

**立法會**  
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**Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services**

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

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the  
meeting on 28 April 2020**

**Long-term care policy**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the Administration's long-term care ("LTC") policy and gives a brief account of the work of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy ("the Joint Subcommittee") during its 12-month period of work from 16 December 2016 to 15 December 2017.

**The Administration's long-term care policy**

2. According to the Administration, its LTC policy for the elderly is underpinned by the following three principles:

- (a) promoting "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up";
- (b) promoting a continuum of care in subsidized residential care services; and
- (c) offering assistance to most needy elderly citizens.

3. As regards the LTC policy for persons with disabilities, the Administration's policy objectives are:

- (a) providing appropriate residential care and necessary training

and support services for those persons with disabilities who cannot live independently and those who cannot be adequately cared for by their families, with a view to improving their quality of life and helping them develop independent living skills; and

- (b) making available training and support to persons with disabilities in response to their needs, assisting them in developing their potential, enabling them to continue to live independently at home and preparing them for full integration into the community; and strengthening the carers' caring capacity and relieving their stress so as to provide a better quality of life for persons with disabilities and the carers themselves.

### **The Joint Subcommittee**

#### Issues deliberated by the Joint Subcommittee from 16 December 2016 to 15 December 2017

4. The Joint Subcommittee was jointly appointed by the Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services ("the two Panels") in November 2016 to study LTC policy and services, discuss the policy concerned with the Administration and make timely recommendations. During its 12-month period of work from 16 December 2016 to 15 December 2017, the Joint Subcommittee deliberated the following issues:

- (a) residential care services, including the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly and service quality of private residential care homes;
- (b) community care services ("CCS"), including a review of the Integrated Home Care Services;
- (c) support for persons with dementia and their family members;
- (d) dental care for the elderly and persons with disabilities;
- (e) community support services for patients with mental illness and ex-mentally ill persons;
- (f) ageing of persons with intellectual disabilities or other types of disabilities;

- (g) support for carers of elderly persons and of persons with disabilities;
- (h) policy on subsidizing chronic patients for purchasing expensive drugs;
- (i) prohibition of chronic patients from carrying compressed oxygen cylinders to travel on public transport; and
- (j) hospice services.

5. Details of the Joint Subcommittee's deliberations and recommendations are available in the report of the Joint Subcommittee submitted to the two Panels on 7 February 2018 ([Annex I of LC Paper No. CB\(2\)852/17-18](#)).

#### Continuation of work of the Joint Subcommittee

6. At the Joint Subcommittee's meeting on 18 July 2017, members agreed that the Joint Subcommittee should work beyond the 12-month period (i.e. 16 December 2016 to 15 December 2017) to examine the following issues:

- (a) the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly;
- (b) Elderly Services Programme Plan;
- (c) severe shortage of CCS;
- (d) treatment and care services for rare disease patients;
- (e) care services for mentally incapacitated persons;
- (f) planning standards for LTC services;
- (g) euthanasia; and
- (h) dental services for persons with disabilities, the elderly and chronic patients.

With the endorsement of the two Panels and the House Committee of the proposal for continuation of work of the Joint Subcommittee, the Joint Subcommittee was permitted to extend the period of its work for another 12 months and be put on the waiting list for re-activation when a vacant slot

was available.<sup>1</sup>

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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<sup>1</sup> The Panel on Welfare Services, the Panel on Health Services and the House Committee endorsed the proposal for continuation of work of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy at their meetings on 13 and 20 November 2017 and 1 December 2017 respectively.