

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)131/18-19
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 11 October 2018, at 3:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Chairman)
Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yea, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Members absent : Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

Member attending : Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP

Clerk in attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Assistant Secretary General 2

Mr Roger CHUNG
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2018-2019 session
[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)4/18-19]

Election of Chairman

Mr SHIU Ka-chun, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2018-2019 session. Mr KWONG Chun-yu was nominated by Mr WAN Siu-kin and the nomination was seconded by Dr CHENG Chung-tai. Mr KWONG accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr SHIU Ka-chun declared Mr KWONG Chun-yu elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2018-2019 session. Mr KWONG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2018-2019 session. Mr SHIU Ka-chun was nominated by Mr WAN Siu-kin and the nomination was seconded by Mr Alvin YEUNG. Mr SHIU accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Mr SHIU Ka-chun elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2018-2019 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2018-2019 session

5. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the second Monday of each month at 10:45 am. As 8 April 2019 had been scheduled for holding special meetings of the Finance Committee to examine the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-2020 and 13 May 2019 was a public holiday, members agreed that the regular meetings in April and May be rescheduled to 15 April and 20 May 2019 respectively at 10:45 am. A schedule of meetings for the 2018-2019 session would be issued to members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: A schedule of meetings was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)42/18-19 on 11 October 2018.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)4/18-19]

Regular meeting on 12 November 2018

6. Members agreed to discuss at the next regular meeting scheduled for 12 November 2018 the following items proposed by the Administration:

- (a) Annual adjustment of social security payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme and the Social Security Allowance Scheme, and issues relating to rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme; and
- (b) Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan.

(Post-meeting note: As instructed by the Chairman, an additional item "Briefing on the proposed Member's bills to amend the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459), the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) and the Offences against the Person Ordinance (Cap. 212)" would be added to the agenda for the regular meeting on 12 November 2018 as per Dr Fernando CHEUNG's request mentioned in paragraph 7 below.)

Issues to be discussed at future meetings

Elderly services and rehabilitation services

7. The Chairman sought members' views on the two letters dated 13 August 2018 (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1935/17-18(01) and (02)) from Dr Fernando CHEUNG requesting the Panel to discuss his proposed amendments to Cap. 459, Cap. 613 and Cap. 212. Members acceded to Dr CHEUNG's requests.

8. Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss the preliminary report of the Working Group on the Review of Ordinances and Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes which was expected to be completed and publicated by the first quarter of 2019. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that the importation of care workers had been proposed by the Administration to relieve the manpower shortage of residential care homes. In his view, the crux of the problem was that income of residential care homes was limited and these homes could not offer an attractive salary to care workers. He suggested that the Administration should revert to the Panel on how to improve the quality of manpower for residential care homes as early as practicable.

Elderly services

9. Given that the Administration would not implement universal retirement protection, Dr KWOK Ka-ki suggested that the Panel should discuss issues relating to welfare of elderly persons living alone.

10. Dr Priscilla LEUNG suggested that welfare of retired elderly persons aged at or above 60 should be discussed and deputations should be invited to give views on the matter. She said that the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities should be extended to cover this group of elderly persons.

11. As it was announced in the 2018 Policy Address that an additional 1 000 vouchers would be provided under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that only limited services were provided for elderly persons under the Pilot Scheme. He suggested that the Panel should invite the Administration to brief members on how to ensure adequate provision of services under the Pilot Scheme.

Mental health of children and adolescents and related community support services

12. Given that the Advisory Committee on Mental Health had been established for a year and mental health of children and adolescents was a key area of its discussion, Dr KWOK Ka-ki suggested that a joint meeting with the Panel on Health Services ("HS Panel") and the Panel on Education should be held to discuss issues relating to mental health services and related community support services as well as the work progress of the Advisory Committee. The Chairman said that views of the chairman of the HS Panel would be sought on holding a joint meeting.

Welfare services for youth and children

13. The Deputy Chairman proposed that the provision and effectiveness of cyber youth support services should be discussed as five cyber youth support teams would be set up to reach out to at-risk and hidden youths through the Internet.

14. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan suggested that the Panel should discuss the new measures relating to child care services announced in the 2018 Policy Address. Sharing the views of Ms YUNG, Dr Fernando CHEUNG proposed that the Administration should revert to the Panel on the final report of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services, in particular the service provision of long whole-day pre-primary institutions. He also suggested that the Panel should discuss child protection policy since it would be a key area of discussion for the Commission on Children. Dr CHEUNG said that he was preparing a Member's bill on such policy, which would soon be presented to the Panel for consideration.

Social welfare planning and administration

15. The Deputy Chairman said that given that the Social Welfare Development Fund would be depleted shortly, it was necessary for the Panel to discuss the way forward for the Fund as early as possible.

Other items for discussion at future meetings

16. The Chairman sought members' views on a joint letter dated 10 July 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1792/17-18(01)) from Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr Andrew WAN requesting the Panel to meet with deputations and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare regarding policies in relation to

carers. Members acceded to the request.

17. The Deputy Chairman said that to his understanding, the community development policy was overseen by the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") while the relevant services were mainly implemented by the Social Welfare Department. To his understanding, HAB mainly focused on community development policy for ethnic minorities and new arrivals. He therefore suggested that the Panel should discuss a comprehensive policy on community development.

Deletion of items

18. Referring to items 19 (viz. Setting up an integrated welfare service complex in the vacant school premises in Tuen Mun) and 21 (viz. Setting up an integrated welfare service complex in a set of vacant school premises in Tai Po) on the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion (Appendix V to LC Paper No. CB(2)4/18-19), the Chairman said that according to the Administration, these two items had been covered in the paper submitted to the Panel for discussing "Provision of elderly and rehabilitation service facilities in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong, and arrangements for annual briefings on Lotteries Fund projects" on 9 July 2018. The Administration had therefore proposed to delete these two items from the list. Members agreed.

(Post-meeting note: A letter dated 12 October 2018 from Mr Michael TIEN proposing items to be discussed at future meetings was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)102/18-19(01) on 22 October 2018.)

IV. Any other business

19. Members noted that the Legislative Council Secretariat would implement a one-year pilot scheme to provide simultaneous sign language interpretation service for meetings of the Panel in the 2018-2019 session. As for joint meetings with other Panel(s) and meetings of subcommittee of the Panel, the interpretation service would be provided on a need basis. The Secretariat would review the effectiveness of the scheme after the pilot period, with a view to deciding the way forward.

20. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:45 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 October 2018