

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1712/16-17(01)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/16

Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

Proposed continuation of work of the Joint Subcommittee

Purpose

This paper seeks members' views on the need for the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy ("the Joint Subcommittee") to continue its work until 30 November 2018.

Background

2. The Joint Subcommittee was jointly appointed by the Panel on Welfare Services ("WS Panel") and Panel on Health Services ("HS Panel") in November 2016 to study the long-term care policy and services (including home-based, community based and residential care services for the elderly, people with disabilities and the chronically ill), discuss the policy concerned with the Administration and make timely recommendations.

Progress of work of Joint Subcommittee

3. The Joint Subcommittee has identified the following 18 subjects for discussion –

- (a) review of Integrated Home Care Services;
- (b) Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly;
- (c) support for persons suffering from dementia and their family members;

- (d) dental care for the elderly and people with disabilities;
- (e) community support services for mentally ill and ex-mentally ill persons;
- (f) service quality of private residential care homes;
- (g) policy on subsidizing chronic patients for purchasing expensive drugs;
- (h) Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly;
- (i) Elderly Services Programme Plan;
- (j) severe shortage of community care services;
- (k) support for carers;
- (l) ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities or other types of disabilities;
- (m) hospice care services;
- (n) treatment and care services for rare disease patients;
- (o) care services for mentally incapacitated persons;
- (p) planning standards for long-term care services;
- (q) euthanasia; and
- (r) dental services for people with disabilities, the elderly and chronic patients.

4. The Joint Subcommittee has, since 16 December 2016, held seven¹ meetings with the Administration and received views from deputations at six of these meetings. The Joint Subcommittee has studied the first six subjects (i.e. (a) to (f)) listed in paragraph 3 above.

¹ The seven meetings include the meeting to be held on 27 June 2017.

Need for continuation of work

5. The Joint Subcommittee has yet to study the 12 subjects listed in items (g) to (r) of paragraph 3 above which are important issues to be addressed by the long-term care policy. In its study of these subjects, the Joint Subcommittee will, apart from meeting with the Administration, receive views from relevant non-governmental organizations, concern groups and the general public on each of the 12 subjects. It is envisaged that if the Joint Subcommittee decides to continue its work to complete its study on the remaining subjects, at least 13 meetings will be required,² 12 for the study of the 12 subjects and another one for wrapping up the Joint Subcommittee's study and deliberation of its observations and recommendations.

6. Rule 26(c) of the House Rules provides that if a subcommittee appointed by Panel(s) considers it necessary to work beyond 12 months of its commencement, it should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panel(s), report to the House Committee ("HC") and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period. Members are invited to decide whether the Joint Subcommittee should complete its study of all the 12 subjects listed in items (g) to (r) of paragraph 3 above before drawing up recommendations on the long-term care policy and services. If members decide to do so, the Joint Subcommittee will need to continue its work beyond the 12-month period for another eleven and a half months until 30 November 2018.

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to indicate whether they support the proposed continuation of the Joint Subcommittee's work beyond the 12-month period and, if yes, the proposed extension to 30 November 2018. Subject to members' views, the WS Panel and the HS Panel will be invited to approve the Joint Subcommittee's proposal before its submission to HC for consideration at its meeting on 7 July 2017.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 June 2017

² Thirteen monthly meetings will need to be held in July, October to December 2017, January to July and October to November 2018.