

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

**16 November 2010 (Tuesday) at 10:00 a.m.  
Room 215, Main Wing, Central Government Offices**

**Present**

Professor CHAN Yuk-shee	(Chairman)
Mr Bunny CHAN Chung-bun	
Ms Maggie CHAN Mei-kit	
Mr Quentin FONG King-sang	
Mr Herman HUI Chung-shing	
Dr LAM Ching-choi	
Ms LAM Shuk-yee	
Mr Christopher LAW Kin-chung	
Dr LEUNG Wing-tai	
Mrs Agnes MAK Tang Pik-yee	
Dr Sandra TSANG Kit-man	
Mrs Teresa TSIEN WONG Bik-kwan	
Mr TUNG Chi-fat	
Mr Ben WONG Chung-mat	
Dr Jimmy WONG Chi-ho	
Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam	
Miss Helen KWAN	(Secretary)

**In Attendance**

**Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Mr Matthew CHEUNG	Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW)
Mr Paul TANG	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)
Mr Roy TANG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DS(W)1)

Ms Irene YOUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 (DS(W)2)
Ms Karyn CHAN	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)
Mrs Alison LAU	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 (PAS(W)2)
Ms Betty HO	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)3 (PAS(W)3)
Mr Stephen SUI	Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Mr Patrick NIP	Director of Social Welfare (DSW)
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**Absent with apologies**

Dr Dorothy CHAN YUEN Tak-fai  
Dr Benjamin LAI Sau-shun  
Mr Vincent LO Wing-sang  
Mr Timothy MA Kam-wah  
Mr Jovy SUEN Leung-kwong  
Ms Lisa YIP Sau-wah

**Discussion Item: Briefing on the welfare initiatives in the 2010-11 Policy Address and Policy Agenda [SWAC Paper No. 09/2010]**

Members were briefed on the welfare-related initiatives in the 2010-11 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

2. Members asked the following questions / offered the following comments –

- (a) The one-year extension of the 3 000 temporary work opportunities should be sufficient in enhancing the employability of young people so that they would not be over-dependent on the initiative;
- (b) The Administration should consider adopting more preventive and developmental strategies in the planning and provision of welfare services in Hong Kong;
- (c) The Administration should consider enhancing the quality and improving the fee-charging system of the private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in the long run and whether more places could be purchased;
- (d) The concept of “ageing in place” should be widely promoted, and more support to carers for elders at home should be given to help relieve their stress, such as offering more subsidised community care services for elders, organising training programmes to teach carers the skills in serving elders and providing carers with subsidies;
- (e) The Administration should consider increasing the places of residential care homes for persons with disabilities through in-situ redevelopment, especially for sites in remote areas;
- (f) The supply and quality of the health care staff in residential care homes should be closely monitored, and corresponding manpower planning made and suitable training should be provided in tandem with the development and enhancement of the related welfare services; and
- (g) The Administration should provide more opportunities for retraining and volunteering to build up the confidence and self-awareness of the elderly population.

3. The Administration gave the following response –

- (a) The Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme had been providing a comprehensive platform of job search with one-stop and diversified training for young people with a view to tackling youth unemployment;

- (b) Many of the initiatives in the 2010-11 Policy Address and Policy Agenda were developmental in nature, especially the labour-related initiatives which aimed at enhancing employment and thus relieving the pressure on welfare services;
- (c) Surprise checks were conducted seven times a year on average to ensure that the quality of the RCHEs was up to standard;
- (d) In order to help improve the living environment of the elders living in dilapidated homes, the Administration had launched the Home Environment Improvement Scheme for the Elderly since 2008 to subsidise home renovation works and/or the purchase of essential fittings for eligible elderly households. The Administration would continue to enhance community care services for persons in need and their family members;
- (e) To enhance community support services and provide additional service options for persons with disabilities, the Administration had launched a Pilot Scheme on Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities and a pilot Bought Place Scheme for private residential care homes for persons with disabilities. The new district-based and one-stop service delivery mode of the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness had also been rolled out across the territory. The Administration would continue to make active efforts in identifying suitable premises for the provision of residential care and other rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities;
- (f) SWD had been closely working with the Hospital Authority to organise Enrolled Nurse training programmes. A mechanism had also been put in place for the long-term planning of manpower of, and provision of training for, paramedical professionals and healthcare workers; and
- (g) The Administration supported active ageing and continuous learning for the elders.