

For information
on 23 April 2013

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES
PANEL ON HEALTH SERVICES**

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

**Day Care and Community Support Services
for Persons with Disabilities**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the various types of subsidised day care and community support services for persons with disabilities being provided by the Administration.

Policy Objectives

2. The policy objective of the Government in respect of the provision of day care and community support services for persons with disabilities is to make available training and support to them in response to their needs, assisting them in developing their potential, enabling them to continue to live independently at home and preparing them for full integration into the community. These services also aim at strengthening the carers' caring capacity and relieving their stress so as to provide a better quality of life for persons with disabilities and themselves.

Day Care and Support Services

3. To support full integration of persons with disabilities into the community, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has put in place a range of day care and community support services to provide

personalised care and targeted training services for persons with disabilities living in the community. Support for persons with disabilities and their carers is also enhanced by developing mutual assistance network and multi-disciplinary support.

Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities

4. The Government has, since March 2011, launched a three-year Pilot Scheme on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (the Pilot Scheme) to provide a package of home-based personal care, rehabilitation training and nursing care services for persons with severe disabilities who are living in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun districts and on the waiting list for subvented residential care service. It is expected that 540 cases can be served upon the full operation of the Pilot Scheme. As at end-February 2013, a total of 459 persons with severe disabilities had been served by referrals.

5. As the Pilot Scheme has achieved its intended objective and received positive response, SWD has earmarked additional recurrent funding of \$203 million to regularise the service upon the expiry of the pilot project in March 2014, and extend it to persons with severe disabilities in all the districts in Hong Kong, irrespective of whether they are on the waiting list for residential care services or not, with a view to continuously providing integrated home care service to persons with severe disabilities and relieving the pressure of their families/carers. We estimate that about 3 250 persons with severe disabilities will benefit from this service initiative each year.

District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities

6. SWD set up 16 District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (DSC) in January 2009 through re-engineering of existing community support services. By adopting a district-based approach, DSC provides one-stop community support services for persons with disabilities and their families/carers. It aims at enhancing the domestic living and community living skills of persons with disabilities so as to facilitate their integration into the community. It also provides training and support services to the families/carers of persons with disabilities so

as to strengthen their caring capacity and to relieve their stress. In 2011-12, DSC organised a total of 476 public education programmes, conducted 10 290 group sessions, and delivered 15 175 physiotherapy / occupational therapy sessions and 2 496 clinical psychological treatment sessions for persons with disabilities and/or their carers. As at end-2012, a total of 5 231 members were registered at the 16 DSCs.

Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness

7. SWD has revamped the community mental health support services and set up 24 Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMWs) operated by non-governmental organisations in 18 districts since October 2010 to provide one-stop and district-based support services ranging from prevention to crisis management for discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families and carers and residents living in the community. These services include casework counselling, therapeutic and supportive groups, outreaching services, day training, drop-in services, social and recreational activities, public education programmes etc. to enhance community understanding of mental health. Referrals to the Hospital Authority (HA) will be made where necessary for clinical assessment or psychiatric treatment; and community support services will be provided for patients with severe mental illness residing in the community to dovetail with the implementation of the Case Management Programme (CMP) by HA.

8. In 2011-12 and 2012-13, additional funding totalling \$48 million had been made available on top of the existing resources of \$135 million to strengthen the manpower of the ICCMWs to dovetail with the CMP of HA and to provide services for more persons in need. In 2013-14, SWD has earmarked additional funding of \$12.5 million to further strengthen the manpower of ICCMWs. During the period from the commencement of ICCMW service in October 2010 to end-2012, ICCMWs served about 27 000 ex-mentally ill persons and persons with suspected mental health problems, with nearly 27 100 referrals handled and over 142 300 outreaching visits made. Moreover, ICCMWs also organised over 5 700 group and public education activities, and around 295 000 persons participated in these events.

Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (DC/SD)

9. Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (DC/SD) provides a range of centre-based day care services for persons with severe intellectual/physical disabilities who are aged between 15 and 59, including nursing and personal care, social and rehabilitation services, etc. so as to enable more persons with severe disabilities to continue living in the community. As at end-2012, there were 122 places provided by DC/SD.

Residential Respite Service

10. Residential respite service, attached to subvented residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs), provides short-term residential care for persons with disabilities aged 15 or above so that their families or carers may, with advance planning, take a short break such as taking a sightseeing trip away from Hong Kong or attend to some personal affairs such as undergoing a medical operation. This also helps to temporarily relieve the families or carers from their caring duties and alleviate their stress. Starting from April 2008, SWD has extended the service in some of the RCHDs to cover children with disabilities who are aged from 6 to 14.

Transitional Care and Support Service

11. Transitional Care and Support Service is a goal-oriented and community-based rehabilitation programme for patients with severe disabilities (including tetraplegic patients) who have been discharged from hospital. Through the provision of a range of comprehensive psychosocial, health care and support services, the programme is designed to help them achieve an optimum level of recovery and develop a healthy and meaningful life pattern, thereby facilitating their re-integration into community living.

12. SWD set up the pilot Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients (TCSC) in 2008 to provide transitional residential service, ambulatory day training programme, residential respite service, social programmes and peer support groups for tetraplegic patients.

Given the effectiveness of the TCSC service, it has been regularised in March 2013 to provide continued service for the needy users, and help relieve the stress of carers. The TCSC, located in Ma On Shan, Shatin, is now providing a total of 22 transitional residential care/respice care places and 20 ambulatory day training places. It is estimated that about 130 persons with severe disabilities may be served each year.

Community Rehabilitation and Training Services

13. Apart from the above services, SWD has also provided various community rehabilitation and training services to cater for the specific needs of different categories of persons with disabilities with a view to strengthening their domestic and community living skills.

Community Rehabilitation Day Centre

14. Community Rehabilitation Day Centre (CRDC) provides short-term, goal-oriented and time-defined community-based rehabilitation services for discharged patients who are suffering from neurological or physical impairments with a view to enhancing their independent living in the community and facilitating their social integration. Services provided include individual or group rehabilitation training programmes, outreaching therapy services for individual patients discharged from hospitals who are homebound, professional support on home modification, mutual support group, as well as day care respice and day care service for persons with severe disabilities. At present, there are four CRDCs over the territory providing rehabilitation training for discharged patients in need.

Specialised Home-based Training and Support Service

15. Specialised Home-based Training and Support Service (SHBTS) provides territory-wide specialised support services for persons with severe physical disabilities. In addition to helping service users in short-term and intensive therapy or maintenance exercises, SHBTS also assists persons with disabilities in overcoming the adaptation problem in daily living at home so as to enhance their quality of life.

Day Activity Centre

16. Day Activity Centre (DAC) provides training in daily living skills and simple work skills for persons aged 15 and above with severe intellectual disabilities who are unable to benefit from vocational training or sheltered workshop service. They are trained to become more independent in their daily life, thereby facilitating their integration into the community. As at end-2012, there were 4 637 DAC places in the territory.

Rehabilitation and Training Centre for Visually Impaired Person

17. Rehabilitation and Training Centre for Visually Impaired Person provides a comprehensive rehabilitation training programme for visually impaired persons to develop their skills in independent living and help them regain self-confidence. The programme covers orientation and mobility training, communication and social skills, home management, work practice and community life education.

Community Support Projects for Persons with Disabilities

18. Community support projects aim at enhancing the quality of life of persons with disabilities living in the community and their families. The current batch of community support projects include home-based rehabilitation training service, training and caring service for people with special needs, specialised programme for persons with autism/challenging behaviour, support service for working persons with disabilities and their families, home care service, personal development programme, junior gateway club, support scheme for newly blind persons, etc.

Other Community Support Services

Community Rehabilitation Network

19. Community Rehabilitation Network provides psychosocial and development training as well as recreational activities to patients with visceral disability/chronic illness and assist them in establishing

community support network, with a view to enhancing the quality of life of them and their families.

Parents/Relatives Resource Centre

20. Parents/Relatives Resource Centre provides emotional support and practical advice to parents and relatives of persons with disabilities / ex-mentally ill persons to enhance their acceptance of their disabled dependents, and help them to obtain suitable training to strengthen their abilities in taking proper care of their disabled family members at home.

Social and Recreational Centre for the Disabled and Gateway Club

21. Social and Recreational Centre for the Disabled organises a variety of activities to fulfill the social, recreational and developmental needs of persons with disabilities, thereby facilitating their integration into the community. Gateway Club provides leisure and recreational activities for persons with intellectual disabilities, with a view to encouraging them to exercise their personal choice, become more independent and participate fully in various activities.

Communication and Information Service for Visually Impaired Persons

22. Communication and Information Service for Visually Impaired Persons provides library services, including reading aids, talking or Braille books/magazines/compact discs etc. to meet the educational and recreational needs of persons with visual impairment.

Multi-service Centre for the Hearing Impaired Persons

23. The Multi-service Centre for the Hearing Impaired Persons provides various services, including casework and counselling service, sign language interpretation service, ear-mould production and repair service and audiological and speech therapy service, for persons with hearing impairment.

Advice Sought

24. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Social Welfare Department
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