

The Sixth Meeting of the Community Care Fund Task Force

10 March 2014

Summary of Discussion

The Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its sixth meeting on 10 March 2014. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the latest financial position of the CCF and the progress report of the current assistance programmes. Members supported extending the subsidy period for existing elderly beneficiaries under the “Subsidy for elders who are on the waiting list for Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning and escorting services for medical consultations” programme.
2. Members noted the evaluation report submitted by the Education Bureau (EDB) on the “School-based Fund (cross-boundary learning activities)”, and agreed that the programme should be suspended after its completion in 2013/14 school year. In the meantime, EDB would pay close attention to students’ participation in cross-boundary learning activities with the use of the Quality Education Fund and other financial resources, and report to the CCF Task Force in due course.
3. Members noted the evaluation report submitted by EDB on the “After-school care pilot scheme”, and supported the proposal to extend the scheme for one more year in 2014/15 school year, and to consolidate various after-school programmes progressively.
4. Members noted the evaluation reports of the two programmes, namely the “Provision of special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment” and the “Provision of special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment”, submitted by the Social Welfare Department. Members supported that before these two programmes were incorporated into the Government’s regular assistance programme, the respective subsidy periods should be extended to ensure that eligible persons could continue to receive subsidy.
5. Members agreed on the financial arrangements for the “Medical assistance programmes (first phase)”, including the fourth annual budget as well as the increase in the over-commitment upper limit in the third year of operation.
6. Members supported the proposals of the three new assistance programmes below:

- (a) Providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students: to provide a subsidy for needy undergraduate students to meet student hostel expenses, such that they are not denied hostel accommodation because of lack of means.

- (b) Increasing the academic expenses grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students: to strengthen support for needy students pursuing locally-accredited self-financing post-secondary programmes to meet their daily academic expenses, through the provision of additional grant.

- (c) Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low income families: to provide carers of elderly persons from low income families with a living allowance to help supplement their living expenses.