

立法會 *Legislative Council*

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Panel on Welfare Services

Meeting on 13 July 2026

Background brief on targeted poverty alleviation schemes

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the targeted poverty alleviation schemes implemented by the Administration. It also summarizes Members' major views and concerns.

Background

2. In 2022, the current-term Government put forward the targeted poverty alleviation strategy, aiming to direct resources to those most in need. In order to provide targeted support, the Government has identified **three target groups**:

Target groups	Number of households ¹
Households residing in subdivided units (“SDUs”)	about 107 200 (2021)
Single-parent households	about 69 000 (2024)
All-elderly households	about 491 200 (2024)

3. Through the **tripartite collaboration of the Government, the business sector and the community**, the Government has implemented various targeted poverty alleviation schemes catering to the needs of the target groups. These schemes include:

¹ Source: [Report on Impact of Targeted Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Hong Kong](#).

Targeted poverty alleviation schemes	Latest development
Strive and Rise Programme	The Fourth Cohort is in progress
Pilot Programme on Community Living Room (“CLR”)	14 CLRs have commenced operation, with the number expected to increase to 18 by the end of 2026
School-based After School Care Service Scheme (“the Scheme”)	207 primary schools are participating in the Scheme, accounting for over 40% of all publicly-funded primary schools in Hong Kong (as at May 2026)
District Services and Community Care Teams (“Care Teams”)—— Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers	The Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) will continue to implement the programme for another three years from April 2026, with an expected outreach of at least 60 000 households in need

4. In the 2025 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the Government would **continue its work on targeted poverty alleviation** by directing resources to those most in need. Major measures include:

- (a) **enriching activities of the Strive and Rise Alumni Club** with \$10 million funding from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, providing young people with training and experience that integrate Hong Kong pop culture and traditional Chinese arts;
- (b) **setting up additional CLRs;**
- (c) **enhancing the Scheme** by uncapping the number of places to expand support for primary students and parents in need;
- (d) rolling out the **“Co-build a Caring Society Funding Scheme”** to encourage family offices involved in philanthropic endeavours to provide resources implementing projects that benefit the disadvantaged groups; and
- (e) providing **time-limited cash incentives**, on a pilot basis, for households leaving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and eligible for the **Working Family Allowance**, to promote self-reliance.

Major views and concerns of Members

Poverty alleviation strategy and objectives

5. As the Government abandoned the poverty line, some Members suggested that the Administration should formulate a new set of measurement indicators that integrated income and multidimensional analyses, and establish quantified poverty reduction targets. At the same time, a threshold based on basic income or economic capacity should be set to ensure that those falling below the designated standard were covered by poverty alleviation measures. The Administration advised that the previously used poverty line, defined by a certain percentage of the median household income, had several limitations in reflecting the reality of poverty and assessing the overall effectiveness of policies. Consequently, it was difficult to precisely identify the groups most in need of support. The core spirit of the new strategy is “**focusing on targets and delivering resources**”, using a multidimensional analysis framework to precisely pinpoint underprivileged groups in need and allowing targeted measures to be designed for proactive intervention.

6. Moreover, the Administration advised that the Government alone could not undertake poverty alleviation work. Instead, it would adopt a core strategy of **deepening the tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community** to promote a more formalized and sustainable collaboration model.

Strive and Rise Programme

7. Members expressed concern about the details regarding the deployment of funds raised under the Strive and Rise Programme, and enquired about the future sources of funding for the Programme. The Administration responded that the **administrative expenses of the Programme were borne by the Government**, and that **all the funds raised** (totalling about \$192 million in donations for the first three cohorts of the Programme) **were spent entirely on mentees** (such as the disbursement of the start-up sum and scholarships). The Administration emphasized that the Programme’s continuity was not directly linked to the outcomes of community fundraising, and that the tripartite collaboration model among the Government, the business sector and the community would be leveraged to drive the Programme forward so as to continuously expand its benefits.

8. Members enquired whether the Administration had assessed the effectiveness of the \$10,000 start-up sum and scholarships, as well as the mentees’ **financial planning capability**. They also requested an

explanation of the practical purpose of conducting a five-year longitudinal study of some of the mentees. The Administration advised that an assessment conducted by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on the effectiveness of the first three cohorts of the Programme showed that the mentees had made progress across all eight impact indicators. Both the mentees and their parents agreed that improvement in mentees' financial planning capability was the most significant outcome. The Administration hoped that the **five-year longitudinal study would provide a comprehensive understanding of the Programme's long-term impact on mentee development** and provide the Government with longer-term analytical data to help improve the Programme continuously.

9. Members suggested that the Programme should include a compulsory module on patriotism, volunteer activities, interactions with other government youth programmes, life planning education for the Alumni Club, and increased quotas for study and exchange tours to accommodate all mentees. The Administration advised that mentees could interact with their mentors and participate in diverse group activities organized by government departments and supporting organizations (e.g. enterprises), including learning and exchange tours outside the territory. Through these activities, mentees could exchange ideas and learn alongside other young people from different backgrounds. The Alumni Club currently provided short-term internship opportunities. However, as young people already had ample opportunities for Mainland/overseas exchanges, it was not necessary to include study and exchange tours as a compulsory module

Pilot Programme on Community Living Room

10. Members expressed concern about the **insufficient service coverage of CLRs** and suggested that the Administration should actively encourage the business sector to donate venues or convert vacant government properties into pilot sites in order to expand the service scope. The Administration responded that the core principle of CLRs was the tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community. Venues should therefore be provided by the business sector; otherwise, there would be no difference to ordinary welfare facilities. If suitable vacant government properties were available, priority would be given to allocating them to social welfare organizations to meet the keen community demand for welfare facilities. In addition, CLRs must be conveniently located, a requirement that existing government venues might not necessarily meet.

11. Members expressed concern about the future direction of the first batch of CLRs upon expiry of their three-year operation period, and urged the Administration to **regularize the programme**. The Administration advised that the three-year operation periods of the **first four CLRs** (namely

the Sham Shui Po, Hung Hom, Nam Cheong, and To Kwa Wan CLRs) would expire successively between 2026 and 2027, and the relevant sponsors had expressed their willingness to **extend the sponsorship period**.

12. Members suggested **introducing more diverse services** to CLRs. Apart from hardware support, they could be transformed into centres offering in-depth community support and skills upgrading. For example, they could provide employment training and job matching for parents, helping them to achieve stable employment and improve their livelihood. The Administration advised that in addition to providing basic facilities, many CLRs were also equipped with recreational/leisure facilities to enhance residents' quality of life. On-site social workers would refer service users to appropriate community resources and services according to their needs, while also providing information on various aspects of daily life and organizing group activities. CLRs addressed the substandard living conditions of SDU households and provided diverse support to members living with the elderly, young kids and schoolchildren, as well as those serving as carers. The Government would continue to review the operation of CLRs and changes in service demand among the public.

School-based After School Care Service Scheme

13. Members expressed concern that **several hundred primary schools had not yet joined the Scheme**, and requested that the Administration to proactively contact the relevant schools to encourage and assist them in joining the Scheme as soon as possible. Members also pointed out that schools had to achieve different performance indicators respectively for the Scheme and the Education Bureau ("EDB")'s School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes and other related projects. They suggested **integrating various schemes and indicators** to enhance efficiency. The Administration advised that the Scheme mainly provided homework guidance until 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm and served a different purpose to other EDB programmes. Some large school sponsoring bodies did not participate in the Scheme because they had run similar programmes of their own, while some schools were unable to join due to manpower constraints. The Administration would continue to follow up on the situation with EDB and explore the integration of different schemes' performance indicators.

14. Members suggested expanding the Scheme, including **extending it to kindergartens and standardizing the extension of operating hours** to 7:00 pm. The Administration pointed out that primary schools and kindergartens differed significantly in scale, and that individual kindergartens also varied in size. The Administration had to carefully consider the feasibility of fully implementing the Scheme in kindergartens. Currently, aided child care centres had already provided an Extended Hours

Service to assist in taking care of young children until 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm, and there were enough places to meet the current demand. Under the current arrangements of the Scheme, service operators were required to provide at least three hours of after school care services daily, from Monday to Friday. Depending on the dismissal time of individual participating schools, operating hours generally ended between 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm. The service hours might be extended to 7:00 pm if school conditions permitted. Service operators would make appropriate arrangements for individual students with other needs.

District Services and Community Care Teams——Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers

15. Members suggested strengthening the training for Care Teams on communication and support skills, as well as mental health first aid, and **allocating additional resources** to Care Teams to support them in launching respite services for care recipients in public housing estates, handling administrative work, etc. The Administration pointed out that SWD had organized training seminars for Care Teams in all 18 districts across the territory, covering topics such as service content and models, basic communication and visitation skills, methods of identifying households' needs, familiarization with district-based welfare service resources and referral procedures, and instruction on using the information management platform to collect data and manage service records. Regarding resources, SWD would coordinate with the Home Affairs Department to explore how to handle matters related to resource allocation.

16. Members suggested **strengthening the collaboration among Care Teams, CLRs and local organizations**. The Administration advised that CLRs, Care Teams and various local organizations had been actively liaising with one another to pool local resources and efforts to provide diverse and targeted services. These include volunteer services, community information sharing, event and in-kind sponsorships, and various skills training and interest classes, as well as referring users to suitable welfare services as necessary. They would continue to collaborate and synergize with one another, with each party fulfilling its respective role to provide appropriate services to those in need.

Latest development

17. On 18 June 2026, the Commission on Poverty published the [Report on Impact of Targeted Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Hong Kong](#). The report reviewed the Government's work since its adoption of a targeted poverty alleviation strategy and summarized the interim results. The report

noted that **the performance of the four targeted poverty alleviation schemes had far exceeded the original key performance indicators**. The Administration also advised that it would strengthen cross-sector, cross-profession, and cross-generational collaboration in the future, and consider **identifying additional target groups** in a timely manner to introduce more diverse projects and targeted services.

18. At the Council meeting of 24 June 2026, the Council passed a motion on “[Continuously reviewing the targeted poverty alleviation strategy](#)”, urging the Government to continuously deepen efforts to alleviate, combat and prevent poverty, thereby helping more disadvantaged groups in need. The key proposals included:

- (a) alleviating intergenerational poverty and helping poor families accumulate capital for their children;
- (b) encouraging people who were capable of working to actively seek employment, and strengthening support for the grass roots and carers to assist them in seeking employment;
- (c) establishing a database of disadvantaged groups and making good use of scientific data-driven calculation methods to accurately identify high-risk families;
- (d) establishing a transitional support mechanism specifically for those who had just escaped poverty; and
- (e) increasing the disposable income of local residents and setting targets for narrowing the disparity between the rich and the poor.

Relevant papers

19. A list of relevant papers on the LegCo website is in the [Appendix](#).

Targeted poverty alleviation schemes

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Welfare Services	17 March 2025	Agenda Item III: Extension of the “District Services and Community Care Teams——Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers” to 18 districts across the territory Minutes of meeting
	14 April 2025	Agenda Item IV: Progress update on targeted poverty alleviation measures Minutes of meeting
	20 April 2026	Agenda Item III: Progress in enhancing day child care services Minutes of meeting
	8 June 2026	Agenda Item IV: Services supporting the carers Minutes of meeting
Finance Committee	17 April 2026	Replies to initial written questions raised by Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2026-2027 (Reply serial numbers: LWB(W)003, 021, 074, 105, 138 and 139)

Council meeting	Paper
4 February 2026	Question 2 : Enhancing elderly support networks in the community
4 February 2026	Question 18 : Supporting elderly persons and carers
22 April 2026	Question 7 : Employment support and poverty alleviation policies
3 June 2026	Question 1 : Development and effectiveness of the Community Living Room programme
17 June 2026	Question 5 : Child care centres and School-based After School Care Service Scheme