

**For meeting on  
14 March 2011**

**Paper FC 3/2011**

**Family Council:  
Progress Report of the Elderly Commission**

This paper informs Members of the work of the Elderly Commission (EC) since the last report to this Council in 2008.

**Major areas of work**

2. Rising to the challenges of an ageing population, the EC has been exploring means to better help elders meet their long-term care (LTC) needs and encourage them to lead a healthy and active retirement life. The more notable initiatives are set out below.

*(I) Elderly care*

(a) Studies on the long-term care services for the elderly

The EC completed a study on residential care services for the elderly in late 2009 and is now conducting another study to examine how better community care services can be provided through a more flexible and diverse mode of service and form of subsidy. This is in line with the Government's policy objective which regards "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up", and can encourage the participation of social enterprises and the private sector in the provision of elderly care services.

(b) The Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP)

Taking the advice of the EC, the Government, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority, launched the IDSP in 2008 to provide "one-stop" support services (including pre-discharge planning, post-discharge rehabilitation and home support) to elderly patients discharged from hospitals, as well as their carers, with a view to reducing the chance of unplanned hospital re-admission and enabling the elders to continue to age in the community. The Programme was launched in Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun

on a pilot basis. In view of the positive response to the Programme, the Chief Executive announced in his 2010-11 Policy Address the Government's plan to make the IDSP a regular service and extend the Programme's coverage from the current three districts to all districts. The 2011-12 Budget has allocated \$148 million recurrent funding for this purpose.

(c) The District-based Scheme on Carer Training

The EC and the Government launched the District-based Scheme on Carer Training in October 2007 to enhance support to elders and their carers at the district level. District Elderly Community Centres participated in the Scheme are granted seed money of \$50,000 each to collaborate with community organisations in running elderly-care training courses and to develop carer services. Since 2010-11, the Scheme has been extended to cover all Neighbourhood Elderly Centres as well. To date, 114 elderly centres have joined the Scheme. Over 6 400 carers have been trained; another 3 800 will soon complete their training.

(II) *Active ageing*

(a) The Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project (NAAP)

The NAAP was first launched in 2008. Through cross-sectoral collaboration, the NAAP mobilises community organisations and volunteers (including elder volunteers) to promote the messages of neighbourhood support, inter-generational harmony as well as care and respect for elders, and identify and support needy elders with suicidal tendency or who are possible victims of family abuses, etc. So far, a total of 75 projects have been carried out across the territory, reaching out to 200 000 elders and their families. Cases of hidden elders identified through these projects are referred to service units for follow-up as appropriate.

(b) The Elder Academy (EA) Scheme

The EC and the Government jointly launched the EA Scheme in early 2007 to promote continuous learning for elders and encourage them to lead a fruitful life. Under the EA Scheme, elder academies (105 in total as at February 2011) are established in primary and

secondary schools jointly by school sponsoring bodies and welfare organisations. The schools make use of their existing resources and facilities to run courses for elders in a school environment, and arrange students to be volunteer instructors with a view to fostering intergenerational harmony. The collaborating welfare organisations recruit learners and help schools arrange courses and activities through their elder network in the community. As some elders aspire for university education, the EA Scheme has been expanded to cover tertiary institutions so that elders can pursue higher level academic studies. A total of eight tertiary institutions have offered elder academy courses since the EA Scheme was launched.

In 2009, the Government allocated \$10 million to set up the Elder Academy Development Foundation to ensure the sustainable development of the EA Scheme. The Committee on Elder Academy Development Foundation has been established under the EC to consider funding applications, and devise and implement strategies/measures relating to curriculum design, learning structure, extra-curricular activities, establishment and development of elder academies, etc.

(c) The *eElderly* portal

To enhance elders' access to the rich pool of online information and services and help them develop social networks through the Internet, a dedicated portal for the elderly, *eElderly*, was launched in June 2010. With an elderly-friendly interface, the portal provides one-stop information service on elderly services and the silver hair market.

(d) Publicity and promotion

(i) The *Golden Age* TV series: The EC jointly produced with Radio Television Hong Kong the sixth series of the documentary *Golden Age* in 2010. Ten thirty-minute episodes on topics covering active ageing, lifestyle and health, inter-generational harmony and dementia were broadcast from July to September 2010. The series was well received by the community.

- (ii) The *Golden Age Delight* pre-retiring planning activity: To introduce to soon-to-be retirees different aspects of retirement life that require careful planning (including one's physical and psychological well-being, social life, family life and finance), the EC and the Government jointly organised a pre-retirement planning seminar-cum-exhibition in November 2010. The two-day event featured a variety of activities such as drama, experience sharing, information booth and exhibition. Roadshows were also staged at various locations to promote the importance of retirement planning.

### **Work plan in 2011**

- 3. In 2011, the EC plans to -
  - (a) complete its study on community care services for the elderly (re para 2(I)(a) above) and submit its recommendations to the Government;
  - (b) organise an experience-sharing session for organisations which have participated in the NAAP district projects, as part of the review of the NAAP. A new phase of the NAAP will also be launched to actively engage management companies, owners' corporations, etc. with a view to facilitating volunteers' access to elders in need. Family members/relatives of elders will also be engaged to promote family harmony and filial piety;
  - (c) continue operating the EA Scheme in collaboration with the Government; and
  - (d) continue to promote care and respect for elders through regular activities such as issuing birthday greetings to centenarians<sup>1</sup>.

### **Background**

- 4. In 1997, the Government designated "Care for the Elderly" as

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<sup>1</sup> As mentioned in our report to this Council in 2008, the EC has, since 2002, been sending birthday greetings to Hong Kong residents who are 100 years old or above. After issuance of the first greeting, subsequent greetings will be sent on the 105<sup>th</sup> and subsequent birthdays. So far, the EC has issued 1 908 birthday greetings to centenarians.

one of its three Strategic Policy Objectives, with the aim of improving the quality of life of our elders and providing them with a sense of security, a sense of belonging and a feeling of health and worthiness. The EC, established in the same year, was tasked with the responsibility to advise the Government on policies and services for the elderly. Specifically, its terms of reference are –

- (a) to advise the Government on the formulation of a comprehensive policy for the elderly including matters relating to the care, housing, financial security, health and medical, psychological, employment and recreational needs of the elderly;
- (b) to co-ordinate the planning and development of various programmes and services for the elderly, and recommend priorities for implementation having regard to manpower, financial and other resources available; and
- (c) to monitor the implementation of policies and programmes affecting the elderly, and make recommendations to the Government to ensure that the agreed objectives are met.

5. The current composition of the EC, as shown at Annex, includes members from the health care, social welfare, elder services, professional and academic sectors.

Labour and Welfare Bureau  
February 2011

**Membership of the Elderly Commission  
(as at February 2011)**

**Non-official Members**

Dr the Hon LEONG Che-hung (Chairman)  
Prof Alfred CHAN Cheung-ming (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr Kenneth Chan Chi-yuk  
Mr Chan Han-pan  
Dr Felix Chan Hon-wai  
Dr Cheng Kam-chung  
Dr Cheung Moon-wah  
Prof Helen Chiu Fung-kum  
Dr Alice Chong Ming-lin  
Ms Sylvia Fung Yuk-kuen  
Rev Dorothy Lau Wai-ling  
Mr Leo Ma Chan-hang  
Mr Patrick Ma Ching-hang  
Mr Timothy Ma Kam-wah  
Dr John Wong Yee-him  
Mr Marco Wu Moon-hoi  
Dr Loretta Yam Yin-chun  
Mr Stephen Yau How-boa

**Ex-officio Members**

Secretary for Food and Health or representative  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare or representative  
Secretary for Transport and Housing / Director of Housing or  
representative  
Director of Health or representative  
Director of Social Welfare or representative  
Chief Executive, Hospital Authority or representative