

## **The Fifth Meeting of the Community Care Fund Task Force 10 December 2013**

### **Summary of Discussion**

The Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its fifth meeting on 10 December 2013. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress report of the current assistance programmes. Among others, they supported increasing the provision for two programmes, namely the “Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students” and the “Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme”. The proposals are subject to CoP’s consideration and approval.
2. Members welcomed the Government to regularise the “Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services” programme, and agreed that the subsidy period should again be extended before the programme was regularised, so as to ensure that the children concerned could continue to receive assistance.
3. As for the “One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)” programme, Members noted that during the first week of implementation, the Secretariat received around 5 000 reply slips from old application households.
4. Members noted that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would in due course commence a procurement exercise to invite tertiary institutions to submit proposals for the evaluation study of the “Incentive scheme to further encourage CSSA recipients of the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance to secure employment”.
5. Members noted the student financial assistance schemes for needy students of various education levels currently provided by the Student Financial Assistance Agency. They also commented on how support for students in financial difficulty could be strengthened, including the consideration of ways to support tertiary students from low-income families and households receiving CSSA; the provision of subsidy to needy tertiary students to meet their hostel expenses; and the Government should, in the long run, examine how to integrate the various existing after-school support measures.

6. Members noted the support services currently provided for the elders with dementia and their carers by the Hospital Authority and SWD. They also exchanged views on how to enhance support in this regard. In particular, some Members were of the view that more assistance should be provided to the elders to facilitate the early identification of those with dementia, and stepping up support for the elders with dementia and their families through non-governmental organisations.