

**The Fifth Meeting of the Third-term
Community Care Fund Task Force
27 September 2019**

Summary of Discussion

The third-term Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force (CCFTF) under the Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its fifth meeting on 27 September 2019. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress of the existing assistance programmes under the CCF and its latest financial position.
2. After discussion, the CCFTF supported the following proposals:
 - (a) to implement the “Scheme on Subsidy to Design, Purchase and Construct Modular Housing to Facilitate the Implementation of the Modular Social Housing Scheme – the Junction of Sung Wong Toi Road and To Kwa Wan Road Project” to provide transitional housing. The Scheme, with an overall provision of \$60.56 million, was expected to provide about 110 housing units and benefit about 300 people;
 - (b) to implement the “Scheme on Subsidy to Design, Purchase and Construct Modular Housing to Facilitate the Implementation of the Modular Social Housing Scheme – Ying Wa Street Project” to provide transitional housing. The Scheme, with an overall provision of \$77.06 million, was expected to provide about 140 housing units and benefit about 400 people;
 - (c) to implement the “One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (2020)” programme (the 2020 Programme) to provide a one-off living subsidy to those “N-have nots” who could not benefit from the short-term relief measures announced by the Government in August 2019. The 2020 Programme, with an overall provision of \$1,118.18 million, was expected to benefit about 105 500 households (about 272 000 people);
 - (d) to include the self-financed cancer drugs Dabrafenib and Trametinib for the treatment of skin cancer as items under the “First Phase Programme of Medical Assistance Programmes” (the First Phase Programme). In

addition, members noted that the Hospital Authority would introduce new or relaxed clinical indications of four drugs (Abiraterone, Palbociclib, Ribociclib and Osimertinib) already covered under the First Phase Programme. It was expected that the introduction of the new drugs and the new or relaxed clinical indications of existing drugs could benefit about 290 patients in the first 12 months after implementation. The additional expenditure could be covered by the approved budget for 2019-20 and no additional funding would be required;

- (e) to streamline the approval process of including new drugs / medical devices in three medical assistance programmes (i.e. the “First Phase Programme of Medical Assistance Programmes”, the “Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (Including Those For Treating Uncommon Disorders)” and the “Subsidy for Eligible Patients of Hospital Authority to Purchase Specified Implantable Medical Devices for Interventional Procedures”). To provide more timely support for needy patients, the Chairman of the CCF Task Force would be delegated with the authority to directly approve the inclusion of new drugs / medical devices. It was expected that the streamlined approval process could help shorten the total lead time for the inclusion of new drugs / medical devices by a few months.

The above proposals will be submitted to the CoP for consideration.