

**Minutes of the
Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting
held on 20 November 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
in Conference Room 2, G/F, Central Government Offices**

Present

Dr KO Wing-man	(Chairman)
Miss CHOW Tsz-ki	
Ms HSU Siu-man	
Prof Patrick IP	
Dr Sanly KAM Shau-wan	
Mr Frederick LAI Wing-hoi	
Dr Wingco LO Kam-wing	
Prof Petrus NG Yat-nam	
Mr Francis NGAI Wah-sing	
Dr PAN Pey-chyou	
Dr Chloe SUEN Yin-wah	
Miss SZE Lai-shan	
Dr Ricky SZETO Wing-fu	
Dr Rizwan ULLAH	
Mr John WONG Chung	
Prof Frances WONG Kam-yuet	
Mr Barry WONG Man-sing	
Ms Wendy YUEN Miu-ling	

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Alice LAU	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mr Fletch CHAN	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1
Mr CHONG Wing-wun	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2
Mrs Winnie KANG	Commissioner for Rehabilitation

Mr Tony YIP	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1
Miss Amy LAI	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 1B (Secretary to SWAC)
Ms Jasmine LO	Executive Officer (Welfare) 1A
Miss Clare KWOK	Executive Officer (Welfare) 1B

Social Welfare Department

Ms Maggie LEUNG	Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) (on behalf of Director of Social Welfare)
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Absent with apologies

Ms Alice LAU Oi-size
 Ms Anthea LEE Shuk-wai
 Ms Rebecca TSAI Ching-yu
 Prof Hector TSANG Wing-hong

Item 1: Welfare-related Initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address

At the Chairman's invitation, the Government representative briefed Members on the paper.

2. Noting that a wide variety of measures covering different welfare aspects were introduced in the 2025 Policy Address, Members expressed great appreciation of the Government's effort, and raised the following suggestions/questions –

(a) Targeted Poverty Alleviation

- i. The Government should provide more Community Living Rooms including in other regions such as Hong Kong Island and the New Territories to further support people in need.

- ii. The Government should provide more job tasting and internship opportunities for participants of the Strive and Rise Programme to broaden their horizons, thus promoting their upward mobility.

(b) Care for the Elderly

- i. The Government should consider including suitable residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in Dongguan for the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme), given the proximity of Dongguan to Hong Kong.
- ii. The Government should organise tours to designated RCHEs under the GDRCS Scheme free-of-charge to enable the elderly to see for themselves the facilities and services provided.
- iii. The Government should collect information of Hong Kong's elderly persons retiring in the Greater Bay Area to help forecast demand for residential care services, and facilitate long-term planning of cross-boundary elderly care services.

(c) Carers Support

The Government should provide Care Teams with trainings to facilitate their visits to or contacts with the elderly.

(d) Support for Persons with Disabilities

- i. In addition to formulating guidelines on rehabilitation products, the Government should also educate and provide training to users of the rehabilitation products to facilitate their effective use.
- ii. The Government should task Integrated Family Service Centres to provide assessment for young students with special educational needs (SEN) to enable earlier intervention. The Government should also provide transitional support on career planning, mentorship and financial management to SEN students on their graduation from special schools.

(e) Promotion of Mental Health

The Government should enhance the provision of professional services to children/youth with mental needs, devising intervention strategies that cater for different age groups. For example, different clinical psychology services should be provided to address the diverse developmental and psychosocial needs of children and primary school students.

(f) Family & Child Welfare

- i. The Government should ensure that the pilot scheme of the Community Parents and Children Centres would provide child-centered and targeted support for families with parenting needs.
- ii. The Government should handle reports under the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance, including investigation and law enforcement, in a child-/family-friendly manner.

(g) Tackling Challenges of an Ageing Society

- i. The Government should subsidize professional certificate/diploma programmes for physiotherapy, community health care and dietary management to strengthen manpower supply for the welfare sector in meeting the growing demand for elderly care services in the community.
- ii. The Government should encourage re-employment of retired elderly persons by offering tax incentives to the employers. The Government should also collaborate with the business sector to promote more age-friendly initiatives such as the provision of soft meals.

(h) Others

The Government should cater to the diverse needs for welfare services when planning for welfare facilities and services in new towns or new development areas, such as in the Northern Metropolis.

3. Government representatives thanked Members' views and made the following responses –

(a) Targeted Poverty Alleviation

- i. The Government engaged supporting organisations under the Strive and Rise Programme to provide job shadowing and internship opportunities for participating students to broaden their horizons, facilitate their career planning at an early stage and facilitate upward mobility. Beyond the Programme, the Employees Retraining Board also provided upskilling opportunities for the local workforce from all walks of life.
- ii. The Government would publish the Report on the Impact of Targeted Poverty Alleviation Strategy in Hong Kong in mid-2026 to inform the public of the effectiveness of relevant targeted poverty alleviation initiatives and highlight rooms for improvement.

(b) Care for the Elderly

- i. The Government would launch by end-2025 a two-year pilot arrangement to defray part of the medical expenses that Hong Kong elderly who joined the GDRCS Scheme had to shoulder under the National Basic Medical Insurance Policy. The annual ceilings for outpatient and inpatient services would be RMB10,000 and RMB30,000 per person respectively.
- ii. The Government would continue to monitor the progress of the GDRCS Scheme and bring in more Mainland RCHEs while ensuring service quality.

(c) Carers Support

The Government would continue to arrange trainings for the Care Teams on communication skills, available social welfare services and referral procedures.

(d) Tackling Challenges of an Ageing Society

The Government recognized that an ageing population created challenges as well as opportunities. When the Working Group on Ageing Society Strategies formulated policy responses, it would give due regard not only to the needs of elderly persons for care and support, but also their capacity to make contributions to society in ways that are appropriate to their age and abilities.

(e) Others

The Government would tap into community resources to strengthen welfare support for the needy. For example, we would roll out the “Co-building a Caring Society Funding Scheme” to encourage family offices and corporates to provide resources for implementing projects that benefit the underprivileged.

4. The Chairman expressed appreciation to the Government for implementing a series of welfare-related measures and initiatives in addressing various needs of the community. He also thanked Members for their views and invited the Government to consider Members’ comments.

SWAC Secretariat
January 2026