

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

**27 January 2014 (Monday) at 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 3, G/F, Central Government Offices**

Present

Mr Vincent LO Wing-sang (Chairman)
Ms Anna May CHAN Mei-lan
Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling
Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping
Mr David FONG Man-hung
Mr Laurence HO Wing-him
Mr IP Wai-ming
Mr Hansen LEE Hong-kong
Mr Edmond LEE Man-bun
Mr Laurence LI Lu-jen
Dr Annissa LUI Wai-ling
Mr Joseph MAN Hung-yee
Mr Daryl NG Win-kong
Prof Steven NGAI Sek-yum
Mr Jovy SUEN Leung-kwong
Ms Theresa TAO Chee-ying
Dr Sandra TSANG Kit-man
Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam
Dr Loretta YAM Yin-chun
Mr Charles YANG Chuen-liang
Ms Sania YAU Sau-wai
Miss Helen KWAN (Secretary)

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)

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)

Miss SHEA Wing-man 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 LAM Ka-tai Deputy Director of Social Welfare
(Services) (DD(S))

Absent with apologies

Dr Dorothy CHAN YUEN Tak-fai

**Discussion Item: Briefing on the welfare-related initiatives in the
2014 Policy Address
[SWAC Paper No. 01/2014]**

Members were invited to provide comments on the welfare-related initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address. Members asked the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) The Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (the Special Scheme) would be very effective in addressing the shortage of welfare premises;
- (b) The Government should consider providing part-time job opportunities, more incentives and training to attract more young people, women and incumbent Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients to join the workforce. It was also important to create career paths and incentives to encourage young people in pursuing a career in the welfare sector;
- (c) The Government should consider upgrading the service standards of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), especially those not under the Enhanced Bought

Place Scheme. Such upgrading would significantly relieve the pressure on the shortage of subsidised residential care places and would complement the introduction of residential care services (RCS) vouchers;

- (d) The integration of persons with disabilities into the community would be heavily dependent on the availability of barrier-free facilities, including the accessibility of public transportation;
- (e) While the changing needs of the ageing population and domestic households might have a large financial impact on public expenditure, they might also provide an opportunity to further consider the financing of welfare services in the longer term, which were now heavily subsidised by the Government; and
- (f) The welfare-related initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address were satisfactory to SWAC Members. A mechanism to establish key performance indicators, measure the effectiveness and prevent abuses of the welfare schemes could be considered.

2. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) Under the Special Scheme, a total of about 17 000 additional service places for the elderly and persons with disabilities were expected to be provided subject to refinements of the proposals and the outcome of their technical feasibility studies. Besides, the Government had all along been exploring the possibility of reserving premises for welfare facilities in various development projects such as private development and public housing projects;
- (b) The Government would not only provide incentives to attract young people to enter the care industry workshop but also develop long-term career paths for them in order to address the manpower issues in the sector. A Qualifications Framework for the elderly service sector was also being developed to map out clearer career paths for frontline care staff;

- (c) The Government would take into account the quality assurance of private RCHEs in the implementation of RCS vouchers pilot scheme; and
- (d) On building a barrier-free environment, it was expected that all MTR stations would have at least one barrier-free access road linking the platform and the entrance at street level by 2016-17 and all franchised buses would be wheelchair accessible by 2015-16. The Government had also taken forward a \$1.3 billion retrofitting programme to upgrade the barrier-free facilities in all Government premises and facilities and Housing Authority properties.

SWAC Secretariat
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