

LC Paper No. CB(2)2038/17-18

(These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 9 July 2018, at 8:30 am in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present	 Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman) Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman) Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP Hon CHAN Chi-chuen Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH Hon Alvin YEUNG Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin Hon CHU Hoi-dick Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH Hon YUNG Hoi-yan Dr Hon Pierre CHAN Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Members absent	: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Public Officers : attending

Items	III	to	VI

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, GBS, JP Secretary for Labour and Welfare Labour and Welfare Bureau

Items III to IV

Miss Stella CHANG Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)3 Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr TAN Tick-yee Assistant Director (Elderly) Social Welfare Department

Mr KOK Che-leung Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services) Social Welfare Department

Item III

Mr Alex WONG Assistant Director (Subventions) Social Welfare Department

Mr Sebastian TSE Chief Social Work Officer (Elderly)2 Social Welfare Department

Miss CHAN Lai-chu Chief Social Work Officer (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services)1 Social Welfare Department

Mr Kenneth WOO Chief Executive Officer (Subventions/Planning) Social Welfare Department Item IV

Ms Patricia WOO Chief Social Work Officer (Elderly)1 Social Welfare Department

Mr Charles LEUNG Chief Social Work Officer (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services)2 Social Welfare Department

Items V to VI

Ms PANG Kit-ling Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare) Social Welfare Department

Item V

Mr LAM Ka-tai, JP Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) Social Welfare Department

Consultant Team

Professor Paul YIP Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Social Sciences The University of Hong Kong

Attendance by invitation

: <u>Item V</u>

0-3 Child Care Centre Network

Ms Susan SO Suk-yin Convener

<u>Prof Stephen CHIU Wing-kai, Chair Professor in</u> <u>Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, The</u> <u>Education University of Hong Kong</u>

	Council of Non-profit Making Organizations for Pre-primary Education	
	Dr Sanly KAM Shau-wan	
	Item VI	
	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	
	Mr WONG Kin-wai Business Director	
Clerk in attendance	: Mr Colin CHUI Chief Council Secretary (2) 4	
Staff in attendance	: Ms Catherina YU Senior Council Secretary (2) 4	
	Miss Alison HUI Legislative Assistant (2) 4	

I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

<u>Members</u> noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

II. Matter arising from the meeting on 11 June 2018 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1720/17-18(01)]

2. <u>The Chairman</u> said that Dr Fernando CHEUNG had proposed a motion under agenda item V "Community development policy and services" of the meeting on 11 June 2018. Members agreed at that meeting that the motion should be dealt with at this meeting.

<u>Motion</u>

Action

3. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> moved the following motion:

"鑒於全港各區仍有不少貧困和過渡性的社區,不少市民居住於不

適切居所,包括劏房、寮屋及過渡性房屋等,本委員會促請政府 確立社區發展政策及有關服務的重要性,增撥資源及預留土地, 將社區中心及鄰舍層面社區發展服務擴展至全港18區,並對貧窮 社區提供額外支援。"

(Translation)

"Given that there are still many deprived and transient communities in various districts of Hong Kong, quite a number of members of the public are residing in inadequate housing, including sub-divided units, squatters and transitional housing, etc., this Panel urges the Government to recognize the importance of community development policy and relevant services, allocate additional resources and earmark sites for expanding the services of community centres and the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project to all the 18 districts in the territory, and provide additional support to deprived communities."

4. <u>The Chairman</u> put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. He declared that the motion was carried.

III. Provision of elderly and rehabilitation service facilities in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong, and arrangements for annual briefings on Lotteries Fund projects [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1720/17-18(02) to (04)]

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Secretary for Labour and Welfare</u> ("SLW") briefed members on a new mechanism to facilitate members' understanding of planned welfare facility projects funded by the Lotteries Fund ("LF"). <u>Assistant Director (Elderly)</u> ("AD(Elderly)") and <u>Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services</u>) ("AD(R&MSS)") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to set up the captioned facilities.

Expediting the provision of welfare facilities

6. Expressing concern about the long lead time required for provision of welfare facilities, <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> enquired about the reasons why a long time was required to deliver these facilities (listed on Annex 4 to the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1720/17-18(02))) which only commenced operation 10 years or more after consultation with relevant District Councils ("DCs") or had yet to have service

commencement timetable. He also asked whether non-controversial welfare facilities could be completed earlier. SLW responded that all welfare facilities had a certain degree of controversy. Although there was less dissenting voice at district level about the provision of welfare facilities in these two years, considerable time was still required for consulting the relevant DCs and local residents. The estimated timetable of delivering relevant welfare facilities would be drawn up when such consultation work had been completed. The Administration would make its best efforts to take various follow-up actions to deliver the projects as Mrs Regina IP took the view that it was the soon as possible. Government's responsibility to change the attitude of some local residents and enhance their receptiveness to the provision of welfare facilities such as residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") or hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons ("HSMHs") in the community.

7. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about what other difficulties, apart from handling opposition at district level, the Administration had encountered in shortening the service commencement lead time of welfare Mr POON Siu-ping urged the Administration to put extra facilities. efforts in expediting the provision of such services. SLW responded that the construction timetables of welfare facilities incorporated into a public housing development project had to dovetail with that of the project concerned. When compared with some previous welfare facility projects the completion time of which was more than 10 years, there was great improvement in the lead time of the projects listed on Annex 4 to the Administration's paper. The service commencement lead time of the welfare facilities in two private development projects (i.e. items 9 and 10 of the aforesaid list) was expected to be shorter vis-à-vis welfare facilities in the public housing development projects on the list.

8. <u>Mrs Regina IP</u> said that the Government should consider including in the land sale conditions the provision of welfare facilities so as to alleviate the inadequate supply of welfare facilities. The Government could incentivize private developers to incorporate RCHEs into their development projects by selling land at a lower price. <u>SLW</u> responded that the Government had already incorporated conditions in suitable land development projects and land sale projects for the developers or works agents concerned to construct in tandem welfare facilities specified by the Government. An example of such an arrangement of provision of welfare facilities was the two contract RCHEs and two day care centres for the elderly to be constructed at a land sale site of Kai Tak Development. The relevant construction proposal was discussed at the Panel meeting on 12 March 2018. In response to Mrs Regina IP's enquiry about whether the contract RCHEs in the Kai Tak Development project would be run by private organizations, <u>SLW</u> said that these RCHEs would be operated by non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") or private operators to be selected through invitation of tenders.

SLW further said that the Elderly Services Programme Plan 9. ("ESPP") had proposed a strategic direction for elderly services. In the light of the serious shortfall of residential care services for the elderly, the Administration was taking steps to increase the supply of RCHEs in full swing. RCHEs had been proposed for all the 10 projects listed on Annex 4 to the Administration's paper. As regards rehabilitation facilities, the formulation of a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan was expected to be completed in end-2019. Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had been identifying suitable sites or premises for setting up rehabilitation facilities to cope with the increasing service demand. Given that a number of additional places for rehabilitation services would be provided in the coming years, the Administration would assess the demand for and supply of such services in considering whether to increase the provision of rehabilitation facilities substantially.

10. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> opined that the Government had been neglecting the acute shortage of welfare facilities which was a long standing problem. The Administration should strive to meet the service needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities even though some of the welfare facility projects might be controversial. The Administration should carry out the tendering exercise for selecting operators earlier so that the time gap between the completion and service commencement of welfare facilities could be shortened. The selected operator should be involved in designing the welfare facilities to avoid changes to fitting-out after the relevant works had been completed and delays to service commencement. He called on the Administration to review its existing funding arrangement and timing for selection of service operators for welfare facilities.

11. <u>SLW</u> responded that the existing funding arrangement was applicable not only to welfare facility projects but also to all other government projects as well. As the planning process for some projects could take more than 10 years to complete, it was infeasible to reserve the required recurrent funding at the initial planning stage. In order to meet the operational needs, SWD would work closely with the selected operators of the welfare facilities on the fitting-out designs after the premises had been constructed.

Noting that invitation of tenders for many capital work projects had 12. commenced before approval of the relevant committees of the Legislative Council had been obtained, Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked whether the Administration could make the same arrangement for welfare facility He also asked whether the Administration would seek the projects. Finance Committee ("FC")'s approval of the funding proposals for welfare facilities funded by LF with recurrent cost exceeding \$10 million after briefing the Panel on the relevant LF projects. SLW responded that to expedite delivery of welfare projects funded by LF, the Administration had ceased the administrative practice of inviting FC to approve LF projects with recurrent cost exceeding \$10 million since July 2016 and the approval of FC was no longer necessary for these LF projects since then. Nevertheless, the Administration would continue to consult the Panel on these projects. While these LF projects would not be submitted to FC individually, recurrent expenditures of these projects would be reflected in the Budget which would be examined by FC. SWD would make its best effort to speed up the necessary procedures but as the construction of welfare facilities incorporated into a public housing development project could not commence before the infrastructure works and the housing blocks of the project had been completed, it was beyond SWD's control as to when the fitting-out works of the welfare facilities concerned could commence. Dr Fernando CHEUNG reiterated that the Administration should improve its planning for provision of welfare facilities to shorten the time gap between the completion and service commencement of these facilities.

Review of the ratio of subsidized to non-subsidized residential care services places

13. <u>Mr KWOK Wai-keung</u> said that as at end-January 2018, there were 38 222 elderly persons waiting for subsidized residential care places and many elderly persons requiring institutional care preferred subsidized RCHEs to private RCHEs because the quality of the former was better. In this connection, he asked whether the Administration would review and improve the ratio of subsidized to non-subsidized residential care places ("the ratio"), which was currently set at 6:4, so as to shorten the waiting time for subsidized RCHEs. <u>SLW</u> responded that, when planning for new contract RCHEs, a 6:4 ratio of subsidized to non-subsidized places was adopted as a general guideline. SWD took account of relevant considerations such as the demand for and supply of residential care places in the districts, the size of the RCHEs concerned, etc. when applying this general guideline to particular projects. As a result, not all contract RCHEs adopted the ratio of 6:4 and in some cases, a higher ratio had been adopted. <u>Mr KWOK Wai-keung</u> said that a better ratio targeted at shortening the waiting time for subsidized residential care places should be set and should apply to all contract RCHEs. <u>SLW</u> responded that the ratio for a particular contract RCHE would be reviewed and decided at the time of securing recurrent funding for that RCHE. That said, SWD might study in the foreseeable future whether the proportion of subsidized places in contract RCHEs should be higher.

Manpower supply for elderly care services

14. In the light of the great demand for RCHE places, Mr LUK Chung-hung said that the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions was concerned about the manpower supply, the supply of care workers in particular, for elderly care services. He said that the existing salary level of care workers in RCHEs could not attract new entrants. The expansion of importation of labour had an adverse impact on the wage level of care workers and on employment opportunities of local workers. The Administration should avoid expansion of importation of labour to subsidized RCHEs. Some private RCHEs had hired non-local workers and there was a serious problem of illegal workers in the private RCHE sector. He enquired whether the Administration had any long-term policy with respect to manpower training and development as well accreditation of qualifications for care workers in order to attract new blood to the elderly care sector.

15. <u>SLW</u> responded that ESPP had proposed a series of measures to address the manpower shortage problem in the elderly care sector, which included enhancing the attractiveness and employment conditions of care staff positions and improving the work flow in delivery of elderly care services. The Administration would take forward these recommendations with a view to meeting the existing and the long-term manpower need of the elderly care sector.

Construction costs of the three development projects in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong

16. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry about the construction costs involved in each of the three development projects in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong, <u>Assistant Director (Subventions)</u> said that the construction costs were around \$67 million for the contract RCHE at the North West Kowloon Reclamation Site 1 (East), Sham Shui Po. The construction costs for the contract RCHE cum day care units for the elderly and the day activity centre cum HSMH at Hiu Ming Street, Kwun

Tong were around \$85 million and \$56 million respectively. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the provision of the counselling centre for psychotropic substance abusers in the public housing development project at Hiu Ming Street, Kwun Tong, $\underline{AD(R\&MSS)}$ said that it was a reprovisioned facility.

Care and attention home for severely disabled persons and special child care centre cum early education and training centre in So Uk Estate redevelopment project

17. Noting that the proposed care and attention home for severely disabled persons ("C&A/SD") and special child care centre ("SCCC") cum early education and training centre ("EETC") in the So Uk Estate redevelopment project were expected to commence operation in September 2019, Mr POON Siu-ping enquired whether selection of operators and manpower arrangements for these welfare facilities had commenced. SLW responded that recurrent funding for welfare facilities would be secured one to two years prior to the completion of the construction of the relevant facilities and selection of operators for such facilities would commence after the required funding had been approved. AD(R&MSS) said that the recurrent funding for the provision of C&A/SD and SCCC cum EETC had been approved and the tendering procedures for selecting suitable operator would soon commence. Given that the tendering procedures for selecting operator for the welfare facilities concerned had not yet commenced, the Chairman asked whether there was sufficient time for carrying out the required procedures so that these welfare facilities could commence operation in September 2019 as estimated. AD(R&MSS) responded that there should be sufficient time for doing so.

IV.Review of policies and welfare support for carers
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1720/17-18(05) to (06),
CB(2)1741/17-18(07) and CB(2)1776/17-18(01)]

18. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>SLW</u> briefed members on various support services provided by the Administration for carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities and the arrangement for the extension of the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low Income Families ("the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons") and the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Carers of Persons with Disabilities ("the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Carers of Persons with Disabilities").

Income requirements and levels of allowances

19. <u>Mr LUK Chung-hung</u> said that some carers had to give up their work to take care of their elderly family members so that these elderly persons did not need to be institutionalized. As a result, the Administration was able to reduce its expenditure in subsidizing RCHE places. The Administration should consider using its monthly savings in subsidized RCHE places as a reference to set the levels of allowances under the Pilot Schemes. In this connection, he enquired about the basis for determining the levels of allowances.

20. Mr Andrew WAN said that the amount of Normal Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA") was \$2,600 per month and the standard rate of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") for 100% disabled elderly persons requiring constant attendance was around \$6,000 per month. Compared with Normal OALA and the CSSA standard rate, the amount of allowance for carers of elderly persons was too low. The living expenses of households with elderly persons or persons with disabilities who required care were already high. The financial burden of these households would be even greater if the family members could not go to work because they had to take care of elderly members or members with disabilities. Given that there was inadequate supply of RCHEs, carers had to forgo their work in order to take care of their elderly family members in need of residential care services ("RCS"). The Administration should increase the amount of allowance to provide carers with better livelihood protection and encourage more carers to apply for the allowance. Besides, the current income requirements for the Pilot Schemes were too stringent. He urged the Administration to relax the income limits to benefit more carers.

21. <u>SLW</u> responded that the current allowance of \$2,000 per month for carers of elderly persons was set by making reference to the CSSA standard rates for able-bodied single adult. The allowance would be increased to \$2,400 per month under the new phases of the two Pilot Schemes in accordance with inflation, as reflected by the adjustment of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income ("MMDHI") published in the Report on General Household Survey in the past four years. The allowance was a form of financial assistance aiming to supplement the living expenses of carers of elderly persons from low income families and low-income carers of persons with disabilities. The income thresholds under the Pilot Schemes, which were set at not more than 75% of MMDHI, were among the lowest of all means-tested assistance schemes. Other social security protection such as CSSA was available to individuals who

had financial needs. It was not the Government's policy to provide financial assistance for all carers irrespective of their income levels. If such a policy were to be formulated, it would require thorough discussion as some parents who were carers of their young children might also be eligible for a carer allowance. <u>The Chairman</u> said that as carers helped reduce the Administration's expenditure in subsidized RCS, they should be provided with the necessary support. Society should have a discussion on whether the Administration should provide support for carers regardless of their income levels.

22. Mr Andrew WAN took the view that the income limits of the Pilot Schemes set with reference to MMDHI did not truly reflect the financial situation of the aforesaid households. He further said that if the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons was targeted at low-income carers, it should not be confined to carers of elderly persons on the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long-term Care Services ("CWL"). All low-income carers and carers of elderly persons who were not on CWL should also be covered. SLW responded that needy elderly persons and needy persons with disabilities were provided with the necessary support and their carers were not required to live with them in order to be eligible for the allowance. On the other hand, carers were required to provide care to elderly persons or persons with disabilities in activities of daily living. In order to ascertain the care needs of elderly persons or persons with disabilities, they were required to undergo objective assessments under SWD's Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services or Standardized Assessment Mechanism for Residential Services for People with Disabilities. Elderly persons or persons with disabilities who were assessed by the Standardized Assessment Mechanisms as eligible for long-term care services would be put on the waiting list for relevant services and their carers were eligible for the Pilot Schemes.

23. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> said that many elderly persons were required to take care of their family members in need but were not eligible for the carer allowance if these elderly persons were on CSSA or OALA. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> also said that some persons with disabilities who were taking care of their family members in need could not receive Disability Allowance and the carer allowance at the same time. As a recognition to these carers, they asked whether the Administration would consider reviewing the "double benefits" policy. <u>SLW</u> responded that the allowance was not a compensation for carers. As financial assistance was provided for needy individuals under the existing social security system, recipients of CSSA or OALA could not at the same time receive the carer allowance.

24. <u>The Deputy Chairman</u> said that the amount of carer allowance was too low given the high living costs and it was unrealistic to adjust the amount of allowance according to inflation. He enquired when the Administration would review the amount of allowance. <u>SLW</u> responded that inflation reflected the increase in prices of goods and services and it was therefore reasonable to make reference to inflation in adjusting the amount of allowance. The Administration would review the Pilot Schemes comprehensively which included, inter alia, the amount of allowance, at a later stage.

Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that apart from the "double benefits" 25. policy (mentioned in paragraph 23 above), the income limit for Normal OALA for a single person was even higher than those for the Pilot Schemes. These showed that the eligibility criteria for the Pilot Schemes were too stringent. He further said that some elderly persons and persons with disabilities (e.g. persons suffering from muscular atrophy) had neither waited for RCS nor undergone SWD's standardized assessments but were being taken care of by carers. To enhance the support for them and their carers, the Administration should consider lowering the income thresholds for the Pilot Schemes, introducing the Pilot Schemes to them proactively and arranging social workers to provide outreach assessments for persons with disabilities who were referred by school social workers. SLW responded that having regard to the operation of the current phases and various stakeholders' views towards the Pilot Schemes, the service fees for approved service providers ("ASPs") of the Pilot Schemes would be increased under the new phases. The Administration had commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing ("COA") of the University of Hong Kong to evaluate the Pilot Schemes and would consider the future direction of the Pilot Schemes having regard to the findings of the evaluation ("the Evaluation"). Members' views would also be taken into account in mapping out the long-term development of services for the elderly and persons with disabilities and their carers.

26. Noting that SWD had set the income limits for the Pilot Schemes with reference to 75% of MMDHI published in the Report on General Household Survey of the Third Quarter 2015 by the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD"), <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> enquired about the reasons for not using a more updated MMDHI as a reference. <u>AD(R&MSS)</u> responded that it was because the MMDHI in 2015 was higher than that in 2017 and the MMDHI in 2018 was not yet available.

27. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> said that the carers were required to submit a self-certified Record of Hours of Care-giving ("Self-certified Record")

to ASPs on or before the prescribed date each month for arranging payment of the allowance. In his view, such a requirement had caused much inconvenience to carers, especially those who took care of small children with disabilities. The Administration should consider arranging social workers to conduct home visits to the elderly persons or the persons with disabilities concerned instead. <u>SLW</u> responded that to ascertain that the carers had carried out caregiving work, they were required to submit a Self-certified Record.

Statistics and definition of carers

28. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the Administration had any definition of carer and the total number of carers in Hong Kong. SLW responded that C&SD conducted a relevant survey a few years ago but it did not have the number of carers in Hong Kong. The Chairman said that according to a feature article entitled "Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases in Hong Kong" in the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics (January 2015) published by C&SD, 203 700 persons had reported that they had to take care of a person's day-to-day living as a result of their disabilities and 175 600 persons with chronic diseases had reported the same. The figures did not include carers of persons with intellectual disability, children or elderly persons. As there were no statistics of carers, many carers had become "invisible". In the absence of such statistics, it was difficult for members to discuss the support for Without a definition of carer, it was not possible for the carers. Administration to formulate a policy on support for carers and estimate the funding required for providing support for them. The Administration should not neglect the need for identifying carers and their number. Mr Andrew WAN shared the view that many carers had become "invisible". He opined that it was difficult to draw up a provision plan for child care services and home-based child carers ("HCCs") and evaluate whether support for carers was sufficient if the Administration did not have the statistics of carers. He asked whether the Administration would define carer and conduct a survey on the number of carers in Hong Kong.

29. <u>SLW</u> responded that the Administration had endeavoured to identify carers and provide them with the necessary support. It had never been the Administration's intention to play down carers' need for support. Apart from low-income carers, the Administration would comprehensively examine the support for needy carers of elderly persons, persons with disabilities, small children, etc. The Administration would also strengthen the support for families/carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. SWD would progressively increase the number

of Parents/Relatives Resource Centres from six to 19 starting from the 2018-2019 financial year. The new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan would examine the support services for carers of persons with disabilities. He welcomed members' views on how support for carers could be strengthened.

Participation rate of the Pilot Schemes

30. Noting that the quota for the current phase of the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Persons with Disabilities was 2 000 but only 1 519 eligible carers had received the allowance, <u>Mr POON Siu-ping</u> enquired about the reasons why the quota had not been used up. He also enquired about the basis for setting the quota for the new phases of the Pilot Schemes. <u>SLW</u> responded that the number of recipients of the allowance under the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Persons with Disabilities at the peak was close to 2 000. The quotas for the new phases of the Pilot Schemes were set having regard to the estimated numbers of eligible carers and participants. The quota had been increased by 2 000 and 500 in the new phase of the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons and Pilot Scheme for Carers of Persons with Disabilities respectively as a buffer to avoid the need for bidding additional funding in case of an increase in the number of applicants for the Pilot Schemes.

31. <u>Mr LUK Chung-hung</u> said that the Administration should write to elderly persons waiting for subsidized RCHEs and not residing in private RCHEs, with a view to inviting their carers to apply for the carer allowance. <u>AD(Elderly)</u> responded that the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons was targeted at carers of elderly persons on CWL. SWD had sent out around 49 000 invitation letters in Phases I and II of the Pilot Scheme to all eligible elderly persons, with a view to inviting their carers to apply for the allowance under the Scheme. The responsible workers ("RWs") concerned had also been informed of the invitations.

32. In response to Mr LUK Chung-hung's enquiry about the reasons for the low participation rate of the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Elderly Persons, <u>AD(Elderly)</u> said that some eligible elderly persons might have been admitted to private RCHEs and some might not have carers. <u>The</u> <u>Chairman</u> took the view that the low participation rates of the Pilot Schemes were due to insufficient publicity and stringent eligibility criteria of the Schemes. As a result, carers in need were unable to benefit from the Pilot Schemes. <u>SLW</u> said that the Evaluation might provide more information on the subject matter. The Administration would report to the Panel on the outcome of the Evaluation and the future direction of the Pilot Schemes could be further discussed at that time.

33. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> said that as invitation letters were not sent to carers, they might not be aware of the Pilot Schemes. He suggested that invitation letters should also be sent to carers and publicity of the Pilot Schemes should be strengthened. <u>SLW</u> responded that as CWL did not contain carers' contact information and there might be more than one carer for an elderly person, the Administration was unable to send invitation letters to them. RWs would contact eligible elderly persons to understand whether their carers were interested in applying for the allowance.

Providing allowance for carers of persons suffering from early onset of dementia

34. <u>Mr LUK Chung-hung</u> said that according to some studies, the average age of persons suffering from dementia was 58. As the eligible age for dementia services was set at 60 or above, carers of persons with early onset of dementia could not benefit from the Pilot Schemes. He called on the Administration to include carers of persons with early onset of dementia in the Pilot Schemes. He also asked whether recipients of Working Family Allowance would also be eligible for the carer allowances.

35. <u>SLW</u> responded that carers of persons suffering from dementia would be eligible for the allowance under the Pilot Scheme for Carers of Persons with Disabilities if they met the relevant requirements. As the eligible age for care and support services for dementia under elderly services was set at 60 or above, there was a service gap for persons with early onset of dementia. The Administration would explore how to fill the service gap. It might be better to first discuss the provision of support services for persons with early onset of dementia before considering the support for their carers.

Way forward for the Pilot Schemes

36. <u>Mr POON Siu-ping</u> asked whether the Administration would decide the way forward for the Pilot Schemes based on the findings of the Evaluation without waiting for the completion of the new phases of the Pilot Schemes in 2020. <u>SLW</u> responded that the Administration would consider formulating a long-term development plan for the Pilot Schemes including whether they should be regularized and, if so, their smooth transition to regularization. The Administration would also consider the policy direction in a comprehensive manner for support services for carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. The Administration aimed to come up with an overall policy direction for support services for carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities in 2020.

V. Progress of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services [LC Paper No. CB(2)1720/17-18(07)]

37. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>SLW</u> briefed members on the progress of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services ("the Study"). <u>Prof Paul YIP</u>, representative of the Consultant Team, briefed members on the Inception Report and Interim Report of the Study.

38. <u>The Chairman</u> said that two deputations (0-3 Child Care Centre Network and the Council of Non-profit Making Organizations for Pre-primary Education) and an academic (Prof Stephen CHIU, Chair Professor in Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, the Education University of Hong Kong) had been invited to give views on the Study. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Ms Susan SO</u> from 0-3 Child Care Centre Network, <u>Prof Stephen CHIU</u> and <u>Dr Sanly KAM</u> from the Council of Non-profit Making Organizations for Pre-primary Education expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

Responses of the Consultant Team and the Administration to views of deputations and an academic

39. In respect of the three priority categories for child care services proposed by the Consultant Team, <u>Prof Paul YIP</u> said that only 1 800 child care service places were provided for children aged under two. Given the inadequate provision of child care services and having regard to the view of the focus groups, the Consultant Team had identified children living with parents (both of them working) or working single parents, without helpers as a high priority group for child care services.

40. Regarding the view that some parents had no choice but to stay home and take care of their children, <u>Prof Paul YIP</u> said that the experience of Finland showed that many parents, including single parents, were able to go to work because they were provided with child care services. It had also enabled Finland to maintain its poverty rate at 10%. The Consultant Team hoped that provision of child care services could not only unleash labour force but also allow parents to have a choice of whether to mind their children at home or go to work. The Administration should consider fostering a family-friendly working environment so that those parents who preferred to go to work could give their strengths into full play in the workplace. In the light of the scope of the Study, the Consultant Team did not examine at length issues relating to provision of long whole-day kindergartens ("LWDKGs"). The Consultant Team hoped that the findings and recommendations of the Study could help improve child care services and were useful to the child care service sector.

41. <u>SLW</u> said that as the existing child care services focused on care and the future direction for child care services would combine care and education, there would be a discrepancy in the assessment of demand which was based on the current nature of child care services and the future demand for child care services. The acute shortage of supply of child care services had affected parents' choice of such services and when the supply and choice of such services had increased, there might be changes in their choice of such services. It was therefore necessary to keep in view the demand and review the supply of child care services on a regular basis.

Discussion

Consultation exercises for the Study

42. The Chairman enquired whether the Interim Report would be made available to the public. Taking the view that the Administration should solicit more views on the development of child care services, Mr Wilson OR enquired about the details of the consultation exercises for the Study. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) ("DDSW(S)") responded that the Consultant Team had conducted engagement exercises in April 2017. Focus group meetings had also been held to collect views on child care services. A total of 2 100 questionnaires were collected from existing service users, potential service users and non-service users. The Steering Committee which was set up for overseeing and monitoring the progress of the Study would consider the Interim Report in July 2018. An engagement session would be conducted on 3 August 2018 in the community centre in Causeway Bay. Women groups, NGOs operating child care centres ("CCCs"), community representatives, etc. would be invited to attend the engagement session. They would be briefed on the findings and observations in the Interim Report as well as the direction of the recommendations of the Study. The Consultant Team would take into account the views collected during the engagement session in preparing the Final Report which was expected to be ready in end-September 2018 and would be uploaded onto SWD's website. Conducting more

engagement sessions would be considered provided that it would not cause delay to completion of the Final Report. At the Chairman's request, <u>DDSW(S)</u> would invite <u>Ms Susan SO</u>, <u>Prof Stephen CHIU</u> and <u>Dr Sanly</u> <u>KAM</u> to attend the engagement session scheduled for 3 August 2018.

Acute shortage of child care services

43. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> said that there was an acute shortage of child care services and the manning ratios for and per capita area in CCCs should be improved. He enquired about the Administration's timetable for providing its response to policies on provision of additional child care services, improvements to the manning ratio for and per capita area in CCCs, etc. <u>SLW</u> responded that the Administration aimed to provide its views on the direction of the recommendations of the Study in the fourth quarter of 2018.

44. Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Dr KWOK Ka-ki opined that families with grandparents or helpers to help look after the children should not be regarded as a low priority group for child care services and the priority for child care services of these families should be further studied. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that grandparents or helpers who looked after the children might not be able to identify problems in the development or growth of the children. The Study might have overlooked the impact of child care services on the development and growth of children. In view of the severe shortage of child care services, the Administration should draw up a timetable for providing child care services for families in the three priority categories and provide professional training for child care staff. The Administration should also plan for the provision of relevant training programmes in tertiary institutions so that there would be sufficient manpower supply for child care services.

45. <u>Prof Paul YIP</u> responded that multifarious measures should be adopted to address the on-going demand for child care services and one of the interim measures was to provide training for grandparents and helpers to enhance their child caring skills. The Consultant Team had suggested that the Administration should start the manpower planning for child care services with a view to increasing the supply of child care staff. He hoped that the Final Report could recommend a multilayer approach for developing a child-centered approach in child care services.

46. <u>SLW</u> said that the supply of child care services was not adequate enough and after-school care services for KG students provided by community centres were limited. The Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") was concerned about the above issue and would continue to explore how the existing welfare system could support the provision of child care services.

47. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> said that given that the implementation of LWDKGs was under the purview of the Education Bureau ("EDB"), LWB and EDB should communicate to facilitate EDB's comprehensive review of LWDKGs. <u>SLW</u> responded that as both child care and education for small children were involved in LWDKGs, both LWB and EDB were responsible for their implementation. The Administration shared the view that communication between LWB and EDB was essential.

48. Mr Wilson OR opined that child care services played an important role in releasing women labour force and enhancing cohesion in the He enquired about the short, medium and long-term community. measures for addressing the shortage of child care services including after-school and respite child care services. He also asked whether LWB would engage EDB, schools and NGOs in providing such services. DDSW(S) responded that as stated in the 2017 Policy Address, standalone CCCs for children aged below three would be set up in North District and Kwun Tong in the 2018-2019 financial year and in Sha Tin and Kwai Tsing in the 2019-2020 financial year. The CCCs in North District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin would provide 56, 92 and 100 additional places respectively. The Consultant Team would study whether Mutual Help Child Care Centers should be re-positioned and re-engineered with a view to providing after-school care services for children aged between three and six. In response to Mr Wilson OR's enquiry about the involvement of EDB in the Study, DDSW(S) said that representatives from EDB sat on the Steering Committee.

49. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the planning for free pre-primary education was premised on half-day KGs. Although the Administration had changed the ratio of half-day KGs to whole-day KGs from 760:240 to 500:500, it lacked a planning standard for LWDKGs. <u>The Chairman</u> and <u>Mr Michael TIEN</u> enquired whether a planning standard would be set for LWDKGs. <u>SLW</u> responded that the Administration would explore the setting up of such a standard.

50. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry about identifying sites for setting up CCCs, <u>SLW</u> said that the Administration would endeavour to identify suitable sites for such provision at the planning stage. The Administration would also study whether additional CCCs could be set up in district development projects. The Administration was

exploring the possibility of reopening the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("Special Scheme") to invite new applications from NGOs, and if so, whether priority should be accorded to provision of CCCs under the reopened Special Scheme.

Incentive payment for home-based child carers

51. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry about the amount of incentive payment for HCCs of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project ("NSCCP"), <u>DDSW(S)</u> said that the hourly rate of the incentive payment ranged from \$18 to \$23, depending on the district. Taking the view that HCCs could help mitigate the problem of shortage of child carers in the interim, <u>the Deputy Chairman</u> said that the Administration should consider increasing the level of incentive payment and enhancing training for HCCs so as to improve the quality of their services.

Motions

52. <u>Mr Michael TIEN</u> said that many working parents welcomed NSCCP. However, the supply of HCCs could not meet the demand as HCCs were volunteers. Some NGOs had reflected that the incentive payment for HCCs was too low. The Study also recommended that service quality should be improved by enhancing the training provided to HCCs as well as increasing the level of incentive payment for HCCs. Given the great demand for HCCs, the Administration should systematize NSCCP and consider revamping NSCCP. In this connection, he moved the following motion:

"鑒於有不少市民及團體均認為,鄰里支援幼兒照顧計劃的社區保 姆服務存在獎勵金水平過低、服務不包括接送兒童等問題,本委 員會促請政府積極研究,增撥資源予非政府機構,(1)提高社區保 姆的獎勵金,水平與法定最低工資看齊;(2)為保姆提供來回交通 費,讓她們能夠外出接送兒童;及(3)加強訓練社區保姆並設立審 查制度,確保保姆的服務質素及其家居安全,以優化服務。"

(Translation)

"Given that many members of the public and deputations are of the view that there are problems in the home-based child care services under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project ("NSCCP"), such as low incentive payment and non-provision of pick-up services for children, this Panel urges the Government to proactively explore allocating additional resources to non-governmental organizations to enhance NSCCP services by (1) increasing the incentive payment for home-based child carers to a level comparable to the statutory minimum wage; (2) covering the round-trip transport cost of child carers to facilitate their provision of pick-up services for the children; and (3) enhancing the training for home-based child carers and setting up a monitoring system to ensure the service quality and home safety of these carers."

53. <u>The Chairman</u> put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. He declared that the motion was carried.

54. Mr Michael TIEN said that in considering enhancements to NSCCP as proposed in his motion, the Administration should avoid measures which might discourage those who were interested in becoming HCCs. SLW responded that if HCCs of NSCCP who were volunteers became employees of service operators, issues in relation to employees' compensation insurance, mandatory provident fund, statutory minimum wage, long service payment, severance payment, etc. were to be considered. It required further study as to whether there was room to engage HCCs as part-time workers whose service quality was subject to monitoring and whether a registration system for HCCs should be Currently, working parents had no alternative other than established. quitting work or hiring helpers to look after their children. The Administration would study comprehensively the development direction of child care services. Mr Michael TIEN enquired about whether the arrangements for part-time home helpers could serve as a reference in reviewing NSCCP. SLW responded that service users were also required to provide employees' compensation for their home helpers.

55. <u>Mr Andrew WAN</u> moved the following motion:

"本委員會促請政府盡快成立專責工作小組,統籌勞工及福利局、 教育局及食物及衞生局等局及部門,推動及落實一系列以照顧者 為本的政策,包括進行照顧者人口特徵及服務需要統計調查、搜 集及公開地區各項可為照顧者提供支援的服務資料供市民參考、 設立恆常的照顧者津貼及就0-6歲兒童照顧服務(包括資助獨立幼兒 中心及長全日制幼兒服務,改善託兒服務及社區保姆服務等)設立 規劃標準與服務比例,充分滿足社會需要。"

(Translation)

"This Panel urges the Government to expeditiously set up a task force, which will coordinate various bureaux and departments, such as the Labour and Welfare Bureau, Education Bureau as well as Food and Health Bureau, for promotion and implementation of a series of carer-oriented policies, including conducting surveys on demographic characteristics and service needs of carers, collecting information on various support services available for carers at district level and making such information available for the public's reference, providing regular allowances for carers and setting planning standards and service ratios with respect to care services for children aged zero to six (including aided standalone child care centres and long whole-day kindergarten services, enhancements to child-minding services and home-based child care services etc.), so as to fully address the needs of the community."

56. <u>The Chairman</u> put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. He declared that the motion was carried.

VI. Welfare support for users and waitlistees of community housing [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1720/17-18(08) to (09)]

57. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>SLW</u> briefed members on the Community Housing Movement ("CHM") launched by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS") and the Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of CHM ("the Pilot Scheme").

58. <u>The Chairman</u> said that HKCSS had been invited to brief members on CHM and give views on the Government's role in CHM. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Mr WONG Kin-wai</u>, Business Director of HKCSS, took members through the submission of HKCSS (LC Paper No. CB(2)1720/17-18(09)) which set out information on CHM and the view of HKCSS on the Government's role in CHM.

Provision of community housing

59. <u>Mr Andrew WAN</u> said that the Chief Executive had recently introduced six new housing initiatives and one of them was to set up a task force to provide one-stop, coordinated support to assist and enable more NGOs in pursuing transitional housing. The Government would also make available some vacant government sites for application by NGOs for

operating community housing and set aside \$1 billion to subsidize the costs of works of the projects undertaken by NGOs. In this connection, he enquired about how NGOs could apply for these vacant sites and information on these sites. He also asked whether the Administration would consider subsidizing NGOs in operating community housing.

60. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> said that while the Government had set aside \$1 billion, it did not specify when and how the funds would be used for implementing community housing projects. He enquired about the target number of community housing units to be covered by the funds and the disbursement schedule for the funds.

61. SLW responded that he was unable to provide a response to the questions about the new housing initiatives which were under the purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB"). Since the subject under discussion was welfare support for users and waitlistees of community housing rather than the development plan for community housing, the requisite information about community housing units was not on hand. Although dedicated support services had not been provided for users and waitlistees of community housing, various social welfare services were provided for the needy groups regardless of their housing conditions. The Administration would consider the future support for users of community housing, the development and design of CHM after it had been implemented for a period of time. Mr Andrew WAN and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that in order to have a fruitful discussion, representatives of relevant policy bureaux/government departments should also attend the discussion of welfare support for users and waitlistees of community housing.

62. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> said that many deputations had reflected that they were unclear about CHM because relevant information was disseminated bit by bit. <u>SLW</u> responded that the Administration had released all available information on CHM. More information on CHM would be disseminated when available. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> called on THB to provide more information such as the application procedures for operating CHM and vacant government sites available for community housing. <u>SLW</u> responded that the Lands Department had published on its website information on vacant government sites, including vacant school premises, which were available for application by NGOs for use under short term tenancies.

63. In response to the enquiries of the Chairman and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen about the respective roles of LWB, THB and the Development

Bureau ("DEVB") in CHM, <u>SLW</u> said that the three bureaux worked closely on matters in relation to provision of community housing.

64. The Deputy Chairman and Mr Andrew WAN opined that the scale of CHM was too small and the Administration was shifting its responsibility of providing transitional housing to NGOs. Mr Andrew WAN was of the view that CHM should be implemented by the Administration rather than by HKCSS. The Deputy Chairman asked whether other welfare support would be provided for beneficiaries of CHM apart from the relocation allowance. SLW responded that the Administration had not shirked its responsibility of providing transitional The current term Government had assisted HKCSS and housing. community groups in taking forward their community housing projects. He had frequent discussions on the provision of community housing with Secretary for Transport and Housing and Secretary for Development. Since many community housing units were old, it was necessary to carry out certain repair works which had affected the progress of CHM. That said, the current development of CHM was already an important step in providing short-term accommodation to those in need of transitional housing. Given that community housing was a new concept, the scale of the trial projects should be small to facilitate evaluation of their effectiveness in mitigating housing problems faced by those in need of transitional housing. In addition to vacant government sites, the use of land for other uses (e.g. temporary parking lots) for setting up modular housing would be explored. In order to assist more people who were living in inadequate housing, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that the Government should try to increase the supply of community housing. In this connection, he asked whether the Government would consider setting up special teams to proactively look for more sites for providing community housing and exploring the feasibility of setting up modular housing at vacant space under flyovers. SLW responded that a task force which was responsible for the development of community housing had already been set up.

Given that the current supply of rental units under CHM was 65. unable to meet the demand, Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired about the estimated number of individuals/households eligible for CHM. He also asked whether HKCSS had analyzed how many of the 90 000 households living in sub-divided units would apply for CHM and how many community housing units should be provided in order to change the ecology of sub-divided units. Taking the view that the living conditions of sub-divided verv Mr LEUNG many units were poor. Yiu-chung asked whether a separate waiting list for CHM would be made

available to residents of these sub-divided units whose waiting time for public rental housing ("PRH") was less than three years.

66. Mr WONG Kin-wai responded that he did not have the information on the number of persons/households eligible for CHM but many of those eligible for CHM were singletons. There was no central waiting list for CHM. When the number of applications received was greater than the supply of flats, the NGOs concerned would conduct in-depth interviews and evaluate the applications with a point system in order to select suitable tenants. These NGOs might have a waiting list for their rental units. HKCSS hoped that at least 80% of the beneficiaries of CHM were those who had been waiting for PRH for not less than three years. The remaining 20% of community housing units would be targeted at households/individuals who were identified by NGOs as having special needs such as those living in inadequate housing with dismal living conditions or PRH waitlistees who would not be allocated PRH units within two years. HKCSS had commissioned the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to study the impact of CHM on society with a view to gaining more insights for the development of CHM, including the scale and distribution of community housing units.

Mr CHU Hoi-dick said that it took several years to plan and launch 67. transitional housing pilot projects and it might take a few more years to expand the scale of these projects. He wondered whether transitional housing was a short-term or long-term measure for solving housing problems. Mr WONG Kin-wai responded that in the discussion of the Long-term Housing Strategy, HKCSS had recommended that the long-term solution for housing problems was to build more PRH units and Home Ownership Scheme flats. The medium-term measure was to impose rent control and provision of transitional housing should only be a short-term measure. SLW responded that the Government's long-term housing strategy was to provide adequate housing for members of the public. Transitional housing was a short-term measure to relieve the pressure of housing demand before the supply of public housing could Given the insufficient land supply and catch up with the demand. divergent views received during the "big debate on land supply", the Administration was unable to advise at this stage on when the supply of public housing could meet the demand.

Support services for tenants of community housing

68. <u>Mr Andrew WAN</u> enquired whether the Pilot Scheme would also cover beneficiaries of the "Good House" project launched by the

Concerning Grassroots' Housing Rights Alliance and users of hostel services provided by the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association. <u>SLW</u> responded that applications for the relocation allowance for beneficiaries of CHM should be made to HKCSS and THB. Other organizations which launched community housing projects might submit their views on provision of relocation allowance for their tenants to the Community Care Fund Task Force for consideration.

69. <u>Mr CHU Hoi-dick</u> enquired whether NGOs operating community housing were required to assist beneficiaries of CHM in participating in and contributing to the community. <u>Mr WONG Kin-wai</u> responded that the NGOs concerned were well aware that they should provide community-based empowerment services to support the tenants when they were commissioned the projects. These NGOs were required to submit proposals on how the objectives of CHM would be met, the services to be provided and the funding required for service delivery. Funding for delivering services would be provided for NGOs mainly by the Community Chest of Hong Kong ("the Community Chest"). NGOs were required to submit their funding proposals to the Community Chest for approval.

70. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the background of the 105 beneficiaries of CHM, Mr WONG Wai-kin said that the profiles of the beneficiaries were not yet available as some of them had not yet moved into the rental units. HKCSS had been updating the public through the media on the progress of CHM and would continue to do so. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the welfare support the Administration should provide for these beneficiaries, Mr WONG Wai-kin said that various types of community services such as meal services and subsidized health services were required by beneficiaries of CHM. While such services were provided by SWD and NGOs, these services could always be strengthened. He further said that the core idea of CHM was not to meet the housing needs in a narrow sense. CHM had a strong focus on improving the community life of residents of sub-divided units who had isolated themselves from the community. NGOs helped beneficiaries of CHM connect with the community by letting them aware of and providing them with various support services. HKCSS hoped that having known about the support services available in the community, users of community housing would be able to seek assistance in tackling their living challenges when they moved to other dwellings.

71. Given that target beneficiaries of CHM were low-income households or those who had long been on the waiting list for PRH, Mr Andrew WAN enquired whether the Administration would consider modelling on the Neighbourhood Level Community Development Project ("NLCDP") and arrange social worker teams to provide services for tenants of the modular housing in Sham Shui Po ("Sham Shui Po project") and tenants of other modular housing projects in future. SLW responded that when NLCDP was first introduced, the planning standard of NLCDP was that one NLCDP team would be provided for deprived and transient communities (e.g. temporary housing areas and squatter areas) with around 3 000 population. As there were only 90 beneficiary households under the Sham Shui Po project, the population size did not meet the aforesaid standard for NLCDP. That said, the Administration would consider arranging dedicated service teams to provide welfare support for beneficiaries of CHM having regard to the development of CHM.

VII. Any other business

Special meeting and local visit

72. <u>The Chairman</u> said that a visit would be conducted to "Radiance Family" Family Care Home and Shun Lee Adult Training Centre cum Hostel of the Fu Hong Society on 13 July 2018. A special meeting of the Panel would be held on 19 July 2018 for receiving public views on "Land planning for social welfare facilities".

73. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:07 pm.

Council Business Division 2 Legislative Council Secretariat 28 September 2018

Appendix

Panel on Welfare Services

Meeting on Monday, 9 July 2018, at 8:30 am

Progress of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/academic

No.	Name of deputation / academic	Views
1.	0-3 Child Care Centre Network	 LC Paper No. CB(2)1823/17-18(01) Training programmes for care staff for children aged three or below were insufficient.
2.	Mr Stephen CHIU Wing-kai, Chair Professor in Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, The Education University of Hong Kong	 The provision of after-school child care services should be reviewed in the light of insufficient provision of long whole-day kindergartens. According to a survey on child care services, only less than 2% of the 6 000 respondents were able to receive services from home-based carers or child care centres and parents who had to look after their children were under great stress. The Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services should examine in depth the potential demand for child care services and the choices available for parents whose children were in need of such services.
3.	Council of Non-profit Making Organization for Pre-primary Education	 LC Paper No. CB(2)1823/17-18(02) The Administration should attach greater importance to the quality of child care services. There should be better coordination among relevant government bureaux for children related matters.

Council Business Division 2 Legislative Council Secretariat 28 September 2018