

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

**23 January 2013 (Wednesday) at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 2, G/F, Central Government Offices**

Present

Mr Vincent LO Wing-sang (Chairman)
Ms Maggie CHAN Mei-kit
Ms Anna May CHAN Mei-lan
Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling
Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping
Mr Laurence HO Wing-him
Dr IP Yan-ming
Ms LAM Shuk-yee
Mr Christopher LAW Kin-chung
Mr Hansen LEE Hong-kong
Mr Laurence LI Lu-jen
Mrs Agnes MAK TANG Pik-yee
Mr Joseph MAN Hung-yee
Mr Jovy SUEN Leung-kwong
Ms Theresa TAO Chee-ying
Mrs Teresa TSIEN WONG Bik-kwan
Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam
Mr Charles YANG Chuen-liang
Ms Sania YAU Sau-wai
Miss Helen KWAN (Secretary)

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)

Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW)

Miss Annie TAM Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)

Ms Doris CHEUNG	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)
Ms Wendy LEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)
Mrs Elina CHAN	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)

Absent with apologies

Dr Dorothy CHAN YUEN Tak-fai
Mr David FONG Man-hung
Mr Edmond LEE Man-bun
Dr Sandra TSANG Kit-man

**Discussion Item: Briefing on the welfare-related initiatives in the
2013 Policy Address
[SWAC Paper No. 01/2013]**

Members were briefed on the paper on welfare-related initiatives in the 2013 Policy Address.

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

- (a) Regular reviews on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases on the change of circumstances should be conducted to assist the needy to progress from welfare to self-reliance. Retraining opportunities should also be provided to CSSA recipients;
- (b) Welfare facilities provision should be specified in the agreement of development projects to tackle the shortage of welfare premises, and barrier-free requirements should be specified clearly in new developments to facilitate community care and promote ageing in place;
- (c) The Administration should consider upgrading the service standard of private residential care homes for the elderly with a view to enhancing their attractiveness to potential users; and
- (d) To address the manpower shortage in the welfare sector, the Administration should consider developing a clear career path for health and care workers and continue with the training of enrolled nurses.

3. The Administration gave the following response –

- (a) SWD had launched the “Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance” in January 2013 to enhance the effectiveness of various employment assistance schemes and achieve synergy. The retraining needs of CSSA recipients would also be examined with the enhanced service;
- (b) The Administration had been exploring the possibility of reserving land or premises in new development projects or redevelopment projects for welfare facilities where appropriate. The Administration would also address the issues of manpower and welfare premises proactively and render appropriate assistance to non-governmental organisations in their development projects;
- (c) The Administration would continue to increase the provision of subsidised residential care places while promoting ageing in place to shorten the waiting time for such places; and

- (d) The Administration has always been concerned about the manpower supply of the welfare sector and has introduced initiatives to address manpower shortage. It is noted that about 90% of the graduates from classes of the two-year full-time Enrolled Nurse Training Programme for the Welfare Sector had joined the welfare sector.

SWAC Secretariat
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