

Panel on Welfare Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 4 March 2021)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. One-off extra allowance to recipients of social security payments, Working Family Allowance and Individual-based Work Incentive Transport Subsidy

Item proposed by the Administration.

19 April 2021

The captioned initiative was announced in the 2021-2022 Budget to relieve people's hardship.

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

Item proposed by the Administration.

19 April 2021

The Administration will brief the Panel on new welfare facility projects which the Administration plans to seek funding from the Lotteries Fund ("LF") in 2021-2022, and the latest development of projects reported in the last annual briefing to the Panel on 11 May 2020.

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

3. Injection into the Lotteries Fund

Item proposed by the Administration.

19 April 2021

As announced in the 2021-2022 Budget, the Administration will make an injection of \$1.1 billion into LF to ensure that development projects in respect of much-needed social welfare services premises can proceed as

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

scheduled. The Administration will brief the Panel on the injection proposal.

Services for elderly

4. 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

(Note: A 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 for members' information.)

5. 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

6. Elderly Services Programme Plan

The Panel discussed and received deputations' views on the findings and recommendations in the Elderly Services Programme Plan ("ESPP") at its meetings on 10 July and 21 December 2017 respectively. At the Panel meeting on 11 January 2021, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, Hon YIU Si-wing and Hon Wilson OR requested the Administration to brief the Panel on the implementation of the recommendations in ESPP.

First or second
quarter of 2021

Welfare services for youth and children

7. Welfare and support services for youth and children

The scope of discussion will cover:

10 May 2021

- (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;
- (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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

from infants to adolescents should be discussed.

8. 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

(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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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.)

(Note: As this item involved various policy bureaux/departments, the Labour and Welfare Bureau ("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

9. 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 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).)

(Note: The CA Panel is responsible for monitoring the implementation of various conventions on human rights (including

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan suggested that the Panel 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

10. 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

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.

11. 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

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

**12. 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

**13. 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 Working Family Allowance ("WFA") 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 WFA Scheme should be discussed.

(Note: The Panel was briefed by the Administration on the latest implementation position of the WFA Scheme as well as the proposal of the time-limited reduction of WFA working hour requirements in response to the protracted coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic at its meeting on 8 February 2021.)

**14. Statutory staffing requirement of residential
care homes for persons with disabilities**

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG suggested via her letter (LC Paper No. CB(2)843/20-21(01)) that the Panel should discuss the manpower shortage of residential care homes for persons with disabilities ("RCHDs") and the review of the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613) with a view to improving the manning ratio of RCHDs.

To be confirmed

(Note: The Joint Subcommittee on Long-term

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Care Policy was briefed on the proposed amendments to the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance at its meeting on 23 June 2020.)

Social welfare planning and administration

15. Planning for social welfare services

The scope of discussion will cover:

Second quarter of
2021

(a) The Panel on Welfare Services of the Fifth Legislative Council 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.)

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

The scope of discussion will cover:

Second quarter of
2021

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- (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;
- (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, including recognized relevant experience to the job requirements and remuneration of social workers should be discussed.

17. Progress of purchase of premises for welfare uses

Item proposed by the Administration.

End of 2021

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

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

To be confirmed

(Note: LWB advised that it had no plan at present to amend the Ordinance and the work of the Social Workers Registration Board was

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

independent from the Government. It will provide an information paper to give a brief account on the current situation for members' reference.)

Others

19. 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.

To be confirmed

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.)

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 may,

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

in accordance with Section 4(17)(i) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), issue permits for any collection of money or sale for donations of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purpose.

Hon YIU Si-wing suggested in the 2020-2021 session that the item should be discussed.

20. 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.

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.

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

21. 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