

Panel on Welfare Services

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 8 December 2005)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Standardized needs assessment tool for admission to residential homes for people with disabilities	5 January 2004	The Administration was requested to provide the following information - (a) What was the estimated cost for providing residential homes for people with disabilities (PWD) after the implementation of the Assessment Tool, and how would that compare with the existing cost for providing the same; (b) Whether, and if so, how the occupancy situation of the various types of residential homes for PWD and the manpower requirement concerned would be changed after the implementation of the Assessment Tool; (c) What would be the waiting time for PWD to admit to residential homes vis-a-vis that under the existing arrangements; and (d) How long would an assessment for admission to residential homes for PWD take.	(a) & (b) The Assessment Tool was implemented on 1 January 2005. We will review its effectiveness one year after implementation and report back to the Panel in 1st quarter 2006. (c) The Administration's response already issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1181/03-04(02) on 7 February 2004. (d) Ditto.

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2. 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 results of the review are expected to be available by end 2005/early 2006.
3. Briefing by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food	8 November 2004	The Administration undertook to seek the advice of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) on the setting up of a second safety net for people who were in financial difficulties but could not pass the means test for CSSA, and revert to members of the views of SWAC on the suggestion.	The subsidised welfare, housing, healthcare and education services already form a safety net and provide assistance for low income groups. The Administration have no plan to consult SWAC on this. Separately the Commission on Poverty will consider measures to alleviate poverty.
4. 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 before the next meeting.	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.

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5. 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 has conveyed members' concerns to relevant parties for consideration. SHWF has met with various groups with an interest to operate along the co-operative model. They are looking into the issue and would revert to the Panel in due course.
6. Support and assistance for tetraplegic patients living in the community	18 February 2005	The Administration was requested to seriously consider adopting a social insurance scheme for people with disabilities.	This will be put to consideration by the Working Group on the Rehabilitation Programme Plan 2005. The Administration will report in due course on the Working Group's deliberation.

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7. Conversion of self-care (S/C) hostel and home for the aged (H/A) places into care and attention places providing continuum of care	14 March 2005	The Administration was requested - (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.	Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched Stage I of the conversion programme in June 2005. By now, the majority of the homes have submitted their conversion applications to SWD. SWD is vetting the conversion proposals submitted by the homes. 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. The Administration will let Members know SWD's assessments when available. 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 2nd quarter of 2006. It will share with Members its thinking on the future

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			development direction of long term care services for the elderly in due course. The Administration met the staff unions in April 2005, and will continue to maintain dialogue with them as appropriate.
8. 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 one year after the completion of the re-engineering of IFSCs.
9. Policy on assisting women in poverty	9 May 2005	The Administration was requested - (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 (b) to come up with a comprehensive policy on assisting women in poverty, taking into account deputations' views/suggestions.	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. Taking into account deputations' views/suggestions, the Administration would submit a paper on the policy on assisting women in poverty to the Panel in due course.

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10. Social security assistance for needy elderly in Hong Kong	13 June 2005	The Administration undertook to do the following - (a) to convey to the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) on abolishing the existing arrangements whereby employers were allowed to offset the long service payments or severance payments by the accrued benefits derived from the contribution which they had made to the employees in the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme; (b) to convey members and deputations' views on the need to establish an Old Age Pension Scheme to the Central Policy Unit (CPU) for consideration, and (c) to convey to the relevant authorities to have regard to the affordability of the elderly when formulating long-term health care financing and to the recent situation of the elderly having to queue outside public outpatient clinics overnight in order to collect discs earmarked for the elderly.	The Administration has conveyed the Panel's views to FSTB, CPU and Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.
11. Support after the tide-over grant (TOG) period to non-governmental organisations currently receiving TOG - special one-off grant and other support measures	8 November 2005	The Administration was requested to provide a response in writing on the following - (a) reasons for adjusting the Benchmark under the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) downwards by some 9.3% since 2000-2001 as a result of the Enhanced Productivity Programme (EPP) and the Efficiency Savings (ES), when it had affirmed at the meeting of the LSG Steering Committee held on 21 October 2003 that other across-the-board adjustments such as the EPP and the ES would have no effect on the Benchmark. (According to the LSG Manual (2nd Edition) (October 2000), Benchmark for the LSG is determined on the	The Administration will provide the information in due course.

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		basis of the mid-point salaries as at 31 March 2000 of its recognised establishment (i.e. all approved posts including fractional posts) as at 1 April 2000); and (b) why it considered it legally in order that the Funding and Service Agreements, entered with non-governmental agencies (NGOs) on LSG yearly, could override the basis of subvention reached with these agencies when they joined the LSG. The Administration was also requested to provide documents it had issued to convince the NGOs to join the proposed LSG subventions system, and the relevant minutes of meetings.	
12. Annual adjustment of the standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme	14 November 2005	The Administration was requested to provide the forecast and the actual outturn of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP) for the past 20 years.	The Administration has already provided the forecast and the actual outturn of the SSAIP for the past few years vide LC Paper No. CB (2)397/05-06(06) on 22 November 2005.