

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)422/20-21

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Wednesday, 23 September 2020, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Chairman)
Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
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 Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
- Members absent** : Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
- Members attending** : Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP

[According to the announcement made by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on 11 November 2020 pursuant to the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Issues Relating to the Qualification of the Members of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Kenneth LEUNG, KWOK Ka-ki, Dennis KWOK Wing-hang and Alvin YEUNG were disqualified from being a member of Legislative Council on 30 July 2020.]

Public Officers attending : Ms Manda CHAN Wing-man
Commissioner for Rehabilitation
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr Godwin LAI Kam-tong
Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education)
Education Bureau

Mrs Gloria LI HO Suk-wa
Principal Education Officer (Special Education)
Education Bureau

Mr LAM Ka-tai
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)
Social Welfare Department

Miss CHAN Lai-chu
Chief Social Work Officer (Rehabilitation and
Medical Social Services)¹
Social Welfare Department

Ms Agnes HO Yuen-ming
Chief Social Work Officer (Rehabilitation and
Medical Social Services)³
Social Welfare Department

Attendance by invitation : Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union

Mr CHEUNG Chi-wai
Vice President

Concerning Home Care Service Alliance

Ms LAM Chun
Member

The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped
Children

Ms LAU Chu-lai
Executive Committee Member

關注殘疾人士照顧者平台

Ms CHONG Po-king
Spokesman

Dr Donna WONG Kam-pun

Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong)

Ms Carman TAM
Chairperson

The Hong Kong Coalition for the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities

Ms AU Yim-fong
Member

The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally
Handicapped

Ms LAI Pui-mei
Chairman

The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the
Mentally Handicapped

Ms Sindycat LEE Cheung-pui

Ms SIN Kam-ping

Ms PANG Ban

Heep Hong Parents' Association

Ms Henrietta HO Kwai-han
Caregivers representative

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

Action

I. Support for carers and provision of residential care services for persons with disabilities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1477/19-20(01) and CB(2)1496/19-20(01) to 02)]

The Chairman said that arising from a recent tragedy where a mother was alleged to have strangled to death her 21-year-old son with intellectual disabilities ("the tragic incident"), he had instructed to hold the meeting to discuss support for carers and provision of residential care services ("RCS") for persons with disabilities with the Administration and receive views from relevant deputations/individuals on the subject matter.

2. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Ms Elizabeth QUAT, Mr Andrew WAN and Mr Wilson OR expressed grave dissatisfaction with the non-attendance of the Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("SLW"), Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare ("USLW") and Director of Social Welfare ("DSW") at the meeting. These members took the view that the non-attendance of SLW, USLW and DSW had reflected the Administration's indifferent attitude towards the problems faced by persons with disabilities and their carers. The Chairman considered that SLW and USLW should listen to the views of relevant deputations/individuals in person.

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Commissioner for Rehabilitation ("C for R") and Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education) ("PAS(SE)") respectively briefed members on the support services

provided for special school leavers and their parents, the community support and RCS provided for persons with disabilities and their carers as well as the study on carer support ("the Study") being conducted.

4. The Chairman invited the deputations/individuals to present their views. A total of 12 deputations/individuals expressed their views which were summarized in the **Appendix**.

The Administration's response to views of deputations/individuals

5. C for R said that the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") had commissioned a consulting team of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to conduct the Study for exploring carers' needs and consolidating support for carers in a more comprehensive manner. The Study would examine other economies' experiences in providing support for carers as well as the coverage of carers and their service needs and expectations in the local context. The Study was preliminarily expected to be completed in mid-2021. She stressed that the conduct of the Study would not affect the support services being provided for persons with disabilities and their carers.

6. Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) ("DDSW(S)") also made the following responses:

- (a) the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had increased the numbers of Parents/Relatives Resource Centres, District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities ("DSCs") and Support Centres for Persons with Autism ("SPAs") in the past few years. From March 2020, SWD had provided 300 additional places under the Home Care Services for Persons with Severe Disabilities ("HCS"). Over 40 additional residential respite places would also be provided through the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities ("RCHDs") in the 2020-2021 financial year;
- (b) with the introduction of the Pilot Scheme on Professional Outreaching Teams for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities and the Pilot Scheme on Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the Elderly in 2019, support services for persons with disabilities living in private RCHDs as previously provided under HCS and Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical

Disabilities ("ISS") would be gradually covered by the above-mentioned pilot schemes. As such, from the 2019-2020 financial year, the resources of HCS and ISS would be redeployed to provide services for an additional 1 500 persons with disabilities living in the community; and

- (c) the number of rehabilitation service places for persons with disabilities aged 15 or above had been increased by a total of 6 210 places in the past 10 years. These additional service places included 3 020 daytime rehabilitation training places and 3 190 RCS places. An additional 4 400 rehabilitation service places comprising 1 900 daytime rehabilitation training places and 2 500 RCS places would be provided in the coming five years. SWD would continue to increase the number of rehabilitation service places for persons with disabilities aged 15 or above.

Discussion

Support for special school leavers

7. Ms Alice MAK said that the tragic incident might not have happened if the Administration had provided the bereaved family with the required assistance earlier. She further said that as support services for students of special schools might not be readily available upon their graduation from schools, the Administration should approach parents of these students to understand their needs and provide them with timely assistance. Opining that the tragic incident had reflected that there was a lack of necessary support for many carers of persons with disabilities, Mr POON Siu-ping and Mr LUK Chung-hung urged the Administration to address the problem actively.

8. Mr LUK Chung-hung, Dr Helena WONG and Mr IP Kin-yuen considered that the Administration should ensure a seamless transition from school-based services to various support services in the community for special school leavers upon their graduation. Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired about the arrangements for providing these community support services.

9. PAS(SE) responded that the Education Bureau ("EDB") had been providing special schools with resources to support their students in developing their potential at the growth stage. Special schools would devise individualized education programmes and offer life planning

education and career guidance activities for their students to facilitate their transition to adult life. Special schools would discuss with the parents of those students who were approaching senior secondary years the latter's options for post-school services and assist them in applying for appropriate post-school services, such as Shine Skill Centres of Vocational Training Council ("VTC"), sheltered workshops and day activity centres ("DACs"). Students who were at the age of 15 or above might be referred by their special schools to waitlist for such services. Special schools in general would follow up with school leavers for two years after they had left schools. When necessary, special schools would refer them to DSCs or Integrated Family Service Centres subvented by SWD for assistance.

10. PAS(SE) further said that collaboration and communication among EDB, SWD and VTC had been enhanced in recent years with a view to assisting special school leavers to adapt to daily lives. EDB and SWD were discussing measures to further enhance the collaboration so as to strengthen the support for special school leavers.

11. DDSW(S) supplemented that for the sake of planning various types of services suitable for special school leavers, EDB would provide the projected number of special school leavers per annum for SWD's reference.

Admin

12. At the request of the Deputy Chairman, the Administration undertook to provide information on how EDB and SWD would coordinate the provision of various support services for special school leavers after their graduation.

Residential care services for persons with disabilities

13. The Deputy Chairman, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr IP Kin-yuen and Ms Elizabeth QUAT were worried that family tragedies involving persons with disabilities might happen again if the Administration did not deal with the shortage of RCS promptly. They therefore strongly urged the Administration to take immediate actions to address the great demand for RCS for persons with disabilities.

14. Mr Andrew WAN was of the view that instead of allocating substantial resources to implement large-scale infrastructure projects, the Administration should allocate such resources to help the needy. Pointing out that the waiting time for RCS for persons with disabilities had not been shortened over the past decade, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and

Mr WAN criticized the Administration for not adequately addressing the needs of persons with disabilities for RCS. Mr LEUNG called on the Administration to increase the number of RCS places for persons with disabilities substantially and speed up the provision of RCS. Mr WAN opined that the Administration should formulate short, medium and long-term plans to reduce the waiting time for RCS for persons with disabilities. In this connection, he enquired about the concrete measures the Administration would adopt to increase the provision of RCS for persons with disabilities.

15. Taking the view that the measures being implemented by the Administration had failed to meet the service needs of persons with disabilities, Mr Wilson OR called on the Administration to improve the planning ratios for welfare facilities for persons with disabilities.

16. Mr IP Kin-yuen said that Hong Kong Special Schools Council ("HKSCC") had written to the then SLW in 2016 to express its concern about the acute shortage of hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons ("HSMHs") and hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons ("HMMHs"). According to HKSCC, the average waiting time for HSMHs and HMMHs in 2016 was eight to 16 years and such a long waiting time had a profound impact on the life planning, rehabilitation and self-care ability of special school leavers who were in need of RCS. He further said that currently, persons with severe intellectual disabilities had to wait for 15.5 years for admission to HSMHs and their parents/carers were under immense pressure during the waiting period. He enquired about the estimated waiting time for HSMHs in the coming five and 10 years respectively.

17. Pointing out that the waiting time for HSMH had become longer and longer (126 months in 2015-2016 versus 178 months in 2017-2018), the Chairman expressed grave dissatisfaction that the Administration was not committed to shortening the waiting time for RCS. He urged the Administration to give priority to allocating resources to strengthen the support for persons with disabilities and their carers.

18. C for R responded that the long waiting time for RCS for persons with disabilities was unsatisfactory. Given the keen service demand, the Administration would continue to actively increase the supply of RCS places through multi-pronged means, and strengthen community support services for persons with disabilities according to their care needs as recommended in the new Persons with Disabilities and Rehabilitation Programme Plan ("RPP") released in July 2020. She said that RCS

waiting time would be affected by many factors and therefore its shortening might not be readily assessed.

19. C for R also said that RPP had recommended that the planning ratios for RCS for persons with disabilities be incorporated into the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. Specifically, RPP had recommended that 36 RCS places be provided for every 10 000 persons aged 15 or above. This showed the Administration's commitment to meeting RCS needs.

20. DDSW(S) supplemented that the Administration had implemented various measures to increase the provision of RCS for persons with disabilities. These measures included providing more places through in-situ expansion in existing RCHDs (including those for persons with intellectual disabilities), purchasing RCS places from private RCHDs and imposing land sale conditions to require developers to provide RCS facilities in private development projects. In addition, the Administration had earmarked \$20 billion to purchase premises for the provision of welfare facilities. Additional service places for persons with disabilities would also be provided under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses.

21. Noting that there were around 2 400 persons with severe intellectual disabilities and around 2 500 persons with moderate intellectual disabilities on the waiting list for HSMHs and HMMHs respectively, Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired when these waitlistees would be allocated a hostel place. C for R reiterated that the Administration would endeavour to increase the provision of RCS, day care services and respite services for persons with disabilities through various means.

22. In response to Dr Helena WONG's enquiry about whether LWB had conducted any survey on the demand for RCS, respite services and HCS for persons with disabilities, C for R said that the numbers of waitlistees for various services had indicated the service demand level. Mr LUK Chung-hung suggested that the Administration should conduct a survey on whether persons with disabilities who were on the waiting list for RCS intended to accept RCS placement offers so as to estimate the demand for RCS and draw up a timetable for providing RCS for persons with disabilities.

23. At the request of Mr Andrew WAN, Mr LUK Chung-hung and Dr Helena WONG, the Administration undertook to provide its response on the feasibility of setting a target waiting time for RCS for persons with

disabilities.

Admin

24. In the light of scarce land resources and the great demand for RCS for persons with disabilities, Mr SHIU Ka-fai suggested that the Administration should consider providing RCS in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as another option for persons with disabilities in need of RCS. C for R responded that this would need to take into account the views of persons with disabilities and their family members/carers in the first place. At the Chairman's request, the Administration undertook to provide its response on whether it would explore the provision of RCS for persons with disabilities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Community care and support services for persons with disabilities and their carers

25. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the measures the Administration would implement in the coming six months to address the service needs of persons with disabilities and their carers. Taking the view that inadequate support for carers of persons with disabilities was one of the causes of family tragedies, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung considered that the Administration should allocate more resources to assist these carers. He said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong had submitted to SLW 10 recommendations on enhancing support for carers of persons with disabilities. He called on the Administration to consider these recommendations. Ms Elizabeth QUAT opined that case social workers should be assigned to special school leavers in need and emergency hotlines should be set up for special school leavers and their parents.

26. Opining that the tragic incident was not an isolated incident, Dr Fernando CHEUNG criticized the Administration for its inaction to address the long-standing problem of inadequate support for persons with disabilities and their carers. He further said that many parents of persons with disabilities felt helpless during the Coronavirus Diseases 2019 ("COVID-19") epidemic because many welfare services for persons with disabilities had been suspended. He urged the Administration to examine the existing services for persons with disabilities critically and identify the inadequacies of these services.

27. Dr CHENG Chung-tai opined that had the Administration provided timely assistance for the bereaved family, the tragic incident could have been avoided. He remarked that many families were under stress during

the COVID-19 epidemic and the tension among family members had aggravated. He further said that statistics had shown that the number of domestic violence cases in the first and second quarters of 2020 had increased by around 15% when compared with the same period in 2019. According to some non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"), they had to arrange temporary shelters in hotels for victims of domestic violence in June and July 2020 due to inadequate service places in refuge centres for victims of domestic violence. He took the view that the Administration should not only focus on formulating long-term carer policies but should also take immediate steps to strengthen welfare services for carers and persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 epidemic.

28. DDSW(S) responded that while some welfare services had been suspended during the COVID-19 epidemic, SWD had issued guidelines to NGOs requiring them to provide services for service users as far as practicable. He further said that resources had been reserved for increasing the number of DSCs from 16 to 21 progressively from the 2020-2021 financial year. HCS would also be extended to persons with disabilities having moderate nursing care need or moderate functional impairment gradually starting from March 2020. Moreover, SWD had plans to purchase premises for the provision of three additional DACs with a total of 150 service places for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who were not admitted to HSMHs in order to ease the burden of their carers. Dr CHENG Chung-tai pointed out that NGOs had their limitations in terms of service provision and the Administration should be proactive in offering assistance to persons with disabilities and their carers during the COVID-19 epidemic. Mr LUK Chung-hung called on the Administration to increase the service quota of DACs.

(At 4:29 pm, the Chairman extended the meeting for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time to allow sufficient time for discussion.)

29. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry about the timetable for increasing the number of DSCs, DDSW(S) said that the Administration would provide five additional DSCs by phases in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 financial years. He added that in the 2019-2020 financial year, SWD had increased the number of SPAs from three to five and all these SPAs had already commenced operation.

30. Noting that DSCs had identified some high-risk cases involving persons with disabilities, Dr Helena WONG enquired whether the Administration would follow up these cases immediately in order to prevent more family tragedies. DDSW(S) responded that SWD had

organized training programmes on the handling of cases involving persons with disabilities for its frontline staff and special school social workers. He further said that at SWD's invitation, around 20 special school social workers had participated in the standardized assessment for RCS for persons with disabilities in 2019 and 2020.

31. In response to Mr Wilson OR's enquiry about the provision of emotional support for carers of persons with disabilities, DDSW(S) said that emotional support services for carers of persons with disabilities were currently provided by DSCs. He further said that in the 2020-2021 financial year, SWD would increase the manpower for strengthening the community support function of the Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled ("S&RCs"), particularly the support for family members/carers of persons with disabilities. S&RCs staff would approach persons with disabilities and their family members/carers who were less motivated to seek help through outreaching service so as to provide them with immediate assistance and bridge them to suitable community services. S&RCs would also provide emotional support and counselling service for persons with disabilities and their family members/carers.

32. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung considered that the Administration should provide short-term (say, one to two weeks) respite services for persons with disabilities and 24-hour emergency support services for persons with disabilities and their carers. The Administration should also set up mutual help groups for persons with disabilities and their carers and relax the requirements for participating in the Special Needs Trust. Ms Elizabeth QUAT considered that the number of respite service places should be increased. Noting that the Equal Opportunities Commission had recommended in its submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)1501/19-20(04)) that the Administration should make reference to some overseas jurisdictions where family carers were entitled by law to a prescribed period of respite services per year, Dr Helena WONG asked whether the Administration would consider providing respite services of one to two months for carers of persons with disabilities.

(At 4:44 pm, the Chairman suggested that the meeting be further extended until the completion of the discussion on the item. Members present raised no objection to the suggestion.)

33. DDSW(S) responded that under the existing arrangement, persons with disabilities in need of short-term residential respite services could use the services up to 14 consecutive days. They could apply for such services again if necessary.

Admin

34. At the Chairman's request, the Administration undertook to provide information on whether it would (a) provide short-term respite services for persons with disabilities; (b) provide 24-hour emergency support services and set up mutual help groups for persons with disabilities and their carers; and (c) relax the requirements for participating in the Special Needs Trust.

Allowances for carers of persons with disabilities

35. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that under the Pilot Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers launched by the Community Care Fund ("CCF"), an eligible person would be granted a monthly allowance of \$5,000 to hire a carer. However, under the CCF's Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities ("Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance"), an eligible carer would only receive a monthly allowance of \$2,400. He enquired about the rationale of setting different levels of allowances for the carers under these two pilot schemes.

36. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung said that SWD had sent out around 27 000 invitation letters to persons with disabilities waitlisting for specified rehabilitation services to invite their carers to apply for the allowance under the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance but had only approved around 2 300 applications. In the light of the small number of beneficiaries, he called on the Administration to relax the eligibility criteria of the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance. He further opined that the Administration should promote a friendly atmosphere in society towards persons with disabilities and formulate carer-friendly policies.

37. The Chairman, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Mr POON Siu-ping and Dr Helena WONG considered that the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance should be regularized and the amount of living allowance for carers should be raised. Ms Elizabeth QUAT suggested that parents of persons with disabilities on the waiting list for RCS should be provided with a monthly allowance the amount of which should be about the same as the cost of providing a subvented RCS place for persons with disabilities (i.e. around \$18,000 a month), so that the parents might engage helpers or quit working to take care of their children. Mr Wilson OR suggested that the Administration should consider providing needy carers with allowances to cover their transport expenses and medical expenses in private clinics on a reimbursable basis.

38. C for R responded that a number of pilot schemes had been launched under CCF to provide financial support for persons with disabilities and their carers respectively. The Study would review the eligibility criteria and levels of allowances under these pilot schemes and examine how these pilot schemes could be consolidated, taking account of the views of persons with disabilities, their carers and stakeholders.

Admin

39. In response to Mr Wilson OR's enquiry about how public views on the Study would be collected, C for R said that engagement with carers, service providers and professionals concerned would be conducted under the Study to gauge their views. At the request of Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, the Administration undertook to provide its response to the views of deputations/individuals on support for carers and provision of RCS for persons with disabilities.

40. Opining that the Study could not deal with the imminent service needs of persons with disabilities and their carers, Dr Helena WONG and Mr Wilson OR urged the Administration to address the service needs of carers of persons with disabilities without waiting for the findings of the Study.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to members' requests for supplementary information on various issues was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)129/20-21(01) on 3 November 2020.)

Motions

41. Dr Fernando CHEUNG moved the following motion:

"最近在葵涌發生的慘劇，一位母親涉嫌勒死21歲的智障兒子，令我們反省多方面的政策缺失，包括從特殊學校走入成人服務的銜接問題；成人服務(包括日間、社區及住宿照顧服務)的不足；緊急暫顧服務的不足；及缺乏對照顧者的支援等。

本委員會促請政府：

(一) 要求特殊學校為所有離校生及其他有特殊教育需要的離校生進行風險評估，為所有高風險家庭提供額外支援，離校前做好服務銜接和過渡安排。在疫情下，所有相關社福服務單位亦應進行風險評估，為高風險家庭提供適當支援；

- (二) 改善暫宿及暫託服務，增加緊急暫顧服務，讓有需要的家庭立即得到支援；
- (三) 與各持份者商議及進行規劃，為各類服務(包括住宿照顧服務)制訂"零輪候"時間表；
- (四) 制訂照顧者政策，改善及常規化照顧者津貼，增設喘息服務等；及
- (五) 重新規劃服務模式，建立個案管理制度以打破服務之間的阻礙。"

(Translation)

"A recent tragedy occurred in Kwai Chung, in which a mother was suspected of strangling her 21-year-old intellectually disabled son, has triggered our reflection on policy failures in various aspects, including transition to adult services for special school leavers, insufficient provision of adult services (including day care, community care and residential care services), inadequate provision of emergency respite services and lack of support for carers, etc.

This Panel urges the Government to:

- (1) request special schools to conduct risk assessments for all their school leavers and those with special educational needs, provide additional support to all high-risk families and make service referrals and transitional arrangements for their school leavers in advance. Moreover, under the epidemic, all relevant welfare service units should also conduct risk assessments and provide appropriate support to high-risk families;
- (2) enhance residential respite and day respite services, and increase the provision of emergency respite services, so as to enable families in need to get immediate support;
- (3) liaise and conduct planning with various stakeholders, and draw up timetables for provision of various services (including residential care services) to achieve the target of zero waiting time;

- (4) formulate policies for carers, enhance and regularize allowances for carers, and provide additional respite services, etc.; and
- (5) plan afresh the mode of service delivery, and establish a case management system to remove the obstacles between services."

42. The Chairman put the motion to vote. As all members present voted for the motion, the Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

43. The Deputy Chairman moved the following motion:

"鑒於現時不少中度至嚴重智障人士在特殊學校畢業後未能銜接至社會福利服務，令智障人士未能適應新生活，同時令照顧者照顧壓力大增，導致慘劇發生。本委員會促請教育局指示特殊學校聯絡過去 3 年的畢業生及未來 3 年內畢業學生的家庭，辨識及評估高風險學生的家庭，為有需要的家庭提供即時支援或服務轉介。"

(Translation)

"Given that currently many special school leavers who are moderately or severely mentally handicapped cannot make a transition from school-based services to social welfare services upon graduation, they are unable to adapt to the new life, and this in turn has added further burden on their carers. As a result, a number of tragedies have occurred. This Panel urges the Education Bureau to instruct special schools to approach families with school leavers who graduated in the past three years and those with prospective school leavers who will graduate in the next three years, so as to identify and assess families with high-risk students and provide families in need with immediate support or service referral."

44. The Chairman put the motion to vote. As all members present voted for the motion, the Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

45. The Deputy Chairman and Mr Andrew WAN moved the following motion:

"2019 冠狀病毒病疫情導致學校停課，日間訓練及照顧服務僅能提供有限度服務，不少照顧者對於服務暫停或臨時安排無所適從。鑒於疫情未停，仍有機會再次在社區大規模爆發，

政府必須在下一期停課或特別安排時，安排有特殊支援需要的智障或殘疾服務使用者接受中心或學校支援，並且提供適切交通安排。政府亦應制訂清晰指引，讓服務提供單位及服務使用者清楚了解疫情下支援服務的提供詳情。

(Translation)

"With the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019, classes are suspended and day training and care services can only be provided on a limited basis, and the suspension of such services or their temporary arrangements had caused confusion to many carers. As the epidemic is still lingering with the risk of another large-scale outbreak in the community, the Government should arrange users of services for persons with mental or physical disabilities who have special needs to receive support from relevant centres or schools and provide them with suitable transportation arrangements when there is a need to suspend classes or implement special arrangements again. The Government should also draw up clear guidelines to enable service units and their users to have a better understanding of the provision of various support services during the epidemic."

46. The Chairman put the motion to vote. As all members present voted for the motion, the Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

47. Mr LUK Chung-hung moved the following motion which was seconded by Mr LEUNG Che-cheung:

"本委員會強烈要求政府從速加強對照顧者支援及增加殘疾人士住宿照顧服務，包括制訂整全的照顧者支援政策，為照顧者提供足夠的生活、交通津貼，並為他們提供充足的訓練及情緒支援，從而紓減他們在照顧家人時承受的身、心及經濟壓力；此外，政府亦需確保特殊學校離校生在畢業後能無縫交接社區上各項支援服務，並就社區支援服務引入個案管理制度、危機介入模式及數據庫等，以防止涉及殘疾人士的家庭悲劇再次發生。"

(Translation)

"This Panel strongly requests the Government to expeditiously enhance the support for carers and increase the provision of residential care services for persons with disabilities, including formulating integrated policies to support carers, granting them sufficient allowances to meet their living and transportation

expenses and providing them with adequate training and emotional support, thereby relieving their physical, emotional and financial burdens in taking care of their family members; moreover, the Government needs to ensure a seamless transition to various support services in the community for special school leavers upon their graduation, and introduce a case management system, a crisis intervention approach and a database, etc. for support services in the community, so as to prevent the recurrence of family tragedies involving persons with disabilities."

48. The Chairman put the motion to vote. As all members present voted for the motion, the Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

49. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung moved the following motion which was seconded by Mr Wilson OR:

"完善照顧者措施

鑒於殘疾及智障人士缺乏自理能力，照顧工作往往落在家人身上；然而，目前政府為照顧者提供支援服務極之匱乏，令照顧者長期承受沉重身體負擔和精神壓力。就此，本委員會促請政府全面檢討及完善照顧者相關措施，包括：

一、 支援照顧者維持合理經濟生活：

優化現行關愛基金下各項照顧者津貼計劃，將津貼計劃申請門檻調低，並增加津貼額；長遠應仿效海外地方，設立完善"照顧者津貼制度"，肯定照顧者為家人和社會的貢獻，以及設立定額津貼及實報實銷交通及私家診所急診津貼，減輕他們的經濟壓力；

二、 加強社區支援服務：

各區設立照顧者支援服務中心及附設24小時緊急支援熱線，服務中心須附設服務轉介服務；支援中心並應與各類特殊學校設立緊密聯繫，以便跟進及支援轉學學員渡過適應期。

擴展社區暫託服務，並於每區設立合理數目的緊急宿位，簡化申請行政程序，讓有需要人士能於短時間內作出暫託安排；以及為有特殊需要的殘疾人士訂立輪候各類殘疾院舍的合理時間；及

三、 強化社會支援照顧者措施：

為長遠規劃本港殘疾人士及智障人士服務，當局有必要恆常收集相關數據資料及建立可持續性資料庫，以助制訂合適政策；另外，政府應積極向私營企業推廣靈活工作安排措施，透過推動職場友善工作措施，有助照顧者靈活安排個人工作及照顧家人時間。"

(Translation)

"Enhancing support measures for carers

As persons with disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities have difficulty in taking care of themselves, the caring work often falls on their family members. However, there is currently a serious lack of support services from the Government for carers, making them face prolonged physical exhaustion and mental stress. In this connection, this Panel urges the Government to comprehensively review and enhance relevant measures for carers, including:

1. Support for carers to maintain a reasonable standard of living:

To enhance the existing schemes on living allowance for carers under the Community Care Fund by lowering the application thresholds for these schemes and increasing the amounts of allowances; to put in place a comprehensive "carer allowance system" in the long run by following the practices of overseas countries so as to recognize the contribution of carers to their family members and society, and to alleviate their financial burdens by providing flat-rate grant and reimbursement for travelling expenses and emergency consultation fees of private clinics.

2. Enhancement of community support services:

To set up support centres for carers in various districts with provision of 24-hour emergency hotlines and referral services; to establish close contact between support centres and various special schools to facilitate following up with students who have transferred to other schools and provide support for them to tide over the adaptation period.

To expand community respite services and provide a reasonable number of emergency places in each district with streamlined application and administrative procedures, so that persons in need can arrange respite services within a short period of time; and to set a reasonable waiting time target for persons with disabilities who have special needs for admission to various residential care homes for persons with disabilities; and

3. Strengthening community support measures for carers:

To plan for the provision of services for persons with disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities in the long term, it is necessary for the Administration to regularly collect relevant data and information and establish a sustainable database to facilitate formulation of appropriate policies; besides, the Government should actively promote flexible working arrangements to private enterprises, and through promoting family-friendly employment measures, enable carers to make flexible arrangements for their work and caring responsibilities."

50. The Chairman put the motion to vote. As all members present voted for the motion, the Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

Admin

51. At the request of Dr Fernando CHEUNG, the Administration undertook to provide its responses to the above carried motions.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response to the carried motions was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)129/20-21(01) on 3 November 2020.)

III. Any other business

52. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:13 pm.

Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Wednesday, 23 September 2020, at 2:30 pm

Support for carers and provision of residential care services
for persons with disabilities

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

No.	Name of deputation/ individual	Views
1.	Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union	LC Paper No. CB(2)1498/19-20(02)
2.	Concerning Home Care Service Alliance	LC Paper No. CB(2)146/20-21(01)
3.	The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children	LC Paper No. CB(2)1496/19-20(04)
4.	關注殘疾人士照顧者平台	LC Paper No. CB(2)1498/19-20(01)
5.	Dr Donna WONG Kam-pun	LC Paper No. CB(2)1496/19-20(03)
6.	Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong)	LC Paper No. CB(2)1496/19-20(06)
7.	The Hong Kong Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	LC Paper No. CB(2)1501/19-20(03)
8.	The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped	LC Paper No. CB(2)1501/19-20(01)

No.	Name of deputation/ individual	Views
9.	The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped	LC Paper No. CB(2)1498/19-20(03)
10.	Ms SIN Kam-ping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Since certain centres for elderly persons and persons with disabilities had suspended their service delivery during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, the Administration should provide additional emergency respite service for carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities.● Carers of special school leavers encountered financial difficulties and mental stress due to a lack of residential care services and respite service for these school leavers.● The Administration should introduce a health care voucher scheme for persons with intellectual disabilities and provide allowance for their carers on a regular basis.
11.	Ms PANG Ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Most parents of children with intellectual disabilities experienced a very high level of stress in raising their children.● There was a lack of support for persons with intellectual disabilities and their carers while they were waiting for services of supported hostels.● Services provided by supported hostels were inadequate to cater for the needs of persons with intellectual disabilities.
12.	Heep Hong Parents' Association	LC Paper No. CB(2)1496/19-20(07) (Revised)