

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)494/18-19

(These minutes have been
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Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 30 October 2018, at 10:45 am,
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Chairman)
Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
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
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Members absent : Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP

Member attending : Hon WU Chi-wai, MH

**Public Officers : Item I
attending**

Labour and Welfare Bureau

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

Ms CHANG King-yiu, JP
Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr Caspar TSUI, JP
Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Miss Leonia TAI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1

Mr Johann WONG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2

Mr David LEUNG, JP
Commissioner for Rehabilitation

Ms Carol YIP, JP
Director of Social Welfare

Miss Cecilla LI, JP
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration)

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

Mr Esmond LEE, JP
Head, Working Family and Student Financial
Assistance Agency

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Jack CHAN, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Nick AU YEUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic
Affairs) 2

Miss Vinci CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civil
Affairs) 3

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

Staff in attendance : Mr Roger CHUNG
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Briefing by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)30/18-19(01) to (02), CB(2)165/18-19(01) to (02), The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address and The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Agenda]

At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW") and Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") highlighted the major initiatives of the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Home Affairs Bureau respectively, as set out in the 2018 Policy Address and the Administration's papers presented to the Panel.

Child care services

Enhancing the manning ratios for qualified child care workers

2. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung held the view that the enhanced manning ratios for qualified child care workers ("CCWs") serving in day child care centres ("CCCs") only returned to the level achieved in 1976 and lagged behind global practices. To his understanding, the enhanced manning ratio for children aged under two in Hong Kong (i.e. 1:6) was higher than the staff to child ratio for children aged under two in Singapore and South Korea (i.e. 1:5 in Singapore and 1:3 in South Korea). Given that the enhanced ratios were proposed before the completion of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services ("the Study"), he expressed concern that the manning ratios to be

recommended by the Study might not be able to meet public expectation. Mr LEUNG called on the Administration to provide additional resources to further enhance the manning ratios. The Deputy Chairman said that an additional funding of around \$25 million would be sufficient to increase the manning ratio for qualified CCWs serving in standalone CCCs from 1:6 to 1:4 in Hong Kong. He asked about the reasons for not doing so. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan considered that the enhanced manning ratios were set at a low level and failed to catch up with that of other neighbouring countries. She asked about the justifications for setting the enhanced manning ratio at 1:6, and whether the enhanced ratios were recommended by the Study.

3. With regard to the recommendations of the Study, SLW advised that the manning ratios for qualified CCWs serving in CCCs were enhanced at a reasonable level. While the detailed bases of figures collected from overseas jurisdictions were not available, taking into consideration the number of other supporting staff in Hong Kong's CCCs, the staff to child ratio in Hong Kong would be comparable to that of Finland generally. Observations of cross-jurisdiction comparison on the models of child care services would be made available upon completion of the Study.

Provision of child care centre service

4. In the light of the long waiting time for CCC places, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung considered that the Administration should formulate planning ratio for the provision of CCC places. For example, there should be 200 CCC places per 1 000 population or one CCC in each district. He said that there was some idle space in public rental housing ("PRH") estates. The space made up a total area of about 110 000 square feet and represented a vacancy rate of 39%. In his view, the Administration should convert the idle space to provide CCC service.

5. SLW responded that the Administration would make reference to the recommendation of the Study for formulating a planning ratio for the provision of CCC places. Besides, most of the aforementioned idle space was used as storerooms for letting out to public housing tenants. However, these storerooms were not large enough to address the operational needs of CCC service. The Administration would continue to identify suitable accommodation for the provision of CCC service.

6. Taking the view that the provision of child care services was not sufficient in every district, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan sought details on the

planning for the provision of CCC places. In view of the pressure of parents in affording CCC service, she asked about the increase in the level of subsidy for CCC service as mentioned in the 2018 Policy Address. She suggested that additional resources should be provided to train more kindergarten teachers and strengthen manpower for CCC service.

7. SLW advised that after inclusion of policy initiatives in the Policy Address, the Administration had to budget for the initiatives required to be implemented. In this connection, details of the increase in the level of subsidy for CCC service would be set out in the Budget. In response to Ms YUNG Hoi-yan's enquiry about building up a career pathway for kindergarten teachers with a view to recruiting more young people, SLW advised that the Administration would study the matter.

Incentive payments of Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project

8. The Deputy Chairman said that stakeholders had reflected their views to the consulting team conducting the Study that home-based child carers of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project ("NSCCP") should be full-time employed, instead of being volunteers of NSCCP. He enquired about when the Administration would make public the report of the Study, and why the Study would come to the conclusion that the Administration should only raise the incentive payments for these child carers. SLW responded that home-based child carers of NSCCP provided service as volunteers. Given the training and registration requirements for employed child carers, the provision of home-based child care service would be affected if the child carers were full-time employees instead of volunteers.

Support for pre-school children with special needs

9. Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered that the additional number of service places under the on-site pre-school rehabilitation services ("OPRS") still could not cope with the demand of children with special needs. He sought information about the support measures for children who could not receive the services under OPRS. SLW responded that the Administration would regularize OPRS and increase the number of service places from about 3 000 at present to about 5 000 in October 2018, which would be further increased to 7 000 in October 2019. The number of service places under OPRS depended on the availability of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists. In the meantime, the Administration would study whether it was necessary to

adjust the number of service places to be provided in 2020. While OPRS provided early intervention for children with special needs as a type of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services, the Administration would also implement a pilot project on the provision of support for children who showed signs of special needs and were waiting for assessment in kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-CCCs. In addition, the Education Bureau and the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had enhanced the mechanism for information transfer from operators of pre-school rehabilitation services to primary schools.

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

10. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan enquired about the reasons for not making the interim report of the Study available to the public, and the timeframe for completing and making public the final report. SLW advised that given that the interim report was drafted in English and was not planned to be made public in the first place, extra effort would be required in updating the interim report. It might also cause delay to the collation of the final report which was expected to be completed by the end of 2018. Taking into consideration the relevant progress and timeframe of the Study, priority was accorded to completing the final report.

11. Noting that the final report was originally expected to be ready in end-September 2018 and would be uploaded onto SWD's website, the Chairman asked whether the publication of the final report was delayed. SLW said that the Consultant had taken some time to assess the comments received and refine the study recommendations. This notwithstanding, SWD was already considering the draft final report which would be finalized soon and uploaded onto its official website immediately afterwards.

Motion

12. The Deputy Chairman moved the following motion:

"本委員會促請社會福利署盡快公開《幼兒照顧服務的長遠發展研究》報告，並參考澳洲、芬蘭及南韓3個國家的人手比例，改善香港合資格幼兒工作人員與幼兒的照顧比例，將香港幼兒工作人員與0至2歲幼兒的照顧比例由現時的1:8調整至1:3.5，以讓所有使用服務的嬰幼兒可以獲得適切及優質的服務。"

(Translation)

"This Panel urges the Social Welfare Department to make public the report of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services as soon as possible and, with reference to the manning ratio for child care workers ("CCWs") in the three countries (viz. Australia, Finland and South Korea), enhance the ratio for qualified CCWs taking care of children in Hong Kong by adjusting the existing ratio from one CCW to eight children aged zero to two to 1:3.5, so that all infants and young children using child care services can receive proper and quality services."

13. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

Manpower supply for the welfare sector

14. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed concern about the low salary level and heavy workload of frontline care workers in residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs"). Given that the Administration had provided additional resources for RCHEs to enhance their service quality, he enquired whether the Administration would take measures to monitor the salary level of frontline care workers in private RCHEs under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme ("EBPS"). SLW said that the Administration did not monitor the salary level of frontline care workers of private RCHEs under EBPS. While the Administration had provided resources for subsidized RCHEs to recruit frontline care workers, it would only collect information about the salary level of these care workers.

15. Mr Wilson OR enquired about the reasons why around 30% of the trainees recruited to the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services ("Navigation Scheme") had withdrawn. He asked whether the Administration would enhance the Navigation Scheme in order to attract the participants to complete the entire programme, and whether the Administration would extend the scope of the Navigation Scheme to cover job placements in private elderly or rehabilitation service units.

16. SLW responded that although the manpower turnover of the Navigation Scheme was relatively high, it showed a similar employment mobility of youngsters. In view of the manpower shortage in the welfare sector, the Administration would continue to enhance the Navigation Scheme. For example, the salary for work attachment would be increased

to attract and retain youngsters. The Administration would explore the feasibility of offering job placements in private RCHEs under EBPS. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry about the timetable for enhancing the Navigation Scheme, Director of Social Welfare ("DSW") advised that the Navigation Scheme would provide a total of 1 200 additional training places starting from 2020-2021. At the same time, the scheme would be extended to cover target trainees who were young persons aged 17 to 29. Working hours in elderly or rehabilitation service units would be decreased from 44 to 40 hours per week so as to facilitate trainees to attend training courses. The Administration would continue to examine the career pathway of these trainees under the Qualifications Framework.

17. Referring to a newspaper report that some subsidized RCHEs did not deploy the additional resources provided by the Administration for increasing the salaries of frontline care workers, Mr POON Siu-ping sought information about the progress of the Administration's investigation in this regard. He expressed concern about the effectiveness of the measure in attracting new recruits.

18. SLW advised that the Administration would conduct a survey by the end of 2018 to understand the vacancy situation of frontline care workers in subsidized RCHEs. Besides, the Administration had collected information about the salary level of frontline care workers in a job fair in July 2018. It was revealed that non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") had increased the salary level for new recruits. The Administration would continue to closely monitor the situation.

Extending the Old Age Living Allowance to the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme

19. Mr Wilson OR enquired whether the Administration would speed up the selection and appointment of implementation agent(s) so as to extend the Old Age Living Allowance to the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme as early as possible. He suggested that the Administration should prioritize the existing implementation agents of the Schemes in order to speed up the relevant process. SLW said that the Administration would endeavour to select the implementation agent(s) and update the relevant computer system. With reference to the past implementation experience, at least one year was required to prepare for the implementation of the abovementioned initiative. In this connection, it was envisaged that the initiative would be implemented in early 2020 at the earliest.

Support for elderly persons

Community care services

Admin

20. Mr POON Siu-ping asked about the waiting situation of the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services ("EHCCS") and the geographical distribution of the additional 2 000 service quota provided within 2019 under EHCCS. DSW undertook to provide the requested information.

21. In view of the long waiting list of community care services ("CCS") for elderly persons, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung considered that the additional 2 000 service quota provided under EHCCS would not be sufficient to meet the increasing needs. He called on the Administration to take effective and concrete measures to strengthen service provision. Given 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 ("Pilot Scheme on CCSV"), Mr LEUNG said that only limited services were provided for elderly persons under the Pilot Scheme on CCSV. He asked about how the Administration would ensure adequate provision of services under the Pilot Scheme on CCSV.

22. SLW responded that in order to shorten waiting time and meet the increasing need for CCS, additional resources would be provided for NGOs to strengthen relevant services through the provision of the additional 2 000 service quota under EHCCS and the additional 1 000 vouchers under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on CCSV. Meanwhile, the elderly care service sector had long been encountering human resources shortage in service provision. According to the statistics in 2017, vacancy rates of physiotherapists and occupational therapists were around 20% and those of personal care workers and home helpers in elderly services were around 18%. In the coming months, the Administration would examine the manpower shortage of the elderly care service sector in order to better understand the situation. The Administration would discuss with the NGOs concerned how to increase service capacity for CCS for elderly persons and explore measures to address manpower shortage.

Residential care services

23. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired how the Administration would enhance the overall service quality of private RCHEs through purchasing additional EA1 places. He considered that the facilities and standards of

private RCHEs were not on par with those of subsidized RCHEs. The "money-following-the-user" approach would not be effective since elderly persons had difficulty in relocating to another private RCHE. He asked about whether there would be an adequate amount of residential care places with satisfactory service quality to be purchased under EBPS. In the light of the stringent staffing and license requirements, Mr CHAN said that some RCHEs with financial constraints would operate at a loss if the existing EA2 places were converted to EA1 places. He asked whether the Administration would take measures to help the private RCHEs meet these requirements. Noting that about 6 000 elderly persons passed away while on the waiting lists for subsidized care and attention homes and subsidized nursing homes, Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired about the timeframe and target for provision of adequate residential care services for elderly persons.

24. SLW advised that it would be difficult for the Administration to purchase an additional 5 000 EA1 places in one go. In order to meet the requirements on space standard and staffing under EBPS, private RCHEs might reduce the number of their residential care places in converting existing EA2 places to EA1 places. While the Administration launched a scheme several years ago to help private RCHEs convert 1 200 EA2 places to EA1 places, some private RCHEs had difficulty in doing so due to site constraints. However, the purchase of an additional 5 000 EA1 places and that up to 50% of the places from individual RCHEs could be purchased would build up the confidence of private operators on their investment for converting their EA2 places to EA1 places and meeting the requirements on space standard and staffing. The Administration would discuss with operators of private RCHEs to offer assistance in enhancing their facilities and standards. Having regard to the wide disparities between the waiting time of EA1 places and that of other subsidized residential care places, it was hoped that the enhancement of service quality would encourage elderly persons and their families to take up EA1 places. Given that the setting up of a new subsidized RCHE took around 10 years from site identification to actual service provision, EBPS was introduced as an interim measure to increase the supply of subsidized residential care places for the elderly and enhance the overall service quality of private RCHEs. It was noteworthy that the additional 5 000 EA1 places was roughly equivalent to the number of subsidized residential care places for the elderly provided by 50 subsidized RCHEs.

25. Noting that it took a long time to increase the supply of subsidized residential care places for the elderly, Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired whether the Administration would take measures to encourage provision

of RCHEs in new PRH estates and new private development projects. He said that the provision of an RCHE in a PRH estate in Fanling did not accommodate the needs of the residents nearby. He called on the Administration to formulate planning standards for the provision of such places in each new PRH estate.

26. SLW advised that the Administration had been incorporating conditions in suitable land sale sites, with a view to requiring the developers to construct RCHEs. He said that there was a high return tender price for a land sale site despite the requirement for provision of elderly facilities, which showed that the provision of RCHE premises in private developments would not affect the land price concerned. The Administration would continue to incorporate similar requirements in suitable land sale site projects in future. As regards the provision of residential care places for the elderly in new PRH estates, the Administration would reinstate by end-2018 the population-based planning ratios for elderly services in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. This would facilitate early reservation of suitable sites for provision of elderly services and facilities by SWD and relevant departments (e.g. the Planning Department and Housing Department ("HD")) in planning new residential development projects. In response to Mr CHU Hoi-dick's enquiry about whether the Administration would only plan for service provision on a project basis but not having regard to the needs of the community, SLW advised that the planning for elderly services involved complicated considerations and had to be considered on an individual basis. A neighbourhood elderly centre ("NEC") would be provided for PRH estates with a population of around 15 000 residents. Moreover, as an RCHE required a relatively large floor area for its smooth operation, RCHEs might not be included in every land sale site project.

Reducing the overall need for long-term care services

27. The Deputy Chairman noted that under the Elderly Services Programme Plan ("ESPP"), one of the key strategic directions was to reduce institutionalization rate through significantly strengthening community care services. He also noted that there was an assumption that the demand rate for long-term care ("LTC") services would decrease by 1% each year. He enquired how the initiatives mentioned in the Policy Address would help decrease the overall need for LTC services. SLW advised that the 1% reduction in the need for LTC services referred to the decrease in the demand rate of LTC services for different five-year age cohorts (i.e. only a reduction in the percentage of elderly persons

requiring services in each cohort), due to change of social demographic factors such as improved health management as well as early identification and support. Given the importance of strengthening primary healthcare services provided for elderly persons, the Administration would enhance the collaboration between healthcare and welfare sectors so as to help elderly persons stay in the community. The Administration would take measures to promote healthy lifestyle, enable health management, strengthen early identification of health problems of elderly persons, etc. with a view to reducing the need for LTC services.

28. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern that the Administration did not have a concrete plan for coordinating the provision of primary healthcare services and social welfare services to facilitate early identification. He asked whether a public consultation exercise would be conducted in this regard. SLW advised that District Elderly Community Centres ("DECCs") and NECs had provided health promotion for elderly persons at the community level. After regularizing the Dementia Community Support Scheme, the Administration would implement measures at DECCs to facilitate early identification and enhance support services for demented elderly persons. As proposed in ESPP, DECCs and NECs should enhance their role in the promotion of active and healthy ageing as well as the support for carers of elderly persons. The Administration would take into consideration public views in reviewing the roles and functions of these centres.

Advocacy for cherishing the family

29. Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the Administration had encouraged or would explore the feasibility of encouraging the adoption of standard working hours through the Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme. USHA advised that the Award Scheme was to encourage employers to implement family-friendly employment policies and practices, including allowing employees to manage their time with due regard to their family commitments. The 2017-2018 Award Scheme was the fourth round and it was well received with a record high entries of over 3 530 and involving about 670 000 employees.

Community support programme for new public rental housing estates

30. Given that the Administration would regularize the community support programmes for new PRHs through the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund ("CIIF"), the Deputy Chairman considered that there were stringent requirements on staffing, level of subsidy and project

duration for programmes under CIIF. He sought information about the planning mechanism and the requirements for these community support programmes. He enquired how the Administration would ensure that these programmes would provide adequate support for every new PRH estate. Both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman considered that the community support programmes should last for six years. NGOs participating in these programmes should be provided with permanent accommodation and adequate manpower.

31. SLW said that CIIF would make reference to past experience of the community support programmes with a view to strengthening service provision. The regularized community support programmes would be time-limited and end three years after the resident intake. Manpower of these programmes would be subject to the resources allocated through CIIF. SWD would maintain close liaison with HD to plan for the provision of community support services at the resident intake stage. In view of the great demand for premises, only temporary vacant premises would be provided for NGOs for providing services under the community support programmes. The community support programmes would not utilize the premises provided for other social welfare services in PRH estates as such services were expected to be provided at the resident intake stage. That said, District Social Welfare Officers of SWD would coordinate with HD for the provision of appropriate premises.

Redevelopment of the site for Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong) into a civil service college

32. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong) ("the Centre") under the Vocational Training Council would be closed in 2021 for the establishment of a civil service college. Affected students might need to continue their studies at Shine Skills Centres at Tuen Mun or Pok Fu Lam. The two-year training course of the Centre might also be shortened to one year to fit in the redevelopment plan of the Centre. In the meantime, the Administration had not yet announced any transitional arrangements for the vocational training programmes, nor the location and operator of such programmes three years later. In his view, persons with disabilities mainly received vocational training services through Shine Skills Centres, integrated vocational training centres ("IVTCs") and integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres ("IVRSCs"). In view of the differences in the content of training programmes and the disabilities of students, IVTCs and IVRSCs could not substitute the role of the Shine Skills Centres. Dr CHEUNG expressed concern that the 300 full-time and 200 part-time students would be affected by the closure of

the Centre. Pointing out that a special meeting of the Panel would be held in mid-November 2018 to discuss the policy on vocational training for persons with disabilities arising from the redevelopment plan, he enquired about the reasons for closing the Centre and whether a performance review of the Centre had been conducted to justify its closure.

33. SLW responded that there was a need to redevelop the Centre since its premises were dilapidated. The service provided after the redevelopment plan would offer more service quotas than the Centre. Despite the differences in the services provided by IVTCs, IVRSCs and Shine Skills Centres, the Administration would study the future direction for the provision of such services. Moreover, the Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan would study how to strengthen employment support for persons with disabilities. The new service unit would make reference to this study for service provision. SLW advised that existing students of the Centre and the students enrolled in 2019 would not be affected by the redevelopment plan. If arrangements made for the redevelopment plan were to be announced in mid-2019, stakeholders would be given a period of two years so they would have sufficient time to plan before the closure of the Centre in 2021. SLW further said that given that the operator of the new service unit would be decided two years before service commencement, it was expected that the selected operator would provide relevant support for students of the Centre and their families by 2020. SLW supplemented that it was unlikely that further information on the replacement site could be given at the special meeting.

34. The Chairman urged the Administration to provide additional information of the redevelopment plan at that meeting. Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed dissatisfaction about the Administration's failure to disclose more details of the redevelopment plan. Taking the view that the redevelopment plan would sacrifice the interests of persons with disabilities, they expressed concern that the two-year period would not be sufficient. They considered that the Administration should have more empathy and respect for students and staff of the Centre.

35. Dr CHENG Chung-tai and Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung held the view that the redevelopment plan contradicted the policy to support the disadvantaged. Dr CHENG said that the Administration was irresponsible for not announcing as early as possible the transitional arrangements for the affected students of the Centre. Considering that the

Centre was established in the light of the need for vocational training services for persons with disabilities in the vicinity, Dr CHENG suggested that the new service unit should be located at Kwun Tong. The Administration should have a comprehensive planning for the redevelopment plan so that disabled students would not be required to travel a long distance to attend school. SLW advised that it was envisaged that the new service unit would be established at a relatively central location in Kowloon.

36. Taking the view that the redevelopment plan would give rise to negative public perception, the Chairman enquired whether SLW had commented on or opposed the plan, and whether the Administration would plan for the closure of other Shine Skills Centres under the Vocational Training Council. Noting that the staff of the Centre was only informed of the closure of the Centre without prior notice, the Chairman called on the Administration to make improvement in this regard. He expressed concern that the students of the Centre might need to go to Shine Skills Centres in other districts to continue their studies after its closure and the redevelopment plan had already brought uncertainty to persons with disabilities over the provision of vocational rehabilitation services. The Chairman asked about whether the Administration had consulted stakeholders in relation to the redevelopment plan.

37. SLW responded that it was considered inappropriate to disclose discussion within the Administration on the redevelopment plan. The Administration did not have any plans for the closure of other Shine Skills Centres under the Vocational Training Council. SLW supplemented that Secretary for the Civil Service had explained the notification arrangements of the redevelopment plan on other occasions. Staff of the Centre and the public were informed of the redevelopment plan at the same time when it was announced.

38. The Deputy Chairman took the view that the existing staff and students of the Centre had been affected since the announcement of the redevelopment plan. He enquired whether the Administration had identified the replacement location for the redevelopment plan of the Centre. SLW advised that the Administration had taken into consideration various factors in determining the replacement location. The location of the new service unit would be announced in due course.

Motion

39. Dr Fernando CHEUNG moved the following motion:

"行政長官宣讀施政報告指出要興建公務員學院。職業訓練局轄下展亮技能發展中心(觀塘)的殘疾學員和家長卻在當日收到通知，指中心於2021年關閉，中心前線同事亦是當天才知悉此事。勞工及福利局局長承認該中心現址將用作興建公務員學院，但至今未交代3年後將以甚麼職業訓練銜接，在甚麼地方、由誰去營辦。本委員會對當局這種不尊重展亮學生、家長及同事的做法深表遺憾，同時促請當局應立即清楚交代何以有此政策改變，並應在改變前先諮詢各持份者。"

(Translation)

"On the day when the Chief Executive announced in the Policy Address that a civil service college would be established, the disabled students of Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong) under the Vocational Training Council and their parents were notified that the Centre would be closed in 2021. Frontline staff members of the Centre also only learnt about the plan on the same day. The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, while admitting that the existing site of the Centre will be used for constructing the civil service college, has not yet announced any transitional arrangements for the vocational training programmes, nor the location and operator of such programmes three years later. This Panel expresses deep regret at the Administration's disrespect for students, parents and staff members of the Centre, and urges the Administration to explain clearly the reasons for such policy change and consult the stakeholders before any change is made."

40. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

Land planning for social welfare facilities

41. Noting that the Administration would reinstate the population-based planning ratios for elderly facilities and services in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, Mr WU Chi-wai considered that provision of social welfare facilities would also be affected by non-domestic plot ratio for buildings. He suggested that a plot ratio for social welfare facilities should be imposed, so as to ensure

sufficient land supply for social welfare uses. SLW responded that the Administration had taken into consideration the community's overall development in drawing up Outline Zoning Plans. It was not feasible to separate the need for social welfare facilities from the need for other community facilities in developing "Government, Institution or Community" sites.

Enhancing the accessibility of community

42. Noting that the Administration would review the universal accessibility of the community in Hong Kong to facilitate persons with disabilities to lead an independent life, Mr WU Chi-wai held the view that the accessibility of private housing estates should also be improved. He suggested that a matching fund should be set up for private housing estates to enhance the accessibility of these estates to benefit elderly persons and other needy persons. SLW advised that building standards regulated the accessibility of common areas of buildings and provided guidance on building design. Accessibility of buildings should follow the latest standards. The Administration did not have a plan to provide resources to facilitate building maintenance for meeting the latest requirements in building standards.

Review on Enhancement of Lump Sum Grant Subvention System

43. In response to Dr CHENG Chung-tai's enquiry about the progress of the Review on Enhancement of Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, SLW advised that the Task Force for the Review would continue to conduct the Review. The social welfare sector was involved in the Review process.

Incentive payment for sheltered workshop users

44. Noting that the Administration would explore the feasibility of developing a new service mode for sheltered workshops, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the formula for setting the current level of incentive payment for sheltered workshop users, and whether the Administration would review the level of incentive payment. SLW advised that the Administration would review the interface between sheltered workshops and other vocational rehabilitation services, which would also cover the arrangements of the incentive payment for these users. SLW undertook to provide information about the formula.

II. Any other business

45. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:44 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 December 2018