

2017 Policy Address

Labour and Welfare Bureau Policy Initiatives

Elderly Care / Support for the Disadvantaged / Family Services

Care for the Elderly

Ageing in place

- Invite the Community Care Fund (CCF) to consider implementing a pilot scheme to provide transitional care and necessary support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment
- Invite CCF to consider implementing a pilot scheme to provide home care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment
- Provide an additional 2 000 vouchers under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to support ageing in place for elderly persons with moderate or severe impairment
- To provide support for the elderly living alone and families of elderly couples through cross-sector collaboration, including the participation of doctors

Care for the Elderly

Residential Care

- Increase the funding for Infirmary Care Supplement and Dementia Supplement
- Implement a pilot scheme under the Lotteries Fund to provide specialised residential care services for elderly persons with special needs at designated residential care homes for the elderly

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Care for the Elderly

- On top of the above new measures, through 25 development projects and the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, it is estimated that about 9 100 residential care places and 2 800 day care places for the elderly will be provided.
- To strengthen the medium-to-long-term planning through the Elderly Services Programme Plan being formulated

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Care for the Elderly

Facilitating elderly persons choosing to retire on the Mainland

- Extend the Pilot Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong for three years
- Once again implement the Special One-off Arrangement under the Guangdong Scheme
- Introduce the Fujian Scheme

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Support for the Disadvantaged

Enhancing Support for Children with Special Needs

- Earmarked an annual recurrent expenditure of \$460 million for converting the scheme, upon its conclusion, into a regular government subsidy programme , under which 7 000 places will be provided in phases with an aim of achieving “zero waiting time”
- Waiving the service fees of special child care centres and provide non-means-tested training subsidy for children on the waiting list of these centres

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Support for the Disadvantaged

Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities

- Injecting additional funding of \$100 million into the “Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprises” Project for directly creating more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities
- Procuring services from a non-governmental welfare organisation to strengthen counselling support for job seekers with disabilities
- Making use of the Community Care Fund (CCF) to encourage persons with disabilities to work and enhance support to the carers of persons with disabilities

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Support for the Disadvantaged

Providing Additional Places for Rehabilitation Services

- As at end November 2016, the Government provides about 12 900 subvented residential care service places (including places purchased under the Bought Place Scheme), about 5 200 day training places, about 12 500 vocational rehabilitation service places and about 7 400 pre-school rehabilitation places to persons with disabilities in need
- Implement 36 development projects to provide around 6 400 additional rehabilitation places by 2023-24
- About 8 000 new rehabilitation service places will be provided if the 60 or so projects under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses are implemented
- Continue to provide additional rehabilitation service places

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Support for the Disadvantaged

Enhancing Community Support for Persons with Disabilities

- Strengthening outreaching services to enhance support for ageing persons with disabilities in the community
- Stepping up the support for ex-mentally ill persons through Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness
- Inviting the CCF to consider implementing a pilot scheme for providing a special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families to purchase medical consumables

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Support for the Community

Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)

- To seek funding from the Lotteries Fund for injection of \$300 million into CIIF. The aim is to continue to support social capital development projects and build up mutual help networks in the community through cross-sector collaboration

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Family Services

Enhance foster care service

- Increase the level of various foster care allowances, provide 240 additional foster care places in phases, and recruit more foster parents.

Provide additional resources for enhancing the remuneration for child care staff

- Provide additional resources for units of day/residential child care services and pre-school rehabilitation services for enhancing the remuneration for child care staff

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Promoting continuing education and self-advancement

- The Government will inject an additional \$1.5 billion into the Continuing Education Fund to encourage the public to pursue continuing education

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