

## **The Second Meeting of the Community Care Fund Task Force 16 April 2013**

### **Summary of Discussion**

The Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the Commission on Poverty held its second meeting on 16 April 2013. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted that the Government would report to the Subcommittee on Poverty under the House Committee of the Legislative Council the implementation progress of the CCF programmes in the format of a table every half year. The table would also be uploaded to the CCF website.
2. Members noted the progress report of the current CCF assistance programmes. Among others, owing to the impact of rising wages and prices on the operating costs of the service organisations, Members agreed to raise the maximum monthly subsidy under the “Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services” programme by 4.6% (from \$2,500 to \$2,615).
3. On the basis of the current assistance programmes for the severely disabled and the persons with severe physical disabilities, Members agreed to set up a working group to study how to provide them with further assistance (including whether it would be necessary to adjust the subsidy amounts and cover persons aged 60 or above under the programmes).
4. Regarding the recommendation made by the working group for reviewing the “Elderly dental assistance programme”, Members supported the extension of the “specified date” of the elderly beneficiaries who are receiving the two home-based services from 31 December 2011 to 31 December 2012, as well as adjusting the fees paid to the non-governmental organisations. The working group would continue to explore expanding the pool of target beneficiaries under the programme.
5. Members supported the extension of the First Phase Programme of the CCF Medical Assistance Programmes from August 2013, with two specified self-financed cancer drugs added and the treatment

cycle of one covered drug extended. The budget of the programme for its third year would be \$97.173 million.

6. Members supported the implementation of a new assistance programme “extra travel subsidy for needy special school students”. Under the programme, there would be an additional 50% travel subsidy for eligible students on top of the Student Travel Subsidy (STS) granted. The programme would be implemented from the 2013-14 school year for two years. The total budget of the programme would be \$3.27 million for two years and the programme was expected to benefit around 1 700 students each year.
7. Members supported re-launching the programme of “Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients living in rented private housing” to provide a one-off subsidy for CSSA recipients living in private housing paying rents which exceed the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme. The subsidy amounts for one-person households and two-or -more person households were \$2,000 and \$4,000 respectively. It was expected that the programme would benefit around 17 000 households. The budget of the programme would be \$56.81 million and the subsidy would be disbursed before the end of 2013.
8. Members considered the preliminary proposals of re-launching the programme of providing subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed and launching a pilot scheme for further encouraging CSSA recipients to secure employment. Members asked the relevant departments to submit detailed proposals on the programmes at future meetings.