

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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seen by the Administration)

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**Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services**

**Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy**

**Minutes of the meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 19 May 2020, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu

**Members absent** : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick

**Public Officers attending** : Mr LAM Ka-tai, JP  
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)  
Social Welfare Department  
  
Mr TAN Tick-yee  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly)  
Social Welfare Department

Mr KOK Che-leung  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Rehabilitation  
and Medical Social Services)  
Social Welfare Department

Dr Edmond MA Siu-keung  
Associate Consultant  
Infection Control Branch  
Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Wendy JAN  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Catherina YU  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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Action

- I. Long-term care services, including daytime, home-based and residential care services, being affected under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic**  
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)974/19-20(01) to (02), CB(2)1014/19-20(01) to (02) and CB(2)1025/19-20(01)]

The Joint Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

**II. Any other business**

2. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:29 pm.

**Proceedings of the meeting of the  
Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy  
on Tuesday, 19 May 2020, at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Long-term care services, including daytime, home-based and residential care services, being affected under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic</i>			
000429-001043	Chairman Administration	Opening remarks	
001044-001744	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration on the anti-epidemic measures for long-term care ("LTC") services during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic (LC Paper No. CB(2)974/19-20(01)).	
001745-002658	Chairman Prof Joseph LEE Administration	<p>The Administration's response to Prof Joseph LEE's enquiries on:</p> <p>(a) whether the Administration had provided personal protective equipment ("PPE") for elderly persons in need; and</p> <p>(b) how the Administration would assist residential care homes ("RCHs") to implement infection control measures according to the "Guidelines for Residential Care Homes for the Elderly or Persons with Disabilities for the Prevention of COVID-19" ("Guidelines for RCHs") issued by the Centre for Health Protection ("CHP") of the Department of Health ("DH").</p> <p>Prof LEE's concern about the adverse impact of service suspension on the rehabilitation progress of users of various welfare services. His enquiry about whether the Administration had made assessments on such impact and whether the Administration would provide extra services to make up for the lag in service provision.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) service needs of the users of various welfare services who were affected by service suspension would be reassessed;</p> <p>(b) Standardised Care Needs Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services would be resumed at residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHes") starting from 27 May 2020; and</p> <p>(c) make-up classes would be provided in summer for children who were using preschool rehabilitation services ("PRS")</p>	

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		<p>and would proceed to receive primary education in September 2020 ("new primary students with special educational needs"). The Administration was discussing with service providers the provision of additional rehabilitation training programmes for the children in need.</p>	
002659-003344	Chairman Mr LUK Chung-hung Administration	<p>Mr LUK Chung-hung's enquiry and the Administration's response regarding:</p> <p>(a) the timetable for the full resumption of centre-based services, including services provided by District Elderly Community Centres ("DECCs") and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres ("NECs"); and</p> <p>(b) whether the provision of home-based services ("HS") would be strengthened before centre-based services was fully resumed.</p> <p>Mr LUK's view that in the light of the rise in the unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Administration should consider increasing the manpower supply in the social welfare care sector so as to create more employment opportunity for the unemployed and enhance the service quality of RCHs.</p> <p>The Administration's response that the manpower situation in the care sector would be kept in view with on-going communication with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. The Administration would consider various ways to improve manpower situation in the sector, including the exploration of launching a "First-Hire-Then-Train" Scheme for the personal care services industry to include the middle-aged.</p> <p>Mr LUK's suggestion of increasing the quota for the "First-Hire-Then-Train" Scheme.</p>	
003345-004004	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's concern that some elderly persons might feel depressed as they could not spend time at DECCs, NECs and public open space, including those in public rental housing estates, which were closed during the COVID-19 epidemic.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) service users of DECCs and NECs might join pre-enrolled groups and programmes starting from 27 May 2020. During the COVID-19 epidemic, service units had been keeping in contact with service users by phone and had provided them with necessary support; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration would convey the views of the Chairman and Mr LEUNG regarding the re-opening of public open space to the relevant government departments for consideration.</p>	

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004005-005427	Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-chun Administration	<p>Mr SHIU Ka-chun's views and enquiries that:</p> <p>(a) during the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003, HS teams were able to maintain normal services and were provided with sufficient PPE. However, during the COVID-19 epidemic, provision of many welfare services had been suspended and many service teams were not provided with sufficient PPE. He considered that the Administration had retrogressed in this regard during the COVID-19 epidemic;</p> <p>(b) whether the Administration had established a mechanism for ensuring that bathing and home cleaning services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities would still be provided in case the COVID-19 epidemic situation had worsened; and</p> <p>(c) whether HS teams were provided with sufficient PPE, including face masks, eye shields, gowns, gloves and shoe covers, during the COVID-19 epidemic.</p> <p>The Chairman's enquiry regarding the criteria for deciding the types of HS to be suspended during the COVID-19 epidemic. His view that the Administration should draw up such criteria to cater for similar epidemic outbreak in future and facilitate service users to adapt to the suspension of services.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) essential services (including personal care services) had all along been provided during the COVID-19 epidemic though the service frequency and intensity might have been adjusted having regard to the epidemic situation;</p> <p>(b) provision of PPE for service teams and service users had been sufficient. Effective preventive measures and the risk level of infection in providing services were major factors in considering the types and scale of HS to be provided under the COVID-19 epidemic situation;</p> <p>(c) 240 000 face shields and over 500 000 face masks had been provided for HS teams to protect health of staff and service users of HS teams; and</p> <p>(d) CHP had recommended in Appendix I to the "Guidelines for Home-based Services for the Prevention of COVID-19" ("Guidelines for HS") the types of PPE to be used for the provision of various types of HS. HS teams were required to refer to the Guidelines for HS to take appropriate measures to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.</p>	
005428-005752	Chairman Administration	The Chairman's view that the Administration should draw up guidelines on the provision of sufficient PPE for frontline staff	

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		<p>and on the use of PPE for various types of LTC services as early as possible and make public these guidelines.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) CHP had issued Guidelines for RCHs and Guidelines for HS having regard to inputs from the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"). CHP would review and make timely updates on these Guidelines; and</p> <p>(b) CHP would discuss with SWD the need for establishing guidelines for centre-based services for the prevention of COVID-19. Types of PPE recommended for provision of various types of HS were set out in Appendix I to the Guidelines for HS, which was a useful reference for centre-based services teams.</p>	
005753-010104	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's view that the provision of some LTC services should be continued during the COVID-19 epidemic. His enquiry regarding whether the Administration had assessed the impact of service suspension on service users so as to improve the service arrangements during the COVID-19 epidemic.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) review of the operation of LTC services was conducted from time to time during the COVID-19 epidemic; and</p> <p>(b) service plans were being formulated to cater for various COVID-19 epidemic situations.</p>	
010105-010942	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concern about whether service providers would adjust the training programmes for service users whose rehabilitation progress had been affected due to service suspension during the COVID-19 epidemic and whether service providers had the resources to provide make-up rehabilitation training for these service users.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) paramedical staff such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists would revise the training programmes according to the conditions of service users;</p> <p>(b) a case management system had been introduced for persons with disabilities receiving HS and services of district support centres for persons with disabilities ("DSCs"). Under the system, care needs of service users would be reassessed and their individual care plans would be adjusted to meet their care needs. There was an existing mechanism to review individual care plans on a yearly basis; and</p>	

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		(c) the manpower earlier strengthened for DSCs would help assess the care needs of service users when the latter resume receiving services.	
010943-011717	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concern and view that:</p> <p>(a) not all service providers would keep in contact with service users during service suspension. Policy directions or standards for provision of LTC services during the COVID-19 epidemic should be established to avoid inconsistency in the services provided; and</p> <p>(b) as there was lower risk of infection in providing HS, the Administration should consider providing some centre-based training at the home of service users in need during the COVID-19 epidemic.</p> <p>The Administration's response that it was necessary to take into account the scope of services and explore the feasibility of delivering centre-based training in the homes of service users.</p> <p>The Chairman's view that the Administration should remove the administrative constraints and exercise flexibility in providing centre-based training in the homes of service users as and when necessary.</p>	
011718-012627	Chairman Administration	<p>The Administration's response to the Chairman's views that:</p> <p>(a) information on the possible risks of using CuMask+™ by residents of RCHEs as outlined in the submission from Hong Kong Public Doctors' Association (LC Paper No. CB(2)1025/19-20(01)) and the correct ways of using CuMask+™ should be disseminated to all RCHE operators; and</p> <p>(b) advice to be given by SWD to frontline staff and operators of RCHs that residents of RCHs should not use CuMask+™ in places such as hospitals and clinics.</p> <p>The Administration's response that SWD had conveyed the RCHEs' views on CuMask+™ to the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB"). ITB would issue guidelines on the use of CuMask+™ in due course.</p>	
012628-013514	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's views that:</p> <p>(a) the Administration should evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on people suffering from mental illness and review the needs for mental health services when resuming services; and</p> <p>(b) measures should be adopted to help carers relieve their stress, e.g. subsidies should be provided for elderly persons</p>	

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		<p>or persons with disabilities to hire their friends or neighbours as their part-time carers so that their carers could take a short break.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) useful tips on managing emotional problems arising from the COVID-19 epidemic were provided at the Psycho-education Information Hub for Combatting COVID-19 prepared by SWD's Clinical Psychological Service Branch and the weekly programme "Healthpedia" by the Radio Television Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(b) carers in need might make use of respite services at DSCs. The Administration would keep in view the needs of carers and strengthen the support for them if necessary.</p>	
013515-014201	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concerns regarding:</p> <p>(a) the progress of the assessments conducted by the Child Assessment Centres of DH for new primary students with special needs during the COVID-19 epidemic; and</p> <p>(b) the transition of rehabilitation services from special child care centres to primary schools for children with special needs.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) the Child Assessment Centres had contacted parents in the past two months and assessments had been conducted for the children concerned with the parents' consent;</p> <p>(b) a mechanism had been established in the 2018-2019 school year for transferring progress reports of children with special needs from PRS units to primary schools. This would facilitate children with special needs to continue to receive special attention and appropriate services when they proceeded to receive primary education;</p> <p>(c) home-based video training was provided by some PRS units during the COVID-19 epidemic;</p> <p>(d) the Education Bureau would keep in view the needs of new primary students with special needs and provide them with necessary support; and</p> <p>(e) training for K3 students with special needs would be strengthened when their classes resumed on 15 June 2020 to better prepare them for proceeding to primary one.</p>	
014202-020227	Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-chun Administration	The Chairman's view that in order to be prepared for the possible recurrence of the COVID-19 epidemic in future, the Administration should:	



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		<p>(a) establish guidelines on providing video training for children with special needs and arranging video communication for residents of RCHs, particularly those suffering from dementia, to maintain contact with their family members; and</p> <p>(b) improve the environment, facilities and the minimum area of floor space per resident in RCHs so as to reduce the risk of cross infection.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) visiting arrangements of RCHs were provided in the Guidelines for RCHs, and CHP had revised these arrangements having regard to the latest development of the COVID-19 epidemic. RCHs were encouraged to make more use of video communication to facilitate RCH residents to contact their family members; and</p> <p>(b) the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care ("the I&amp;T Fund") had been set up to subsidize elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent or trial use technology products. Eligible service units could apply for grants from the I&amp;T Fund to procure or rent visual communication devices or equipment.</p> <p>Mr SHIU Ka-chun's view and enquiry regarding:</p> <p>(a) the Administration should encourage RCHs to apply for the I&amp;T Fund for setting up visual communication system; and</p> <p>(b) whether CuMask+™ should be used when visiting RCHs.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) grants totalling around \$140 million had been approved since the setting up of the I&amp;T Fund in December 2018; and</p> <p>(b) staff, residents and visitors of RCHs were recommended to use surgical masks.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II - Any other business</i>			
020228-020239	Chairman	Closing remarks	