

48th Meeting of the Elderly Commission **Press Summary**

The Elderly Commission (EC) held its 48th meeting today (13 December 2006) with the following items on the agenda: -

(1) Evaluation study on the re-engineered Neighbourhood Elderly Centres and District Elderly Community Centres

- Members were pleased that the evaluation study on the re-engineered Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) and District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) (the elderly centres) had come up with positive findings on the effectiveness of and user satisfaction on the services of the elderly centres. The findings showed that the majority of the members of the elderly centres and the care-givers were satisfied with the quality of services provided by the re-engineered elderly centres. Also, the respondents at large were satisfied with the effectiveness of the elderly centres in achieving their enhanced roles and functions.
- Also, Members noted the observations and recommendations of the consultant regarding the operation of the re-engineered elderly centres, which include:
 - In view of the difficulties of the elderly centres in meeting the requirements relating to the carer support programmes as set out in the Funding and Service Agreement (FSA), there should be closer cooperation between the elderly centres and the Hospital Authority for referrals of carers looking for support services.
 - In view of the varying demand and popularity for the types of services in elderly centres due to the variation in the community context, flexibility should be built in the FSA so that individual elderly centres can best meet the needs of the elders in the district while delivering the core services.
 - Elderly centres should further strengthen their health promotion and prevention programmes and activities, with a view to cultivating an active and healthy lifestyle among elders in the community.

- Outreaching services should be strengthened, including enhancing the interface of the information system between DECCs and the Support Teams for the Elderly (STEs) and devising guidelines for STE members to identify, from among the non-responding cases, those who would possibly be at risk for further contacts after some time.
 - The services and facilities of the elderly centres should be modernized to attract more young olds to become members.
 - Elderly centres should come up with programmes and activities which may be more attractive to male elders.
- Members considered that the recommendations would help elderly centres further enhance the service quality. They suggested SWD to consider how to bring forward the recommendations.

(2) **Progress of the Department of Health's drug management manual for residential care homes for the elderly**

- Members noted the progress of the Department of Health (DH) in working on the drug management manual for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs), and the contents of the manual. Also, Members noted that DH was discussing the manual with relevant professionals, including pharmacists, with a view to making the manual more comprehensive. The manual will be ready by end 2006/early 2007. Members supported DH's approach of using simple and practical ways to help RCHEs enhance their drug management capabilities. Also, Members suggested DH to consider the views and suggestions of the RCHE sector and other relevant professions in compiling the manual.

(3) **Promotion of "Active Ageing"**

- The EC will launch a pilot school-based elderly learning scheme in early 2007. The Scheme aims to promote a structured and self-help form of elderly learning in Hong Kong. We expect 18 schools would participate in the scheme, with approximately one school from each district to save cross district travel for the elderly.

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