

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

**24 April 2018 (Tuesday) 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 Gary CHENG Faat-ting
Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling
Mr CHUGH, Manohar Thakurdas
Mr IP Wai-ming
Mr Anthony KWAN Wai-ming
Mr Armstrong LEE Hon-cheung
Ms Christina Maisenne LEE
Mr Laurence LI Lu-jen
Ms Anthea LO Wing-sze
Dr Annissa LUI Wai-ling
Dr Gary NG Ka-wing
Ms Cindy PUN Siu-fung
Dr Janice TSANG Wing-hang
Ms Amarantha YIP Yun-wan
Mr Elvis CHIU (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 Johann WONG [For discussion item 2 only]	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 (DS(W)2)
Mr David LEUNG [For discussion item 1 only]	Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R)
Mr Kenneth CHENG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)
Ms Stella CHANG [For discussion item 2 only]	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)3 (PAS(W)3)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Ms Carol YIP	Director of Social Welfare (DSW)
Mr TAN Tick-ye [For discussion item 2 only]	Assistant Director (Elderly) (AD(E))

Absent with apologies

Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping
Mr Laurence HO Hoi-ming
Mr Daryl NG Win-kong
Prof Steven NGAI Sek-yum
Dr Loretta YAM Yin-chun

**Discussion Item 1: Public Engagement on the Formulation of a New
Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan**

Members were invited to provide comments on the paper on the public engagement on the formulation of a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP). Members raised the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) Whether the existing residential services could be enhanced in the near future so that parents could get a better picture of the waiting time and make appropriate plans for their children;
- (b) How children with disabilities could be fitted within and benefitted in the wider education system;
- (c) The surveys to be conducted by the consulting team should cover all stakeholders for obtaining a representative sample and not just limited to service users, carers and service providers only;
- (d) There was a need to set up a registry to capture up-to-date information on the backgrounds and needs of service users and their carers for more targeted service planning;
- (e) The name of the RPP, which might give rise to the public perception that the RPP only covered medical and rehabilitation services, should be changed to reflect the spirit of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (f) The Government's support in the use of technology to enhance rehabilitation within the community would be helpful for addressing the shortage of manpower and service premises;
- (g) Whether the Government and the consulting team could accommodate the different groups of persons with disabilities and allow them to participate in the public consultation exercise without the need to fill up survey forms;
- (h) There is a need to educate parents on early identification and intervention, in light of the long waiting time for evaluation of disabilities for children;
- (i) Consideration might be given to identifying job types that were less labour-intensive and suitable for persons with disabilities, and collect data on the employment and unemployment of persons with disabilities, so that they could be recommended to prospective employers or business chambers for consideration for employment;

- (j) The review should cover the planning of manpower for rehabilitation and care services, citing the difficulty in attracting young people to work in rehabilitation and care services and also services for the elderly;
- (k) Whether the relevant data from the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services (“Navigation Scheme”) could be used for reference in examining the manpower planning issue;
- (l) Some parents felt the needs of their children were ignored under the Integrated Education in schools, as some teachers, despite having gone through relevant training, were not able to provide good support to students with special education needs;
- (m) The review should cover way to raise the quality of life of carers;
- (n) More support should be provided to persons with mild intellectual disabilities in achieving quality work life and job satisfaction;
- (o) The Government would consider offering tax incentives or direct sponsorships/subsidies to encourage more companies to hire persons with disabilities, or use a more radical approach such as fixing a mandatory quota for employers to follow; and
- (p) Priorities and strategies should be given to different types of disabilities for resource allocation and effective implementation of improvement measures recommended under the new RPP.

2. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) The Rehabilitation Advisory Committee had set up a Review Working Group to take forward the formulation of the new RPP. With the assistance of the consulting team, the Review Working Group would examine seven macro issues, including planning of community support services, support for carers, as well as prevention, identification and medical rehabilitation;
- (b) The Review Working Group had set up five task forces to examine the specialised issues pertinent to the building of a disability-friendly society in five key areas including accessibility, employment support, mental wellness, special needs and inclusive culture. The topics to be examined under these task forces would include issues related to supporting student with special needs studying at both special schools and ordinary schools under the Integrated Education, as well as issues related to the promotion of employment of persons with disabilities; and
- (c) The Review Working Group would conduct extensive public engagement exercise during the formulation of the new RPP in three stages, namely Scoping Stage, Formulation of Recommendations Stage and Consensus Building Stage. The Review Working Group would collate views from stakeholders at each of the these stages through different modes such as public fora, stakeholder meetings and focus group discussions, etc., with a view to enabling stakeholders to have systematic and thorough discussion on the various rehabilitation service needs of persons with disabilities and other related issues. The new RPP was currently at the Scoping Stage and the Government would continue to listen to views from the sector and stakeholders on the name of the RPP. The Government would report the progress of the RPP review to the SWAC at a suitable juncture.

Discussion Item 2: Progress of Implementing the Recommendations of the Elderly Services Programme Plan

3. Members were invited to provide comments on the paper on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the Elderly Services Programme Plan (ESPP). Members raised the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) Whether the Government had any plan to brief stakeholders, in particular the service users and their carers, and progress of implementing the recommendations of the ESPP. Suggestion was also put forward on the promotion of the ESPP through social media and materials with more attractive visuals and less words;
- (b) Whether it would be possible to obtain the data from projects/schemes involving medical-social collaboration for analysis and better service planning;
- (c) The inclusion of indicative population-based planning ratios in the ESPP for the planning of District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres, as well as the setting out of broad principles on the provision of premises in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines were commendable;
- (d) Consideration might be given to speeding up the implementation of some of the short-term recommendations of the ESPP from one to two years to six months;
- (e) Importation of labour was necessary to meet the demand for care workers, while with the right training, foreign domestic helpers could help in providing care to the elderly who are ageing at home;
- (f) Residential homes could contribute more for those elderly who lived alone or ageing in the community. There was a strong need for accreditation for all residential care homes to raise their quality;
- (g) There was a need to leverage those aged between 60 and 70 in the labour market in the light of the severe manpower shortage;
- (h) The new Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care would cater for the use of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) instead of home care service users;
- (i) The Government should attract more young people to develop their career in the elderly services industry;

- (j) How to monitor the delivery and quality of services under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (CCSV); and
- (k) Whether there were plans to regularise those services for the elderly currently funded by the Community Care Fund (CCF).

4. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) The Government placed equal importance on the provision and improvement of residential care services. However, most elderly persons would still prefer to age-in-place as far as their health permitted, and home-care services would be a crucial element in the continuum of care, in tandem with residential care services;
- (b) A working group under the Elderly Commission had been following up the implementation progress of the recommendations of the ESPP every six months. The Government would also continue to engage stakeholders through relevant advisory bodies and channels;
- (c) The Government had been speeding up the implementation of some of the short-term recommendations. However, some would require more time as the Government needed to work with NGOs in the implementation;
- (d) The Government would review the implementation of the pilot projects funded by the CCF to refine them and consider the regularisation of such services. The Government relied heavily on the NGOs in delivering the services to the elderly. LWB would follow up on those recommendations which involved inter-departmental collaboration;
- (e) The Government would look into ways to improve the Navigation Scheme to attract more young people to join the profession;
- (f) In ensuring service quality, the SWD had been conducting regular inspections and surprise inspections on service providers of CCSV and the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly;

- (g) Under the principle of “money-following-the-user”, the user could choose another service provider if he/she was unsatisfied with the services provided by his/her current provider; and
- (h) Unless otherwise mandated by law, the participation in accreditation schemes by Residential Care Homes for the Elderly remained voluntary in nature. The SWD would provide reimbursement of the accreditation fee for service providers and promote their accreditation status on its website to encourage more service providers to participate in the accreditation schemes.

SWAC Secretariat
July 2018