

**The Second Meeting of the Welfare Sub-committee on  
the Community Care Fund  
8 March 2011**

**Summary of Discussion**

The Welfare Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its second meeting on 8 March 2011. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. The 12 initially proposed assistance programmes were discussed by members:
  - (1) Subsidy for non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients on the Public Rental Housing (PRH) Waiting List: Members noted that the programme would involve huge resources and the coverage of target beneficiaries should be carefully considered. Members agreed that the Secretariat should, in the light of the discussions at the meeting, obtain additional information from the Housing Department for Members' reference and for further deliberations at future sub-committee meetings. This proposal would not be included in the first batch of submission to the Executive Committee for consideration.
  - (2) Subsidy for CSSA recipients who were Tenant Purchase Scheme flat owners: Members agreed that a one-off subsidy be provided for those CSSA recipients to reduce their burden of paying land rent and management fees. Members also noted that the target beneficiaries of this proposal were mostly elders.
  - (3) Subsidy for CSSA recipients living in private housing: Members agreed that a one-off subsidy be provided for CSSA recipients living in private housing who were paying a level of actual rents higher than the maximum level of rent allowance, so as to ease their pressure arising from cyclical rental increase.
  - (4) Subsidy for elders from low-income families to hire household cleaning and escorting services for medical consultations: Members agreed that subsidy be provided for elders from low-income families

who were living in the community and were on the waiting list for home care services to hire household cleaning and escorting services for medical consultations. In view of the problem of “hidden” elders, a Member suggested that consideration should be given to whether the programme should only cover elders from low-income families who were on the waiting list of the “Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases)”. Another Member suggested CCF to consider expanding the scope of the programme at the next stage to provide a subsidy for meal delivery services.

- (5) Subsidy for major carers of CSSA families having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years: A Member opined that the proposed target beneficiaries of the programmes should not be limited to new arrivals having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years, but should be expanded to carers from all low-income families. In view of the need to re-examine the programme scope and details, Members agreed that this programme proposal should be studied at the next stage, thus it would not be included in the first batch of submission to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- (6) Subsidy for persons filing for bankruptcy for them to pay the related fees: Members agreed to refer the programme to the Home Affairs Sub-committee for consideration.
- (7) Medical subsidy for persons from low-income families waiting for the Hospital Authority’s psychiatric out-patient services: Members agreed to refer the programme to the Medical Sub-committee for consideration.
- (8) Subsidy for persons with severe disabilities: Members agreed to provide subsidy to persons with severe disabilities who were non-CSSA recipients living in the community and required constant attendance in order to relieve their heavy burden of health care expenses. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) would consult Members concerned in drawing up the implementation details for the programme.

- (9) Subsidy for persons with hearing impairment from low-income families to purchase hearing aids: Members noted that the programme might involve three areas, including welfare, medical and education, and currently persons with hearing impairment from low-income families might also seek assistance from other funds. Members agreed that this programme proposal would not be considered at the present stage, and therefore it would not be included in the first batch of submission to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- (10) Subsidy on learning training and support services for pre-school disabled children: Members suggested providing subsidies to children who were on the waiting list for places of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services, so as to provide them with appropriate training lest the prime time for children learning and development would be lost. SWD would consult Members concerned in drawing up the implementation details for the programme.
- (11) Special meal subsidy for the chronically ill patients receiving short-term food assistance: Members agreed that the programme proposal would not be considered at the present stage and therefore it would not be included in the first batch of submission to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- (12) Subsidy for students from low-income families to meet their lunch expenses at schools: Members suggested that lunch subsidy be provided for students from low-income families either by liaising with secondary and primary schools through the existing five operators of short-term food assistance projects or by directly liaising with secondary or primary schools so as to streamline the administrative procedures. The Labour and Welfare Bureau and SWD will work with the relevant bureaux/departments to map out the implementation arrangements and other details of the programme.

2. Members agreed that an effectiveness evaluation mechanism should be put in place for every programme so as to facilitate consideration of identifying those that can be incorporated into the government's regular assistance and service programmes.