

**The Fifth Meeting of the Executive Committee on the Community Care Fund
18 January 2012**

Summary of Discussion

The Executive Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its fifth meeting on 18 January 2012. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted that the CCF, since its establishment, had launched 12 assistance programmes, of which 11 had been rolled. Applications for the programme to provide allowance for new arrivals had been accepted since October last year, and about 150 000 applications had been received. It was expected that more than 95 000 eligible applicants would receive the allowance before Lunar New Year.
2. Members supported the proposed programme to provide subsidy to elderly for dental services and their deliberations were as follows:
 - (1) The publicity and promotion of the programme should be strengthened to encourage more dentists to participate.
 - (2) The amount of subsidy should be set at a reasonable level, so as to ensure that the service quality would not be compromised and to attract sufficient participation of dentists to meet the elders' demands.
 - (3) Subsidy should be provided for elders who were using the "Integrated Home Care Services" or "Enhanced Home and Community Care Services" subvented by the Social Welfare Department and paying the Level 1 and Level 2 charges.
 - (4) The programme, after its introduction, should be reviewed and adjusted taking into account the experience gained and the capacity of the dentist market.
3. Members supported the proposed after-school care pilot scheme, and their deliberations were as follows:

- (1) In assessing the applications, consideration should be given to the capability of the applying schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to identify the most needy students, and develop and put together a personalised after-school schedule for them.
 - (2) Many needy families with “dual-income parents” were not eligible for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), or the children from these families were not eligible for full grant under the financial schemes under the Student Finance Assistance Agency, but they were still in great need of after-school care services. In view of this, schools and NGOs should have the discretion to allocate some places for providing assistance to these students.
4. Members supported the proposed programme of providing subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing, and their deliberations were as follows:
 - (1) The idea of awarding partial subsidy to elders with an income exceeding the specified limit would complicate the vetting criteria and cause confusion.
 - (2) The rental ceilings should be set at 50% of the income limit.
5. Members noted that the CCF would commission an independent consultant to advise the departments or organisations implementing the programmes on enhancing the evaluation of the assistance programmes.