

**Minutes of the  
Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting**

**8 November 2017 (Wednesday) at 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 4, G/F, Central Government Offices**

**Present**

Mr Vincent LO Wing-sang (Chairman)  
Ms Sylvia CHAN May-kuen  
Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling  
Mr CHUGH, Manohar Thakurdas  
Mr Laurence HO Hoi-ming  
Mr IP Wai-ming  
Mr Anthony KWAN Wai-ming  
Ms Christina Maisenne LEE  
Mr Laurence LI Lu-jen  
Dr Annissa LUI Wai-ling  
Prof Steven NGAI Sek-yum  
Ms Cindy PUN Siu-fung  
Dr Loretta YAM Yin-chun  
Ms Sania YAU Sau-wai  
Ms Amarantha YIP Yun-wan  
Mr Kelvin MA (Secretary)

**In Attendance**

**Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Ms CHANG King-yiu Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)

Miss Leonia TAI Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DS(W)1)

Mr Donald CHEN Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 (DS(W)2)

Mr David LEUNG Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R)

Mr Kenneth CHENG      Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour  
and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Ms Carol YIP              Director of Social Welfare (DSW)

**Absent with apologies**

Dr Gary CHENG Faat-ting  
Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping  
Mr Edmond LEE Man-bun  
Mr Hansen LEE Hong-kong  
Ms Anthea LO Wing-sze  
Mr Daryl NG Win-kong  
Dr Janice TSANG Wing-hang

**Discussion Item 1: Briefing on the Welfare-related Initiatives in the  
Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address**

Members were invited to provide comments on the paper on the welfare-related initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address. Members raised the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) The Government should create a clear career ladder in the welfare sector, and introduce advanced technologies to polish the image of the industry. It would also be essential to recognise the career ladder under the Qualifications Framework;
- (b) The Government could put in place a comprehensive set of measures, including child care services, community support and allowances for carers;
- (c) The Government could identify any risk factors contributing to family tragedies from the available data, e.g. receipt of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, default on rent for public housing and records of domestic violence, etc.;

- (d) There should be a better interface between the services provided by the Hospital Authority and the SWD. Besides, consideration should be given to how to overcome the legal hurdle to the use of personal data in improving the cost-effectiveness of services and facilitating social-medical integration. It might be advisable to set up a long-term care office to facilitate the interface of social and medical services;
- (e) There could be benchmarking for the implementation of gerontechnology;
- (f) It was important to consider whether the supply of quality elderly services in the market was adequate, and whether elderly persons had the capacity to make rational choices;
- (g) Whether there are ways to avoid massive dismissal of employees regarding the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) offsetting mechanism;
- (h) The planning standards for elderly facilities should cover private developments. More residential care homes for the elderly should be incorporated in urban renewal projects;
- (i) The Government should continue to promote and develop annuity schemes for the purpose of retirement protection;
- (j) The implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (Special Scheme) should be expedited;
- (k) The Government could consider providing incentives to encourage mutual help in the neighbourhood, e.g. cooking for elderly neighbours, to support meal delivery services;
- (l) It would be worthwhile to consider making better use of the storage premises in public rental housing estates to provide space in neighbourhood elderly centres and district elderly community centres;

- (m) More research on service modes should be carried out to devise innovative solutions to welfare issues. There was a need to enhance the community care for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and to integrate the efforts of different bureaux/departments in supporting the ageing of PWDs;
- (n) Over-reliance on importation of labour might result in diminished incentives for young persons to join the care industry, and the emergence of monitoring issues in the long run;
- (o) The Old Age Living Allowance should be extended to those Hong Kong residents who chose to live in the Mainland, whereas the eligibility for the Old Age Allowance should be lowered to 65 years old;
- (p) When reviewing the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (LSGSS), the focus should be on how to ensure that resources were spent on the intended areas. Also, it should be made a requirement that a certain portion of the subvention received by a non-governmental organisation be solely dedicated to meeting salary expenses;
- (q) The Government should consider putting more weight on prevention of cyber violence than protection of privacy;
- (r) The Government might consider reviewing if there was any abuse of the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, particularly having regard to the increasing government expenditure on the Scheme; and
- (s) The Government's initiative of setting up a Special Needs Trust (SNT) was commendable and the roles and liabilities of the Trustee should be carefully examined.

2. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited was preparing for the launch of the life public annuity scheme in mid-2018, and it was noted that some banks and insurance companies had already rolled out related commercial schemes;

- (b) The LWB had undertaken to put forth a revised proposal to consult stakeholders on how the MPF offsetting issue should be dealt with;
- (c) The SWD would discuss with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service how the data on high-risk/hidden families could be collated for access by the welfare sector;
- (d) The SWD had been working to establish a career ladder on care services to polish the image of the industry, and was looking to introduce a newly developed management course at Level 4 of the Qualifications Framework for supervisory staff of residential care homes to attend;
- (e) The SWD would buy more new EA1 places, thereby increasing the supply of non-subsidised residential care places meeting the EA1 standard available for accepting vouchers;
- (f) The SWD would continue to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places for the elderly;
- (g) The SWD had endeavoured to streamline the administrative procedures of the Special Scheme as far as possible;
- (h) Manpower was a major consideration of meal delivery services, and the SWD would keep in view the feasibility of more extensive provision;
- (i) For persons aged 65 to 69, the Old Age Living Allowance provided higher payments than the original Old Age Allowance for the same age group meeting the same means test;
- (j) The SWD had set up a task force to conduct a comprehensive review on the LSGSS pursuant to the areas specified in the Policy Agenda, and the task force would commence its work soon;

- (k) The Government was well aware of the importance of delineating clearly the roles and responsibilities of different parties through the Deed of Trust to be signed by the Settlor (i.e. parents of children with intellectual disabilities) and the Trustee (i.e. Director of Social Welfare Incorporation), which would be prepared by the Department of Justice having due regard to the practices and experience of SNT in other jurisdictions; and
- (l) The LWB had discussed the scope of the consultancy on the Rehabilitation Programme Plan with the welfare sector and stated in clear terms the division of work concerned in the invitation for proposals. The main consultant would be responsible for the review of macro issues while several task forces would be set up to examine specialised subjects, and separate experts or consultants might be engaged by the task forces on a need basis.

SWAC Secretariat  
January 2018