

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1725/18-19

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Report of the Panel on Welfare Services for submission to the Legislative Council

Purpose

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the Panel") during the 2018-2019 session of the Legislative Council. It will be tabled at the Council meeting of 3 July 2019 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure.

The Panel

2. The Panel was formed by a resolution of the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to welfare (including women welfare) and rehabilitation services, poverty, social enterprise and the Family Council. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.

3. The Panel comprises 18 members, with Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun elected as its Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

Major work

Social Security

4. Social security plays an essential role in helping people meet their basic needs and alleviating poverty. It has always been one of the major areas of concern of the Panel. Since the announcement of the former Chief Executive in January 2017 that the eligible age for elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") would be raised from 60 to 65 ("the new policy") to align with the direction of the Government's population policy to extend retirement age, the Panel has urged the Administration to shelve the new policy. During this session, the Panel

continued to follow up the matter with the Administration. Members were advised that the Administration would implement the new policy on 1 February 2019. The Social Welfare Department ("SWD") would extend the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance to able-bodied CSSA recipients aged between 60 and 64. However, unlike other able-bodied CSSA recipients aged below 60, these recipients would not be subject to sanction if they declined to join the programme until the Administration had completed the review on the relevant pro-employment components of the CSSA Scheme, including but not limited to the disregarded earnings arrangement, supplements, special grants, employment support services, etc. ("the Review"). Members were also advised that the preparatory work for the Review had commenced in mid-2018, and the Administration aimed to complete the Review by end-2019.

5. In view of the adverse impact of the new policy on CSSA recipients aged between 60 and 64 and strong opposing views of the public on the new policy, members continued to urge the Administration to shelve the new policy. They criticized the Administration for reducing its welfare support for the young elderly notwithstanding a huge fiscal surplus. Some members considered that the new policy should not be introduced in the absence of a comprehensive scheme to help elderly persons achieve self-reliance.

6. The Administration advised that it had no plan to withdraw the new policy. It should be noted that persons aged between 60 and 64 who had already been receiving elderly CSSA before 1 February 2019 would be "grandfathered" and would not be affected. Since only a relatively small percentage of CSSA recipients aged between 60 and 64 were able-bodied, the Administration would help them engage in employment with a view to further unleashing the labour force. The Administration also advised that it had acceded to members' request to make adjustments to the new policy. As such, SWD would provide the Employment Support Supplement to able-bodied CSSA recipients aged between 60 and 64 to enhance employment support.

7. When the Administration briefed the Panel on the payments under the CSSA Scheme, including supplements and special grants, members were concerned that after implementing the new policy, CSSA recipients aged between 60 and 64 were no longer eligible for supplements and special grants payable to elderly CSSA recipients ("elderly supplements and special grants"). They strongly urged the Administration to provide these CSSA recipients with elderly supplements and special grants. Members also called on the Administration to resume the provision of various special grants for able-bodied adult CSSA recipients, which had

been suspended since 1999, before findings of the Review were available. The Administration advised that it had been receiving views on the CSSA Scheme from various stakeholders, and would take into account these views in examining the components of supplements and special grants.

8. In this session, the Panel was also briefed by the Administration on its proposal to adjust the standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme and the rates of allowances under the Social Security Allowance Scheme with effect from 1 February 2019, having regard to the latest movement of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices. While members supported the Administration's proposal, they continued to urge the Administration to conduct an overhaul of the CSSA system as it had not been reviewed for years and there were considerable problems in the CSSA system, such as insufficient CSSA payment rates to meet basic needs and inadequate rent allowance to cover rental expenses of private housing. The Administration advised that it had introduced targeted measures to better address the needs of CSSA recipients and would continue to review and consider making adjustments to various components of the CSSA Scheme as appropriate.

9. The Panel also discussed the Administration's initiatives to provide one-off extra allowances to recipients of social security payments, the Working Family Allowance ("WFA") and Work Incentive Transport Subsidy ("one-off extra allowances"), and to provide a one-off grant of \$2,500 to financially needy students ("one-off grant"). Some members considered that the Administration should provide the one-off grant for all students in Hong Kong in view of the huge fiscal surplus in the 2018-2019 financial year. The Administration advised that the provision of one-off grant sought to help the students who had financial needs. It would study how the support for needy families could be further strengthened. Some members called on the Administration to disburse the one-off extra allowances and the one-off grant as early as possible. The Administration assured members that it would review the procedure for disbursing the extra allowances and the one-off grant with a view to expediting the disbursement of payments.

Services for the elderly and persons with disabilities

Protection of the elderly and persons with disabilities

10. Of equal concern to members in the session was the protection of the elderly and persons with disabilities from harm and abuse. The Panel discussed with the Administration its policies, measures and relevant support services on preventing abuse of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Members were concerned that existing legislation, such as

the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200), the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210) and the Offences against the Person Ordinance (Cap. 212) ("the OAP Ordinance"), might not be applicable to cases of abuse of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. There was a call for the Administration to make new law dedicated to preventing abuse of elderly persons and persons with disabilities as soon as possible.

11. Separately, the Panel was briefed by Dr Fernando CHEUNG on his proposed amendments to the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) ("RCHE") Ordinance (Cap. 459) and the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) ("RCHD") Ordinance (Cap. 613) to tighten the licensing requirements for RCHE and RCHD respectively, with a view to providing better protection to Residential Care Home ("RCH") residents. Dr CHEUNG also briefed the Panel on his proposed amendments to the OAP Ordinance to criminalize ill-treatment or neglect of elderly persons or persons with disabilities and impose a penalty on the offenders.

12. Some members shared Dr Fernando CHEUNG's concern that currently senior management staff of a RCH did not incur any individual liability in managing or operating the RCH concerned if the licensee of that RCH was a body corporate, and this problem should be addressed as early as possible in the interest of RCH residents. The Administration advised that SWD had set up the Working Group on the Review of Ordinances and Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes ("the Working Group") in June 2017 to review the RCHE Ordinance, the RCHD Ordinance and relevant codes of practice. The topics discussed included the requirements of licensees of RCHs, training for RCH staff and the minimum area of floor space per resident in RCHs.

13. As regards Dr CHEUNG's proposed amendments to the OAP Ordinance, the Administration advised that members of the public including elderly persons and persons with disabilities were protected from abuse under the law. Depending on individual circumstances of the case, the OAP Ordinance, the Crimes Ordinance and the Theft Ordinance might offer protection to persons from abuse, harm or assault. The Administration would take heed of members' views on the amendments proposed by Dr CHEUNG and consider the views carefully.

14. Following up its work concerning the monitoring of RCHEs and RCHDs by the Administration, the Panel discussed with the Administration the progress and recommendations of the Working Group as well as the measures implemented by the Administration to strengthen the monitoring of RCHs and enhance their service quality. Some members considered that the statutory staffing requirements in respect of high care level homes should be substantially enhanced. Suggestion was also made that the

Administration should gradually increase the statutory minimum area of floor space per resident in new RCHs from the existing 6.5m² to 16m². Some members suggested that the Administration should conduct an extensive public consultation exercise on the Working Group's recommendations. The Administration advised that it planned to commence the consultation exercise in the second half of 2019. All stakeholders including service users, RCH operators, relevant professional sectors, relevant advisory bodies, members of the public and the Panel would be invited to give views on the specific recommendations of the Working Group.

15. Members noted that as at end-January 2019, out of the 318 RCHDs, only 142 had been issued with licences. The remaining 176 RCHDs were operating with certificate of exemptions and undergoing improvement works. Expressing grave concern as to whether these RCHDs would be able to comply with the licensing requirements by end-2019, members requested the Administration to keep the Panel abreast of the progress.

Support for carers

16. As carers play a vital role in helping elderly persons and persons with disabilities continue living in the community, members were very concerned about the support services provided for them by the Administration. Members of the public were invited to give views on the subject at a special meeting of the Panel. Members were concerned that in order to be eligible to receive the carer allowances under the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of the Elderly Persons from Low Income Families and the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for the Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities, the elderly persons being taken care of must be on the Central Waiting List ("CWL") for subsidized long-term care services and the persons with disabilities being taken care of must be on the waiting lists for any specified rehabilitation services subsidized by SWD. Given that many elderly persons and persons with disabilities were reluctant to be admitted to RCHs, they took the view that such requirements had rendered their carers not eligible to receive the allowance. They urged the Administration to remove the requirements from the two Pilot Schemes. Some members were also concerned that the income requirements of the two Pilot Schemes were too stringent. They urged the Administration to remove the income requirements and increase the amounts of allowances under the two Pilot Schemes.

17. The Administration advised that it had commissioned the Sau Po Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation study on the two Pilot Schemes. The Administration would review the existing criteria, the levels of allowances and the way forward for the two

Pilot Schemes in the light of the results of the evaluation study.

18. Some members also expressed grave concern about the lack of emergency respite service for elderly persons and persons with disabilities. The Administration advised that emergency residential care service for elderly persons was provided in some subvented RCHEs and nursing homes ("NHs") to cater for the situation under which carers of elderly persons encountered sudden incidents, such as admission to hospital. Subject to resources availability of the RCHEs or NHs concerned, emergency respite service during late hours might be arranged in the light of circumstances of individual cases.

Provision of community care services

19. In view of the long waiting list of community care services ("CCS") for elderly persons, members called on the Administration to take effective and concrete measures to strengthen service provision. The Administration advised that in order to shorten waiting time and meet the increasing need for CCS, additional resources would be provided for non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to strengthen relevant services through the provision of the additional 2 000 service quota under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services and the additional 1 000 vouchers under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly.

Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan

20. The Administration has entrusted the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee to formulate a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan ("RPP") to set out the strategic directions and measures to address the service needs of persons with disabilities at different stages of life. Considering that many persons with disabilities have expressed their wishes to continue living at home so as to postpone their admission to RCHs, the Administration would strengthen a range of community support services for persons with disabilities and their families before the completion of the new RPP. The Panel was briefed on the progress of the formulation of the new RPP and its early deliverables in November 2018.

21. Some members were concerned about the scope of review of RPP and urged the Administration to extend the scope to cover law-related matters relating to persons with disabilities. Some members called on the Administration to provide a concrete timetable for implementing the new RPP. The Administration advised that the scope of the RPP review sought to set out the strategic directions for the development of various rehabilitation and care services for persons with disabilities and measures

to address the demand for such services, and the Labour and Welfare Bureau would follow up law-related matters concerning persons with disabilities with the relevant bureaux/departments separately. The RPP review would study the demand for rehabilitation services taking into account factors such as the longer life expectancy and ageing of persons with disabilities. Such information would enable the Administration to come up with a more accurate projection of the demand for rehabilitation services, thereby formulating plans to replenish the shortfall of such services.

Redevelopment of the site for Shine Skills Centre (Kwun Tong)

22. It was announced in the 2018 Policy Address that a civil service college would be built in Kwun Tong. To tie in with the Administration's plan, the Vocational Training Council ("VTC") would be required to return to the Administration the site of the Shine Skills Centre in Kwun Tong ("SSC") in 2021. In November 2018, the Panel discussed with the Administration the policy on vocational training for persons with disabilities in the light of the plan for redeveloping SSC's site into a civil service college. Relevant deputations/individuals were invited to give views on the issue.

23. Given that the relocation of SSC would adversely affect the vocational training services for persons with disabilities, members criticized the Administration for failing to consult relevant stakeholders before deciding to relocate SSC. They were also concerned about the selection of site for relocating SSC and the operation of the new SSC. The Administration advised that in planning the relocation of vocational training services for persons with disabilities, the Administration aimed to develop an enhanced model of integrated vocational and skills training services ("the enhanced model") through combining the strengths of Integrated Vocational Training Centres and SSCs. Subsequently, the Administration announced in December 2018 that SSC would be relocated to a site in Kowloon Tong during the interim period and then moved back to the Kwun Tong district after the completion of a development project that covered SCC's current site. Implementation details of the enhanced model would be worked out after further discussion between the Administration and VTC.

Special Needs Trust

24. It was announced in the 2017 Policy Address that the Administration had decided to steer the formation of the Special Needs Trust ("SNT") with the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated as the Trustee, in order to provide a trust service for the parents who had family members with special

needs. The Panel was briefed by the Administration on the service scope and implementation arrangements of SNT in March 2019, and has scheduled another meeting in July 2019 to meet with deputations and the Administration to further discuss the matter. Noting that parents who participated in SNT ("Settlors") were required to deposit a minimum of \$204,000 and the prevailing trustee fee for the first year ("First Payment") into their SNT accounts, members urged the Administration to reduce the amount of the First Payment so that low-income families could also participate in SNT. Members were also concerned that the annual fee of \$21,000 for each trust account under SNT was too high, which would deplete the trust fund over time. They called on the Administration to subsidize or waive the annual fee under SNT. The Administration advised that it was estimated that the Administration already had to subsidize almost fully the total operating cost of SNT accounts in the first few years of implementing the SNT service as no fee would be charged until a trust account was activated.

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

25. At a joint meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services and the Panel on Education, members discussed and received deputations' views on the speech therapy services for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and students with special needs provided by the Administration. Some members took the view that there should be a statutory registration system for speech therapists and a professional system should be established to manage and monitor the quality of speech therapy services. The Administration was also requested to draw up a long-term plan for the development of speech therapy services.

26. Some members expressed grave concern that the Administration ceased to provide on-site pre-school speech therapy services for pre-primary school children when they reached the age of six. They called on the Administration to remove the age ceiling for receiving such services and provide such services for pre-primary school children with special needs until they proceeded to primary school. Some members shared some deputations' concern that only NGOs were invited to submit proposals for providing outreach speech therapy services for residents in RCHEs. Given that some NGOs would outsource speech therapy services to private speech therapy clinics/centres, some members suggested that the Administration should also invite proposals from these clinics/centres.

On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

27. According to the Administration, given the positive results of the

Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services ("OPRS") and full recognition by parents and kindergartens ("KGs") teachers, OPRS has been regularized since October 2018. The Panel was briefed by the Administration on the major findings and recommendations of the evaluative study on the Pilot Scheme on OPRS.

28. Members considered that service coordinators played a vital role in coordinating OPRS and monitoring the progress of children. They urged the Administration to allocate additional resources to KGs for engaging service coordinators irrespective of the size of student population at individual KGs. The Administration advised that given the great variance in the size of student population in KGs, ranging from a few to over 1 000, the Administration had difficulty to take on board the proposal of providing service coordinators for all KGs at this stage. In addition, the Administration had already announced that SWD would launch a new Pilot Scheme on Social Work Service for Pre-primary Institutions by phases in all subsidized/aided KGs, child care centres ("CCCs") and KG-cum-CCCs for early identification and provision of assistance to pre-primary children and their families with welfare needs.

29. Members were also concerned about the manpower shortage problems in primary and secondary schools for providing support for students with special needs. The Administration advised that in the light of acute manpower shortage of physiotherapists and occupational therapists in the welfare sector, SWD had implemented a training sponsorship scheme to provide funding for welfare NGOs to offer full tuition fee sponsorship to students enrolled in the master programme in Occupational Therapy and master programme in Physiotherapy launched by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The sponsored students must work in the NGOs concerned for at least three years upon graduation.

Family and child welfare

Child care services

30. In this session, the Panel examined in detail the Final Report of the Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services ("the Study"). Members of the public were invited to give views on the subject.

31. While welcoming the Administration's initiatives proposed in the 2018 Policy Address to enhance child care services, members were concerned that long whole-day CCC service and child care services for children aged zero to under two were inadequate and expensive. The Administration advised that it would formulate a planning ratio for CCC

places taking into account the recommendation of the Study. Given that it might take about eight to 11 years from the planning stage to the commissioning of a CCC, the Administration would endeavour to identify suitable sites for operating CCCs with reference to the planning ratio in 2031, but the availability of suitable sites was somewhat beyond the Administration's control.

32. Members noted that the Administration would, after drawing reference to the Study's recommendations, enhance within the 2019-2020 school year the existing qualified staff-to-child ratio of day and residential CCC from 1:8 to 1:6 for children aged zero to under two, so as to improve service quality. There was a call for the Administration to further enhance the manning ratio substantially. The Administration advised that the number of qualified child care workers ("CCWs") required would be increased by one-third if the existing manning ratio was enhanced from 1:8 to 1:6. The number of qualified CCWs required would be doubled if the manning ratio was further enhanced to 1:4. In view of the stringent manpower situation of CCWs, the Administration would not be able to achieve the manning ratio of 1:4 in the coming few years, but it would review the manning ratio from time to time.

33. Members shared deputations' view that the Administration should standardize the training programmes for home-based child carers ("HCCs") and increase their incentive payment to a level comparable to the statutory minimum wage. The Administration advised that HCCs provided service as volunteers so as to promote the spirit of mutual help in the neighbourhood. If HCCs became full-time employees, issues in relation to monitoring, regulation, training, employees' compensation insurance, etc., had to be addressed. Moreover, a review of the incentive payment for HCCs would take place in the 2019-2020 financial year. Service providers would be consulted on the level of incentive payment.

Compassionate Rehousing

34. At the Panel's request, the Administration exchanged views with members on the progress of the review conducted by SWD on compassionate rehousing ("CR") case processing of social welfare service units. Members were advised that SWD was reviewing and enhancing the vetting standards, handling procedures and assessment mechanism in processing CR cases with a view to facilitating social workers of various service units to process CR cases in a more effective manner. Noting that the number of CR cases had dropped from around 2 300 cases in 2012-2013 to around 1 200 cases in 2016-2017, members were concerned that the reduction in the number of CR cases might be a result of higher assessment standards and tighter vetting requirement of CR cases. The

Administration advised that it had not tightened the vetting requirement of CR cases. SWD and the Housing Department had formed liaison groups to discuss how the Administration could assist needy families or individuals in addressing their housing needs by other means apart from CR. Given that the supply of public rental housing ("PRH") in both the extended urban and urban areas had increased in recent years, some families or individuals who had requested for CR in these areas had been allocated PRH through the CWL system.

Social welfare planning

Purchase of premises for the provision of welfare facilities

35. The Administration has all along been adopting a multi-pronged approach in identifying and securing suitable premises for the operation of welfare services. In the session, members deliberated the Administration's plan as announced in the 2019-2020 Budget to devote \$20 billion to purchase properties for accommodating welfare facilities. Members were advised that the Administration would purchase around 160 welfare facilities spreading among 18 districts, and priorities would be given to those districts where welfare facilities were in acute shortage, e.g. CCCs and day care centres for the elderly.

36. While most members present supported in principle the submission of the relevant financial proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration, they were concerned about the impact of the premises purchase plan on the property market and the measures to safeguard against conflict of interest in premises purchase exercises. The Administration advised that the premises purchase plan would not have significant impact on the property market because the premises would be acquired over a period of three years. The Administration would set up a Steering Committee with the Director of Social Welfare as Chairman and the Government Property Administrator as member, to oversee the conduct of the premises purchase exercises and to make collective decisions on the purchase of premises. The Administration would also set up sub-committees comprising representatives from various government departments to identify suitable premises, evaluate, make recommendations for and negotiate the purchases, etc. The involvement of government professional staff of relevant disciplines could ensure that the integrity of the purchase exercises would be safeguarded by well-established policy and regulations and that public funds would be used properly.

Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses

37. The Panel received the Administration's briefing on the launch of

Phase Two of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses ("Special Scheme") and the latest position of Phase One of the Special Scheme. Members were concerned about the high proportion of self-financing services under the Special Scheme. They took the view that as the projects under the Special Scheme were funded by the Lotteries Fund ("LF"), they should aim at meeting the service needs of the needy groups rather than those who could afford to pay for self-financing services. The Administration was requested to provide only subsidized services under the Special Scheme. The Administration was also requested to source more privately owned site for welfare uses by inviting non-profit making organizations to participate in Phase Two of the Special Scheme. Members also urged the Administration to press ahead with the implementation of Phase One of the Special Scheme and assist NGOs in taking forward their projects.

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

38. The Hong Kong Society for the Blind ("HKSB") submitted under the Special Scheme a project to redevelop the site of the Factory of the Blind ("the Factory") and proposed to temporarily decant the Factory to Tuen Mun. According to the Administration, having considered the stakeholders' concerns about HKSB's proposed decanting arrangement, the Administration had assisted HKSB in searching for a suitable decanting site in urban area. A to-be-vacated school premises in Kwun Tong District had been identified as the decanting site for the Factory.

39. Some members expressed concern that the trainees/workers of the Factory and their family members as well as the Kwun Tong District Council had not been consulted on the redevelopment and decanting arrangements. The Administration was requested to establish a mechanism under which NGOs were required to enhance the transparency of their redevelopment projects and consult stakeholders on the projects at the initial stage. The Administration should also proactively assist NGOs in identifying decanting premises for their redevelopment projects. Some members also expressed grave concern as to whether the existing employment relationship between HKSB and their workers would continue after the redevelopment of the Factory. They took the view that the Factory, after its redevelopment, should aim at providing more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by increasing the number of workers progressively.

Welfare facility projects funded by Lotteries Fund

40. The Panel was also briefed by the Administration on its plan to seek funding from LF for construction of welfare facilities in the 2019-2020

financial year and the latest development of the welfare facility projects which were included in the annual briefing for the Panel in July 2018. Some members expressed concern about the lengthy process of implementing LF-funded welfare facility projects and suggested that a lump-sum funding mode should be adopted for large-scale welfare facility projects, so that NGOs would not be required to apply for funding item by item. The Administration advised that various funding modes had been adopted for various types of construction projects under LF. It would look into the funding arrangements for projects under the Special Scheme having regard to members' view.

Target for poverty elimination

41. According to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2017, 1.37 million residents were living below the poverty line in 2017. At the Panel's request, the Administration exchanged views with members on review of Hong Kong's poverty situation and setting of a target for poverty elimination and received views from the public as well. Members urged the Administration to set a target for poverty alleviation. In view of the poverty situation of elderly persons, ethnic minorities ("EMs") and children, members expressed concern that the existing poverty alleviation measures were ineffective in alleviating poverty. They requested the Administration to provide adequate employment support services for elderly persons and EMs, and enhance the support service for grass-root children.

Community development policy and services

Community Investment and Inclusion Fund

42. At the Panel's request, the Administration exchanged views with members on the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund ("CIIF") and invited relevant deputations to give views on the subject. Members noted that the Administration would regularize the community support programmes for new PRHs through CIIF. Under this initiative, the duration of funding for the projects would be "N+36 months", in which "N" represented the time required for resident-intake of the new PRHs concerned, and "36 months" represented the maximum duration of approval. Members shared the deputation's concern that the proposed duration of funding (i.e. N+36 months) was still too short and called on the Administration to extend the maximum duration of approval to beyond 36 months to facilitate building of social capital. The Administration was also requested to reserve suitable premises for social worker teams to use as offices in the planning stage of new PRH estates.

Financial and staffing proposals

43. During the current session, the Panel was also consulted on the following financial and staffing proposals and supported in principle their submission to the Finance Committee and Establishment Subcommittee:

- (a) redevelopment of the Client Information System and the Service Performance Management Information System of SWD;
- (b) proposal to create a Senior Principal Executive Officer post in SWD to head the new Planning and Development Branch; and
- (c) enhancing the secretariat support for the Commission on Children.

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

44. The Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy, established under the Panel and the Panel on Health Services in December 2016, studied long-term care policy and services. The Joint Subcommittee had ceased its operation upon completion of its 12-month period of work which ended on 15 December 2017, pending re-activation of work when a vacant slot was available.

Meetings held

45. During the period between 10 October 2018 (on which the 2018-2019 session began) and 30 June 2019, the Panel held a total of 16 meetings¹ with the Administration and received views from 213 deputations/individuals at six of these meetings. Two meetings have been scheduled for July 2019.²

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 June 2019

¹ Of the 16 meetings, one was a joint meeting with the Panel on Education.

² Apart from a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs, a special meeting of the Panel will also be held in July 2019.

Legislative Council

Panel on Welfare Services

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to welfare (including women welfare) and rehabilitation services, poverty, social enterprise and Family Council.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy areas prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Panel on Welfare Services

Membership list for the 2018 - 2019 session*

Chairman	Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Deputy Chairman	Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Members	Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, 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 Dr Hon Pierre CHAN Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai (Total : 18 members)
Clerk	Mr Colin CHUI (up to 9 December 2018) Ms Wendy JAN (since 10 December 2018)
Legal adviser	Miss Rachel DAI

* Changes in membership are shown in Annex.

Annex to Appendix II

Panel on Welfare Services

Changes in membership

Member	Relevant date
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP	Up to 15 October 2018
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP	Up to 21 October 2018