

**For information
on 16 January 2017**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES
PANEL ON HEALTH SERVICES**

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-TERM CARE POLICY

Integrated Home Care Services for the Elderly

Purpose

The Government provides a range of subsidised community care services (CCS), including home-based services and centre-based services, to support our elderly persons to age in place. This paper sets out the current provision of subsidised home-based services for the elderly.

An Overview

2. As at end-September 2016, there were a total of about 25 400 elderly persons receiving subsidised home-based services, including the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases), IHCS (Frail Cases) and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS). At present, these services are provided by 60 IHCS Teams and 34 EHCCS Teams in the territory. The existing fee schedule is at Annex.

Home-based Services

IHCS (Ordinary Cases)

3. IHCS (Ordinary Cases) provides a range of community support services for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and needy families

living in the community. The services cover provision of meals, escort services, personal care, simple nursing care and general household or domestic chores.

4. Elderly users of IHCS (Ordinary Cases) are not required to go through the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) under the Social Welfare Department (SWD). To ensure consistency in processing applications among the 60 IHCS Teams and provide suitable services for elderly persons with pressing needs as soon as possible, a supplementary information sheet with prime concerns on the social and health conditions of elderly applicants was drawn up by SWD in collaboration with the social welfare sector for use by frontline social workers since July 2015. The quarterly statistics form used by the 60 IHCS Teams was also revised in April 2016 to better capture the profile of existing and waiting cases. As at end-September 2016, there were about 17 200 elderly persons receiving the services and around 4 000 elderly cases on the waiting list. The main services requested by the elderly applicants include general household or domestic chores, provision of meals and escort service.

IHCS (Frail Cases) and EHCCS

5. To be eligible for IHCS (Frail Cases) or EHCCS, elderly persons need to be assessed by SCNAMES to be of moderate or severe level of impairment. Both services provide a comprehensive package of home care and CCS for elderly users based on their assessed level of frailty and disability. The scope and frequency of services are designed according to the users' individual needs. The services include personal care, basic and special nursing care, rehabilitation exercises, counselling services, 24-hour emergency support, respite services, home environmental risk assessment and home modifications, home-making and provision of meals, escort services and carer support services, etc.

6. Since March 2015, the Government has provided 1 666 additional places for EHCCS and enhanced the service content of both existing and additional places so as to provide better support for frail elderly persons living at home. The total number of home-based CCS places for frail

elderly persons now stands at 8 365 (i.e. 7 245 places for EHCCS and 1 120 for IHCS (Frail Cases)). As at end-November 2016, the average waiting time was about ten months.

Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly

7. The Government has implemented the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme) with funding from the Lotteries Fund. The Pilot Scheme aims to experiment “money-following-the-user” funding approach whereby eligible elderly persons can flexibly choose the service providers and the service packages that suit their individual needs. The more affordable users co-pay a higher amount of voucher value with the Government and may also procure top-up services.

8. The First Phase of the Pilot Scheme was launched in September 2013. Having regard to the findings and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the First Phase of the Pilot Scheme, as well as the views gathered from stakeholders, the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme was launched on 3 October 2016. In total, about 2 900 home care places are provided by the 124 Recognised Service Providers of the Second Phase in all 18 districts. The total number of vouchers for the Second Phase is increased to 3 000, including the 1 200 vouchers under the First Phase and the First Phase vouchers are free to migrate to the Second Phase. A number of enhancements have been introduced to the Second Phase, including increased flexibility in the choice of service modes for better meeting elderly persons’ needs for home-based services, etc. Voucher holders of the Second Phase are free to choose single mode home-based CCS or a mixture of home-based and centre-based CCS under mixed mode. As at end-December 2016, there were around 2 600 voucher holders under the Second Phase. SWD will commission a tertiary institution to conduct an evaluation study on the implementation of the Second Phase and to assist in working out the way forward for the Pilot Scheme.

Advice Sought

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

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
January 2017**

Existing Fee Schedule of IHCS (Ordinary Cases), IHCS (Frail Cases) and EHCCS				
Income level		Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) level or below	Between CSSA to 1.5 CSSA level	Exceeding 1.5 CSSA level
Meal delivery (per meal)		\$12.6	\$15.4	\$18.6
Laundry (per piece)	Light	\$0.7		
	Medium	\$0.9		
	Heavy	\$1.8		
Direct service, home making and escort services (per hour)		\$5.4	\$11.7	\$19.0