

# **立法會**

## ***Legislative Council***

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### **Panel on Welfare Services**

#### **Report of the Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric Policies**

##### **Purpose**

This paper reports on the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric Policies (“the Subcommittee”).

##### **Background**

2. Carers play an important role in supporting elderly persons to age in place and persons with disabilities (“PWDs”) to live in the community. At present, there are no comprehensive statistics on the number and profile of carers in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, the relevant information can be obtained from some of the statistics and reports of the Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”). According to the Hong Kong 2021 Population Census – Thematic Report: Older Persons,<sup>1</sup> there were approximately 226 000 older long-term care recipients in Hong Kong who had spouses, sons/daughters or sons-in-law/daughters-in-law as their primary carers in 2021. In addition, C&SD’s Special Topics Report No. 63 – Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases<sup>2</sup> reveals that there are about 450 000 PWDs and persons with chronic diseases in Hong Kong who depend on another person to help them with their daily living.

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<sup>1</sup> The Hong Kong 2021 Population Census – Thematic Report: Older Persons can be accessed via the website of C&SD at:  
<https://www.census2021.gov.hk/doc/pub/21c-older-persons.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Special Topics Report No. 63 – Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases can be accessed via the website of C&SD at:  
[https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/data/stat\\_report/product/C0000055/att/B11301632021XXXXB0100.pdf](https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/data/stat_report/product/C0000055/att/B11301632021XXXXB0100.pdf)

3. While elderly persons, PWDs, persons with chronic diseases and persons with intellectual disabilities who need to depend on care by family members have continuously increased in number, there is long-standing shortage of manpower supply at residential care homes and for nursing care; carers generally lack professional care knowledge and some even need to sacrifice their job opportunities to take long-term care of their family members, and hence they are under heavy pressure. Fully appreciating the sacrifices made by carers, Members have proposed to adopt the “carer-centric” principle and provide more comprehensive support for carers financially, emotionally and in terms of nursing care, etc.

### **The Subcommittee**

4. In order to have a more focused discussion on the Administration’s efforts to promote carer-centric policies, the Panel on Welfare Services agreed at its meeting on 13 February 2023 to set up a subcommittee. The terms of reference and membership of the Subcommittee are set out in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** respectively.

5. Under the chairmanship and deputy chairmanship of Hon Stanley LI Sai-wing and Hon LAM So-wai respectively, the Subcommittee has held a total of seven meetings since the commencement of its work on 23 May 2023. In addition, the Subcommittee received views from 51 deputations/individuals at its meeting on 24 June 2023. A list of deputations/individuals which/who have presented their views to the Subcommittee is in **Appendix 3**.

### **Deliberations of the Subcommittee**

6. The Subcommittee has focused its discussion on the following areas:

- (a) policies related to carers and financial support;
- (b) Designated Hotline for Carer Support (“Carer Hotline”);
- (c) One-stop Information Gateway for Carers;
- (d) publicity campaign on carers;
- (e) engaging District Services and Community Care Teams (“Care Teams”) to assist in welfare support;
- (f) strengthening of peer support services and additional Parents/Relatives Resource Centres (“PRCs”);
- (g) support for special school leavers and their carers; and

- (h) training programmes, including the Support for Carers Project, the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Elderly Care and the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Care for Persons with Disabilities.

## Policies related to carers

### *Definition of carers*

7. Members have urged the Administration to further clarify the definition of carers as soon as possible. Apart from carers of elderly persons and PWDs, support should be extended to carers of children with special educational needs (“SEN”), persons with rare or chronic diseases, persons in mental recovery, ethnic minorities, etc. This will enable the public to have a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of carers, and promote social support for and concern about carers. The Administration has explained that as the objectives and target groups of various initiatives are different, government bureaux and departments should formulate a definition of carers based on their specific objectives and target groups, so as to provide carers with appropriate support. The Chief Executive has stressed in the 2022 Policy Address that carers deserve recognition and support as they play an important role in supporting elderly persons and PWDs to live in the community.

### *Establishing a Commission on Persons with Disabilities*

8. Members have suggested that a Commission on Persons with Disabilities should be established to formulate policies to support PWDs and their carers. The Administration has explained that the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee is already in place to advise the Government on matters relating to the rehabilitation policies and services for PWDs. The Committee has its members drawn from various government departments and related sectors,<sup>3</sup> and its terms of reference already cover the functions of the proposed Commission on Persons with Disabilities. The Government therefore has no plans to establish the proposed Commission.

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<sup>3</sup> Members include persons with disabilities and their carers, professionals from rehabilitation service organizations, and representatives from academia, business and other professional sectors.

## Support for carers

### *Financial Support*

9. Members have suggested that carers should be systematically issued with “carer passes” or “carer friendly cards”, which offer concessionary transport fares and medical services in recognition and support of their contribution. The Administration has advised that individual private enterprises currently provide a wide range of support and concessions to carers, and various sectors will be encouraged to continue to provide support to carers.

10. Expressing concern that only elderly persons, PWDs and their carers benefit from the four allowance schemes under the Community Care Fund<sup>4</sup> due to their limited quota, Members have suggested that the Administration should include other types of carers in these allowance schemes and increase the quotas; lower the eligibility threshold and remove the means test; allow carers to receive both the carer allowance and other social security assistance (e.g. the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”) and Old Age Living Allowance); and increase the amount of subsidies. Members have also suggested that carers, especially non-CSSA recipients, should be allowed to apply for various types of government subsidies or allowances (including CSSA) on an individual basis, and that consideration should be given to providing other kinds of financial support to carers.

11. The Administration has advised that an additional annual funding of \$527.5 million has been provided to regularize the four allowance schemes from October 2023 and increase the monthly allowance, and the eligibility criteria for these schemes are more lenient than CSSA. In order to enhance support services for persons with severe physical disabilities, the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) has launched the Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (“ISS”) since November 2014. ISS provides cash subsidy on an actual reimbursement basis to eligible Respiratory Support Medical Equipment dependants, and provides assessments by physiotherapists and occupational therapists to ensure that the rehabilitation consumables suit the needs of service users.

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<sup>4</sup> The four schemes are: (1) the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families; (2) the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities; (3) the Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled; and (4) the Pilot Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers.

### *Designated Hotline for Carer Support*

12. On 26 September 2023, the Administration launched the Carer Hotline. This hotline is dedicated to assisting carers in various ways and is staffed by professional social workers. It offers a range of services, including information provision, instant consultation and emotional support, counselling services, outreaching/emergency support and referral services, etc. to carers in need. Hotline social workers will also help connect carers with respite services and provide transport subsidies for service users in need to travel to the respite service units. Members are concerned about the day-to-day operation and utilization rate of the Carer Hotline after providing services for more than six months, and are particularly concerned about its effectiveness in providing emergency support to carers, especially respite services and the follow-up of cases with special needs. Members consider that the effectiveness of the Carer Hotline should be reviewed at an appropriate time.

13. The Administration has advised that the majority of callers seek assistance during daytime and that the capacity of the Carer Hotline is currently sufficient to handle the existing daily volume of about 90 to 100 calls. As regards emotional support, hotline social workers will refer cases requiring immediate support to the relevant social welfare service units or arrange emergency respite services, and will make follow-up calls for non-emergency cases. Additionally, hotline social workers will offer outreaching services and escort service users to respite service units. While emergency cases will be directed to the Police's 999 emergency hotline, there is collaboration with the "18111 – Mental Health Support Hotline" through mutual referral. The Administration will closely monitor the actual operation and effectiveness of the Carer Hotline, including requiring the service operator to collect data and setting key performance indicators for the Carer Hotline.

14. Members have suggested that the Administration should update the information provided by the Carer Hotline on a regular basis and work with the Care Teams to provide immediate assistance and follow-up, especially for high-risk carers. In the long run, a carer database can be set up using the information collected by various services such as the Care Teams and the Carer Hotline to identify high-risk carers and connect them with relevant services, leading to the formulation of further support measures. Members have stressed the importance of protecting the privacy of carers when collecting their data, and proposed intensifying the promotion of the Carer Hotline to reach various segments of the community, including the middle class and well-off families.

15. The Administration has advised that cases will be followed up by hotline social workers or referred to the relevant service units, and that the number of hotlines will be increased in response to demand. In addition, hotline staff have been maintaining close contact with the Care Teams. Compared to the Care Teams, however, hotline social workers can answer calls 24 hours a day and provide immediate assistance and outreaching services accordingly. They will also accumulate experience in handling cases, which will help them categorize carers in the future. For information updates, the service operator can refer to the One-stop Information Gateway for Carers and the vacancy enquiry system for respite service places. The Administration has undertaken to step up publicity in this regard, and has promoted the Carer Hotline at the large-scale kick-off ceremony and during other district activities. The publicity campaign will gradually be extended to the middle-class or professional community.

#### *One-stop Information Gateway for Carers*

16. SWD launched the Information Gateway for Carers (“Information Gateway”) on 30 November 2023, which mainly contains information about services provided for elderly persons, PWDs (including persons in mental recovery) and their carers, caring skills, community activities and resources for carers, etc. The Information Gateway has been linked to the Carer Hotline and the Vacancy Enquiry System for Respite Service/Emergency Placement to facilitate carers’ access to support anytime. Highlighting that about 40% of carers aged 65 or above have little knowledge of information technology (“IT”), Members are concerned how the Administration assists these carers to make good use of the Information Gateway to search for information and seek assistance. Members have suggested that relevant welfare service organizations should organize training courses for carers to enhance their knowledge of the Information Gateway and IT. In response, the Administration has advised that while it is expected that carers with better IT knowledge will use the Information Gateway, carers with lower IT proficiency will be provided with the Carer Hotline, with which staff will answer calls and offer assistance. Enhanced training will be provided by service units, such as elderly centres, to enable the elderly to use IT effectively. In addition, the promotion of the Information Gateway will be conducted through various channels (e.g. exhibitions on gerontechnology).

17. Members have expressed concern about the Administration’s measures to coordinate the Information Gateway and the Carer Hotline to ensure complementarity and alignment, as well as the timely updating of information in the Information Gateway to meet the needs of carers. Members have also suggested that the function of discussion forum or group for carers can be introduced to the Information Gateway with reference to

the carers' mutual help groups set up by district organizations, through which different types of carers can share their experiences and achieve mutual assistance. The Administration has assured that there is close collaboration between the two platforms to ensure their complementary. The Carer Hotline acts as a window to the outside world for gathering information on the primary needs of carers, while the Information Gateway provides comprehensive information and serves as a foundation for making improvements and addressing deficiencies. The Administration will add different functions to the Information Gateway at different stages as needed to enhance the content of the website, such as adding non-voice call functions and exploring the application of artificial intelligence.

#### *Publicity campaign on carers*

18. To raise public awareness of the contribution and needs of carers, promote mutual assistance in the community and foster a carer-friendly environment, SWD has launched a three-year publicity campaign "Care the Carers Campaign",<sup>5</sup> which includes territory-wide and district-level activities. Members have proposed that the Administration, through the publicity campaign, clarify the definition of carers to enhance public understanding of their roles and responsibilities of carers, and they have also suggested that the Administration should focus on promoting the message of territory-wide caring for carers. At the same time, Members have pointed out the need to intensify targeted publicity efforts towards hidden carers, middle-class/well-off families and professionals, with the aim of enhancing their understanding of the Administration's carer support services.

19. The Administration has explained that it will set priorities for different types of carers based on the available resources, with current top priority given to carers of elderly persons and PWDs. The aim of organizing publicity campaign is to promote the concept of carers to the community and enable people to gain a preliminary understanding of the needs of general carers. The campaign has an overarching theme of "Care the Carers Campaign" and the key measures will be widely publicized territory-wide and at the district level to raise public awareness of carers, and enable carers to make effective use of the resources.

20. To maximize the benefits of publicity, Members have suggested that the Administration should step up inter-departmental and cross-sectoral collaboration, design activities that can achieve maximum publicity, and

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<sup>5</sup> This is a three-year publicity campaign with a different theme for each year: First year: "Helping Carers Help Themselves"; Second year: "Walk with Carers"; and Third year: "Fostering a Carer-Friendly Community".

actively take forward existing and future work plans in this regard. The Administration has explained that different publicity activities aim to support the various needs of carers and to identify different types of carers. It will collaborate with various government departments, the Care Teams, non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”), the business sector, etc., and explore ways to engage more social welfare agencies/organizations in order to disseminate the message of caring the carers to the community. To tie in with its existing or future work plans, the Administration has launched the Carer Hotline in parallel and collaborated with property management companies to implement the Support for Carers Project. The Administration is also studying how residential and day care services for the elderly, child care services, etc. can be enhanced.

### *Employment support*

21. Members have suggested that carers should be provided with a carer-friendly workplace and their relevant rights should be safeguarded, including flexible working hours, carers’ leave and filial leave. At the same time, carers should be encouraged to participate in community economic activities. The Administration has advised that it has all along been encouraging employers to implement family-friendly employment practices, including flexible work arrangements, additional leave benefit to cater for family needs of employees and offering living support, to help carers balance their work and daily needs.

### *Respite services*

22. Members consider that in addition to day and residential respite services, the Administration should also provide on-site, emergency, 24-hour, holiday respite service, as well as mobile van support services, and increase the quotas and types of such services (e.g. point-to-point transport service). The Administration has advised that in order to strengthen support for carers, SWD has increased 17 day respite service places for elderly persons and 35 residential respite service places for PWDs in 2023-2024,<sup>6</sup> and will continue to provide additional day respite service places in the newly set up subsidized day care centres/units for the elderly. Furthermore, home respite service has been provided under the Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities and the Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities; whereas on-site elderly sitting and residential respite services are provided within the scope

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<sup>6</sup> As at the end of June 2023, SWD has provided 253 designated day respite places and 326 designated residential respite service places for elderly persons, and 172 day respite service places and 403 residential respite places for PWDs.



of services recognized under the Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly Scheme.

*Day child care services*

23. Members welcome the Administration's efforts to increase the service quota and enhance the quality of after-school care services, and have suggested that the Administration should continue to increase the service quota and provide services using a school-based approach while at the same time provide emotional support to the carers. In response, the Administration has advised that SWD has been subsidizing NGOs to provide a variety of child care services, including increasing aided standalone child care centre places, enhancing the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project, implementing the Enhanced After-school Care Programme, launching the School-based After School Care Service Pilot Scheme, as well as re-engineering Mutual Help Child Care Centres by phases to provide after-school care services for pre-primary children. In addition, the Administration also provides emotional support and makes relevant referrals to support services (including care/residential/respite services) for people in need, such as carers of children, and provides fee-waiving or fee-reduction subsidies to child care services for families in need, with a view to providing focused support for underprivileged families.

*Support for District Services and Community Care Teams*

24. The Administration launched the Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers in Tsuen Wan and Southern Districts in March 2024 to help identify singleton or doubleton elderly households, carers of elderly persons and PWDs in need of support through visits or contacts by the Care Teams, and to refer the cases requiring support to SWD. Members are concerned about the mode of operation of and relevant training for the Care Teams, how the hidden elders will be identified and how the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme will be assessed. Members have suggested that the Care Teams should work with NGOs to take forward the relevant services, or provide direct funding to NGOs to continue the provision of their existing services to carers under a case management approach for effective use of resources.

25. The Administration has advised that the Care Teams conduct door-to-door visits to the elderly persons or carers in the sub-districts, share information between different parties in the community, make referrals for cases in need and identify hidden or high-risk elderly persons or carers. The Administration has further explained that the Care Teams also maintain close liaison with various NGOs to complement each other. While the Care

Teams are mainly responsible for case referrals, SWD is the leading unit for case management and will assess the needs of the elders and carers before referring them to the specialist staff of the relevant welfare units for follow-up. Key Performance Indicators for individual sub-districts will be determined by the District Welfare Offices in consultation with the Care Teams to evaluate the effectiveness. Training will also be provided to teach the Care Teams communication skills and simple assessment of the carers' needs, and the training contents will be refined continuously based on the different situations encountered by the Care Teams.

### *Peer support services*

26. SWD regularized the Pilot Project on Peer Support Service in March 2018 and will increase the number of full-time peer supporter positions to at least 70 by the fourth quarter of 2024 to support persons in mental recovery, persons with mental health needs, their families and carers, with a view to helping them maintain mental wellness, facilitating social integration and relieving the carers' stress. Members have expressed their support for engaging persons in mental recovery as peer supporters and have enquired about the objectives of the peer support services, the training content and the assessment process for their ability to provide emotional support. Members have also suggested that persons with mild SEN should be allowed to serve as peer supporters. In response, the Administration has advised that the main requirement for these peer supporters is the applicants' willingness to share their personal experiences. Targets on visits and activities have been set for full-time supporters. Peer supporters should also receive at least 90 hours of specific training, including training on peer support and preparation for open employment. The suggestion of allowing persons with mild SEN to serve as peer supporters will be explored.

### *Provision of additional Parent/Relative Resource Centres*

27. To strengthen the functions of families in meeting the needs of PWDs (including persons in mental recovery), SWD has provided subventions for NGOs to operate PRCs across different districts where emotional support and professional advice are offered to the parents/relatives and carers of PWDs to help them learn how to take care of PWDs, exchange experience and seek mutual support in order to cope with the stress and difficulty involved. Members have enquired about the service targets of PRCs and suggested that a one-stop carer resource centre should be set up to make the best use of public resources and to complement other social welfare facilities. Members have also suggested that consideration could be given to providing subventions for NGOs to operate carers' support services on a self-financing basis. The Administration has advised that, apart from one

PRC dedicated for carers of persons in mental recovery, the other 18 PRCs provided services for all PWDs and their carers. The functions of PRCs have been publicized through the Information Gateway and district-based activities. PRCs will also serve as a service base to collaborate with other organizations.

*Support for special school leavers and their carers*

28. The Administration has set up a designated team for special school leavers (“designated team”) in each of the 21 District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (“DSCs”) across the territory since April 2024 to provide support for the smooth transition of special school leavers from school to the community, and to relieve the pressure of their families/carers. Members have raised concerns about the staff establishment and resource allocation of the designated teams, overlap of work and resources with DSCs, and the monitoring and assessment of the effectiveness of the designated teams. The Administration has explained that each of the 21 designated teams serves school leavers of two to three special schools, and more than 100 cases have been handled since April. The designated teams are attached to DSCs and each team is provided with a vehicle to help school leavers/carers who have little contact with the community to get to know the community, and to arrange vocational/rehabilitation services and even interviews for them. In case the designated teams have idle manpower/resources, they will be made available for use by DSCs’ other disability-related services. As the relevant service organizations receive subvention from the Government in the form of Lump Sum Grant, they are allowed to flexibly deploy their manpower and resources so long as they meet the requirements set out in the service agreements. As regards the monitoring mechanism, all subvented services will be assessed in accordance with the existing monitoring regime to see if they can meet the requirements of the service agreements.

29. Members have expressed concern about the pathways of special school leavers and the provision of adult residential services, and suggested that the Administration should strengthen collaboration among the Government, business sector and schools, while conducting career planning aligned with students’ interests, capabilities and needs so that they can fully prepare for and adapt to post-school life, and at the same time alleviate pressure on families in need who act as carers. The Administration has advised that the designated team is a regular service that seeks to help school leavers integrate into the community during the 18-month transition period after graduation. At present, the Labour Department provides job matching for school leavers, while the Shine Skills Centre provides training for them and updates the curricula on an ongoing basis in response to market needs.

Incentives are also provided to encourage employers to provide opportunities for employable school leavers. As regards the adult residential services, Siu Lam Integrated Rehabilitation Services Complex has officially commenced service in December 2023. School leavers of the following year will be allocated hostel places in this complex. Those who are still on the waiting list will be provided with services and training by DSCs. The Administration will continue to increase the supply of hostel places through various means.

### Training programmes

#### *Support for Carers Project*

30. Since October 2018, the Administration has launched the Support for Carers Project to provide basic training to frontline property management personnel, enabling them to identify and assist elderly persons and carers in need, and to provide them with information on community welfare services to support ageing in place for elderly persons where necessary. Members are of the view that various stakeholders should be brought together to form a safety net comprising the Government, the business sector and the community, so as to reach out to the families at-risk and carers living in “three -nil” buildings. The Administration has advised that it has been working with the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (including the Care Teams) and the relevant sector on inter-departmental and cross-sectoral collaboration in building a safety net for carers, while providing social welfare services targeting at “three-nil” buildings.

31. Members have raised concern about increases in the insurance burden for the property management industry and the workload of the property management personnel due to the Project. They consider that the Administration should introduce motivation mechanisms and incentives to encourage property management personnel to assume broader responsibilities, as well as adjust the course content to include necessary information on carers. The Administration has explained that the training aims to enhance the understanding of property management personnel on the characteristics and needs of carers, as well as the service attitude and communication skills expected of them. The courses would provide latest information on carers and introduce the welfare service units in their respective districts, etc, in a timely manner. The Administration has further explained that the training emphasizes on knowledge sharing and teaching the service attitude expected of property management personnel, rather than requiring them to take up the additional duties of supporting the carers.

*Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Elderly Care/  
Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Care for Persons  
with Disabilities*

32. The Administration has provided free-of-charge training for carers of elderly persons since March 2018 to strengthen the basic knowledge and skills of Foreign Domestic Helpers (“FDHs”) in taking care of frail elderly persons, and is currently launching the Pilot Scheme Phase III. To strengthen the support for PWDs and their carers, SWD has launched a three-year Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Care for Persons with Disabilities from October 2023 to enhance the care knowledge and skills of FDHs for PWDs. Members have suggested that the Administration should enhance the relevant course content to a semi-professional level, so as to enable FDHs to provide more in-depth care services. Members are particularly concerned about the need for increased training on caring for dementia patients and infants, which included both basic and enrichment courses to equip FDHs with the necessary skills to meet the diverse needs of care recipients at different stages. The Administration has advised that the training courses for FDHs are of generic nature, and depending on the ability of FDHs and the needs of employers, it will decide whether resources should be deployed to enrich the course content subject to future enrolment status.

33. Members have enquired about the regulations, assessment procedures and quality of instructors for the courses. They suggested implementing a course accreditation system to encourage participation from FDHs in the training programme. The Administration has advised that it has established basic requirements for the theme, content and duration of different course modules, and has also drawn on past experience and consulted professionals to outline specific course regulations/requirements. At present, upon completion of the training courses, certificates will be awarded to FDHs by the training bodies, but the number of learning hours of the relevant training is insufficient to meet the standard of Qualifications Framework Level 1 or 2. Furthermore, as FDHs have generally submitted information on their skills and qualifications to their employers before coming to Hong Kong, the mandatory requirement for FDHs to receive training before coming to Hong Kong would not be considered for the time being.

## **Recommendation**

34. The Subcommittee recommends that the Administration should:

- (a) **clarify the definition of carers:** To extend the coverage of support to enable the public to have a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of carers, and promote social support for and concern about carers;
- (b) **enhance financial assistance for carers:** To review the relevant financial assistance schemes and improve the vetting mechanism; increase the amount of subsidies to alleviate the financial burden of carers; and issue “carer passes” or “carer friendly cards” to provide concessionary transport fares and medical services to carers;
- (c) **enhance the publicity and functions of the Information Gateway and the Carer Hotline:** To enhance coordination, complementarity and consistency between the Carer Hotline and the Information Gateway; target publicity efforts to reach hidden carers, middle-class/well-off families and professionals, providing them with a better understanding of the carer support services; regularly add updated and new functions to the Information Gateway to meet the evolving needs of carers; and arrange training courses to help elderly carers in effectively utilizing the Information Gateway;
- (d) **strengthen the support for the Care Teams:** To allocate additional resources to the Care Teams, strengthen their cooperation and concerted efforts with NGOs, and combine the strengths of various stakeholders to form a safety net comprising the Government, the business sector and the community; or allocate funding to NGOs to continue the provision of their existing services for carers under a case management approach;
- (e) **set up a carer database:** To utilize the information collected by the Carer Hotline, outreach service and the Care Teams to establish a carer database, and compile statistics and conduct surveys on carers profile to facilitate the formulation of future policy directions and the interface of different carer-related services;

- (f) **support special school leavers and their carers:** To strengthen cooperation among the Government, the business sector and schools, assist students in carrying out life planning according to their interests, abilities and needs so that they can fully prepare for and adapt to post-school life, and at the same time help families in need alleviate their pressure as carers; and
- (g) **enhance training programmes:** To upgrade the training courses for FDHs to a semi-professional level and strengthen the training for FDHs in taking care of singleton elderly persons, infants and young children, and persons with dementia.

### **Advice Sought**

35. Members are invited to note the deliberations and recommendations of the Subcommittee.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
29 May 2024

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric Policies**

**Terms of reference**

To study and follow up on the existing carer-related policies, and promote the implementation of carer-centric measures by the Government.



**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric Policies**

**Membership list**

<b>Chairman</b>	Hon Stanley LI Sai-wing, MH, JP
<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Hon LAM So-wai
<b>Members</b>	Hon Doreen KONG Yuk-foon Dr Hon TIK Chi-yuen, SBS, JP Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen Hon Judy CHAN Kapui, MH, JP Hon Lillian KWOK Ling-lai Revd Canon Hon Peter Douglas KOON Ho- ming, BBS, JP Hon TANG Ka-piu, BBS, JP  (Total: 9 members)
<b>Clerk</b>	Ms Joyce KAN
<b>Legal Adviser</b>	Ms Clara WONG

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Subcommittee on Promoting Carer-centric Policies**

**List of deputations and individuals attending the meeting**

<b>Deputations and individuals</b>		<b>Written submissions</b>
1.	People Service Centre - SEN Concern Group	
2.	People Service Centre	*
3.	Hong Kong Women Workers' Association	*
4.	Elderly Carer Rights Group	
5.	Elderly Rights League (Hong Kong)	
6.	Elderly Carer Concern Group	
7.	Society for Community Organization	*
8.	Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association	*
9.	Concern for Grassroots' Livelihood Alliance Limited	
10.	Community Development Enhancement Fund	
11.	旺角兒童照顧者權益關注組	
12.	油尖旺關注兒童照顧者小組	
13.	照顧兒童照顧者小組	
14.	照顧「童」行	
15.	基層兒童照顧者關注小組	
16.	Miss CHAN Hoi-yan	
17.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	*
18.	Ms TAM Chit-wa	*
19.	The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped	*
20.	Care for Carers	*
21.	Mr Lee Chi-yung	*
22.	關注照顧者福利權益小組	
23.	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres	*
24.	Care Neighbourhood Network (CNN) – The All-in-One Carer Support Platform	*
25.	ELCHK Tai Wo Integrated Youth Service Centre	*
26.	大埔護老者關注組	
27.	Heep Hong Parents' Association	*
28.	Mr TAUQIR Ahmad	
29.	Caritas Federation of Senior Citizens	*
30.	CAREREPS Platform	*

<b>Deputations and individuals</b>		<b>Written submissions</b>
31.	自由黨義工組	
32.	關注殘疾人士照顧者平台	*
33.	The Salvation Army Carer Association	*
34.	Kwai Chung SDU carer me time station	
35.	1st Step Association (Resource Centre and Service for Physically Disabled Persons and their Caregivers)	
36.	The Salvation Army Carer Services	
37.	Hong Kong Dyslexia Connected	
38.	Family Network	*
39.	Shinda Sekai Sensen	
40.	Miss LEE Tsz-ying	
41.	The Hong Kong Joint Council of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped	*
42.	Miss CHOI Sau-ching	*
43.	Young Liberal Party	
44.	Mrs LEUNG Karman	
45.	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation - Community Rehabilitation Network (Kornhill Centre)	*
46.	Kwai Chung SDU mothers “tell my heart”	
47.	Our Hong Kong Foundation Limited	*
48.	Hong Kong Association for AD/HD	*
49.	Kwai Chung SDU mothers hear my voice	
50.	KC SDU Kai Fong Association	
51.	油尖旺基層照顧者權益關注組	

**Deputations and individuals who have submitted written submissions only**

1.	人間資格上訴委員會
2.	人類尊嚴促進中央協議會
3.	李國賢基金會
4.	Against Child Abuse
5.	照顧者單親媽媽
6.	照顧者關注精神健康聯席
7.	Operation Nerve 31
8.	護老者關注組
9.	家屬關注精神健康聯席