

政府總部  
民政事務局

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**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT  
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7 July 2017

Legislative Council Secretariat  
(Attn: Mr Keith WONG)  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr WONG ,

**Legislative Council Establishment Subcommittee  
Follow-up to Meeting on 14 June 2017  
EC(2017-18)1**

Our responses to the follow-up issues of the Establishment Subcommittee meeting on 14 June 2017 are set out below.

- (a) In addition to organising public consultations on an annual basis, the Community Care Fund (CCF) and the bureaux and departments responsible for implementing the programmes have held a total of 17 meetings and consultation sessions to collect views from stakeholders in the past year. The matters discussed included the Pilot scheme on subsidised cervical cancer screening and preventive education for eligible low-income women and the Pilot scheme on home care and support for elderly persons with mild impairment.
- (b) The CCF will continue to collect views of the public and stakeholders in considering the launch of new programmes to assist the underprivileged and grassroots families. For example, the CCF launched 8 new assistance programmes in 2017 for various low-income beneficiary groups including the

elderly, patients, low-income women and families.

On the other hand, please also refer to LegCo Paper No. CB(2)543/16-17(07) (<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr16-17/english/panels/ws/papers/ws20170109cb2-543-7-e.pdf>) for details on the support measures currently provided by the Government to low-income households not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA).

- (c) The Special care subsidy for the severely disabled programme of the CCF was first launched in 2011. When the programme was extended in 2012, the income limit was relaxed from its original 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI) applicable to the corresponding household size to 100% of the respective MMDHI. The definition of “family members living under the same premises” has also been extended from the beneficiary and the beneficiary’s father, mother, son, daughter, husband or wife living under the same premises with the beneficiary in Hong Kong to beneficiary’s siblings living under the same premises with the beneficiary and aged below 18 or aged 18-25 receiving full-time education or adult siblings who are disabled. The extension of the programme in 2013 further relaxed the income limit to 150% of the MMDHI applicable to the corresponding household size. With the relaxed income limit and the extended definition of “family members living under the same premises”, more persons with severe disabilities fulfil the household income limit criteria and their needs could be flexibly addressed to.
- (d) At present, persons with severe disabilities aged 60 or above can receive Higher Disability Allowance of \$3,390 monthly. Besides, subvented community care services are provided for frail elderly persons aged 60 or above to assist them to remain living in the community with appropriate care. Community care services for the elderly persons include (1) Day Care Centre / Unit for the Elderly and (2) Enhanced Home and Community Care Services / Integrated Home Care Services (Frail Cases). The former is a centre-based community care service aiming at providing personal care, nursing care, rehabilitation exercise and social activities for those frail elderly persons whose carers are unable to provide full-time care. The latter are home-based

community care services providing nursing and care services for frail elderly persons in their familiar home and community environment. Both types of services provide carer support services to achieve the goal of strengthening family cohesion.

- (e) Since the establishment of the CCF in 2011, 11 pilot programmes under the CCF have been proven effective after evaluation and incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes. List of the relevant programmes and the annual recurrent expenditure involved are set out at Annex 1.
- (f) 7 assistance programmes under the CCF have been completed. List of the relevant programmes, reasons for not incorporating them into the Government's regular assistance programmes and the amounts of relevant disbursement are set out at Annex 2.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Rebecca WAN)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs

Encl.

cc:

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury  
(Attn: Deputy Secretary (Financial Services)1)  
Secretary for the Civil Service  
(Attn: Senior Executive Officer (Manpower)1)

Community Care Fund Assistance Programmes Incorporated into the  
Government's Regular Assistance Programmes

Programme	Estimated Expenditure in 2017/18 (\$ million)
(1) Subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority who marginally fall outside the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs	Not applicable <sup>1</sup>
(2) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language-related international public examinations	0.05
(3) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses	0.05
(4) Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who are owners of Tenants Purchase Scheme flats for five years or above and not eligible for rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme	The subsidy has been included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2017/18 for the CSSA Scheme. There is no estimate of expenditure for this subsidy as a single item.
(5) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families	236

<sup>1</sup> The recurrent expenditure of the programme after its incorporation into the regular assistance programme has been absorbed within the account of SF i.e. it has not been separately accounted for and hence the recurrent expenditure for the past years since its incorporation into the regular assistance programme is not available. Separately, it will not be possible to estimate the expenditure in 2017/18 given the unique nature of the programme which is to provide additional subsidy to HA patients whose contribution ratio were over 20% of their household annual disposable financial resources to use the self-financed drugs supported by the SF. The recurrent expenditure of the regular programme will fluctuate with the change of the coverage of self-financed drugs and the financial condition of the applicants' household.

Programme	Estimated Expenditure in 2017/18 (\$ million)
(6) Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme	394.71 [The expenses of this programme are disbursed through the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency. As the programme has already been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes, SWD has included the relevant estimates into those for CSSA Scheme and does not have the breakdown. The above amount represents estimates from SFO only.]
(7) Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level	67.67
(8) Training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services	130
(9) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment	61.9 <sup>2</sup>
(10) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment	
(11) Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students	1.75

<sup>2</sup> Programme items (9) and (10) were incorporated into SWD's subvented service of "Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities". The recurrent expenditure includes the integrated home-based support service and cash subsidy.

Community Care Fund Assistance Programmes Completed and Not Incorporated  
into the Government's Regular Assistance Programmes

Programme	Reasons for not being incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes	Disbursements (\$ million)
(1) Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing	The Community Care Fund (CCF) launched the programme in the light of the short-term relief measures introduced by Budgets to provide one-off cash subsidy to the low-income elderly tenants in private housing who cannot benefit from such measures. After that, the CCF launched the One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA programme, which covered the elderly beneficiaries under this programme as target beneficiaries. Therefore, the consideration of incorporating the programme into the Government's regular programmes is not applicable.	10.36
(2) Setting up the School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities) to subsidise primary and secondary school students from low-income families to participate in cross boundary learning activities and competitions	When considering the evaluation on the effectiveness of the programme in early 2014, the CCF expressed concerns over phenomena such as low utilisation rate, lack of thematic appropriateness to student learning, accompanying teachers of mainstream schools not subsidised regardless of the extra workload for schools and teachers, and the inadequacy of the subsidy for each student. The CCF agreed that the existing mode of operation was not suited for continuous operation and proposed to suspend the programme after implementing for 3 years. The proposal was endorsed by the Commission on Poverty. The Education Bureau, in June 2015, conducted a survey to collect information regarding how schools organise cross boundary learning activities after the cessation of the programme. The findings reflected that schools made use of other funding, such as Life-wide Learning Fund	185.85

Programme	Reasons for not being incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes	Disbursements (\$ million)
	and Quality Education Fund, to organise cross boundary learning activities and students from needy families were not deprived of the opportunities to join such activities owing to financial difficulties.	
(3) Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed	The CCF launched the programme in the light of the short-term relief measures introduced by Budgets to provide one-off cash subsidy to those low-income persons who are inadequately housed and cannot benefit from such measures. After that, the CCF launched the One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA programme, which covered the beneficiaries under this programme as target beneficiaries. Therefore, the consideration of incorporating the programme into the Government's regular programmes is not applicable.	150.08
(4) Subsidy for elders aged 65 or above from low-income families who are on the waiting list for Integrated Home Care Service (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning service and escorting services for medical consultations	Evaluation on the effectiveness of the programme found that the application rate was low (less than 40% of the invited elders applied the programme); most of the invited elders who did not submit applications stated that they did not have such a need. This could possibly be attributed to their self-care ability, family support and other community support services. Besides, a vast majority of the beneficiaries used the subsidies on home cleaning service, whereas only a small percentage was on the escort service for medical consultations; and the utilisation of the subsidies was on the low side (the average monthly subsidy used for each elder was about 60% of the maximum monthly subsidy which was a comparatively low rate). In addition, the operating and administrative costs of this programme were comparatively high and may cause overlapping in resources with the existing "Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases)". Based on the above findings, this	10.26

Programme	Reasons for not being incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes	Disbursements (\$ million)
	programme is not incorporated into a regular service of the Government.	
(5) After-school care pilot scheme	The "2014 Policy Address" stated that the Government will, in the long term, integrate various after-school learning and support programmes. Starting from the 2014/15 school year, ascertained effective elements of the CCF After-school care pilot scheme have been gradually embedded in "School-based After-school Learning and Support Programme". The Government has also set aside a funding of \$240 million per year to the "School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes" from the 2014/15 school year, with an additional recurrent funding of \$35 million per annum. This additional provision is similar to the average annual funding of \$36 million for the After-school care pilot scheme. In short, the Government has already increased the recurrent resources to enhance after-school support services.	122.65
(6) Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme	In the 2015/16 school year, the CCF provided, through the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency, a one-off subsidy of \$3,600 to primary and secondary students receiving full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme. The one-year programme aims to provide enhanced support for the children of low-income families during the transitional period prior to the introduction of LIFA Scheme, implemented by the Labour and Welfare Bureau in May 2016.	464.91
(7) One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA (launched for three	The CCF launched the programme in the light of the short-term relief measures introduced by the Budget released in the financial year of the launch, to provide one-off cash subsidy to the "N have-nots	1,493.93



Programme	Reasons for not being incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes	Disbursements (\$ million)
times)	households" who cannot benefit from such measures. Therefore, the consideration of incorporating the programme into the Government's regular programmes is not applicable.	