

**The Second Meeting of the Second-term
Community Care Fund Task Force
11 March 2015**

Summary of Discussion

The Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the second-term Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its second meeting on 11 March 2015. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress report of existing assistance programmes under the CCF and its latest financial status. In respect of the “Providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students” programme, members agreed with the proposal of the Education Bureau to disburse subsidy to suspended students who continued to live in hostels due to special reasons with the approval from their institutions. Members also noted that the Student Finance Office would review the situation of the students concerned regularly.
2. Regarding the expansion of the “Elderly dental assistance programme”, members noted that the expanded programme was expected to be officially launched in the second half of the year after the completion of the computer system development and would be reviewed according to its implementation progress.
3. After discussion, members supported that the following three new programme proposals should be submitted to the CoP for consideration:
 - (a) Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA): In the 2015/16 school year, this programme will provide primary and secondary students on full grant under the STAS with a one-off special subsidy of \$3,600 so that enhanced assistance can be made available to support students from low-income families before the

launch of LIFA Scheme. The funding provision for the programme will be about \$500 million, and more than 130 000 students are expected to benefit from it. It is estimated that the disbursement of subsidy will begin in late July to August this year.

- (b) Provision of funding for ordinary schools to arrange special educational needs coordinators: In the 2015/16 school year, a three-year pilot programme will be launched to provide cash subsidy to ordinary schools admitting a relatively large number or percentage of students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs to designate a teacher for co-ordinating the support measures relating to SEN and enhance the effectiveness of integrated education implemented in schools. The funding provision for the programme will amount to around \$200 million, and some 8 500 students with SEN from 118 schools are expected to benefit from the programme.
 - (c) Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with special educational needs pursuing post-secondary programmes: In the 2015/16 school year, a three-year programme will be launched to provide an additional academic expenses grant for students with SEN pursuing post-secondary programmes, in order to enhance the support to post-secondary students with SEN and financial needs. The funding provision for the programme will amount to around \$12 million, and about 540 students with SEN are expected to benefit from the programme each year.
- 4. Members agreed to extend the “After-school care pilot scheme” for the last time to the 2015/16 school year. This would allow schools/ organisations to make early transitional arrangements and optimise the use of various existing and additional resources, in order to align with the Government’s policy direction of consolidating different after-school support programmes. The relevant provision would amount to around \$40 million.
 - 5. Members also supported the new drug list (which introduces a drug called

Pazopanib for kidney cancer) for the fifth year of the “First phase medical assistance programme” and the funding provision for the programme in its fifth year (i.e. from August 2015 to July 2016) which would amount to around \$190 million.

6. Members agreed in principle to launch the “One-off living subsidy for low-income household not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA” programme for the third time (the Third-launched programme). After obtaining the agreement in principle from the CoP, members would further discuss the detailed arrangement of the Third-launched programme.