

**Community Care Fund - Public Consultation Sessions**  
**Summary of Views and Suggestions**

The Community Care Fund (CCF) held two public consultation sessions on 20 and 29 February 2016 respectively to gauge public views on the existing assistance programmes and the formulation of new programmes. A summary of views and suggestions from participants is as follows:

**Existing Assistance Programmes**

**1. Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled**

- (1) To expand the programme to cover the severely disabled aged above 60 and extend the application period of the programme.
- (2) To incorporate the programme into the Government's regular assistance programme so as to meet the need of the severely disabled.

**2. Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing**

- (1) To raise the subsidy amount, and to introduce additional tiers of subsidy according to eligible household sizes.

**3. After-school Care Pilot Scheme**

- (1) To incorporate the programme into the Government's regular assistance programme, and to meet various demands of those families in need through consolidation of various existing services.
- (2) To provide more funding support for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) offering after-school care services to students with special educational needs (SEN), thus helping those NGOs reduce their service costs and enhance relevant services.
- (3) To provide additional subsidy for schools participating in the pilot scheme to increase manpower, lower the teacher-to-student ratio and provide care services of higher quality for SEN students.

#### **4. Elderly Dental Assistance Programme**

- (1) To expand the programme to cover elderly persons aged 70 or below and its scope to fund preventative dental services for elderly persons including dental examination, scaling and polishing, and filling etc..
- (2) To subsidise elderly persons to receive dental services not only from those “Community Care Dentists” designated under the programme, but also at other registered private dental clinics.
- (3) To streamline administrative procedures and shorten the waiting time.
- (4) To enhance elderly dental services by subsidising local organisations in collaboration with registered dentists.
- (5) To allow “Community Care Dentists” in using workshops of Government dental clinics for producing dentures in order to help them reduce the costs of providing removable dentures.

#### **5. One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving CSSA**

- (1) To relax the eligibility criteria of the programme to include low-income households residing in a rented property owned by their parent, son, daughter or spouse.
- (2) The assistance programmes under the CCF should not be linked to any relief measures. While the relief measures in the Budget do not provide rental waiver to public housing tenants, the CCF should extend this programme to relief the rental burden of low-income households living in sub-divided units.
- (3) The CCF has launched the programme for three times, all effectively enabling those service units that assist in implementing the programme to reach out to the “n-have-nots” in the community. If the CCF discontinues the programme, service units may not be able to provide further assistance to the “n- have-nots”. The CCF should

keep playing the role of plugging gaps in the existing system.

- (4) The Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme, an existing government initiative, has yet to benefit those who are not working across districts, and also the anticipated Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme does not cover single persons and low-income families with household income between 60% and 75% of the median household income. Therefore, the CCF should extend the programme to fill the gaps in existing policies.

#### **6. Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families**

- (1) To relax the definition of “capable of taking up the caregiving role” to allow more old carers (e.g. spouse) or disabled carers of elderly persons to be benefited from the pilot scheme.

#### **7. Provision of a One-off Special Subsidy for Students on Full Grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the Launch of the LIFA Scheme**

- (1) To relax the eligibility criteria of the scheme to include students from low-income families studying in private schools and/or not receiving “full grant” under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme.

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## **Proposals for New Assistance Programmes**

### **1. Elderly Persons**

- (1) To subsidise elderly persons suspected to have developed dementia and with financial needs to receive professional diagnosis and relevant cognitive training as early as possible; and to provide cognitive training subsidies to those elderly persons diagnosed with mild to moderate dementia and with financial needs.
- (2) To subsidise elderly persons with financial needs to hire home care services on their own, with a view to shortening the waiting time for relevant subvented services and alleviating the manpower shortage in District Elderly Community Centres.
- (3) To subsidise home renovation works for elderly persons living in old buildings with financial needs.
- (4) To subsidise elderly persons with financial needs to join social activities which are beneficial to the development of their physical and mental well-being in the community.

### **2. The Youth, Students and Children**

- (1) It was announced in the 2016 Policy Address that the CCF will be invited to consider providing teenage girls from eligible low-income families with a free cervical cancer vaccination. The CCF should consider arranging vaccinations for eligible target beneficiaries in a systematic manner and ensure that the target beneficiaries will not be labelled or discriminated against.
- (2) To provide children from low-income families with health care vouchers so that they can receive suitable private medical care services, thus reducing the health care expenses of these families.
- (3) To introduce support measures for the single youth so as to help alleviate their housing problems and the pressure in achieving upward

social mobility.

- (4) To provide assistance to single persons with financial needs so as to help them cope with financial burdens and pressure in life.

### **3. Persons with Disabilities, Chronic Patients and Their Carers**

- (1) Views and suggestions on inviting the CCF to consider introducing a pilot scheme to provide a living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities as announced in the 2016 Policy Address:
  - (a) participants agreed that the pilot scheme would accord recognition to carers and hoped that the CCF could announce details of the pilot scheme, including the definition of persons with disabilities being taken care of, as soon as possible;
  - (b) if it is mandatory for persons with disabilities being taken care of to be on the waiting list of subvented residential services under the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services by a specified date, some of those already receiving care in the community may not be able to benefit from the pilot scheme and this will be in contravention of the policy that encourages persons with disabilities to receive care in the community; and
  - (c) the monthly household income limit should be relaxed to not exceeding 150% of the monthly median domestic household income of all households in Hong Kong with reference to the programme of Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled.
- (2) It was announced in the 2016 Policy Address that the CCF will be invited to consider introducing a pilot scheme to provide an additional subsidy for recipients of the Higher Disability Allowance who are in paid employment. The CCF should relax the restriction and offer them the grant first so that they can have time to look for employment and employ foreign domestic helpers (FDHs).
- (3) To subsidise persons with severe disabilities who are non-CSSA recipients to employ FDHs, with a view to alleviating their financial

burden and pressure in life.

- (4) To subsidise persons having undergone cochlear implant surgery to replace and repair the implant.
- (5) To provide carers of persons with special educational needs or low-income families with a subsidy to relieve their psychological stress and pressure in life.
- (6) In light of the long waiting time for public healthcare services, the CCF should provide a subsidy to persons suffering from Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and with financial needs, thus enabling them to receive appropriate medical assessment, treatment and training in the private sector as soon as practicable.

#### **4. Low-income Families**

- (1) To provide subsidy for low-income families residing in rented sub-divided units to meet their expenses on water and electricity consumption.
- (2) To provide a subsidy to low-income families who have been waiting for public rental housing for over 5 years and now reside in rented sub-divided units, with a view to helping them cope with the burden of rising rentals.
- (3) To provide a medical subsidy for low-income families to seek appropriate treatment promptly when they are ill.

#### **5. Ethnic Minorities**

- (1) To roll out supporting measures for ethnic minorities to help them address the issues of further education, employment and intergenerational poverty.

#### **Other Views**

- (1) To subsidise non-profit-making organisations in need of financial assistance to help them continue serving their target groups.