

**The Seventh Meeting of the Welfare Sub-committee on
the Community Care Fund
7 May 2012**

Summary of Discussion

The Welfare Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its seventh meeting on 7 May 2012. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress of the “Relocation allowance for residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings” programme. Some Members expressed concern that the programme could not address the housing problem of residents who moved out from their sub-divided units under the enforcement action. It was suggested that in considering whether the programme should be regularised, the Government should consider how to make it commensurate with the prevailing policies in order to draw up a long-term solution to tackle the problem of sub-divided units in industrial buildings.
2. Members noted the progress of the “Lunch subsidy at schools for primary students from low-income families” programme, and that the Education Bureau was considering regularising the programme. They agreed that the programme should continue to be subsidised by the CCF before it was incorporated into the Government’s regular assistance programme.
3. Members noted the progress of the three assistance programmes implemented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), including:
 - The application period of the “Subsidy for elders from low-income families to hire household cleaning service and escorting service for medical consultations” programme had been extended and the “specified date” for being on the waiting list for the “Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases)” had been postponed to 31 March 2012.
 - For the “Special care subsidy for the severely disabled” programme, some Members suggested that extension of the application period or relaxation of the eligibility criteria should be considered so as to make full use of the resources and benefit more needy people.

- For the “Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services” programme (the training subsidy programme), some Members suggested an extension of the application period, an adjustment of the “cut-off date” and an increase in the number of service providers so as to make full use of the resources and benefit more needy people. Some other Members opined that consideration should be given to improving the waiting time for pre-school children with special education needs to undertake assessment so that they could receive the relevant services as early as possible.
4. Members noted that the SWD was evaluating the five programmes implemented by the department, including that the data analysis of two of the programmes, namely the training subsidy programme and the “Subsidy for Tenant Purchase Scheme flat owners on Comprehensive Social Security Allowance” programme, had been completed in March and the evaluation for the other three programmes would start in May.
 5. Members noted the preparation progress of the “Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing” programme and endorsed the proposal to invite more Neighbourhood Elderly Centres to assist in implementing the programme.
 6. Members discussed the “Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed” programme, with highlights as follows:
 - The programme should not cover sub-divided units with individual entrance doors that had direct access to common areas (such as corridors, the lift lobby or the building’s staircases).
 - Some Members suggested defining a person who was inadequately housed based on the area of his/her residential unit of a household. However, it was expected that this would lead to problems during implementation and cause disputes easily.
 - Some Members were of the view that residents of sub-divided units in industrial and commercial buildings should not be excluded from the programme. The Sub-committee considered that those residents should

not be covered under the programme since industrial and commercial buildings were not intended for residential use.

7. Some Members suggested that persons with hearing impairment should be subsidised to purchase certain consumable items, such as batteries for hearing aids.