
Chapter 3

Poverty Alleviation and Support for the Disadvantaged

Preamble

Poverty alleviation and support for the disadvantaged are at the top of the current-term Government's agenda. The poverty alleviation initiatives implemented in the past four years have clear vision and direction and are effective. The current-term Government's philosophy in poverty alleviation is to encourage and support people capable of working to achieve self-reliance through employment, and put in place a reasonable and sustainable social welfare system. In 2016-17, the estimated recurrent government expenditure on social welfare is \$66.2 billion, representing an increase of 55% over the level four years ago.

The poor population in 2015 stood at about 970 000, which is below one million for the third consecutive year, and the poverty rate remained at a low level of 14.3%. Given that the poverty rate has been pushed up by our ageing population and a growing number of one- and two-person elderly households, our achievements in poverty alleviation did not come easy. These demonstrate that the poverty alleviation initiatives of the current-term Government are delivering sustained results. The Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), implemented in full in 2013, is now benefiting about 440 000 elderly persons, producing particularly notable results in alleviating elderly poverty. The 2015 poverty figures also show that the poverty rate of

working households has improved and hit a record low since statistics became available in 2009.

After consulting the public and upholding the current-term Government's vision of striving to build a just and caring society, we have drawn up a package of measures to strengthen each of the pillars under the existing system. Regarding the pillars of social security and public services, we have proposed specific measures to improve OALA and healthcare services for the elderly persons. Subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council, we will implement these proposals as soon as possible. To enhance the pillar of private savings, we will carry out studies on such financial products as public annuity scheme and Silver Bond with a longer tenor to assist the elderly persons in converting their assets into a steady stream of monthly income. As for the pillar of the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) System, we have formulated a specific proposal to progressively abolish the "offsetting" arrangement as the basis for further discussion with major stakeholders in the coming three months. Our target is to finalise the details of abolishing the "offsetting" arrangement and submit the final proposal to the Executive Council for decision by end-June this year.

As regards those disadvantaged members of the community who cannot support themselves, we will continue to meet their basic needs through the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, which acts as a safety net of the last resort. For economically active families with low income, the Government launched the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme in May 2016 to encourage families with working members to achieve self-reliance by staying in active employment. The Scheme also focuses on supporting the children and young people of these families so as to ease

intergenerational poverty. Having regard to the policy objectives of the LIFA Scheme, the absence rule under the LIFA Scheme was abolished in late 2016. For those who are capable of work, we will enhance education, training and employment support to enable them to share the benefits of economic growth. To help address intergenerational poverty, we will ensure that children and young people enjoy opportunities to quality education and training irrespective of their background.

We will also strengthen the support for persons or families with special needs, including persons with disabilities, mental patients and ex-mentally ill persons, ethnic minorities, children with special needs, victims of domestic violence, and single parents and their families. The aim is to remove the barriers that hold them back from realising their potential. We will continue to develop client-centred, family-focused and community-based services that provide integrated and cross-sector support.

New Initiatives

We will:

Community Care Fund

- Invite the Community Care Fund (CCF) to consider implementing the following pilot schemes:
 - providing drug subsidies for eligible patients with uncommon disorders (e.g. Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria); (FHB)
 - providing subsidies for eligible public hospital patients to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures; (FHB)
 - providing subsidies for eligible low-income women to receive cervical cancer screening and education on prevention to reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer; (FHB)
 - providing transitional care and necessary support for elderly persons discharged from public hospitals after treatment to avoid their premature admission into elderly homes; (LWB)
 - providing home care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment to encourage ageing in place; (LWB) and
 - providing a special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families to purchase medical consumables. (LWB)

Social Security

- Facilitate elderly persons' retirement on the Mainland by:
 - once again exempting under the Guangdong Scheme, on a one-off basis for a one-year period, eligible elderly persons already residing in Guangdong from the requirement of having resided in Hong Kong continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application; and
 - introducing the Fujian Scheme to provide monthly Old Age Allowance (OAA) for eligible elderly persons who choose to reside in Fujian. (LWB)

Retirement Protection

- After consulting the public, promote the future development of retirement protection based on five major principles:
 - continue the existing multi-pillar retirement protection system and enhance it where necessary;
 - improve each pillar while maintaining the sustainability and financial viability of the system;
 - enhance the MPF pillar to maximise the protection for employees;
 - continue to target our resources towards supporting the elderly in need through two pillars, namely social security and public services; and

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- assist the middle-class elderly in using their assets to deal with longevity risks. (CSO)
 - Propose to enhance the multi-tiered social security pillar through the following measures:
 - adding a layer of enhanced assistance under OALA by providing a higher monthly allowance of \$3,435 per person for elderly persons with more financial needs who are eligible for the allowance, i.e. elderly singletons with assets not exceeding \$144,000 or elderly couples with assets not exceeding \$218,000;
 - relaxing the asset limits for the existing OALA from \$225,000 (with effect from 1 February 2017) to \$329,000 for elderly singletons and from \$341,000 (with effect from 1 February 2017) to \$499,000 for elderly couples to benefit more elderly persons with financial needs;
 - while maintaining the requirement that applicants under the CSSA Scheme will need to apply on a household basis, abolishing the arrangement for the relatives concerned to make a declaration on whether they provide the elderly persons who apply for CSSA on their own (e.g. an elderly person who does not live with his/her children) with financial support (the so-called “bad son statement”). The information is required to be submitted by the elderly applicants only;

- raising the eligible age for elderly CSSA from 60 to 65 to align with the direction of our population policy on the extension of retirement age. Elderly persons aged between 60 and 64 who are receiving CSSA before the new policy takes effect will, however, not be affected; and
 - implementing the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to offer elderly persons in need of residential care service with an additional choice. Under the scheme, an eligible elderly person will receive a service voucher with a monthly value of \$12,416 (much higher than the current average monthly allowance of \$8,400 for an elderly CSSA recipient residing in a private residential care home for the elderly (RCHE)), so that he/she may select a quality-assured RCHE under the “money-following-the-user” approach. Besides, those opting for service vouchers are eligible for OAA, OALA or Disability Allowance. (CSO)
- Propose to meet the healthcare needs of the elderly and reduce their medical expenses through the following measures:
- extending the medical fee waiver of public healthcare services to cover the older OALA recipients with more financial needs (i.e. those aged 75 or above with assets not exceeding \$144,000 (elderly singletons) or \$218,000 (elderly couples)); and
 - lowering the present eligible age of 70 for Elderly Health Care Vouchers to 65 so as to subsidise more elderly persons to use private primary care services. (CSO)

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- Propose to enhance the MPF System through the following measures:
- progressively abolishing the “offsetting” arrangement between the MPF contributions and the severance payment (SP) or long service payment (LSP). Specific proposals include setting the date of implementation of the abolition on a future date (the Effective Date) and allowing the accrued benefits attributable to the employers’ MPF contributions before the Effective Date to be used for “offsetting” purpose; reducing the SP/LSP entitlements for employment period from the Effective Date from the existing entitlement of two-thirds of the monthly wages to half a month’s wages as compensation for each year of service; and providing government subsidy within ten years after the Effective Date to share part of the additional expenses on SP or LSP of employers;
 - applying the “offsetting” arrangement only to employees covered by the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (MPFSO) or other statutory retirement schemes. For those employees who are not covered by MPFSO or other statutory retirement schemes, given that they are not to be affected by the abolition of the “offsetting” arrangement, their SP or LSP entitlements at the current quantum will remain unchanged and will continue to be calculated in accordance with the existing provisions of the law; and
 - further studying the feasibility of putting in place an electronic platform “eMPF” to streamline and standardise the MPF scheme administration, allowing more room for cost reduction. (CSO)

- Establish a more robust pillar of personal savings by exploring the feasibility of introducing such financial products as public annuity scheme and Silver Bond with a longer tenor to assist those elderly persons who have a certain amount of assets in managing longevity risks. (CSO)
- Implement the proposals relating to OALA and healthcare services as soon as possible, subject to approval of funding by the Legislative Council; and conduct more in-depth discussion on the proposal of abolishing the MPF “offsetting” arrangement with stakeholders in the coming three months, with the aim of submitting the final proposal to the Executive Council for decision by end-June this year. (CSO)

Supporting the Families in Need

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

Rehabilitation Programme Plan

- Start formulating a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan upon the completion of the task of formulating the Elderly Services Programme Plan by the Elderly Commission and make reference to the relevant experience, so as to ensure that rehabilitation services will keep abreast with the times. (LWB)

Enhancing Support for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness

- Step up the support for ex-mentally ill persons through Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness. (LWB)

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- Regularise the Pilot Project on Peer Support Service in Community Psychiatric Service Units. (LWB)
 - Inject additional funding of \$100 million into the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project for directly creating more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. The maximum funding for each social enterprise project will increase to \$3 million. (LWB)
 - Provide additional day care service places and strengthen outreaching services of the district support centres for persons with disabilities to enhance support for ageing persons with disabilities in the community. (LWB)

Supporting Children with Special Needs and their Parents

- Convert the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services, upon its conclusion, into a regular government subsidy programme, under which 7 000 service places will be provided in phases. (LWB)
- Continue to develop in the 2017/18 school year an evidence-based model with strategies and related teaching and learning resources for supporting the learning and development of students with autism having average to high average intelligence, premised on a support model having been developed by phases for primary to junior secondary school students with autism. (EDB)

- Provide additional grant to schools for children with severe intellectual disability, schools for children with physical disability and schools for children with visual impairment cum intellectual disability for employing additional nurses and related staff to strengthen support for 24-hour ventilator-dependent students. (EDB)

Community Involvement

- Seek funding from the Lotteries Fund for injection of \$300 million into the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund. The aim is to enable the fund to continue to support social capital development projects and build up mutual help networks in the community through cross-sector collaboration. (LWB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Work of the Commission on Poverty

(a) Commission on Poverty (CoP)

- Updating the poverty line annually to monitor Hong Kong's poverty situation on an on-going basis and provide scientific data for policy formulation and effectiveness evaluation. (CSO)
- Reviewing the existing policies and exploring new measures, as well as fostering cross-sector collaboration in promoting poverty alleviation through its Task Forces to prevent and ease poverty. (CSO)

(b) CCF Task Force

- Implementing a number of assistance programmes under the CCF. The programmes rolled out in 2016-17 include:
 - providing a one-off grant for needy families with kindergarten students in the 2016/17 school year to cover their school-related expenses before the implementation of the free quality kindergarten education policy in the 2017/18 school year;
 - implementing a pilot scheme to provide free cervical cancer vaccination for teenage girls from eligible low-income families;

- implementing three pilot schemes for supporting persons with disabilities to provide living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities, raise the maximum level of disregarded earnings for recipients with disabilities under the CSSA Scheme, and provide subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance recipients in paid employment to hire carers;
 - implementing a pilot scheme named Dementia Community Support Scheme to strengthen support services for elderly with dementia based on a medical-social collaboration model at the community level;
 - continuing to provide a one-off subsidy for CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying a rent which exceeds the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme; and
 - extending the Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled. (CSO)
- Expanding the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme to cover elderly persons who are OALA recipients aged 75 or above in the second phase. (CSO)
- Continuing to draw up more new pilot programmes under the CCF in collaboration with the other Task Forces under the CoP to further assist the disadvantaged and low-income families. (CSO)

(c) Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force

- Implementing the capacity building programmes and providing funding support under innovative programmes through appointed intermediaries, and commissioning the flagship project on food support with a view to setting up information infrastructure and network for more effective operation of the stakeholders involved in the food support service. (CSO)
- Fostering the development of social innovation ecosystem, encouraging cross-sector collaboration and addressing social needs in innovative ways so as to bring benefits to the community, including promoting the implementation of “Creating Shared Values” concept in Hong Kong, which encourages businesses to deliver social impact while gaining profits. Conducting an evaluation study of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund to assess the effectiveness of the initiatives of the Task Force in achieving the Fund’s objectives. Applying the “Collective Impact” concept in Hong Kong on a trial basis with a view to integrating efforts of various sectors to address the increasingly complex social problems in a collaborative manner. Continuing the effort to interact with different stakeholders through various channels to study and understand the opportunities and challenges in pursuing social innovation. (CSO)

(d) Special Needs Groups Task Force

- Continuing to monitor the progress and effectiveness of implementing the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework and Applied Learning Chinese (for Non-Chinese Speaking Students) in primary and secondary schools, and commissioning an outside organisation to conduct a study to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the awareness of the ethnic minorities about key public services and how satisfied they are with such services. (CSO)
- Continuing to monitor the implementation of various measures that promote the employment of persons with disabilities and facilitate their integration into the community. (CSO)
- Reviewing the existing policies and measures which support other underprivileged groups with special needs (including students with special educational needs (SEN), single-parent families and new arrivals), and setting up a website to provide information for parents of students and youth with SEN, thereby helping them take care of their children and relieve parenting stress. (CSO)

(e) Youth Education, Employment and Training Task Force

- Strengthening the development and promotion of vocational and professional education and training, and following up the progress of delivering life planning education in secondary schools. (CSO)
- Exploring measures to enhance upward mobility of young people from grassroots families. (CSO)

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- Conducting major community involvement activities, promoting cross-sector collaboration, encouraging young people from grassroots families to join mentorship programmes and providing them with career aspiration coaching service and training opportunities. (CSO)

Poverty Alleviation

(a) Helping Low-income Families

- Continuing to implement the LIFA Scheme to encourage employment and strengthen the support for the next generation. An overall policy review of the scheme will be conducted one year after its implementation (i.e. in May 2017). (LWB)

(b) Enhancing Upward Mobility

- Continuing to implement projects under the Child Development Fund to promote the long-term development of children from a disadvantaged background. (LWB)
- Implementing various student financial assistance schemes to ensure that no students in Hong Kong will be denied access to education due to a lack of means. (EDB)
- Raising the ceiling of the subsidy for exchange programmes outside Hong Kong for needy students pursuing full-time locally-accredited undergraduate or sub-degree programmes and receiving student financial assistance from \$15,000 to \$60,000 starting from July 2016, and introducing the Scheme for Subsidy on Exchange to Belt and Road Region for Post-secondary Students, so as to encourage and support needy local post-secondary students to go on exchanges in the Belt and Road region. (EDB)

(c) Retirement Protection

- Implementing the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 on 1 April 2017 to launch a fee-controlled and highly standardised Default Investment Strategy which is based on a long-term investment strategy to balance investment risk and return, with the aim of facilitating the choice of fund by MPF scheme members and achieving more substantial reduction in MPF fees. (FSTB)

Supporting the Disadvantaged

(a) Supporting Families in Need

- Increasing by phases the number of residential child care places to enhance support and protection for children and families in need. (LWB)
- Increasing the number of places and manpower of refuge centres for women and the Family Crisis Support Centre, and combating domestic violence through enhancing the provision of preventive, supportive and specialised services for victims and families in need, as well as making publicity and public education efforts. Counselling and psycho-educational services are also provided for batterers to change their abusive attitude and behaviour. (LWB)
- Monitoring the implementation of the Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance. (LWB)
- Providing support services for victims of sexual violence. (LWB)

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- Continuing to implement the “parental responsibility model” and promote the continuing parental responsibility of divorced/separated parents towards their children through public education and publicity activities, so as to serve the best interests of the children. Having regard to the results of public consultation, consideration will be given to formulating the legislative timetable in taking forward the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement the two-year Pilot Project on Children Contact Service to assist the divorced/separated parents in rebuilding and maintaining satisfactory communication with their children, and enable the children to have safe and conflict-free contact with their parents. (LWB)
- (b) Enhancing Services for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness
- Promoting the spirit and core values enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the rehabilitation sector and the public at large. (LWB)
 - Continuing to progressively implement the recommendations of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance co-ordinated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement a pilot project to strengthen the support for persons with autism and their parents/carers. (LWB)

- Improving rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities by providing additional day, residential and pre-school places. (LWB)
- Enhancing support for children with special needs and their parents by:
 - continuing to implement a pilot scheme through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating subvented pre-school rehabilitation services to provide on-site rehabilitation services for children with special needs who are studying in kindergartens or kindergarten-cum-child care centres. We are also conducting a comprehensive review of the pilot scheme to help determine the mode of operation when the scheme is regularised;
 - providing support for persons with disabilities and ex-mentally ill persons, including parents and relatives/carers of children or young persons with special needs, through subvented parents/relatives resource centres;
 - providing subsidy for pre-school children from low-income families to obtain self-financing rehabilitation services run by NGOs while they are waitlisted for subvented services so as to facilitate their learning and development; and
 - waiving the fees of special child care centres and providing non-means-tested training subsidy for children on the waiting list for these centres. (LWB)
- Providing home care service for persons with severe disabilities on a territory-wide basis. (LWB)

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- Providing subsidy for needy persons with severe physical disabilities who live in the community and require constant care to cover their expenses for renting medical equipment and purchasing medical consumables. One-stop support services (including casework counselling, occupational therapy/physiotherapy, nursing care service and financial support service) co-ordinated and arranged by case managers in accordance with the needs of these persons are provided to enable them to continue living in the community and integrate into society. (LWB)
 - Continuing to implement case management service in district support centres for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
 - Continuing to provide funding for the Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations for Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses to enhance the support for the operation and development of self-help organisations. (LWB)
 - Providing sign language interpretation services for persons with hearing impairment through multi-service centres for hearing impaired persons and relevant social and recreational centres for the disabled. (LWB)
 - Strengthening the support for athletes with disabilities by means of the \$200 million injected into the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund. (LWB/HAB)
 - Continuing to provide short-term day and residential care services for persons with disabilities to relieve the stress of their families/carers. (LWB)

- Implementing the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities to:
 - upgrade the service standards of private residential care homes for persons with disabilities;
 - help the market develop more service options for persons with disabilities; and
 - increase the supply of subsidised residential care places. (LWB)
- Enhancing care and support services for ageing service users in rehabilitation service units. (LWB)
- Providing one-stop district-based community support services through Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness for ex-mentally ill persons, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families/carers and local residents. (LWB)
- Promoting the employment of persons with disabilities by:
 - (i) providing allowance for employers under the Work Orientation and Placement Scheme to encourage employers to employ persons with disabilities and provide them with on-the-job training and support; and (ii) providing job attachment allowance and wage subsidy under the On the Job Training Programme for People with Disabilities and the Sunnyway — On the Job Training Programme for Young People with Disabilities to provide job attachment opportunities for persons with disabilities;

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- providing subsidy for employers for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications;
 - providing financial incentive for mentors rendering workplace assistance and guidance to employees with disabilities;
 - procuring services from a NGO in the welfare sector to strengthen counselling support of the Labour Department for job seekers with disabilities; and
 - promoting the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme to mobilise employers in the territory to actively participate in facilitating the employment of persons with disabilities. (LWB)
- Continuing to examine the feasibility of setting up a special needs trust for persons with intellectual disabilities. (LWB)
 - Providing support for businesses funded under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project to create more employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. (LWB)
 - Implementing measures to ensure that persons with disabilities will continue to have equal access, like other applicants, to job opportunities in the Government. (CSB)
 - Implementing an internship scheme in government departments for students with disabilities to strengthen their competitiveness before joining the job market. (CSB)

- Enhancing transport services for persons with disabilities through improvement to rebus service, and examining ways to further improve the accessibility of transport services for persons with disabilities. (LWB/THB)
- Providing bus service for the day activity centres cum hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons and community rehabilitation day centres. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities to enable elderly people aged 65 or above and eligible persons with disabilities aged below 65 to travel on the MTR lines, franchised bus routes, ferry routes and green minibus routes covered by the scheme at a concessionary fare of \$2 per trip, with a view to building a caring and inclusive society by encouraging these people to participate more in community activities. (LWB)

(c) Services for Ethnic Minorities

- Continuing to implement various measures for the ethnic minorities to facilitate their early integration into the community, including provision of language classes, adaptation courses and youth dedicated programmes for the ethnic minorities through six support service centres and two sub-centres; implementation of the Ambassador Scheme for ethnic minority youths etc.; and continued employment of non-civil service contract staff who are familiar with the cultures and languages of the ethnic minorities to assist in the implementation of the relevant measures. (HAB)

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- Implementing measures to ensure that the ethnic minorities will continue to have equal access, like other applicants, to job opportunities in the Government. (CSB)
 - Supporting non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students and students with SEN through a youth college under the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to provide them with alternative progression pathways. (EDB)
 - Continuing to collect and analyse relevant information and data to facilitate evaluation of the effectiveness of the support measures for NCS students, including the implementation of the Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework in primary and secondary schools, and refining these measures as appropriate, thereby facilitating the mastery of the Chinese language by NCS students in a structured manner and their integration into the community. (EDB)
 - Continuing with the work of the Police to engage with the ethnic minorities and to promote to them police services and fight crime initiatives. The Police will continue to encourage ethnic minority youths to join the Junior Police Call. (SB)

(d) Supporting Children/Students with SEN

- Supporting students with SEN in the VTC through an annual provision of \$12 million. (EDB)

- Continuing to provide additional resources, professional support and teacher training to help primary and secondary schools cater for their students with SEN, and to adjust the rates of the Learning Support Grant on an annual basis according to the established mechanism; continuing to provide the School-based Educational Psychology Service for all public sector primary and secondary schools, and to provide enhanced service for schools with a large number of students with SEN progressively. (EDB)
- Continuing to implement improvement measures in special schools, including the provision of an additional grant to enhance the support for boarders with complex medical conditions, strengthening of manpower for boarding services, provision of additional teacher assistants for some special schools, and progressive reduction of class size in schools for children with visual impairment and schools for social development. (EDB)
- Preparing for the establishment of a new Child Assessment Centre to maintain the performance pledge of providing early assessment and professional diagnosis for children with developmental problems within six months in the face of the increasing demand. (FHB)

(e) Promoting Digital Inclusion

- Continuing to implement various digital inclusion programmes to help the elderly and the underprivileged groups use information and communications technology to enhance their opportunities and integration with society. (ITB)

(f) Strengthening Cross-sector Collaboration

- Encouraging further cross-sector collaboration through the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to launch projects that can cater for the various needs of the disadvantaged and benefit more people. A dedicated portion of the Fund is set aside to implement more after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary school students from grassroots families. (LWB)

Social Welfare Planning and Administration

- Continuing to identify suitable sites and facilitate the provision of necessary manpower to meet the current and future needs of social welfare services. (LWB)
- Continuing to implement the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, under which targeted assistance is provided for participating social welfare organisations during the planning or development process. The scheme aims at providing diversified subvented and self-financing facilities, in particular additional places for elderly and rehabilitation services. (LWB)
- Using the findings from the social impact assessment of a centralised benefits administration system together with a prototype platform to engage prospective operators in discussion of pilot testing of revised approaches to non-CSSA schemes. (CSO)