

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 11 April 2019)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Providing extra allowance to recipients of social security, Working Family Allowance and Work Incentive Transport Subsidy; and one-off grant to students in need

Item proposed by the Administration.

15 April 2019

The two captioned initiatives were announced in the 2019-2020 Budget as part of the relief measures. The Administration will brief members on the relevant implementation arrangements.

2. Strengthening the monitoring of residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities and enhancing their service quality

Item proposed by the Administration.

15 April 2019

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung has requested the Panel to discuss the report of Social Welfare Department ("SWD")'s Working Group on the Review of Ordinances and Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes to review the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) ("RCHE Ordinance"), Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) ("RCHD Ordinance") and the related codes of practice.

Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung would also like to discuss improving the quality of manpower of residential care homes ("RCHs").

The Administration will report to members the measures that have been implemented by SWD after the creation of the supernumerary post of

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Assistant Director of Social Welfare, which was approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") on 21 April 2017, to strengthen the monitoring of RCHEs and RCHDs and enhance their service quality, including the review of the RCHE Ordinance, the RCHD Ordinance and the related codes of practice.

3. Annual briefing on welfare facility projects funded by Lotteries Fund

Item proposed by the Administration.

15 April 2019

The Administration will brief members on a list of proposed welfare facility projects in respect of which funding support from the Lotteries Fund will be sought in 2019-2020, and to report the progress of the proposed projects included in the previous annual briefing in July 2018.

4. Provision of speech therapy services for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and students with special needs

Hon KWONG Chun-yu has suggested that the item should be discussed at a joint meeting with the Panel on Education ("ED Panel") and deputations should be invited to give views on the subject matter at the joint meeting.

May 2019

5. Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses

Item proposed by the Administration.

20 May 2019

The Administration will brief members on launching of Phase Two of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("Special Scheme") and progress of implementation of Phase One of the Special Scheme after the last progress report to the Panel on 8 January 2018.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

6. Redevelopment of the site for Factory of the Blind in To Kwa Wan

Item proposed by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (LC Paper No. CB(2)854/18-19(01)).

20 May 2019

7. Special Needs Trust

The Panel discussed "Special Needs Trust" at its meeting on 11 March 2019.

June 2019

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung has suggested that the Panel should receive public views on the subject matter.

8. Emergency welfare measures and community services for handling typhoons

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

10 June 2019

Hon KWONG Chun-yu has suggested that the item should be discussed at a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs ("HA Panel").

"Review of the Administration's response to typhoons" is on the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel on Security.

9. Review of effectiveness of social services provided for ethnic minorities

Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun have suggested that a joint meeting with the HA Panel should be held to discuss the subject matter .

10 June 2019

Hon SHIU Ka-chun has suggested that mainstreaming of social services for ethnic minorities should also be discussed and representatives of the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") should also attend the relevant meeting for discussion of this item.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Administration established the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minorities Affairs, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration, in July 2018 to enhance internal collaboration among government bureaux/departments on support for ethnic minorities.

10. Support for divorced families and recovery of maintenance payments

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

10 June 2019

Hon KWONG Chun-yu has suggested that a joint meeting with the HA Panel should be held to discuss this item.

11. Progress of the review on enhancement of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System

Item proposed by the Administration.

July 2019

Hon KWONG Chun-yu has suggested that the Panel should receive public views on the subject matter.

"Review of effectiveness of Social Welfare Development Fund", which is proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun, will be covered under this item.

12. Progress of the implementation of the Best Practice Manual among non-governmental organizations receiving Lump Sum Grant Subvention

Item proposed by the Administration.

8 July 2019

13. Planning for the provision of welfare facilities in new development areas

The Panel of the Fifth LegCo ("the former

8 July 2019

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Panel") suggested that the Panel should consider discussing the subjects of setting targets for the provision of hostels for mentally handicapped persons (e.g. setting a target waiting time and a specific percentage of the total area of a new public housing project for such provision) and the provision of child care places and residential care places for elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun have suggested that the Panel should discuss the captioned subject matter.

Services for elderly

14. Care services for elderly persons with special needs

The Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Future Development of Elderly Services Schemes formed under the former Panel had studied, inter alia, care services for elderly persons with special needs. In its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1902/15-16) the Subcommittee suggested that the Panel should follow up the provision of services by the Administration for elderly persons with chronic diseases, dementia or disabilities as well as elderly persons from ethnic minorities and from sexual minorities.

To be decided

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki has suggested that welfare for elderly persons living alone should also be discussed.

15. Infirmity care in non-hospital setting

The Administration consulted the Panel of the Third LegCo in December 2004 on a proposal to launch a trial scheme to provide infirmity care places for medically stable elders in a non-hospital setting. Various options are being

To be decided

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

explored, including upgrading some of the places in subvented RCHs for the elderly to provide infirmary care. The Administration will report the progress in due course.

16. Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly

Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung has proposed to discuss the provision of additional vouchers under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme.

To be decided

17. Provision of welfare service premises for the elderly and enhancement of facilities therein

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che.

To be decided

18. Old Age Living Allowance

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN. He would like to discuss enhancement of the Old Age Living Allowance.

To be decided

Welfare services for youth and children

19. Provision of social workers in schools

The Panel has discussed and received public views on "Pilot Scheme on Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions" at its special meeting on 22 June 2018. Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun have suggested that the Panel should discuss the provision of social workers in kindergartens.

To be decided

As it is announced in the 2019-2020 Budget that funding will be allocated for increasing the number of school social workers to two per secondary school, Hon KWONG Chun-yu has proposed that the Panel should also discuss the provision of additional social workers for secondary schools. He has suggested that a

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

joint meeting with the ED Panel should be held to discuss the item and representatives of the Education Bureau ("EDB") should also attend the relevant meeting.

20. Child protection policy and a proposed Member's bill on such policy

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung has requested the Panel to discuss child protection policy and his proposed Member's bill on such policy, which will soon be presented to the Panel for consideration.

To be decided

21. Welfare measures for facilitating children and youth development

The former Panel agreed to explore whether to discuss the issue "Exploring a way out for young people in respect of welfare, education and employment, etc. under deep-rooted social conflicts in light of the Mongkok Riot occurred on 8 February 2016".

To be decided

Hon SHIU Ka-chun has suggested discussing as soon as possible the captioned subject matter which also covers the issue mentioned above.

22. Mental health of children and adolescents and related community support services

Given that mental health of children and adolescents is a key area of discussion of the Advisory Committee on Mental Health, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki has suggested that a joint meeting with the Panel on Health Services ("HS Panel") and the ED Panel should be held in the 2018-2019 session to discuss issues relating to mental health and related community support services and the work progress of the Advisory Committee.

To be decided

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun have suggested that service arrangements for Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness arising from extension of the scope of their service to cover all secondary school students should also be discussed under this item.

23. Youth suicides

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki has suggested that the Panel should consider holding a joint meeting with the HS Panel on youth suicides and relevant social welfare organizations should be invited to give views thereon.

To be decided

A joint meeting with the HS Panel and the ED Panel was held on 20 December 2017 to discuss "Mental health of adolescents" which covered, inter alia, youth suicides.

24. Welfare issues relating to students with special educational needs

Item proposed by Hon Alvin YEUNG. He has suggested that the ED Panel should be invited to join the relevant discussion.

To be decided

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung has suggested that the Panel should hold a joint meeting with the ED Panel to discuss and receive views from relevant deputations/individuals including academics, professional bodies, welfare organizations, parents and students on EDB's tendering arrangements for provision of hearing aids.

25. Provision of cyber youth support services for reaching out to at-risk and hidden youths through the Internet

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Women welfare

- 26. Women-related issues (e.g. measures to unleash women workforce, female employees receiving less pay than male employees for equal work, long working hours, etc.)**

Item proposed by Miss CHAN Yuen-han.

To be decided

- 27. The work of the Women's Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission in the implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

Item referred by the Panel on Constitutional Affairs ("CA Panel") (LC Paper No. CB(2)232/17-18(01)). CA Panel members will be invited to attend the relevant meeting for discussion of the item.

To be decided

Support for underprivileged groups with special needs in the community

- 28. Proposal for formation of a subcommittee on issues relating to welfare of persons with disabilities**

Item proposed by Miss CHAN Yuen-han.

To be decided

- 29. Community care and support services for persons with disabilities**

The former Panel acceded to Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung's request (LC Paper No. CB(2)401/15-16(02)) for discussion of issues relating to community care and support services for persons with disabilities.

To be decided

The Panel acceded to Hon YUNG Hoi-yan's request (LC Paper No. CB(2)253/16-17(01)) for discussion of issues relating to autistic adults.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

30. Review of effectiveness of the Working Family Allowance Scheme

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

31. Arrangements made and support measures provided by the Social Welfare Department in relation to households living in inadequate housing and the homeless

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

Hon KWONG Chun-yu has suggested that representatives from HAB should also be invited for discussing this item.

Hon Michael TIEN has suggested that regularization of living subsidy programme for households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance should also be discussed.

The Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Related to Inadequate Housing and Relevant Housing Policies formed under the Panel on Housing ("HG Panel") has held its first meeting on 14 December 2018.

32. Review of supplements, special grants, maximum amount of disregarded earnings and the Support for the Self-reliance Scheme under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

The Panel has discussed "Review of supplements and special grants under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme" at its meeting on 11 February 2019.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Social welfare planning and administration

33. Planning for social welfare policies

The former Panel has discussed medium and long-term social welfare planning at its meetings on 19 February, 26 March and 8 July 2013. Members suggested that the Panel should discuss with the Administration progress of the subject matter.

To be decided

34. Amending Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505)

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

35. Management of projects financed by Lotteries Fund

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun. The item was covered in the Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") Report No. 68 published in July 2017. A Government Minute, with details of the Government's responses, was tabled at LegCo on 18 October 2017.

See *Note*

The Administration has advised that an Annual Progress Report covering the items in the PAC's Report No. 68 which include, among other things, "Management of projects financed by the Lotteries Fund", was submitted by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau to LegCo on 26 October 2018.

Note: The Administration proposes to delete this item from the list.

36. Manpower planning for provision of social welfare services

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Others

37. Charitable fund-raising activities

On 6 December 2013, the Law Reform Commission ("LRC") released its report on charities, which put forward a number of recommendations including those on monitoring charitable fund-raising activities. HAB is coordinating comments from relevant bureaux and departments for formulating the Administration's responses to the report.

To be decided

The Administration's responses and actions with regard to LRC reports are to be reported to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("AJLS Panel"). HAB is planning to report progress to the AJLS Panel later when the responses are ready.

The monitoring of charitable fund-raising activities was covered in PAC Report No. 68 published in July 2017. A Government Minute, with details of the Government's responses, was tabled at LegCo on 18 October 2017.

38. Community development policy

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun.

To be decided

The Panel has discussed and received deputations' views on "Community development policy and services" at its meeting on 11 June 2018.

39. Review of the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN.

To be decided

Hon Michael TIEN has suggested that the Scheme should be extended to cover red

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

minibuses and non-franchized buses providing residents' services.

40. Partial tenancy control

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN.

To be decided

Hon Michael TIEN has suggested that the Administration should conduct public consultation on the subject matter.

Two joint meetings of the HG Panel and the Panel were held on 4 June and 6 July 2018 to receive public views on tenancy control.