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Panel on Welfare Services

**Proposed continuation of work of the Subcommittee on Residential
and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and
the Elderly in the 2010-2011 session**

Purpose

This paper invites members to endorse the proposal of the Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly ("the Subcommittee") to continue its work in the 2010-2011 session.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Welfare Services ("the Panel") on 11 January 2010 to study policies and measures relating to the provision of residential care places and community care services for persons with disabilities ("PWDs") and the elderly, and make recommendations where necessary. The Subcommittee has focused its work on the following areas –

- (a) the implementation progress of the provision of residential care places and community care services for PWDs and the elderly;
- (b) following up the recommendations of the Subcommittee in respect of the provision of residential care places and community care services for PWDs and the elderly; and
- (c) receiving views from the concern groups and non-governmental organisations with a view to improving the existing residential care places and community care services for PWDs and the elderly.

3. The approval of the House Committee was obtained on 5 February 2010 for the Subcommittee to commence work.

Progress of work of the Subcommittee

4. Under the chairmanship of Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, the Subcommittee has since March 2010 held nine meetings with the Administration and received views of deputations at six of these meetings. The Subcommittee has studied the following major issues –

- (a) long-term strategy for increasing the provision of subsidised residential care places for PWDs and the elderly, including –
 - (i) new initiatives to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places; and
 - (ii) additional subsidised residential care homes for PWDs ("RCHDs") and residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") under planning;
- (b) the assessment tools for admission to and the regulation of RCHEs;
- (c) new initiatives in community care and support services for persons with intellectual disability/physical disability and persons with mental health problems;
- (d) new initiatives to support elders ageing in the community; and
- (e) support services for demented elders.

Residential care services

5. The inadequacy of subsidised RCHD and RCHE places and the waitlisting situation have been high on the agenda of the Panel. The Subcommittee has examined the new initiatives to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places for PWDs and the elderly in the next few years. Members generally are of the view that it is Government's responsibility to provide adequate residential care places for those elders and PWDs who have long-term care needs. In this regard, the

Subcommittee has repeatedly urged the Administration to draw up a specific timetable and long-term plan to increase the number of and shorten the waiting time for subsidised residential care places. Specifically, the Administration should make a pledge for the allocation of subsidised residential care places.

6. The Administration has stressed that it fully recognises the huge demand for subsidised residential care services. While it will continue to bid for additional resources to increase the supply of such places, it is difficult to set targets for admission to subsidised residential care places as the provision of such places is affected by various factors such as the availability of suitable sites/premises. Nevertheless, those who are staying at home while waiting for subsidised residential care places are also receiving subsidised home-based community care services or day care services.

7. To alleviate the waitlisting situation for subsidised residential care places, members have called on the Administration to take the initiatives in identifying potential suitable sites at the development stage, and earmark sites/premises in all new public housing estate development projects for the construction of new contract residential care homes. The Administration is also requested to consider adopting the concept of "money following users" or the co-payment method such that residents of RCHEs or RCHDs can make their own choices of quality homes.

Community care services

8. According to the Administration, elders with long-term care needs do not necessarily age in RCHEs. It is in parallel providing a range of subsidised community care and support services to facilitate elders to age in the community. Further development of community care services would encourage elders to age in place and thus avoid premature and unnecessary institutionalisation.

9. Members note that a number of new initiatives are coming on stream to enhance support for the frail elders and persons with severe disabilities to live in the community. Notably, a three-year pilot scheme will be launched to provide a new package of intensive and tailor-made home care services for frail elders residing in the region (covering Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung, Kwun Tong, Yau Tsim Mong, Kowloon City and Sham Shui Po districts) who are on the waiting list for subsidised nursing home places, so as to better serve their special needs and help relieve the pressure of their carers. The pilot scheme will commence service in

early 2011. Similarly, a three-year pilot scheme on home care services for persons with severe disabilities will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2010-2011 to try out a new package of home-based support services in Tuen Mun and Kwun Tong districts with the largest number of persons with severe disabilities waiting for subvented residential care services at Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons, Hostel for Severely Physically Handicapped Persons and Care and Attention Home for Severely Disabled Persons. The Subcommittee has yet to deliberate on the preparatory actions for the implementation of these pilot schemes.

10. As regards the support services for persons with mental problems, members note that the Administration will expand the service mode of Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness ("ICCMW"), which provides one-stop and integrated community health support services to discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problem, their families and carers and residents living in the district, to all the 18 districts in 2010-2011. The Subcommittee has scheduled a meeting to examine the progress in securing permanent accommodation for providing ICCMW services across the territory.

Need for continuation of work in the 2010-2011 session

11. It is envisaged that the Subcommittee may need to hold further meetings to pursue the above issues with the Administration. The Subcommittee agreed at its meeting on 24 January 2011 that it should continue its work in the 2010-2011 session according to its existing terms of reference.

12. Members may wish to note that in accordance with House Rule 26(c), a subcommittee should complete its work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the relevant Panel. If it is necessary for a subcommittee to work beyond that 12 months, the subcommittee should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel, report to the House Committee and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period.

Advice sought

13. Subject to the endorsement of the Panel on the continuation of the work of the Subcommittee in the 2010-2011 session, a report will be made to the House Committee on 25 February 2011 on the justifications

for continuing the work of the Subcommittee beyond the 12-month period.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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