

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 6 January 2021)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Measures to enhance community and residential care services for the elderly

The scope of discussion will cover:

11 January 2021

- (a) The Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Future Development of Elderly Services Schemes formed under the Panel on Welfare Services of the Fifth Legislative Council ("the former Panel") suggested in its report (LC Paper No. CB(2)1902/15-16) that the Panel should follow up the provision of services for elderly persons with chronic diseases, dementia or disabilities as well as elderly persons from ethnic minorities and from sexual minorities by the Administration;
- (b) Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki suggested in the 2018-2019 session that welfare for elderly persons living alone should be discussed;
- (c) Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2019-2020 session that progress of the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment should be discussed;
- (d) Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2019-2020 session that progress of the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly should be discussed and relevant deputations should be invited to give their views. Hon Wilson OR

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme should be discussed;

- (e) Hon LEUNG Che-cheung suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that ratio of places in private residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs") to those in subsidized RCHEs should be discussed;
- (f) Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that enhancement of community care and support services for the elderly and residential care services ("RCS") for the elderly should be discussed; and
- (g) Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested via her letter dated 12 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)316/20-21(01)) that enhancement of services for the elderly should be discussed.

2. Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities

The scope of discussion will cover:

11 January 2021

- (a) Hon Michael TIEN suggested via his letter dated 12 October 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)102/18-19(01)) that extending the coverage of the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities ("the Fare Concession Scheme") to red minibuses and non-franchized buses providing residents' services should be discussed; and

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

(b) Hon LEUNG Che-cheung and Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested via the letters dated 21 October and 12 November 2020 (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)144/20-21(02) and CB(2)316/20-21(01) respectively) that progress of extending the coverage of the Fare Concession Scheme to persons aged between 60 and 64 should be discussed. Hon Alice MAK also suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that the item should be discussed.

3. Long-term planning for provision of child care services

The scope of discussion will cover:

First quarter of 2021

(a) Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that child care services should be discussed; and

(b) Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested via her letter dated 12 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)316/20-21(01)) that strengthening of community child-minding services should be discussed.

4. Welfare services under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic

Item proposed by the Administration.

First quarter of 2021

Services for elderly

5. Updating of the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services

Hon SHIU Ka-chun, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG and Hon Andrew WAN suggested in the 2018-2019 session that the item should be discussed and deputations should be invited to give their views.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

(Note: An information paper entitled "Updating of the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(2)1316/19-20(01)) was issued on 7 July 2020 to members for reference.)

6. Old Age Living Allowance

Hon Michael TIEN suggested via his letter dated 12 October 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)102/18-19(01)) that *enhancement* of the Old Age Living Allowance should be discussed.

To be confirmed

Welfare services for youth and children

7. Welfare and support services for youth and children

The scope of discussion will cover:

To be confirmed

- (a) Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2016-2017 session that *welfare measures for facilitating children and youth development* should be discussed;
- (b) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG suggested via his letter dated 27 May 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1552/18-19(01)) that *work progress of the Commission on Children* should be discussed;
- (c) Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2018-2019 session that *service arrangements for Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness arising from extension of the scope of their service to cover all secondary school students* should be discussed;

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- (d) Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2018-2019 session that provision of cyber youth support services for reaching out to at-risk and hidden youths through the Internet should be discussed;
- (e) Hon Wilson OR suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that support for youth and children services should be discussed; and
- (f) Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan suggested in the 2020-2021 session that establishment of a sustainable and cumulative fund for newborns and children, and support and welfare measures during the growing stage from infants to adolescents should be discussed.

8. Welfare issues relating to students with special educational needs

Hon Alvin YEUNG suggested in the 2016-2017 session that welfare issues relating to students with special educational needs should be discussed and the Panel on Education ("ED Panel") should be invited to join the discussion.

**Proposed
to be deleted**

(Suggestion: The Labour and Welfare Bureau ("LWB") advised that the subject matter was related to education and suggested deleting it from the List of outstanding items for discussion ("the List"). Members might consider following up the matter with the ED Panel.)

9. Provision of social workers in schools

The Panel discussed and received public views on "Pilot Scheme on Social Work Service for

**Proposed
to be deleted**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Pre-primary Institutions" at its special meeting on 22 June 2018. Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2018-2019 session that provision of social workers in kindergartens should be discussed.

Hon KWONG Chun-yu suggested that the Panel should hold a joint meeting with the ED Panel to discuss the allocation of funding for increasing the number of school social workers to two per secondary school as announced in the 2019-2020 Budget, and representatives from the Education Bureau should be invited to attend the meeting.

(Suggestion: As the measure of "two social workers for each school" had already been implemented in the 2019-2020 school year, the Chairman suggested deleting this item from the List.)

10. Mandatory reporting mechanism for and prevention of child abuse

The scope of discussion will cover:

To be confirmed

- (a) Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2019-2020 session that mandatory reporting mechanism for and prevention of child abuse should be discussed and the public should be invited to give their views.

The Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("AJLS Panel") referred Hon IP Kin-yuen's request for the AJLS Panel to discuss matters relating to Care or Protection Orders under the Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance ("PCJO") (Cap. 213) to the Panel for follow-up (LC Paper No. CB(2)643/19-20(01)); and

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

(Note: The Panel discussed Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's proposed Member's bill to amend PCJO and the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance (Cap. 226) and the proposal of establishing a statutory reporting mechanism for child abuse at its meeting on 9 December 2019.)

- (b) Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested via her letter dated 12 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)316/20-21(01)) that *prevention of child abuse* should be discussed.

(Note: The Law Reform Commission ("LRC") released a consultation paper on 16 May 2019, making preliminary proposals for reform of the law relating to the criminal liability of parents, carers and others when children or vulnerable adults die or are seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect while in their care.)

(Suggestion: As this item involved various policy bureaux/departments, LWB proposed that relevant Panels (such as the Panel on Security) might consider holding a joint meeting to follow up the matter after LRC had released its consultation report.)

Women welfare

11. Work relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Item proposed by Hon Elizabeth QUAT via her letter dated 12 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)316/20-21(01)).

To be confirmed

(Note: At the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs ("CA Panel") on

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

12 October 2017, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that a joint meeting should be held with the Panel on Welfare Services ("WS Panel") to discuss the work of the Women's Commission ("WoC") and the Equal Opportunities Commission relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW") in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The CA Panel referred the suggestion to the WS Panel for follow-up on 26 October (LC Paper No. CB(2)232/17-18(01).)

(Suggestion: The CA Panel is responsible for monitoring the implementation of various conventions on human rights (including CEDAW) in Hong Kong, whilst in assisting the Government in the implementation of CEDAW, WoC plays an important role in promoting the well-being and interests of women. As women welfare is under the purview of WS Panel, the Chairman suggested that members might consider inviting members of the CA Panel to attend the meeting and join the discussion of this item.)

Support for underprivileged groups with special needs in the community

12. Living subsidy programme for households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance

Hon Michael TIEN suggested via his letter dated 12 October 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)102/18-19(01)) that *regularization* of the captioned programme, which was launched by the Community Care Fund ("CCF") in 2014, 2015 and 2016, should be discussed.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Panel on Home Affairs ("HA Panel") discussed CCF which covered the captioned programme at its meetings on 3 December 2019, 8 June and 9 November 2020. Members of the Panel were invited to join the discussion of CCF.

13. Provision and accreditation of sign language interpretation services

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun in the 2019-2020 session.

To be confirmed

(Suggestion: LWB will provide an information paper on this item for members to consider whether further follow-up is required.)

14. Progress of building age-friendly community and disabled-friendly community

Item proposed by Hon Wilson OR at the special meeting on 3 November 2020.

To be confirmed

15. Unemployment assistance

Item proposed by Hon Andrew WAN at the special meeting on 3 November 2020.

**Proposed
to be deleted**

(Note: The Secretariat consulted Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)460/20-21 issued on 7 December 2020 on how resources should be allocated to the servicing work of investigation committees, select committees formed by a petition and subcommittees on policy issues in the 2020-2021 session. In accordance with the consultation results, the House Committee endorsed the immediate activation of nine subcommittees on policy issues, including **the Subcommittee to Study the Setting Up of an Unemployment Assistance System in Hong Kong under the Panel on Manpower.**)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

(Suggestion: As a relevant subcommittee has been formed to follow up issues relating to unemployment assistance, the Chairman suggested deleting this item from the List.)

16. Review of the Working Family Allowance Scheme

Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2019-2020 session that the review of *the effectiveness* of the Scheme should be discussed.

To be confirmed

Hon Alice MAK suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that the review of *the working hour requirements* under the Scheme should be discussed.

17. Support for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence

Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested via her letter dated 12 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)316/20-21(01)) that the Panel should discuss the following related items:

To be confirmed

- (a) strengthening education against domestic violence and providing support for families at risk of domestic violence; and
- (b) setting up of sexual violence crisis support centres.

(Note: The Panel discussed and received views from relevant deputations on "Providing crisis support for sexual violence victims" at its meeting on 9 December 2019.)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Social welfare planning and administration

18. Planning for social welfare services

The scope of discussion will cover:

Second quarter of
2021

(a) The former Panel discussed medium and long-term social welfare planning at its meetings on 19 February, 26 March and 8 July 2013. Members suggested that the Panel should discuss with the Administration the progress of *planning for social welfare policies*;

(b) Hon Wilson OR suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that *planning for the provision of welfare facilities in new development areas* should be discussed; and

(Note: The Panel discussed "Planning for the provision of welfare facilities in new districts" at its meeting on 13 January 2020.)

(c) The Administration suggested that the *Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses* should be discussed.

(Note: The Panel discussed the Scheme at its meeting on 8 June 2020.)

19. Review on enhancement of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System

The scope of discussion will cover:

Second quarter of
2021

(a) Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2018-2019 session that *manpower planning for provision of social welfare services* should be discussed;

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- (b) The Administration suggested that progress of the review on enhancement of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System (Note: Hon SHIU Ka-chun proposed discussing review of effectiveness of Social Welfare Development Fund under this item, and Hon KWONG Chun-yu also suggested receiving views from the public.), and progress of the implementation of the Best Practice Manual among non-governmental organizations receiving Lump Sum Grant Subvention should be discussed; and
- (c) Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that issues relating to the employment of social workers by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"), including recognized relevant experience to the job requirements and remuneration of social workers should be discussed.

20. Progress of purchase of premises for welfare uses

Item proposed by the Administration.

End of 2021

21. Amending the Social Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 505)

Item proposed by Hon SHIU Ka-chun in the 2019-2020 session.

To be confirmed

(Suggestion: LWB advised that it had no plan at present to amend the Ordinance and the work of the Social Workers Registration Board was independent from the Government, it will provide an information paper to give a brief account on the current situation for members' reference.)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Others

22. Annual briefing on welfare facility projects funded by the Lotteries Fund

Item proposed by the Administration.

Second quarter of
2021

(Note: Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that *the use of the Fund* should be discussed.)

23. Charitable fund-raising activities

The Panel discussed the existing framework for the monitoring of charitable fund-raising activities at its meeting on 11 June 2007, and held a special meeting on 24 August 2011 to receive public views on the Consultation Paper on Charities released by the Charities Subcommittee under LRC.

**Proposed
to be deleted**

On 6 December 2013, LRC released the report and put forth a recommendation on monitoring charitable fund-raising activities. The Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") was assigned to coordinate inputs from relevant bureaux and departments and report the progress to LRC, which would in turn submit an annual report on the progress of implementation of its recommendations to the AJLS Panel.

(Note: According to the annual report submitted by LRC to the AJLS Panel in June 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(4)715/19-20(01)), the Government had introduced a series of administrative measures by phases on 1 August 2018 and 1 April 2019, with a view to enhancing the transparency of charitable fund-raising activities, safeguarding the interests of donors and facilitating the conduct of fund-raising activities.)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Panel was briefed by the Administration at its meeting on 11 April 2016 on the regulation of on-street charitable fund-raising activities. At present, the Director of Social Welfare and the Secretary for Home Affairs may, in accordance with Section 4(17) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), issue permits respectively for any collection of money or sale for donations of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable or any other purposes.

(Suggestion: As LRC would submit to the AJLS Panel annual reports on the progress of implementing its recommendations on the monitoring of charitable fund-raising activities, the Chairman suggested deleting this item from the List. Members might consider following up this matter with the AJLS Panel.)

24. Provision of social work services in old districts

Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2018-2019 session that *community development policy* should be discussed.

**Proposed
to be deleted**

(Note: The Panel discussed and received deputations' views on "Community development policy and services" at its meeting on 11 June 2018.)

Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested in the 2019-2020 session that *provision of social work services in old districts* and *services provided under SWD's Integrated Family Services Centres and Neighbourhood Level Community Development Projects ("NLCDPs") in old districts* should be discussed, and representatives from HAB should be invited to join the discussion.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

(Suggestion: Given that Hong Kong has experienced improvement in the overall social welfare services and community building facilities and the demand for NLCDPs is diminishing, the Administration will not implement any new NLCDPs. LWB therefore suggested deleting this item from the List.)

25. Partial tenancy control

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN via his letter dated 12 October 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)102/18-19(01)). He suggested that the Administration should conduct public consultation on the subject matter.

**Proposed
to be deleted**

Joint meetings of the Panel on Housing and the Panel were held on 4 June and 6 July 2018 to receive public views on tenancy control.

The Panel on Housing discussed "Study on tenancy control of subdivided units" at its meeting on 1 June 2020.

(Suggestion: LWB advised that the subject matter was related to housing and suggested deleting it from the List. Members might consider following up the matter with the Panel on Housing.)

26. Emergency welfare measures and community services for handling typhoons

Item proposed by Hon KWONG Chun-yu and Hon SHIU Ka-chun in the 2019-2020 session.

To be confirmed

Hon KWONG Chun-yu further suggested that the Panel should hold a joint meeting with the HA Panel to discuss the item and invite views from relevant deputations.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The Panel on Security discussed "Review of the Government's handling of super typhoon" at its meeting on 7 May 2019.

The Panel on Development discussed "Management of typhoon season flood risk" at its meeting on 26 May 2020.

(Suggestion: HAB will provide an information paper on this item for members to consider whether further follow-up is required.)

27. Proposed amendments to the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) and the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613)

The Administration will amend the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459), the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) and their subsidiary legislation for implementing the improvement proposals put forward by the Working Group on the Review of Ordinances and Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes set up by SWD, with a view to enhancing the quality of RCS.

**Proposed
to be deleted**

The scope of discussion will cover:

- (a) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG suggested via his letter dated 21 October 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)144/20-21(03)) that *proposed amendments to the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459) and the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613)* should be discussed, and deputations and individuals should be invited to give their views;

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- (b) Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested at the special meeting on 3 November 2020 that the Administration's proposal of relaxing the requirement stipulated in the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation (Cap. 459A) that no part of an RCHE should be situated at a height more than 24 metres above the ground floor should be discussed; and
- (c) Hon Elizabeth QUAT also suggested via her letter dated 12 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)316/20-21(01)) that improvement to services of residential care homes for persons with disabilities should be discussed.

(Suggestion: Given that LWB had briefed the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy on the proposed amendments to the Ordinances at its meeting on 23 June 2020, the Chairman suggested deleting this item from the List)

28. Work progress of the Family Council

Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan suggested in the 2020-2021 session that this item should be discussed, in particular the work on promoting family harmony and enhancing communication between parents and children.

To be confirmed