

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)1852/15-16

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

### **Report of the Panel on Welfare Services for submission to the Legislative Council**

#### **Purpose**

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the Panel") during the 2015-2016 session of the Legislative Council ("LegCo"). It will be tabled at the Council meeting of 13 July 2016 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure.

#### **The Panel**

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution of the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to welfare (including women welfare) and rehabilitation services, poverty, social enterprise and the Family Council. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

3. The Panel comprises 20 members, with Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che and Hon CHAN Yuen-han elected as its Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

#### **Major work**

##### Social welfare planning and administration

*Progress of implementation of special scheme on privately owned sites for welfare uses*

4. The Panel was briefed on the progress of implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("Special Scheme"). Members noted that under the Special Scheme, the Administration was processing 63 preliminary proposals submitted by 43 welfare organizations. As at end-May 2016, six projects had entered the construction stage and five of

them were expected to be completed in or before 2017-2018, and the other one in 2018-2019. These six projects altogether would provide about 240 additional elderly service places and 1 030 additional rehabilitation service places. The remaining 57 proposals were at different planning stages and were expected to be completed in phases after 2018-2019, subject to their technical feasibility.

5. A majority of the members of the Panel suggested that services to be provided under the Special Scheme should be dominated by publicly funded services and supplemented by self-financing services. They called on the Administration to adopt a ratio of 8:2 as the benchmark, so as to ensure that public resources were put to use for needy groups in an equitable manner, rather than placing more emphasis on those who could afford the charges. They also called on the Administration to speed up the implementation of the projects. The Administration was also requested to plan ahead to ensure sufficient manpower supply for the additional services to be provided under the Special Scheme. Expressing concern that service users might be affected by the in-situ expansion or redevelopment projects under the Special Scheme, members urged the Administration to take steps to ensure that there would be no disruption of services to these users.

*Salary adjustment arrangement for staff in non-governmental organizations receiving Lump Sum Grant Subvention and progress of implementation of Best Practice Manual*

6. The Panel was briefed on the 2015-2016 salary adjustment arrangement for staff in the non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") receiving Lump Sum Grant ("LSG") subvention and the progress of the implementation of the Best Practice Manual ("BPM") for these organizations. The Panel also received deputations' views on the subject matters. According to some deputations, about half of the NGOs receiving LSG had not provided their staff with any backpay or full amount of backpay after receiving additional subvention arising from the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. Some members expressed grave concern that many NGOs with a huge amount of LSG reserve had exercised their administrative power to withhold backpay for their staff and used the additional subvention on bonus payment, which was an administrative malpractice and should be forbidden. They considered that the unused subventions should be spent on service provision. These members urged the Administration to put in place a pay increase and promotion mechanism for NGO staff, and step up the monitoring of NGOs to protect the interests of these staff. The Administration was also requested to impose a requirement in BPM for NGOs to provide backpay at least for their retired staff.

7. Noting that items relating to various management issues under BPM were divided into Level One (i.e. items which NGOs were expected to follow) and

Level Two (i.e. items which NGOs were encouraged to adopt), some members were concerned that some Level Two items, e.g. governance-related items which were fundamental and important, might not be implemented by the NGOs concerned. As a result, service users' interests had been neglected. These members suggested that the items under Level One and Level Two should be merged into one set of Level One items and NGOs should be required to implement them.

### Social Security

#### *Annual adjustment of social security payment rates under Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Social Security Allowance Scheme*

8. The Panel supported the Administration's proposal to adjust the standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme and the Social Security Allowance ("SSA") Scheme with effect from 1 February 2016, having regard to the latest Social Security Assistance Index of Prices. Some members, however, opined that the proposed adjustment would only bring about a small increment as the base of social security payment rates was low. Expressing grave concern that the existing level of CSSA payments was inadequate to meet the basic needs, these members called on the Administration to adjust social security payment rates, review the annual adjustment mechanism, and provide more types of financial assistance to the needy.

#### *Additional provision for social security recipients*

9. The Panel supported the Administration's proposal to provide an extra payment for social security recipients, equal to one month of the standard rate CSSA payments or allowance payments under the SSA Scheme (including Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance and Disability Allowance ("DA")). Noting that the proposal was put forth in the 2016-2017 Budget as one of the one-off relief measures, members were concerned that the relief measures put forth in the Budget for the middle-lower stratum of the community had been reduced while those for the upper-middle stratum had been enhanced. They also expressed concern that under the CSSA Scheme, an individual received about \$70 daily as living expenses and the rent allowance was inadequate. Given that the Government's fiscal surplus was of a similar amount to that of the previous year, the Panel requested the Administration to provide, in the 2016-2017 Budget, social security recipients with an extra allowance, which was equal to two months of the standard rate CSSA payments or of allowance payments under the SSA Scheme.

*Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low income families*

10. The Panel was briefed on the progress of implementing the two-year Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low Income Families, which was launched on 30 June 2014. Members were advised that carers of elderly persons would be eligible for receiving a living allowance under the Pilot Scheme if, inter alia, they met the income limit which was set at 75% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income ("MMDHI") and the elderly person(s) being taken care of by them had been on the Central Waiting List for subsidized long-term care services ("CWL").

11. Considering that the Pilot Scheme would facilitate the Administration to achieve the policy objective of "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as backup", some members urged the Administration to regularize the Scheme and lower its eligibility thresholds, such as relaxing the income limit for carers whose monthly household income was between 75% and 100% of MMDHI, or removing the income assessment requirement in the long run. They also called on the Administration to increase the quota of the Pilot Scheme in view of the great demand for carers in the community. Noting that some elderly persons with long-term care needs preferred to be taken care of at home and thus were not on CWL, these members called on the Administration to include in the Pilot Scheme carers of these elderly persons and elderly persons who were not on CWL but required occasional hospitalization treatment. The Administration was also requested to put in place a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating whether carers' performance met the requirements under the Pilot Scheme. According to the Administration, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of The University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation study of the Pilot Scheme, which was expected to be completed by October 2016. SWD would examine the findings and recommendations of the evaluation in deliberating the longer-term future direction of the Pilot Scheme.

*Review of Disability Allowance*

12. The Panel was briefed on the observations, findings and recommendations of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance ("the Working Group") set up by the Labour and Welfare Bureau. The Panel also received deputations' views on DA. Members were informed that the Administration would implement nine recommendations put forward by the Working Group, including the removal of the reference to "100% loss of earning capacity" from the medical assessment form for DA ("MAF") and the removal of the assessment criterion of "working in the original occupation and performing any other kind of work for which he/she is suited" ("the work-related criterion") from the Checklist for Medical Assessment for

Eligibility for Normal Disability Allowance for Disabilities other than Profound Deafness ("the Checklist").

13. Some members shared deputations' concern about removing the work-related criterion, which was one of the four activities stated in the Checklist for assessing whether a DA applicant was severely disabled within the meaning of the DA Scheme. These members took the view that under the existing arrangement, an applicant would be eligible for DA if he/she satisfied one, but not all, of the aforesaid activities. The proposal to remove the work-related criterion would impose a higher threshold for DA and would, in logic, result in less people eligible for DA. For example, people with loss of one limb who only satisfied the work-related criterion but could perform any of the prescribed daily living activities would no longer be eligible for DA if the work-related criterion was removed. These members strongly urged the Administration to take into account stakeholders' views and retain the work-related criterion. Stressing that it did not intend to tighten the eligibility criteria for DA and there was no urgency to implement the revised MAF, the Administration undertook to further examine the proposed amendments to MAF and the Checklist. Meanwhile, the Administration would strive for an early implementation of other recommendations made by the Working Group with an aim to enhance the support for persons with disabilities. The Panel suggested that the review of DA should be revisited in the term of the Sixth LegCo.

#### *Retirement protection*

14. The Panel discussed with the Administration issues in respect of the relationship between current social security and retirement protection and the financial arrangements for universal retirement protection. It also received views from deputations on these issues. As the Panel has formed a subcommittee to study retirement protection, the major views and concerns expressed by members and deputations would be covered in the report of that subcommittee.

#### Services for the elderly

##### *Pilot scheme on community care service voucher for the elderly*

15. The Panel was briefed on the implementation details of the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly ("the CCSV Pilot Scheme"), which was planned to be launched by the third or fourth quarter of 2016. The Panel also received deputations' views on the CCSV Pilot Scheme. Members were informed of the Administration's proposal to introduce a number of enhancements in the second phase of the Scheme to facilitate more personalized choices for elderly persons to meet their diverse needs.

16. Whilst commending that enhancements had been made to the voucher value, district coverage and service types in the second phase of the CCSV Pilot Scheme, a majority of members of the Panel had reservations about including private organizations in the pool of the recognized service providers under the CCSV Pilot Scheme. These members took the view that private organizations aimed at making profit and their business needs would override public interests. Coupled with the long-standing quality problems of private residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") and occurrence of elderly abuse cases therein, they objected to the extension of the second phase of the CCSV Pilot Scheme to private organizations in the absence of a monitoring system for these organizations.

*Pilot scheme on residential care service voucher for the elderly*

17. The Panel was briefed on the findings of the feasibility study on the introduction of a voucher scheme on residential care services for the elderly ("RCS") conducted by the Elderly Commission ("EC"), and the implementation details of the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly ("the RCSV Pilot Scheme"). The Panel was advised that the first phase of the RCSV Pilot Scheme would be launched around the fourth quarter of 2016 or first quarter of 2017. The Panel also received deputation's views on the RCSV Pilot Scheme.

18. Some members considered the RCSV Pilot Scheme worth a try as it would serve as an additional choice of RCS for eligible elderly persons on CWL. The majority of members, however, shared the concern of the majority of deputations about the unsatisfactory quality of some private RCHEs, which had given rise to frequent occurrence of incidents of suspected elderly neglect and elderly abuse. Besides, these members considered the existing requirements on staffing establishment and spacing of residential care homes ("RCHs") unsatisfactory. As there was neither improvement in the monitoring system for RCHEs nor enhancement of staff and standard of service premises under the law, the Panel passed a motion at its meeting on 25 June 2016 objecting to the implementation of the RCSV Pilot Scheme.<sup>1</sup> To address the quality problem of private RCHEs, these members strongly urged the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review of the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) and the Code of Practice for RCHEs. The Administration was also requested to allocate more public resources to enhance community care services for the elderly with a view to addressing the gross shortage in this regard and facilitating elderly persons to age in place.

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<sup>1</sup> When the motion was put to vote at the Panel meeting on 25 June 2016, seven members (including the Chairman) were present. The motion was passed with five votes in favour of it and two against it.

*Inspection and monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities*

19. The Panel was briefed on the Administration's staffing proposal to create a supernumerary post of Assistant Director of Social Welfare to head a new Licensing and Regulation Branch of SWD for strengthening the inspection and monitoring of RCHEs and residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs").<sup>2</sup> Members noted that the post would be created on a time-limited basis up to 31 March 2021. While supporting the staffing proposal, some members were of the view that the service quality problem of some private RCHs could not be resolved merely by stepping up inspections. The Administration should address the crux of the problem, i.e. manpower shortage and insufficient resources faced by many private RCHs. To strengthen monitoring of RCHs and facilitate service quality enhancement, these members considered it necessary to make public the names of RCHEs and RCHDs with poor track records and require RCHEs and RCHDs to sign a quality service charter. The Administration was also requested to appoint representatives from concern groups as members of Service Quality Group on RCHEs and RCHDs, which paid regular visits to different types of homes to make observations and suggestions about their facilities and services. Members also called on the Administration to explain the direction of the reviews of the Code of Practice for RCHEs and the Code of Practice for RCHDs and provide a timetable for such reviews.

*New contract residential care homes for the elderly*

20. The Panel supported the Administration's funding proposal to set up a new contract RCHE at a social welfare facilities block of a public rental housing ("PRH") development in Sham Shui Po. Some members, however, expressed concern about whether improvement had been made to the ratio of subvented to non-subvented places ("the ratio") in RCHEs. They called on the Administration to use the ratio of 8:2 for the proposed RCHE. In the light of the high poverty rate, these members considered that subvented places should be the core of RCS. The Administration was requested to project the demand for subvented and non-subvented RCS places in the next few years and plan ahead for the provision of subvented RCS.

*Elderly Services Programme Plan*

21. The Panel was briefed on the progress of the preparation of the Elderly

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<sup>2</sup> According to the Administration, the Social Welfare Department plans to re-organize the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly and the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities in 2016-2017 whereby the two offices will be merged under a newly set up Licensing and Regulation Branch to step up inspections and regulation of residential care homes.

Services Programme Plan ("ESPP") by EC's Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan. As the Panel has formed a subcommittee to study issues relating to the future development of elderly services schemes, which was tasked with, inter alia, following up the work of ESPP, the major views and concerns expressed by members on the subject matter would be covered in the report of that subcommittee.

### Services for people with disabilities

#### *Pilot scheme on peer supporters for ex-mentally ill patients*

22. The Panel discussed the Administration's proposal of the two-year Pilot Scheme on Peer Supporters for Ex-mentally Ill Patients. Members noted that it would be implemented in the first quarter of 2016 for trained ex-mentally ill persons to serve as peer supporters to provide support and encouragement for other persons in rehabilitation through sharing their recovery experience.

23. Having regard to the large number of mentally-ill patients and the increasing number of teenagers who had mental health problems because of drug abuse, some members considered that more resources should be allocated to strengthen support for mentally-ill patients. These members called on the Administration to speed up the implementation and regularization of the Pilot Scheme, and expand its scale to cover residents of half-way houses and young drug abusers who were suffering from mental health diseases. To address the difficulties in retaining peer supporters under the Scheme, these members urged the Administration to formulate a plan for the deployment and co-ordination of resources in respect of training, remuneration and career development for peer supporters. The Administration was also requested to establish professional qualifications under the Qualifications Framework to enable the professionalization of and facilitate career development of peer supporters, thereby helping minimize the stigmatization of ex-mentally ill patients and meeting the great demand for support services by these patients.

#### *Pilot scheme on on-site pre-school rehabilitation services*

24. The Panel was briefed on the implementation of the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services. Members noted that under the Scheme, 16 NGOs operating subvented pre-school rehabilitation services were invited to provide on-site services to benefit 2 925 children with special needs who were studying in kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres.

25. Whilst commending that the Pilot Scheme had responded to the demand for pre-school rehabilitation services to a great extent, some members expressed concern about the inadequate supply of allied health professionals (e.g. occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech therapists) for the provision



of the on-site pre-school rehabilitation services and the continuity of such services. Noting that 5 821 children were waiting for pre-school rehabilitation services but the Pilot Scheme could only provide 2 925 service places, these members urged the Administration to draw up plans to enable all children with special needs to receive the required services in time. The Administration was also requested to extend the Pilot Scheme or adopt other measures to address the demand for pre-school rehabilitation services between the lapse of the Pilot Scheme and the availability of the additional service places, which were expected to come on stream in the next few years. According to the Administration, it had already earmarked \$470 million as recurrent spending for regularizing the Pilot Scheme after the two-year pilot period with an aim to gradually increase the provision of pre-school rehabilitation places to 7 000.

#### *Ageing of persons with disabilities*

26. Members were briefed on the recommendations made in the report on ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities prepared by the Working Group on Ageing of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities under the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee. The Panel was also briefed on the service enhancement measures to be implemented by the Administration which sought to strengthen the support for ageing users of rehabilitation services.

27. Some members took the view that the existing service delivery mode had not taken into account service needs of persons with intellectual disabilities in different age groups. Given that aged persons with intellectual disabilities required higher level of care, these members called on the Administration to review the service delivery mode in a holistic manner and provide services according to users' needs. They also urged the Administration to project the trend of ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities, adjust existing policies and draw up long-term service provision plan for aged persons with intellectual disabilities. The Administration was also requested to extend the Dementia Supplement, which only be provided for RCHEs with residents who were suffering from dementia and were aged 60 or above, to persons with intellectual disabilities who were using subvented CCS and aged below 60.

28. Some members urged the Administration to speed up the implementation of the pilot scheme on living allowance for eligible carers of persons with disabilities of the Community Care Fund and increase the allowance for the carers under the pilot scheme. They suggested that if carers under the pilot scheme were subject to income assessments, different tiers of income limit should be set and carers with lower income should receive a higher allowance.

#### *Provision of facilities for persons with disabilities*

29. The Panel supported the Administration's proposals to set up a hostel for

moderately mentally handicapped persons ("HMMH") and an integrated vocational rehabilitation services centre in an ancillary facilities block located at a PRH site in Hung Shui Kiu, and a new day activity centre cum hostel for severely mentally handicapped persons ("HSMH") at Pokfulam Shine Skills Centre. To shorten the long waiting time for HMMH and HSMH places, some members called on the Administration to make use of some domestic units in new PRH development projects and ground level of PRH domestic blocks for increasing the provision of RCS for persons with disabilities. Noting that some mentally handicapped persons were abused by staff of hostels, these members requested the Administration to strengthen the monitoring of service quality of hostels for mentally handicapped persons and improve its handling of complaints about these hostels.

### Family and child welfare

#### *Work progress of Family Council*

30. The Panel discussed with the Family Council its work progress. Members considered that the Family Council should impress upon the Administration to address issues in relation to the making of legislation on standard working hours and collection of maintenance payments by divorced mothers. Some members called on the Family Council to meet with concern groups which advocated the establishment of a Children Commission and to recommend such establishment to the Administration for consideration. Pointing out that needy elderly persons could apply for CSSA on their own only if their children had signed a statement (commonly known as the "bad son statement") stating that they would not provide financial support for their parents even though they lived together, some members were of the view that such a requirement adversely affected the relationship among family members. They called on the Family Council to put more efforts in addressing this problem. These members also called on the Family Council to consider conducting a survey to collect statistics about families with members suffering from chronic illness, mental/physical disabilities or dementia to foster a better understanding of the problems faced by these families. The Family Council was also requested to enhance transparency of its work.

#### *The proposed legislation to implement the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access*

31. The Panel was briefed on the proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access ("the Report") and relevant support measures. The Panel also received deputations' views on the proposed legislation. Members were informed that the main thrust of the Report related to the introduction into Hong Kong's family law of a "parental responsibility model" ("the Model").

Underlying the Model was the principle that the best interests of children should guide all proceedings concerning children.

32. The Panel agreed that the concept of the Model should adopt the best interests of children as the basis, and supported the implementation of the Model by legislative means. However, the Panel objected to making relevant legislation at this stage as the Model had caused great threats and worries to divorced parents from high-risk families with history of domestic violence. Such threats and worries arose from a lack of specific services for parents after divorce, the absence of an alimony council to assist them in recovering alimony payments and insufficient complementary support services. The Administration was requested to further strengthen the support measures before making the proposed legislation.

#### *Child Fatality Review Report*

33. The Panel was briefed on the findings and recommendations made by the Child Fatality Review Panel ("CFRP") as contained in its first and second reports released in May 2013 and July 2015 respectively. Some members expressed concern that the findings of the CFRP reports were outdated as the review of child death cases could only be conducted after the completion of all criminal proceedings and death inquiry procedures. Given that bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") were not mandated to follow up CFRP's recommendations, these members considered the existing child fatality review mechanism ineffective. They took the view that instead of being formed under SWD, CFRP should become a statutory body and be conferred with more powers to mobilize relevant B/Ds to improve the measures and services under their purview. The Administration was also requested to establish a mechanism for measuring the improvements made to service system by relevant B/Ds and service organizations, and publish a report on an annual basis to facilitate Panel members to follow up responses to and implementation of CFRP's recommendations.

34. Some members expressed grave concern about child serious injuries cases. They urged the Administration to include these cases in the child fatality review mechanism. They also requested CFRP to study whether it was feasible for it to examine child serious injuries cases. Noting that child serious injuries review mechanism had already been established in many overseas jurisdictions for years, these members called on the Administration to make reference to overseas experience and establish a mechanism for reviewing child serious injuries cases as early as possible.

#### *Mechanism for handling abuse cases relating to children from high-risk families*

35. The Panel was briefed on the mechanism for handling abuse cases

relating to children from high-risk families and various support services for abused children and their families. The Panel also received deputations' views on the subject matters. Members expressed grave concern about the death case of YEUNG Chi-wai ("YEUNG's case"), a five-year-old boy with intellectual disability who was poisoned by direct ingestion of crystal methamphetamine in March 2013. They considered that YEUNG's case had revealed inadequacy of services and lack of accountability. These deficiencies as well as the existing system and legislation for child protection were in dire need of improvement. Stressing that child protection was of great urgency and recurrence of tragedies similar to YEUNG's case should be prevented by all means, the Panel urged the Administration to immediately set up an independent commission of inquiry to review YEUNG's case, the entire system and legislation for child protection as well as the mode of service delivery, including multi-disciplinary case conferences and the formulation, implementation, follow-up and monitoring of welfare plans, and make recommendations within a year for improvement of legislation, system and services concerned. The Panel suggested that the subject matters should be revisited in the term of the Sixth LegCo.

*Pilot project on child care training for grandparents*

36. The Panel was briefed on the preparation work in respect of the two-year pilot project on child care training for grandparents, which aimed to strengthen the messages of active ageing, inter-generational harmony and family-based child care support, etc.

37. Some members considered that the Pilot Project would help strengthen family ties and did not object to its implementation. They, however, took the view that the Pilot Project was gilding the lily and was unable to help grass-root families which were most in need of assistance. They took the view that many grandparents of grass-root families with both parents working could not spare the time and also did not see the need to attend the training courses offered under the Pilot Project as they had to take care of their grandchildren or need to work to make ends meet. These members urged the Administration to assess the types of families which would benefit most from the Pilot Project and provide incentives, e.g. an allowance or respite child care services, to attract more grandparents to participate. The Administration was also requested to come up with a child care training programme which was dedicated to grass-root families and allocate resources for providing more full-time kindergartens and enhancing child care services to address their child care needs.

The situation of lead in drinking water in child care centres and residential care homes and follow-up actions by the Administration

38. The Panel discussed with the Administration the situation of lead in

drinking water in child care centres and RCHs and the follow-up actions taken by the Administration. Members were advised that SWD had been making arrangements for conducting water sampling tests and providing water filters for lead reduction for welfare units serving children aged below six who had to stay in the units for long hours and consumed drinking water in the units.<sup>3</sup> Expressing concern about the health risks of lead on elderly persons, as well as the chronically ill and persons with disabilities, some members urged the Administration to conduct water sampling tests for welfare units serving these groups of people when it had the required resources, and subsequent water sampling tests should be conducted periodically for the welfare units concerned. They further called on the Administration to provide and install water filters free of charge and bear the costs for replacing filter cartridges for the aforesaid welfare units.

### On-street charitable fund-raising activities

39. The Panel was briefed on the application procedures and notification mechanism in respect of on-street charitable fund-raising activities ("fund-raising activities") under the purviews of SWD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Home Affairs Department ("HAD"). Some members considered that the existing mechanism for assessing and approving applications for fund-raising activities were neither stringent nor transparent. They suggested that the Administration should conduct a comprehensive review of its monitoring, registration and transparency of charitable organizations, and HAD should coordinate the implementation of one-stop services for applicant organizations.

40. Noting that the Administration had not made any progress in taking forward the recommendations put forth by the Law Reform Commission in its report on charities,<sup>4</sup> some members urged the Administration to adopt administrative measures to address problems relating to fund-raising activities, irrespective of whether a regulatory regime for charities would be introduced. They called on the Administration to restrict the date and time for conducting fund-raising activities, provide standardized identification for persons who raised funds for bona-fide charitable organizations and require the permit/license concerned to be displayed at designated places at counters for conducting such activities, in order to enhance the regulation of fund-raising

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<sup>3</sup> According to the Administration, the Food and Health Bureau, Department of Health and the Hospital Authority have, after reviewing the relevant literature and research from local medical sector and overseas health authorities, defined the groups which are more easily affected by lead as children aged below six, pregnant women and lactating women.

<sup>4</sup> In December 2013, the Law Reform Commission published its report on charities, in which 17 recommendations were put forth, including amalgamating the procedures for applications for fund-raising activities and enhancing the transparency of fund-raising organizations.

activities and facilitate identification of approved fund-raising activities.

Meetings held

41. During the period between October 2015 and June 2016, the Panel held a total of 17 meetings with the Administration and received views from 229 deputations/individuals at eight of these meetings.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
5 July 2016

**Legislative Council**

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Terms of Reference**

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to welfare (including women welfare) and rehabilitation services, poverty, social enterprise and Family Council.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Membership list for 2015 - 2016 session**

<b>Chairman</b>	Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
<b>Members</b>	Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS (since 14 December 2015) Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai (since 14 December 2015) Hon CHAN Chi-chuen Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP (up to 10 November 2015) Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu (since 4 March 2016)
	(Total : 20 members)
<b>Clerk</b>	Mr Colin CHUI
<b>Legal adviser</b>	Miss Rachel DAI
<b>Date</b>	4 March 2016