EOC updated the LegCo Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty of the progress on the study in March 2006 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1706/05-06(03). The Administration is taking stock on researches or studies related to the issue of women and poverty to facilitate further consideration. Taking into account deputations' views/suggestions, the Administration will submit a paper on the policy on assisting women in poverty to the Panel in due course.</p>

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7. Consultancy study for the review of the Design Manual : Barrier Free Access 1997	9 January 2006	The Administration undertook to provide a paper setting out its responses to the views expressed by members and deputations at the meeting, as well as the views received during the six-month public consultation period, for the joint meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services and the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works prior to the expiration of the consultation period.	The item will be discussed at the June 2006 meeting.
8. Government support to patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	9 March 2006	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to provide a paper setting out the information on the number of SARS patients who had registered for the family medicine service and were currently in receipt of financial assistance under the Trust Fund for SARS (the Trust Fund); (b) to relay the views of members on the operation of the Trust Fund to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food; and (c) to follow up with the SARS injury-on-duty (IOD) employees of the Hospital Authority (HA) on their concerns about the HA's compassionate arrangement on SARS IOD sick leave and to provide a paper setting out the way forward for these cases. 	The Administration has relayed the views of members on the operation of the Trust Fund to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food. A motion debate on this was also held on 17 May 2006. A paper is also under preparation for items (a) and (c).

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9. Private homes for people with disabilities	21 March 2006	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a time table on the licensing scheme for private homes for people with disabilities and the relevant actions to be taken in the coming two years before the draft bill is introduced to the Legislative Council.</p> <p>The Administration was also requested to provide information on the advices given to the private homes for people with disabilities during the regular liaison visits by SWD staff.</p>	<p>The Administration is now preparing the time table and the information on advices given to the private homes in the past three years.</p>

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<p>10. Progress report on the standardized assessment mechanism for residential services for people with disabilities</p>	<p>21 March 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to include representative from the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in the Review Working Group on Standardized Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for People with Disabilities and to increase the number of representatives from parents' groups in the Review Working Group.</p> <p>The Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food was requested to come up with ways to solve the existing lack of premises for providing residential services for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>The Administration will include representative from the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and invite more representatives from parents' groups in the future Review Working Group meetings.</p> <p>The Bureau will consider appropriate measures to identify and acquire suitable premises/sites for providing residential services to people with disabilities and will report to LegCo in due course.</p>
<p>11. Support after the tide-over grant (TOG) period to non-governmental organisations currently receiving TOG - special one-off grant</p>	<p>30 March 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide the legal opinions from the Department of Justice on the effect of Enhanced Productivity Programme and Efficiency Savings on the Benchmark Salary of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on LSG.</p> <p>The Administration was also requested to provide the following -</p> <p>(a) a paper setting out the remuneration package of different levels of senior staff and junior/frontline staff in NGOs before and after their organisations joined the LSG subventions system;</p>	<p>The Administration is still considering and collating the materials where appropriate. The Administration is not in a position to discuss those items in July 2006.</p>

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		<p>(b) a detailed breakdown of the reasons for the drop in the number of Snapshot Staff from 2000 up to 1 April 2005, as well as the comparison with the drop in the number of staff in SWD during the same period;</p> <p>(c) a paper setting out the Administration's plan and timetable on further improving the LSG subventions system, including ways to better enable stakeholders to reflect their views on the LSG implementation;</p> <p>(d) a paper on how the Administration ensured that NGOs on LSG would honour their contractual obligation to staff;</p> <p>(e) a paper on the impact of the LSG implementation on the NGOs concerned, such as their staffing structure, reasons for their staff attrition and the number of staff suffering injuries at work; and</p> <p>(f) a Chinese version of the Administration's paper provided for the meeting (LC Paper No. CB(2)1631/05-06(01)).</p>	
<p>12. Review of the Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme</p>	<p>10 April 2006</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide in writing its response to the views and suggestions raised by members and deputations on the disability allowance at the meeting, as well as to prepare a Chinese version of the Checklist for Medical Assessment.</p>	<p>The Administration's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2202/05-06(01) on 1 June 2006.</p>

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13. Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) - Progress Report as of April 2006	8 May 2006	The Administration was requested - (a) to provide information on the projects funded by CIIF, such as the names and the main features of the projects, and the amount of funding granted to each project, to facilitate members' understanding of the progress of the Fund; and (b) to invite LegCo Members to attend the Annual Sharing Forum of CIIF.	The requisite information for (a) will soon be circulated to Members. LegCo Members were invited to the Annual Sharing Forum in 2005 and will also be invited for the coming Forum in November 2006.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 June 2006