

For discussion
on 26 June 2017

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

Community Care Fund

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the work progress of the Community Care Fund (CCF) and seeks Members' views in this regard.

Background

2. The CCF is a trust fund established in early 2011 under the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1044) with the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated as its trustee. Its main objective is to provide assistance to people with financial difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the safety net but still have some special circumstances that are not covered. In addition, the CCF may also consider introducing programmes on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those measures that can be incorporated into its regular assistance and service programmes.

3. The CCF has since 2013 been integrated into the work of the Commission on Poverty (CoP). The CCF Task Force, set up under the CoP as chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, is responsible for advising the CoP on CCF's various arrangements (including investment, finance and administrative operations), as well as the formulation of assistance programmes, the co-ordination and overseeing of the implementation of assistance programmes and the evaluation of their effectiveness. The CCF Task Force also liaises closely with other CoP Task Forces and provides mutual support in drawing up programmes to provide assistance to the underprivileged.

4. The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo)

approved the injection of \$5 billion into the CCF in May 2011, and approved in July the same year an additional injection of \$1.5 billion to implement a programme to provide an allowance for new arrivals¹. The FC also approved in June 2013 an additional injection of \$15 billion into the CCF to strengthen the poverty alleviation efforts.

Work Progress

Assistance Programmes

5. Since its establishment, the CCF has launched 44 assistance programmes covering the medical, education, housing, welfare and home affairs areas for various target beneficiary groups including children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, patients, new arrivals, ethnic minorities, etc. The total commitment has exceeded \$8.3 billion. Its aim is to identify groups of people who cannot benefit from the existing social safety net and to provide them with assistance. As at the end of May 2017, about 1.53 million person-times² have benefited under 36 rolled-out programmes, and the CCF has disbursed around \$5.319 billion³ to implementing agencies. The CCF also implemented measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those initiatives that have been proven effective for incorporation into the regular assistance programmes. Since the establishment of the CCF in 2011, 11 pilot programmes under the CCF have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes and seven programmes been completed. The latest progress of the programmes is set out at Annex.

6. This Panel was briefed on the work progress of the CCF in December 2016, and the CoP has since endorsed the launching of eight assistance

¹ The FC approved on 18 July 2011 an additional injection of \$1.5 billion into the CCF to implement the programme. The FC also agreed that the CCF should handle the above injection separately from the existing funds of the CCF. Unused funds (including interest), if any, will be returned in full to the Government upon completion of the programme. As at now, an amount of \$301 million has been returned to the Government.

² Excluding around 200 000 people who have benefited from the programme of providing an allowance to new arrivals.

³ Including the disbursement to beneficiaries and the staffing and administrative expenses of implementing agencies.

programmes as set out below:

- (1) Subsidy for eligible patients to purchase ultra-expensive drugs: This programme provides subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority (HA) who are in financial difficulty and who meet specific clinical criteria to purchase ultra-expensive drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders) for early treatment. The programme will be launched in August 2017. The first budget will cover 20 months with a total funding provision of \$117.348 million. It is expected that about 10 to 16 patients will benefit in the first 12 months.
- (2) Subsidy for eligible patients of Hospital Authority to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures: This programme provides subsidy for needy HA patients who are in financial difficulty and who meet specific clinical criteria to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures so that they can use these expensive devices as early as possible. The programme will be launched in August 2017. The first budget will cover 20 months with a total funding provision of \$17.331 million. It is expected that about 42 patients will benefit in the first 12 months.
- (3) Pilot scheme on subsidised cervical cancer screening and preventive education for eligible low-income women: By subsidising non-governmental organisations to implement a pilot scheme, low-income women are provided with cervical cancer screening and preventive education. The three-year pilot scheme will be launched in December 2017 with a total funding provision of \$78.61 million. It is expected that around 66 990 women will benefit.
- (4) Subsidy for persons holding non-local qualifications to conduct qualifications assessment: Needy persons holding non-local qualifications will be subsidised to apply for qualifications assessment for general purpose conducted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. The three-year programme will be launched in September 2017 with a total funding provision of \$8.67 million. It is expected to benefit around 3 000 persons.

- (5) Pilot scheme on providing special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families for purchasing medical consumables: A special subsidy will be provided for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families to purchase medical consumables in order to relieve their financial burden. An eligible person will, according to the results of the means test on his/her household assets and income, receive a full subsidy of \$1,000, a 3/4 subsidy of \$750 or a half subsidy of \$500 per month. The three-year pilot scheme will be launched in September 2017 with a total funding provision of \$50.64 million. It is expected that around 1 500 persons will benefit.
- (6) Pilot scheme on relaxing the household income limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for low-income families and increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy places: The household income limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for low-income families will be relaxed and fee-waiving subsidy places be increased in order to enhance support to those families. The three-year pilot scheme will be launched in October 2017 with a total funding provision of \$52 million. It is expected that around 3 000 persons will benefit.
- (7) Pilot scheme on support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment: Through medical-social collaboration, elderly persons discharged from hospitals and with difficulty in taking care of themselves during rehabilitation will be provided with appropriate transitional residential care and/or community care and support services to avoid their premature long-term institutionalisation in residential care homes for the elderly. The three-year pilot scheme is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2018 at the earliest with a total funding provision of \$225.9 million. It is also expected that at least about 3 200 elderly persons will benefit.
- (8) Pilot scheme on home care and support for elderly persons with mild impairment: Elderly persons with mild impairment will be provided with home care and support services to cater for their service needs. Assistance will also be provided for them in formulating

individualised care plans with health management so that they can continue to age in place. The three-year pilot scheme is expected to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2017 at the earliest with a total funding provision of \$383.34 million. It is also expected that about 4 000 places will be provided.

7. Furthermore, through continuous review of existing programmes, the CCF can also identify individual programmes that need to be revised or extended in a timely manner so that the assistance being provided can be more appropriate and effective. In this connection, the CoP has endorsed the funding and the list of new drugs in the seventh year of operation (i.e. from August 2017 to March 2019) under the first phase programme of medical assistance programmes, including the introduction of three specific self-financed cancer drugs and an additional designated clinical indication for a drug already on the list. The CoP also extended the programme of providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students so as to continue the support for needy undergraduates to meet their hostel expenses. Moreover, the CoP extended the programme of increasing the Academic Expenses Grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students in order to continue the support by providing additional academic expenses grant for needy students pursuing locally-accredited and self-financing post-secondary education programmes, thus enhancing the support for them to meet their daily academic expenses.

8. In addition, to allow more elders who have financial difficulties but do not receive the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance to benefit from the elderly dental assistance expanded programme, the CCF is preparing to, starting from early July 2017, expand the target beneficiaries of the expanded programme to elders who are Old Age Living Allowance recipients aged 70 or above. The CCF will further lower the age requirement of the target beneficiaries having regard to the implementation progress of the programme and the overall manpower situation in the local dental profession.

Financial Position

9. A total of \$15 billion has been placed with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority⁴ (HKMA) to earn investment returns linked to the performance of

⁴ The CCF has placed \$5 billion and \$10 billion with the HKMA in June 2011 and July 2013

the Hong Kong Exchange Fund. The rest of the CCF has been placed with banks as Hong Kong dollar time deposit, so as to generate interest income and meet the cash flow requirements of the assistance programmes and other liquidity needs.

10. As at the end of May 2017, the balance of the CCF stood at around \$19.7 billion, consisting mainly of the placement of \$17.995 billion at the HKMA and bank deposits of around \$1.705 billion, with an overall gross investment return of about \$3.2 billion.

Consultation and Monitoring

11. On consultation work, in addition to the two public consultation sessions held in February this year, the CCF will continue to hold focus group meetings and consultation sessions on specific topics to collect views on the formulation of new assistance programmes and the work of the CCF from the community and stakeholders, with a view to introducing more appropriate assistance programmes. The CCF always welcomes members of the public or stakeholders to provide ideas or suggestions through various channels, including the CCF webpage, letters, facsimiles, emails, telephone hotlines, etc. The ideas and suggestions received will be circulated to the CCF Task Force for reference.

12. The CoP and its CCF Task Force will continue to monitor the implementation of various assistance programmes. Government departments and other organisations entrusted to implement the programmes will submit progress and financial reports regularly to the CCF Task Force for a review of the programmes. Before launching any brand-new pilot programmes with an estimated funding provision of over \$100 million, the Government will consult the relevant LegCo Panels. We will continue to report regularly on the financial position of the CCF and the implementation progress of its programmes to this Panel every six months. We will also provide this Panel with evaluation reports of the programmes. Relevant information will be uploaded to the CCF webpage for easy reference by the public.

respectively for an investment period of 6 years. The CCF has already made an arrangement to renew the first principal money of \$5 billion placed for investment for another term on maturity of the deposit in June this year.

Advice Sought

13. Members are invited to note this paper and give their views.

Home Affairs Bureau

June 2017

Assistance Programmes under the Community Care Fund in Progress/to be Rolled Out¹

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
(1) Subsidy for patients of Hospital Authority (HA) for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net but have been rapidly accumulating medical scientific evidence and with relatively higher	August 2011 (current funding provision for seven years of operation)	944.71 ²	● The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism and its sliding scale are adopted as the financial assessment criteria.	7 863 person-times ³	Around 570.64 ⁴	The programme initially covered six specified self-financed cancer drugs and was subsequently expanded to nine on 1 August 2013, and further expanded to ten starting from 1 August 2015. With effect from the sixth year of operation (i.e. 1

¹ Since the establishment of the Community Care Fund (CCF) in 2011, 11 programmes under the CCF had been incorporated into the government's regular assistance programmes, and seven programmes were completed. A list of the relevant programmes is at the [Appendix](#).

² Including the administrative and audit expenses of this programme and programme (A)(1) in the [Appendix](#).

³ This refers to the number of applications approved as at 31 May 2017.

⁴ This refers to the subsidy for drug costs approved for beneficiaries as at 31 May 2017.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
<p>efficacy (To subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)</p>						<p>August 2016), the programme subsidises 13 specified self-financed cancer drugs for 10 types of cancer.</p> <p>The Commission on Poverty (CoP) approved the list of new drugs under the programme, the funding proposal for the seventh year of operation till March 2019 and other relevant proposals at its meeting on 29 May 2017. With effect from the seventh year of operation (i.e. 1 August 2017), the programme will subsidise 16 specified</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
						<p>self-financed cancer drugs for 14 types of cancer.</p> <p>The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) in May 2012.</p> <p>All patients whose applications were approved in the first four years of operation (i.e. from August 2011 to July 2015) have completed treatment.</p>
(2) Subsidy for the severely disabled persons aged below	September 2011 (extension of implementation)	341.76	● Aged below 60 and receiving Higher Disability	11 652 person-times	Around 230.75	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
<p>60 who are non-CSSA (Comprehensive Social Security Assistance) recipients requiring constant attendance and living in the community</p> <p>(According to the monthly household income of the applicants, the monthly subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” (\$2,000); “three-quarters grant” (\$1,500) or “half grant” (\$1,000))</p>	<p>in November 2012, November 2013, November 2014, November 2015 and November 2016 respectively)</p>		<p>Allowance (HDA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme as at 31 July 2016; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● living in the community and having household income not exceeding 150% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI). 			<p>in May 2013.</p> <p>The CoP approved in September 2016 to extend again the implementation of the programme to provide a maximum of 24 months of subsidy.</p>
<p>(3) Subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing and paying a rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA)</p>	<p>The programme was first launched in October 2011</p>	<p>33.671</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 	<p>22 605 households</p>	<p>Around 32.09</p>	<p>First launch of the programme was completed in 2012.</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
under the CSSA Scheme			1 July 2011.			
(First launch: a subsidy of \$1,000 for one-person household; and \$2,000 for two-or-more-person household) (Second to fourth launch and extension in 2016: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household)	The programme was launched for the second time in September 2013	53.77	● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2013.	17 767 households	Around 51.3	Second launch of the programme was completed in September 2014. The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in August 2014 which approved to launch the programme for the third time.
	The programme was launched for the third time in September 2014	46.83	● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2014.	14 991 households	Around 44.58	Third launch of the programme was completed in September 2015. The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in July 2015 which

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
						approved to launch the programme for the fourth time.
	The programme was launched for the fourth time in September 2015 (extension of implementation in September 2016)	102.41	● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2016.	14 938 households (fourth launch) 15 456 households (extension of implementation in 2016)	Around 91.88	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in September 2016 which approved to extend the programme in 2016.
(4) Relocation allowance for eligible residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings who have to move out as a result of the Buildings Department (BD)'s enforcement action	December 2011	4.43	● Persons who have passed the family/household-based means test establishing eligibility for CSSA Scheme, student financial assistance schemes, HA Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism	153 households (234 persons)	Around 0.44	BD has inspected 118 target industrial buildings, and has so far identified premises of illegal domestic use in 31 of them, some of these premises are involving sub-divided flats. BD has taken

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
(An allowance of \$2,500 for one-person household, \$5,500 for two-to-three-person household; and \$7,100 for four-or-more-person household)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> or Work Incentive Transport Subsidy (WITS); or ● household income not exceeding 100% of the MMDHI for one-person households; and not exceeding 75% of the MMDHI for two-or-more-person households. 			<p>enforcement action against these cases and enforcement actions have been completed in 24 buildings. BD will continue to follow up the enforcement action for other target industrial buildings.</p> <p>BD is currently evaluating the effectiveness of the programme and will report to the CCF Task Force in due course.</p>
(5) Elderly dental assistance programme	September 2012	817.11 ⁶ (including the	● Aged 60 or above, being users of the “Integrated Home	16 496 persons	Around 161.37	The interim evaluation results were reported to the

⁶ The original allocation of the programme was \$100 million. Starting from 1 January 2015, the unspent balance of the original allocation has been pooled together with the allocation for the Expanded Programme.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
<p>(Based on the level of subsidy of CSSA dental grant⁵, a maximum subsidy of \$14,390 for dental services for each beneficiary (including \$9,635 for dentures, \$4,695 for denture-related dental care and \$60 for registration and dental check-up), a referral fee of \$50 for each referral by NGOs, and an accompanying service fee of \$70 per hour based on the actual duration of accompanying service provided to applicants who are users of the</p>		<p>provision required for the Expanded Programme in the first three years (i.e. from 2015 to 2018))</p>	<p>Care Services (IHCS)” or “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services” or “Home Help Service” subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and paying level 1 or level 2 fee charge of the said services, and not receiving CSSA; or aged 75 or above and receiving Old Age Living Allowance (OALA)⁷; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have not benefited from this 			<p>CoP in September 2013.</p> <p>The programme was expanded on 1 September 2015 to cover elders who are OALA recipients by phases (the Expanded Programme), starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase. As at 2 October 2016, applications from around 12 650 elders have been received under the first phase of the Expanded Programme.</p>

⁵ This refers to the level of subsidy as at 31 May 2017.

⁷ The CoP endorsed at its meeting held on 31 August 2016 the extension of the Expanded Programme to cover elderly people who are OALA recipients aged 75 or above commencing from 3 October 2016, and authorized Food and Health Bureau and the Hong Kong Dental Association to further expand the target beneficiaries if no additional funding be required.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
home care / home help services under the programme (if applicable))			programme or the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly under the Department of Health.			Under the second phase of the Expanded Programme which commenced from 3 October 2016 up to 31 May 2017, around 9 150 applications from elders were received and around 9 000 of them have firmed up their first dental appointments. Preparation is underway to launch the third phase of the Expanded Programme in early July 2017 to cover OALA recipients aged 70 or above.
(6) Subsidy for owners' corporations of old	October 2012 (A 3-year enhanced	67.2	● Residential or composite buildings aged 30	2 325 owners' corporations	Around 22.77	The evaluation results of the scheme were

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
buildings (Eligible owners' corporations can be granted a subsidy with the total amount capped at \$20,000 for relevant expenditure items on an accountable basis)	scheme was launched in October 2015)		years or above with owners' corporations; and ● average rateable value of the residential units does not exceed \$120,000 for urban area and \$92,000 for New Territories.			reported and the proposal for enhancement of the scheme for 3 years was submitted to the CoP in September 2015. The CoP noted the evaluation results and approved the implementation of the enhanced scheme.
(7) Incentive scheme to further encourage CSSA recipients of the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for	April 2014 (a three-year scheme)	226.62	● CSSA recipients of the IEAPS.	2 050 ⁸ persons	Around 17.94	The working group set up under the CCF Task Force held a meeting on 19 January 2017 to follow up on the progress of implementing the

⁸ This is the number of CSSA recipients randomly selected from IEAPS cases who agree to participate in the incentive scheme, which is also the target number of beneficiaries of the incentive scheme. As at 31 May 2017, 11 participants accumulated the target amount of incentive payment and 50 participants took up employment with income equal to/exceeding their CSSA recognized needs, subsequent to which they left the CSSA net. The accumulated incentive payment was disbursed to them by SWD.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
Self-reliance (IEAPS) to secure employment						<p>scheme and the related evaluation study.</p> <p>Generally speaking, the incentive scheme was completed on 31 March 2017. However, the participants who enrolled for the incentive scheme after 1 April 2014 are also provided with 36 months for accumulating the incentive payment and thus their time for accumulating the incentive payment under the incentive scheme will be deferred. The last batch of participants enrolling for the</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
						scheme may accumulate the incentive payment until early July 2017.
(8) Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families (A monthly allowance of \$2,000 would be given to each eligible carer who takes care of one elderly person and a maximum of \$4,000 each for those who take care of more than one elderly person at the same time.)	June 2014 (Phase I of the pilot scheme was completed in September 2016. Phase II of the pilot scheme, which lasts for two years, started in October 2016.)	314.76	An eligible carer of the elderly person(s) under Phase II of the pilot scheme should meet all of the following circumstances/criteria: ● the elderly person(s) being taken care of must be living in Hong Kong and has/have been assessed under SWD's Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services to be of moderate or severe level of	3 957 carers	Around 141	The application period of Phase II of the pilot scheme closed on 31 August 2016 and SWD has completed the vetting process. SWD has authorised 43 NGOs that operate District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and/or Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) as approved service providers (ASPs) ⁹ of Phase II

⁹ The 43 ASPs operate 143 DECCs and NECs in total across the territory.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>impairment, and has/have been on the Central Waiting List (CWL) for subsidised long-term care services (i.e. residential care services (RCS) and/or community care services) on or before 29 February 2016;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the elderly person(s) being taken care of must be living in the community without using any RCS or undergoing long-term hospitalisation during the application period and while receiving the allowance; ● the carer must be 			<p>of the pilot scheme to assist in providing support services to the carers.</p> <p>The evaluation study of Phase I of the pilot scheme has been completed. The evaluation study of Phase II of the pilot scheme will be conducted together with the pilot scheme on living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities. The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>capable of taking up the care-giving role, and provide at least 80 hours of care-giving work per month (or not less than 120 hours per month for taking care of more than one elderly person who meets the above-mentioned criteria at the same time);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the carer must be a Hong Kong resident living in Hong Kong and has not engaged in any form of employment relationship with the elderly person(s) under his/her care; ● the carer must not 			

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			be a recipient of CSSA or OALA; and ● the monthly household income of the carer must not exceed 75% of the relevant MMDHI.			
(9) Providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students	2014/15 school year (a three-school year programme and was extended for 2 school years from 2017/18 school year onwards)	194.7	● Full-time undergraduates of publicly-funded or self-financing locally-accredited programmes at degree level; ● eligible applicants of the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes (TSFS) or the Financial Assistance Scheme	16 791 person-times	Around 85.50	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in April 2017 which approved to extend the programme for 2 more years to 2018/19 school year.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			for Post-secondary Students (FASP) and passed the means test of the Student Finance Office (SFO) under the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● resided in student hostels provided by their institutions; and ● confirmed by their institutions to have resided in student hostels in the semesters of the implementation period. 			
(10) Increasing the academic expenses grant under the Financial	2014/15 school year (a three-school year programme)	176.95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full-time students pursuing locally-accredited self-financing 	64 745 person-times	Around 107.46	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in April 2017 which

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students	and was extended for 2 school years from 2017/18 school year onwards)		programmes at sub-degree or degree level; and ● eligible applicants of FASP who have passed the means test of SFO.			approved to extend the programme for 2 more years to 2018/19 school year.
(11) Provision of funding for ordinary schools to arrange special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) (Provision of a subsidy equivalent to the mid-point salary of Graduate Masters/Mistresses and Assistant Primary School Masters/Mistresses for each eligible secondary school and primary	2015/16 school year (a three-school year programme)	218.84	Public sector ordinary secondary and primary schools meeting the following two criteria in the 2014/15 school year: ● the number of financially-needy students should account for at least 55% of the total number of students of the school (including students receiving CSSA, full grant or half grant under the student financial	About 10 220 persons	Around 129.35	A total of 59 primary schools and 65 secondary schools participated in the pilot programme. Training courses, including school visits, initiation and advanced course, for SENCOs have been in progress. Consultants are conducting evaluation for the programme.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
school respectively, and to commission experts to conduct the evaluation and provide training to SENCOs.)			assistance schemes); and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● should have at least 50 students with special educational needs (SEN) who are those in need of Tier-2 or Tier-3 support under the 3-Tier Intervention Model. 			Progress of the programme as at the end of December 2015 was reported to the CCF Task Force in February 2016 and the evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.
(12) Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with SEN and financial needs pursuing post-secondary programmes	2015/16 school year (a three-school year programme)	12.46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students meeting the eligibility criteria of the TSFS or the FASP and passed the means test of the SFO; and ● must be identified with at least one type of SEN including specific learning difficulties, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, 	269 person-times	Around 1.92	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech and language impairment, and mental illness starting from 2017/18 school year.			
(13) Provision of a one-off grant for school-related expenses to kindergarten students (According to the results of the means test on their families, eligible students may receive the full grant of \$3,770, 3/4 grant of \$2,828 or half grant of \$1,885)	2016/17 school year (a one-off special subsidy programme)	157.65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who have passed the means test of the SFO; ● they are eligible for the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme; and ● they will attend nursery, lower or upper classes in kindergartens under the Pre-primary Education Voucher 	41 365 persons	Around 126.69	Not applicable (Note: Since the programme aims at providing timely support to low-income families with children attending kindergartens/ kindergarten-cum-child care centres by means of a one-off grant prior to the launch of the

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			Scheme in the 2016/17 school year.			free quality kindergarten education policy, the CoP decided at its meeting in March 2016 that evaluation of the programme would not be required.)
(14) Free cervical cancer vaccination pilot scheme	October 2016 (a three-year pilot scheme)	98.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Girls aged 9 to 18 who are receiving CSSA; or ● female students aged 9 or above who are receiving full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS). 	7 850 persons	Around 11.299	As at end-May 2017, the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (i.e. the implementing agency of the pilot scheme) has arranged appointments for around 8 635 teenage girls to attend first consultation, including 7 850 teenage girls

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
						<p>who have received cervical cancer vaccination service.</p> <p>The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.</p>
(15) Pilot scheme on raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings for recipients with disabilities under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme	October 2016 (a three-year pilot scheme)	47.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receiving CSSA and is medically certified to be disabled or in ill-health; ● engaging in paid employment and entitling to the disregarded earnings (DE) arrangement under the CSSA Scheme; and ● being medically certified to be disabled or in 	3 342 persons	Around 3.13	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			ill-health continuously while enjoying the raised DE under the pilot scheme.			
(16) Pilot scheme on providing subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance recipients in paid employment to hire carers	October 2016 (a three-year pilot scheme)	18.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receiving HDA (persons being medically certified as “unfit for making a statement” excluded); ● having secured paid employment (not applicable to persons engaged in self-employment or working at home) with a monthly income of not less than \$7,500 and not exceeding \$30,000; and ● being gainfully employed but his/her relatives or friends 	23 persons	Around 0.85	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			are unable to provide care, and is hiring a full-time carer (mainly foreign domestic helper) to assist in travelling between home and office (not applicable to work-at-home jobs) and/or taking care of activities at the workplace (including providing care for daily living).			
(17) Pilot scheme on living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities	October 2016 (a two-year pilot scheme)	125.58	Carer of the person with disabilities should meet the following eligibility criteria: ● the person(s) with disabilities being taken care of must be living in Hong Kong, and have	1 061 persons	Around 15.93	In May 2017, SWD has issued the second batch of invitation letters to persons with disabilities who have been on the waiting list for any one of the specified rehabilitation

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>been on the waiting list for any one of the specified rehabilitation services subsidised by SWD or special school with boarding placement under the Education Bureau or infirmary service of HA on or before a specified date;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the person(s) with disabilities being taken care of must be living in the community without using any residential care services or undergoing long-term hospitalisation during the application period and while receiving 			<p>services subsidised by SWD or special school with boarding placement under the Education Bureau or infirmary service of HA on or before 31 March 2017. The deadline for the second batch application is 1 August 2017.</p> <p>The evaluation study of the pilot scheme will be conducted together with Phase II of the pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families, and the evaluation results will be reported to</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>the allowance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the carer must be capable of taking up the care-giving role, and is required to provide at least 80 hours of care-giving work per month (or not less than 120 hours per month for taking care of more than one person with disabilities who meets the above-mentioned criteria at the same time); ● the carer must be a Hong Kong resident living in Hong Kong and has not engaged in any form of employment relationship with the person(s) with 			the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>disabilities under his/her care;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the carer must not be a recipient of CSSA, OALA, or allowance in respect of taking care of the same person with disabilities under the Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families ; and ● the monthly household income of the carer must not exceed 75% of the relevant MMDHI. 			
(18) Dementia Community Support Scheme	February 2017 (a two-year pilot scheme)	98.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elderly persons who are aged 60 or above; and ● patients diagnosed 	228	Around 21.6	DECCs started providing support services and training to service

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
(A pilot scheme which adopts a medical-social collaboration model to provide dementia community support services for elderly persons)			of having mild or moderate dementia and referred by Geriatric/Psychogeriatric Teams of HA; or members of DECCs suspected of suffering from early dementia.			users in April 2017. The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in due course.
(19) Subsidy for eligible patients to purchase ultra-expensive drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders)	August 2017	117.35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HA patients who meet specific clinical criteria and pass means test conducted by Medical Social Workers; and ● permanent resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.
(20) Subsidy for eligible patients of Hospital Authority to	August 2017	17.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HA patients who meet specific clinical criteria and pass 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures			means test conducted by Medical Social Workers.			Task Force in future.
(21) Subsidy for persons holding non-local qualifications to conduct qualifications assessment	September 2017 (a three-year pilot scheme)	8.67	Persons and/or their spouses who have passed the means-test establishing eligibility for assistance under the specified assistance schemes provided below and receiving financial assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSSA Scheme; or ● Low-Income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme; or ● WITS Scheme; or ● School Textbook Assistance (STA) Scheme (full grant only); or ● Kindergarten and 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			Child Care Centre Fee Remission (KCFR) Scheme (full and 3/4 fee remission only).			
<p>(22) Pilot scheme on providing special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families for purchasing medical consumables</p> <p>(According to the family asset and monthly household income of the eligible applicant, the monthly subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” \$1,000; “three-quarters grant” \$750 or “half grant” \$500)</p>	September 2017 (a three-year pilot scheme)	50.64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirmed to have permanent stoma by medical staff of hospitals or clinics under HA; ● must not be a recipient of CSSA; ● the monthly household income must not exceed 150% of the relevant MMDHI; ● the family’s asset must not exceed the asset limit for public rental housing application under the Housing Authority; ● without receiving any relevant subsidy 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			for purchasing medical consumables for the stoma from other funding sources; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● living in the community, residential care homes or boarding schools; or being hospitalized but with a concrete discharge plan. 			
(23) Pilot scheme on relaxing the household income limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for low-income families and increasing	October 2017 (a three-year pilot scheme)	52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● children aged 6 to 12 who receive After School Care Programme; ● their parents are unable to provide proper care for them during after-school hours owing to work, job-searching, attending 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
Fee-waiving Subsidy places (According to the monthly household income of the families, eligible children will be granted full-fee waiving, half-fee reduction or 1/3-fee reduction subsidy)			vocational/job training or other reasons; and ● the monthly household income of the families must not exceed 100% of the relevant MMDHI.			
(24) Pilot scheme on subsidised cervical cancer screening and preventive education for eligible low-income women	December 2017 (a three-year pilot scheme)	78.61	● women aged 25 to 64; and ● receiving/holding CSSA; level 0 voucher of the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly; waiver of medical charges under the Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism of Public Hospitals and	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			Clinics; OALA; or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● being granted LIFA or WITS in any of the past 12 months; or ● having household member(s) being granted full or partial remission under the STA Scheme or the KCFR Scheme. 			
(25) Pilot scheme on home care and support for elderly persons with mild impairment (The pilot scheme adopts five co-payment categories on a sliding scale according to the monthly household income of the elderly persons.)	4 th quarter of 2017 (a three-year pilot scheme)	383.34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aged 60 or above and living in the community; ● assessed to be of mild impairment by the new assessment tool of this pilot scheme; ● waitlisting for the IHCS (Ordinary Cases); and ● the monthly household income 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			must not be higher than a specified percentage of the MMDHI (i.e. not exceeding 175% for one-person households and not exceeding 150% for two-or-more-person households).			
<p>(26) Pilot scheme on support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment</p> <p>(The pilot scheme adopts six co-payment categories on a sliding scale according to the monthly household income of the elderly person.)</p>	1 st quarter of 2018 (a three-year pilot scheme)	225.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aged 60 or above; and ● assessed by medical staff of HA to have temporary loss of self-care ability and in need of transitional care and support (i.e. in need of temporary residential care and/or community care and support services) and are not covered under the 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 May 2017)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 May 2017)	Progress and evaluation
			existing Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients.			

(A) Assistance programmes incorporated into the government's regular assistance programmes

Assistance programmes	Date of being incorporated into the government's regular assistance programmes
(1) Subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority (HA) who marginally fall outside the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs	September 2012 ¹⁰
(2) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language-related international public examinations	September 2013
(3) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses	September 2013
(4) Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who are owners of Tenants Purchase Scheme flats for five years or above and not eligible for rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme	April 2014
(5) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families	September 2014
(6) Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme	September 2014
(7) Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level	September 2014
(8) Training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services	October 2014
(9) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment	November 2014
(10) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment	November 2014
(11) Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students	September 2015

¹⁰ The programme has been incorporated into the regular mechanism of the SF of HA.

(B) Assistance programmes completed

Assistance programmes	Date of completion
(1) Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing	April 2013
(2) Setting up the School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities) to subsidise primary and secondary school students from low-income families to participate in cross boundary learning activities and competitions	June 2014
(3) Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed	July 2014
(4) Subsidy for elders aged 65 or above from low-income families who are on the waiting list for Integrated Home Care Service (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning service and escorting services for medical consultations	December 2014
(5) After-school care pilot scheme	July 2016
(6) Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme	July 2016
(7) One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA (launched for three times)	Completed in December 2014, December 2015 and December 2016 respectively