

For discussion
on 11 April 2016

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

**Setting up of New Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons and
Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre in
Hung Fuk Estate, Hung Shui Kiu, New Territories**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the Government's proposal to set up a new 50-place Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons (HMMH) and a 160-place Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centre (IVRSC) in Hung Fuk Estate, Hung Shui Kiu, New Territories with the financial provision to be met from the Lotteries Fund (LF)¹.

Residential Care and Vocational Training Services

2. The overall objective of the Government's rehabilitation policy is to support the full integration of persons with disabilities into society. We provide various rehabilitation services with a view to assisting persons with disabilities to develop their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent and promoting their integration into the community.

3. We have been taking comprehensive measures to meet the residential care needs of persons with disabilities who are unable to live independently or cannot adequately be taken care of by their families so as to improve their quality of life and help them develop independent living skills. To this end, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been

¹ LF is established for the purpose of financing social welfare services. It is primarily used to finance the capital expenditure of welfare projects and provide one-off grants to experimental projects with limited duration. Under section 6(4) of the Government Lotteries Ordinance (Cap. 334), the Financial Secretary has the authority to approve payments from LF to finance the development of social welfare services. Subject to certain conditions, the authority to approve grants from LF has been delegated to the Director of Social Welfare (DSW), acting on the advice of the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee.

continuously increasing the provision of subsidised HMMH which provides home living for persons with moderate intellectual disabilities who are capable of basic self-care but lack adequate daily living skills to live independently in the community. As at end-February 2016, there are a total of 2 405 subsidised HMMH places for persons with disabilities.

4. At the same time, SWD has also been striving to make available training and support for persons with disabilities with a view to assisting them to develop their potential, enabling them to continue to live independently at home, preparing them for full integration into the community, as well as enhancing their working capacity and opportunities of participating in open employment. To this end, SWD provides, among others, IVRSC service for persons with disabilities with one-stop, integrated and seamless vocational rehabilitation services in a training environment specially designed to accommodate the limitations arising from their disabilities, in which they will be provided with work training to develop social skills and relationship, achieve upward mobility in vocational rehabilitation, and get prepared for potential advancement to open employment. As at end-February 2016, there are a total of 4 412 subsidised IVRSC places in the territory for persons with disabilities in need.

5. SWD will continue to actively identify suitable premises for setting up rehabilitation facilities to meet the existing and future demands. Sites have been reserved for providing about 415 additional HMMH and 1 190 IVRSC places. In addition, additional places will be provided through the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Scheme), under which NGOs are encouraged to make use of their land through expansion, redevelopment or new development to provide diversified subvented and self-financing welfare facilities. According to the preliminary estimate by the NGOs participating in the Special Scheme, 612 additional HMMH and 1 227 IVRSC places could be provided if these 60-plus projects are implemented.

Provision of Residential Care and Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the new HMMH and IVRSC

6. Having regard to service demand, SWD has, in collaboration with the Housing Department, secured a set of premises with a total internal floor area of 1 912 square metres on the second floor of the Ancillary Facilities Block² within Hung Fuk Estate, Hung Shui Kiu, New Territories to provide a new 50-place HMMH and a 160-place IVRSC. The location map of the Ancillary Facilities Block is at **Annex**.

7. SWD will invite NGOs to submit project proposals and select a suitable operator on the merits of service quality pledged in individual project proposals. The NGO selected will be required to carry out fitting-out works and put in place furniture and equipment (F&E) in the premises for operation. The new HMMH and IVRSC are to commence operation in the third quarter of 2017.

Funding Arrangement

8. While the construction of the bare-shell premises in respect of the subject HMMH and IVRSC, which has already been completed, is funded by the block allocation Head 708 Subhead 8001SX³ under the Capital Works Reserve Fund, the setting-up costs of the facilities (including fitting-out works and F&E items) will be supported by the LF. In March 2016, the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee endorsed the capital funding of \$22.989 million for the setting-up costs, including \$20.657 million for fitting-out works and \$2.332 million for purchase of F&E in respect of the new HMMH and IVRSC.

² The Ancillary Facilities Block is a three-storey building providing both welfare and non-welfare facilities. There is no other welfare facility in the Ancillary Facilities Block other than the HMMH and IVRSC. The other welfare facilities to be provided within the same Estate include an Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre and a Neighborhood Elderly Centre which are located on the ground floor of the domestic buildings of the Estate.

³ Subhead 8001SX—Provisioning of welfare facilities under Head 708 is used for the provisioning of welfare facilities in Housing Authority's Public Housing Estate Development, subject to a ceiling of \$30 million for each project. DSW has been delegated the power to authorise expenditure of this block allocation.

9. The estimated full-year recurrent subvention for the operation of the new HMMH and IVRSC, including personal emoluments, other charges, reimbursement of rates and government rent and after netting off income from service users' fees where applicable, is about \$14.56 million. The necessary recurrent provision will be included in the draft Estimates of the relevant years.

Public Consultation

10. The Town Planning and Development Committee of the Yuen Long District Council was consulted in January 2010 on the proposed public rental housing development of Hung Fuk Estate (including the proposed HMMH and IVRSC). Members of the Committee did not have any adverse comments on the proposed welfare facilities.

Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to comment on the SWD's proposal to set up the new HMMH and IVRSC.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
April 2016

Location Map of the Ancillary Facilities Block in Hung Fuk Estate

