

**For information on  
31 May 2021**

**Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services  
Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Silver Age Card**

**Application of technology to facilitate older persons to  
integrate into the community and age in place**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on Government's measures to facilitate the adoption of applied technology for older persons to integrate into the community and age in place.

**Measures to Promote the Adoption of Digital Technology among the Elderly**

2. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") has been committed to implementing digital inclusion measures with a view to helping those in need (especially the elderly and the underprivileged) get to know and use digital technology products and services, so that they can fully integrate into the digital society. OGCIO has launched the "Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Outreach Programme for the Elderly" since 2013-14 to visit institutionalised elderly people, hidden elderly, the elderly receiving care services and the elderly people with dementia across the territory through non-profit-making elderly services organisations. During the epidemic, the organisations continue to teach the elderly on the use of tablets, smartphones and other digital technology products by remote means (such as through phone calls and instant messaging software), so that they could adopt more digital technology in their daily living.

3. OGCIO launched the "Enriched ICT Training Programme for the Elderly" in February 2019 to provide funding support to Elder Academies to offer free advanced digital training courses, covering topics such as e-Government services, cloud tools, cyber security, e-wallet application, health management, etc. During the epidemic, training sessions have been fully shifted to online mode so that the elderly can continue their

learning, thereby enhancing their knowledge and interest in adopting digital technology in daily living.

4. In addition, OGCIO launched the “Elderly IT Learning Portal” (“the Portal”) ([www.it2.gov.hk](http://www.it2.gov.hk)) in October 2019 to provide a convenient web-based learning platform for the elderly to learn digital technology with ease and fun and inspire them to embrace smart living. The Portal has launched various learning modules, covering smartphone operation, protection of mobile devices, cyber security, smart healthcare, etc.

### **Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care**

5. In December 2018, the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) launched the \$1 billion Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (“I&T Fund”) to subsidise elderly and rehabilitation services units to procure, rent and trial use technology products, so as to improve the quality of life of service users and reduce the burden and pressure of care staff and carers. All non-governmental organisations and private organisations subsidised by SWD that provide residential care services for the elderly or persons with disabilities (“PWDs”), community care and support services for the elderly, and day rehabilitation and community support services for PWDs, can make applications to the I&T Fund.

6. The scope of I&T Fund covers device, equipment and tools, mobile applications that help enhance the effectiveness and quality of care, and high-end hardware and software (e.g. systems that can effectively and accurately record the activities, health condition and medical records, etc. of elderly persons and PWDs). Thus far, grants totalling over \$200 million have been approved, subsidising about 970 elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure or rent over 4 200 items of technology products.

### **Provision of Wi-Fi Service for Welfare Services Units**

7. With a funding allocation of about \$205 million by Lotteries Fund, SWD launched a four-year pilot project to progressively provide free Wi-Fi services at around 1 350 service units operated by subvented / subsidised organisations under SWD from January 2020. The project encourages welfare service units to make use of more efficient and

convenient technology products as well as web-based resources to enhance service quality. Through the use of free Wi-Fi service in welfare facilities, elderly persons can strengthen the connection with their family members and keep in touch with updated online information. The pilot project covers units of relevant services, including elderly services, rehabilitation services, family and child welfare services and youth services located throughout the territory. SWD has also deployed resources and completed the setup of Wi-Fi services at 180 welfare facilities under its purview, including social security field units and integrated family service centres, in November 2020.

## **Conclusion**

8. Members are invited to note this paper.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau  
Social Welfare Department  
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