

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1425/19-20
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/16

Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

Minutes of the meeting
held on Monday, 1 June 2020, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A 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 CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon KWONG Chun-yu

Members absent : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mr Desmond WU Chia-chun
Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 3A /
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare)3 (Acting)
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr TAN Tick-yee
Assistant Director (Elderly)
Social Welfare Department

Items I and II

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

Item II

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP
Under Secretary for Food and Health
Food and Health Bureau

Miss Amy YUEN Wai-yin, JP
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Health)2
Food and Health Bureau

Dr Frankie SO Hon-ching
Consultant (Community Special Dental Service)
Department of Health

Ms Ivis CHUNG
Chief Manager (Allied Health)
Hospital Authority

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

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

Mr Roger CHUNG
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

I. Application of gerontechnology in elderly care services

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1091/19-20(01) to (02) and CB(2)1099/19-20(01)]

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

2. The Joint Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide information on:

- (a) the number of approved applications for the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care ("I&T Fund") from subsidized and self-financing service units respectively; and
- (b) a breakdown by the number and types of gerontechnological products procured or rented under the I&T Fund and the number and types of service units using these products.

(Post meeting note: The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1250/19-20(01) on 23 June 2020.)

II. Provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1091/19-20(03) to (04)]

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

III. Any other business

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:23 pm.

**Proceedings of the meeting of the
Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy
on Monday, 1 June 2020, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Application of gerontechnology in elderly care services</i>			
000529-000654	Chairman	Opening remarks.	
000655-001126	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration on the progress in promoting the application of gerontechnology in elderly care services (LC Paper No. CB(2)1091/19-20(01)).	
001127-001821	Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-chun Administration	<p>Mr SHIU Ka-chun's concern that while application of gerontechnology would help residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") alleviate manpower pressure, some private RCHEs which were facing manpower shortage were unable to use large-sized gerontechnological products due to lack of space.</p> <p>The Administration's response that all subsidized RCHEs and private RCHEs participated in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme might apply for the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care ("I&T Fund") to procure, rent, or try out items on the reference list of Recognized Technology Application Products ("Reference List"). The Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS") was commissioned to promote the use of gerontechnology among social welfare organizations providing elderly care and rehabilitation services. HKCSS would also give advice to applicants for the I&T Fund ("applicant organizations") on the types of products to be used as appropriate.</p> <p>Mr SHIU's enquiries regarding:</p> <p>(a) the number of approved applications for the I&T Fund from subsidized and self-financing service units respectively; and</p> <p>(b) whether soft diet and speech therapy service would be provided for residents of private and subsidized RCHEs who had swallowing difficulties.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) so far, there were more applications for the I&T Fund from subsidized service units than from self-financing service units;</p>	

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		<p>(b) \$70 million would be allocated to subsidized RCHEs and service units which provided day care services or meal service for providing soft diet for elderly persons in need; and</p> <p>(c) district-based multidisciplinary professional teams comprising speech therapists and other professionals were set up to provide outreaching services for residents of private and subsidized RCHEs.</p> <p>At Mr SHIU's request, the Administration undertook to provide information on the number of approved applications for the I&T Fund from subsidized and self-financing service units respectively.</p>	Admin (paragraph 2(a) of the minutes.)
001822-002724	Chairman Prof Joseph LEE Administration	<p>Prof Joseph LEE's views that:</p> <p>(a) RCHEs should use gerontechnological products to help their residents enhance physical functions and maintain life skills, cognitive status and social abilities; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should impress upon applicant organizations of the I&T Fund the need to provide training for their staff on using gerontechnological products to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.</p> <p>The Chairman's view that the Administration should evaluate whether application of gerontechnology in elderly care and rehabilitation services had achieved the above-mentioned objectives.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) the major objective of establishing the I&T Fund was to enhance the quality of life of elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Many products subsidized by the I&T Fund sought to improve the physical, social and cognitive abilities as well as life skills of service users. Applicant organizations were required to explain how these products would benefit service users and their staff in their applications for the I&T Fund; and</p> <p>(b) applicant organizations were required to allow members of the elderly care and rehabilitation sector to visit the former's service units to see how the products subsidized by the I&T Fund had benefited service users and staff of the service units. HKCSS also provided a platform for social welfare organizations to share experience in using gerontechnological products to enhance their services.</p>	
002725-003241	Chairman Ms Elizabeth QUAT	Ms Elizabeth QUAT's view that the Administration should step up its efforts in promoting application of gerontechnology	

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	Administration	<p>and local research and development ("R&D") of gerontechnological products.</p> <p>The Administration's response that applicant organizations were encouraged to try out newly developed gerontechnological products. HKCSS would contact relevant R&D companies with a view to identifying newly developed gerontechnological products which could meet the needs of service users and could be modified to make them compatible with the environment of service units.</p>	
003242-003755	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's view that tailor-made gerontechnological products and modifications to existing gerontechnological products should be explored.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) applicant organizations might identify suitable R&D companies as working partners to try out the latter's newly developed gerontechnological products. Trial use of these products allowed applicant organizations the flexibility to modify the products to suit their needs; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration would explore the inclusion of gerontechnological products which had become widely used by service units into the Furniture and Equipment List of the Lotteries Fund ("LF") as standard items for elderly and rehabilitation service units.</p>	
003756-004420	Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-chun Administration	<p>Mr SHIU Ka-chun's view and enquiry that:</p> <p>(a) application of gerontechnology should focus not only on improving the quality of care for service users but also on relieving the burden and stress of carers; and</p> <p>(b) whether the I&T Fund would be extended to subsidize elderly persons who were waiting for residential care services ("RCS") or community care services ("CCS") to procure, rent or try out gerontechnological products, so as to help delay the deterioration of their health conditions and relief the stress of their carers.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) the I&T Fund was established to support applicant organizations to procure, rent or try out gerontechnological products and there was no plan to accept applications from individuals at this stage; and</p> <p>(b) as gerontechnological products were also used in delivering CCS and home-based services ("HS") for the elderly, waitlistees for RCS who were receiving CCS or HS would also benefit.</p>	

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004421-010248	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's concerns and views that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) due to slow internet speed and outdated computer software, some RCHEs were unable to use some popular video chat applications (e.g. Zoom) for residents to communicate with their family members when no visit was allowed to RCHEs during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic; (b) some care workers might refuse to use some gerontechnological products which were specifically developed for enhancing the quality of care for elderly persons (e.g. digital diapers) as such products had increased their work pressure; (c) many private RCHEs were unable to use large-sized gerontechnological products due to lack of space; (d) the Administration should consider accepting applications for the I&T Fund from HS users who were assessed as having the need for using gerontechnological products at home; and (e) the Administration should draw up a holistic plan to enhance the quality of care for elderly persons and persons with disabilities as well as the support for their carers through the application of gerontechnology. <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in view of the stabilizing COVID-19 epidemic situation, the visiting arrangements for RCHEs had been relaxed in mid-May 2020; (b) through the allocation of some \$205 million by LF, the Administration had launched a four-year pilot project to provide free Wi-Fi service in a progressive manner to about 1 350 service units operated by subvented organizations from January 2020; (c) some products such as electric beds and assistive eating devices had been included in the Reference List with a view to reducing the burden on care workers; (d) many R&D companies had taken into account the environment of local RCHEs when designing gerontechnological products, and many products such as alarm system to monitor the safety of elderly persons could be used in most RCHEs; and (e) the Administration would keep in view the application of 	

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		<p>gerontechnology in the provision of elderly and rehabilitation services and make enhancements as and when necessary.</p> <p>At the Chairman's request, the Administration undertook to provide a breakdown by the number and types of gerontechnological products procured or rented under the I&T Fund, and the number and types of service units using these products.</p>	Admin (paragraph 2(b) of the minutes.)
<i>Agenda item II – Provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities</i>			
010249-010547	Chairman	Opening remarks	
010548-010909	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration on various health care services and financial assistance currently provided for persons with disabilities (LC Paper No. CB(2)1091/19-20(03)).	
010910-012240	Chairman Mr KWONG Chun-yu Administration	<p>Mr KWONG Chun-yu's views that:</p> <p>(a) financial assistance and support currently provided by the Administration were inadequate in addressing the medical needs of persons with disabilities; and</p> <p>(b) given the substantial fiscal surplus, the Administration should make reference to the arrangement of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme ("the Scheme") and consider introducing a similar health care voucher scheme for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Administration's response that:</p> <p>(a) the Administration had allocated substantial resources to providing various specific health care services and financial assistance for persons with disabilities;</p> <p>(b) the Scheme subsidized eligible elderly persons to receive private primary health care services in their local communities that best suited their health needs. As the Administration had recently completed a review of the Scheme, it would prioritize the use of its resources to implement enhancement measures to refine the Scheme; and</p> <p>(c) taking into account the need to ensure efficient use of resources and the fact that persons with disabilities generally required more specialized treatments and health care services, the Administration currently had no plan to provide health care vouchers for persons with disabilities. The Administration would continue to provide suitable health care services and financial assistance to persons with disabilities under the existing mechanisms and would enhance various support measures for persons with</p>	

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		disabilities as necessary.	
012241-013101	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's views that:</p> <p>(a) persons with disabilities were having difficulties in receiving public health care services since some of these facilities were located in remote or uphill areas; and</p> <p>(b) the provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities would facilitate them to receive private primary health care services in their local communities thereby supplementing public health care services.</p> <p>The Administration's reiteration that while it currently had no plan to provide health care vouchers for persons with disabilities, it would continue to provide suitable health care services and financial assistance to persons with disabilities under the existing mechanisms.</p>	
013102-013955	Chairman Administration	<p>The Chairman's views that:</p> <p>(a) the Administration should provide health care vouchers for persons with disabilities, so that they could use the vouchers for the management of acute episodic conditions in their local communities;</p> <p>(b) the amount of Disability Allowance could not cover the high medical expenses of persons with disabilities; and</p> <p>(c) the Administration should adopt an open attitude towards the provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Administration's reiteration that:</p> <p>(a) as it had recently completed a review of the Scheme, it would prioritize the use of its resources to refine the Scheme; and</p> <p>(b) it would continue to provide suitable health care services to persons with disabilities and their carers under the existing mechanisms.</p>	
013956-014522	Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-chun Administration	<p>Mr SHIU Ka-chun's views and enquiry regarding:</p> <p>(a) the provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities would facilitate them to receive private primary health care services in their local communities;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should make reference to the Scheme and introduce a health care voucher scheme for persons with disabilities; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would take into account the needs of persons with disabilities, in particular mentally</p>	

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		<p>handicapped adults, in managing their episodic conditions when drawing up the future development plan of primary health care services.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that</p> <p>(a) District Health Centres provided primary health care services, including health promotion, health assessment and chronic disease management, to the public. The operators of the centres would be required to take into consideration the medical needs of various users, including persons with disabilities, in their service provision; and</p> <p>(b) the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had been providing various support services for carers of persons with disabilities through the provision of allowance and training.</p>	
014523-015701	Chairman Administration	<p>The Administration's response to the Chairman's views that:</p> <p>(a) the provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities would encourage them to receive private primary health care services; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should make reference to the Scheme and introduce a health care voucher scheme for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Chairman's further views that:</p> <p>(a) the provision of day care services was inadequate in addressing the long-term care needs of persons with disabilities, thereby leading to premature and unnecessary institutionalization of persons with disabilities; and</p> <p>(b) together with the provision of CCS, the provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities would help them live in their local communities and improve their quality of life.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that:</p> <p>(a) there were four Community Rehabilitation Day Centres providing rehabilitation training service and psychosocial rehabilitation services to discharged patients, with a view to facilitating their integration into the local communities; and</p> <p>(b) SWD would set up two new Rehabilitation Service Centres to implement a pilot scheme on CCS. These centres would integrate the provision of day care and home care services with a view to providing better support for persons with severe disabilities.</p>	

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<i>Agenda item III - Any other business</i>			
015702-015709	Chairman	Closing remarks	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 August 2020