Establishment Subcommittee Follow-up to the Meeting on 17 March 2021

At the meeting on 17 March 2021, the Establishment Subcommittee discussed the Government's proposed retention of a supernumerary post of Assistant Director of Social Welfare in the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for a period of three years. The meeting requested SWD to provide post-meeting information on the follow-up actions taken concerning the inspection of residential care homes for persons with disabilities (RCHDs) in 2017-18.

- 2. In 2017-18, SWD issued a total of 16 warning letters to 11 private RCHDs and two subvented RCHDs. The non-compliant aspects varied, involving staffing, resident privacy, building and accommodation, fees, health and personal care services, drug management, etc. SWD had asked these RCHDs to make immediate improvements. In subsequent surprise follow-up inspections, SWD had confirmed that these RCHDs had implemented the improvements.
- 3. In addition, a private RCHD was found to have contravened section 22(3)(b) of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) in 2016, i.e. operating, keeping, managing or having control of the RCHD in premises other than the existing RCHD premises indicated in the certificate of exemption. In December 2016, SWD refused this RCHD's application for renewing the certificate of exemption. In 2017-18, this RCHD was also convicted upon prosecution.

Labour and Welfare Bureau Social Welfare Department March 2021