

For discussion
On 11 December 2017

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES**

Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the guiding principles, scope of review and mode of public engagement for the formulation of a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP).

Background

2. RPP sets out the strategic directions as well as short, medium and long term measures to address various services needs of persons with disabilities, which cover areas such as residential and day care, community support, employment, barrier-free facilities, transport, healthcare, education, sports and arts, etc. RPP currently covers 10 types of disabilities, including Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD); autism; hearing impairment; intellectual disability; physical disability; mental illness; Specific Learning Difficulties; speech impairment; visceral disability; and visual impairment. RPP was last reviewed and updated in 2007. To keep our rehabilitation services abreast with the times, the Government has asked the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC) to commence work in formulating the new RPP.

Guiding Principles

3. The objective of the Government's rehabilitation policy is to help persons with disabilities develop their capabilities and to create a barrier-free physical environment, with a view to ensuring that persons with disabilities can participate in full and enjoy equal opportunities both in terms of their social life and personal growth. The United Nations

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) has entered into force for Hong Kong since August 2008. The purpose of UNCRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. UNCRPD recognizes the diversity, individual autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities, as well as the barrier-free spirit (including barrier-free environment and information). The objective of the Government's rehabilitation policy is in line with the purpose of UNCRPD.

4. The Government will abide by the spirit of UNCRPD and the objective of the rehabilitation policy. In addition, in view of the diverse needs of persons with different disabilities, we will adopt the following three guiding principles during the review –

- (a) adopting a life span approach in examining the rehabilitation and care needs of persons with disabilities in different aspects;
- (b) promoting cross-sectoral collaboration in providing diversified services for persons with disabilities and achieving barrier-free environment; and
- (c) conducting in-depth review and extensive consultation for stakeholders to have systematic and thorough discussion on the various rehabilitation service needs of persons with disabilities.

Scope of Review

5. The scope of the RPP review will cover various macro and specialized topics related to persons with disabilities. On macro topics, we will examine in details the long-term planning of various rehabilitation and care services for persons with disabilities: demand of persons with disabilities for subsidized rehabilitation and care services (including the impacts of changes in the population and related profiles of persons with disabilities, in particular the ageing trend, on the service demand); supply of subsidized rehabilitation and care services (including residential care services for persons with disabilities, community care services and support services for carers of persons with disabilities, etc.); supply of manpower for rehabilitation and care services; roles of subvented and private residential care home for persons with disabilities;

and the impacts of the application of technology on the provision of rehabilitation and care services, etc.

6. In view of the diverse needs of persons with disabilities and the different requirements on rehabilitation services from persons with different disabilities, the review scope will also cover the following specialized topics which have been the concern of the rehabilitation sector:

- (a) employment and vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, including the provision of vocational rehabilitation and skill training services for persons with disabilities, services to promote open employment of persons with disabilities, and integration of existing Government employment support services provided to persons with disabilities and employers;
- (b) barrier-free environment, transport and information, including the review of the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008, enhancing special transport services, promotion of accessible websites and easy-to-read version;
- (c) community support for ex-mentally ill persons, including services provided at the integrated community centres for mental wellness, peer support services;
- (d) services for persons with special needs (including AD/HD, Specific learning difficulties, dysphasia, autism etc.), such as rehabilitation services for pre-school children; services to enhance the living, social and employable skills of youths with autism; and
- (e) promotion of UNCRPD and inclusive society, including the participation of persons with disabilities in sports and arts, promotion of sign language, guide dogs and assistive facilities for persons with other disabilities.

Public Engagement Exercise

7. A Review Working Group would be established under the RAC to undertake the formulation of the new RPP. Members of the Review Working Group will include persons with disabilities; representatives from the self-help organizations of persons with disabilities,

organizations providing rehabilitation services and parents/carer organizations; professionals from different sectors; and representatives from relevant government departments, etc.

8. The Review Working Group will conduct extensive public engagement exercise during the formulation of the new RPP including the following three stages:

- (a) Scoping Stage: to define the scope of the RPP and identify the key issues that need to be addressed, commence discussion with various sectors of the community and to collate their views;
- (b) Formulation Stage: to analyse the key issues identified and examine the overarching direction and possible options for consideration to address these issues, as well as to formulate framework (including vision, mission, overarching principles and strategic directions) and initial recommendations for the RPP; and
- (c) Consensus Building Stage: to discuss with various sectors of the community on the final recommendations of the RPP and build up a consensus on these recommendations.

The Review Working Group will collate views from stakeholders at each of the above stages through different modes including public fora, focus group discussions and interviews, with a view to enabling stakeholders to have systematic and thorough discussion on the various rehabilitation service needs of persons with disabilities and other related issues. The Review Working Group will also disseminate relevant information on the formulation of the RPP through website and upload the reports of each stage.

Way Forward

9. RAC will commence the first stage of public engagement exercise in the first quarter of 2018 and aims to submit a report to the Government in end 2019.

Advice Sought

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

Labour and Welfare Bureau

December 2017