

**Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan – Formulation of
Recommendations Stage**

Seminar Information Pack for Participants

**Enhancement of Carer Support and Community Support Services
for Persons with Disabilities**

Foreword

To keep the rehabilitation services abreast with the times, the Government has asked the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC) to commence work in formulating the new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP). RAC set up a dedicated working group to take forward the task and commissioned the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Consulting Team (Consulting Team) to provide consultancy service and launch public engagement exercise.

2. With the assistance of the Consulting Team, RAC collected comments on the scope of the new RPP from the stakeholders and completed the first stage of public engagement exercise (Scoping Stage) in June 2018.

3. In response to views collected in the public engagement exercise for the Scoping Stage, the focus of this seminar is on the enhancement of carer support and community support services for persons with disabilities.

Background

Cherishing the family is one of the core values of our society. The government has therefore been promoting mutual family support, and we value contributions made by family carers to their family members. Owing to advancement in medical technology and ongoing improvement in socio-economic conditions, the life expectancy of persons with disabilities is getting longer. Considering the core value of “individual autonomy and independence” enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the RAC has asked the Consulting Team to prioritize its study on measures to strengthen community support services for persons with disabilities and their carers, such that persons with disabilities can choose to continue to live in the community, hence postponing the need for admission to residential homes.

2. To relieve the burden of carers, especially the group of ageing carers, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) is committed to providing support to carers through subvented non-governmental organisations. Meanwhile, the SWD also provide a series of subsidized community care and support services for persons with disabilities in developing their physical, mental and social capabilities to the fullest possible extent, thereby promoting their integration into the community; and strengthen the carers’ caring capacity and relieve there burden, with a view to enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their carers (Details of the services are at Annex 1).

Support for Carers

3. To address the needs of the carers of persons with disabilities, the government is committed to relieving the burden of carers by (i). providing information and counselling to enhance the ability of carers; (ii). providing financial assistance; and (iii) providing respite service.

1. Providing information and counselling to enhance ability of carers

(i). Parents/Relatives Resource Centre

4. Parents/Relatives Resource Centre (PRCs) subvented by SWD aim at serving as a focal point for the people in need to share their experiences and seek mutual support with the assistance of the centre staff, with a view to promoting

their acceptance of their family members with disabilities, enhancing their understanding of the latter's needs, and strengthening their capability to take care these family members at home. The service would help parents or other family members/relatives/carers to accept their family members with disabilities or with difficulties on upbringing, strengthen the function of family, and help parents and relatives / carers to cope with the difficulties and pressure in taking care of their family members with disabilities or with difficulties on upbringing. In October 2015, SWD allocated an additional annual provision of \$3.2 million to increase the number of social workers in these six centres, thereby enhancing the support for parents and relatives/carers of persons with disabilities and ex-mentally ill persons and providing more appropriate services for them. As at end-December 2018, there were a monthly average of over 5 500 family-members. In addition, SWD established the Professional Support Team to Parents/Relatives Resource Centre (PST) in September 2015. Through liaising with parents/relatives resource centres, social workers and professional therapists of the PST form support groups, and organize customized workshops and talks for parents. Telephone enquiry service for parents and carers is also provided to give them timely and appropriate support.

5. From the first quarter of 2019, the number of PRCs will increase progressively from six to 19 to step up support for parents/relatives/carers of persons with disabilities, in five of which specialized units will be set up for ethnic minorities.

(ii). Self-help organisations of Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illnesses

6. Self-help organisations are groups of individuals grouped together to pursue their common goals in promoting their welfare and interests. Members of the organisations are keen to support each other in handling similar problems encountered by sharing experience and exchanging information. At present, the SWD has subsidized 94 self-help organisations under the “Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations of Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illness” (the Scheme), supporting the operation and development of the organisations and encouraging self and mutual assistance among persons with disabilities/chronic illnesses and their carers. From 2018-19, the government has injected an additional allocation of \$6 million to increase the funding of the Scheme to a total of \$21 million. Details of the application and funding of the self-help organisation under the recent five rounds of the Scheme are at [Annex 2](#).

2. Living allowances for carers

7. Through the Community Care Fund (CCF), SWD has introduced respectively in 2011 and 2016 the “Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled” and “Pilot Scheme on providing subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance recipients in paid employment to hire carers” . For carers, the Government launched, through CCF, a two-year scheme on “Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities” in October 2016 to provide needy carers of persons with disabilities with financial assistance to supplement their living expenses, so that persons with disabilities with long-term care needs may, with their carers’ assistance, receive proper care and remain living in the community. (Details of the Schemes are at Annex 3)

3. Respite services

(i) Residential Respite Service

8. The SWD provides short-term residential respite service for needy persons with disabilities in some of the residential care homes for persons with disabilities. The aim is to temporarily relieve carers from their caring duties, allowing them to attend to personal affairs and alleviate their stress. As at December 2018, there are 99 service centres providing a total of 297 places. The non-governmental operators of residential respite service are listed on the SWD website subject to regular updates. To facilitate enquiries made by the public or referral social workers about the service vacancy, and to improve the time accuracy in such occasions, the SWD has appointed contractors to design an enquiry system, which is due to launch in the fourth quarter of 2019.

(ii) Day Respite Service

9. The SWD provides day respite service for persons with disabilities so that their families or carers may attend to their personal commitments or sudden engagements during daytime when temporary day care service is offered. As at end- December 2018, there are 40 centres providing a total of 158 places. In addition, users of the “Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities” and “Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severely Physical Disabilities”

are also provided with home-based respite service, emotional support, personal and nursing care, social/life/work skill training, rehabilitation training, day care, support for carers, escort service, etc.

10. Meanwhile, the SWD also provides Occasional Child Care Service as a safe venue for parents or carers to place their children with disabilities for temporary care so as to enable them to attend personal or urgent matters. At present, there are 37 centres providing a total of 96 places. The non-governmental operators of this service are listed on the SWD website subject to regular updates.

Community Support Services for Persons with Disabilities

11. The SWD currently provides the following five categories of subvented community care and support services:

I. Centre-based Services

- District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities (DSC) (with Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities¹)
- Parents/Relatives Resource Centre
- Social and Recreational Centre for the Disabled
- Community Rehabilitation Day Centre (with Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities¹)
- Support Centre for Persons with Autism
- Rehabilitation and Training Centre for Visually Impaired Persons
- Multi-service Centre for the Hearing Impaired Persons
- Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients

II. Home-based Services

- Integrated Support Services for Persons with Severely Physical Disabilities
- Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities

III. Respite Services

¹ Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities is available in 9 Care and Attention Homes for Severely Disabled Persons in addition to that in District Support Centres and Community Rehabilitation Day Centres, with a total of 200 places.

IV. Financial Assistance

- Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled
- Pilot Scheme on Providing Special Subsidy for Persons with Permanent Stoma from Low-income Families for Purchasing Medical Consumables

V. Community Network

- Community Rehabilitation Network
- Gateway Club

Enhancement of Community Support Services

12. Many persons with disabilities have expressed their wish to continue live at home so as to postpone their admission to residential care homes in the new RPP public engagement. Considering such wish and in response to preliminary recommendations put forward by the RAC during the Scoping Stage, the Chief Executive announced in the 2018 Policy Address that, before the completion of the new RPP, the government will strengthen community support services for persons with disabilities and their families. This will enable persons with disabilities to choose to continue to live with their families in the community and at the same time ease the stress of their family members. New measures on community support services for persons with disabilities and their families include:

- (a) Increasing the number of DSCs by five centres, from existing 16 centres to 21 centres. Rehabilitation training service will also be strengthened as to enhance service capacity and quality of DSCs.
- (b) Increasing the number of Support Centre for Persons with Autism from three to five centres, which will be distributed in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, and New Territories. Manpower will be enhanced in the existing centres as to strengthen supports for persons with autism and their parents/carers.
- (c) By creating and relocating resource, about additional 1 800 persons with disabilities living in the community will be provided with home-based support service. Transportation support for home care service will also be improved.

Discussion

(a) Support for Carers

1. A series of assistance programmes has been introduced through the Community Care Fund in recent years, aiming to provide financial assistance for persons with disabilities on nursing and care support (Details of the Schemes are at Annex 3) with different objectives and eligibility. Should the government integrate similar programmes to enable flexibility for persons with disabilities to utilize these financial assistance?
2. At present, the government's resources are mainly allocated to direct rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. Should the government consider allocating more resources to providing targeted support services for carers (e.g. converting some residential care places to designated respite places)?
3. Whether the centre-based services (such as Parents/Relatives Resource Centre) should be categorized based on regions or disability types for providing appropriate support to carers of persons with disabilities?
4. How to reach out to at-risk persons with disabilities and their carers, especially those who suffer from mental distress or find it difficult to accept the disability of their family member?
5. Any other carer friendly employment measures?

(b) Community Support for Persons with Disabilities

6. What type(s) of community support service can help persons with disabilities to choose to continue living in the community? What is the most important type of support service?
7. What types of community support services are required by persons with disabilities with different levels of caring needs (i.e. intensive, moderate, and mild) and their carers? How should the existing community support services be strengthened so as to meet the needs of persons with disabilities with different caring needs?
8. Is there a need to integrate existing various types of community support services centres or to set up type(s) of centres?
9. What are the challenges of the non-governmental organisations in providing day and residential respite services? What measures could effectively increase the number of respite service places?

10. How should the community support service be strengthened to support persons with disabilities with transitional care need?
11. How could applied/gerontechnology products assist persons with disabilities living in the community (e.g. reduce the expenditure of persons with disabilities / their carers on using the technology products by introducing rental services)?

Factsheet on Existing Community Support Services for Persons with Disabilities and their Carers

Service Name	Brief description of the service and service places
I. Centre-based Services	
District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities (DSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide one-stop community support services for persons with disabilities and their family members / carers by adopting a district-based approach. District Support Centres aim at enhancing the domestic living and community living skills for persons with disabilities so as to facilitate their integration into the community through the provision of a range of community support services. It also provides training and support services for the family members / carers of persons with disabilities so as to strengthen their caring capacity and to relieve their stress.• As of late December 2018, there are 16 DSCs, with a total number of 6,094 members.• In the 2018 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the number of District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities will be increased by five, to a total of 21. Rehabilitation training service will also be strengthened as to enhance the service capacity and quality.
Parents/Relatives Resource Centre (PRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide a focal point for parents/relatives/carers of persons with disabilities with similar problems to share experience and seek mutual support with assistance from the staff.• As of late December 2018, there were six PRCs accommodating an average of 5 500 family members per month.• The government will increase the number of PRCs to 19 to enhance support for persons with disabilities and

Service Name	Brief description of the service and service places
	<p>their parents/relatives/carers. Six more PRCs have been set up in March 2019, making a total of 12 at present. Another seven PRCs will be set up in 2019-20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 2018 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that specialised units will be set up in some PRCs to strengthen community support for ethnic minority families. • The SWD has also established a Professional Support Team (PST) affiliated to PRCs; through networking with PRCs, the team provides timely and appropriate support for parents/guardians/relatives of pre-school children suspected of having special education needs.
<p>Social and Recreational Centre for the Disabled (S&RC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide persons with disabilities with opportunities to participate in and to organize a variety of activities which meet their social, recreational and developmental needs. • At present, there are 16 centres in service, with 23 888 members in total in 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018).
<p>Community Rehabilitation Day Centre (CRDC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide both professional rehabilitation training service and psychosocial rehabilitation services for discharged patients as to facilitate their integration into community. Centre will also provide day respite service for discharged patients, as well as training programmes and educational courses for their family members / carers to strengthen their caring capacities and relieve their pressure so as to improve their quality of living. • At present, there are 4 centres in service with an average of 114 attendances per day in each centre in 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018).
<p>Support Centre for Persons with Autism (SPA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide support for persons with autism and their parents/carers, and for the related service units and frontline staff. The services of SPA include: enhancing

Service Name	Brief description of the service and service places
	<p>life, social and employment skills of persons with high-functioning autism as to prepare them to cope with future challenges of life; supporting persons with autism and their parents/carers; and providing consultation service and professional training for service organisations and their staff dedicated to persons with autism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 centres have been set up in the 3rd and 4th Quarter of 2018-19, and are expected to provide 240 places annually for persons with high-functioning autism and their parents/carers. • In the 2018 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that SPA will increase from 3 to 5 centres, distributing across Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Territories. Manpower will be increased in the existing centres as to strengthen supports for persons with autism and their parents.
<p>Rehabilitation Training Centre for Visually Impaired Persons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide training service to persons with visual impairment, with a view to developing their independent living skills, helping them to regain self-confidence, and re-integrating into the community. • At present, there are 2 centres in service. 78 new members received rehabilitation, orientation, and mobility training service in 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018).
<p>Multi-service Centre for Hearing Impaired Persons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide social rehabilitation services for persons with hearing impairment which include casework and counselling service, sign language interpretation and training, audiological, technical and speech therapy services. • At present, there are 2 centres in service with a total of 639 cases served in 2018-19 (as of end-September 2018).

Service Name	Brief description of the service and service places
Transitional Care and Support Centre for Tetraplegic Patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide time-defined and goal-oriented community-based rehabilitation programmes to tetraplegic patients discharged from hospital/medical rehabilitation centre to facilitate their return to community living with a view to improving their physical, cognitive, communicative, behavioural, psychological, and social functioning in a non-medical setting. Training and support services will also be provided to family members or carers of the patients to strengthen their caring capacity. • At present, there is one centre in Ma On Shan, providing 22 transitional/respite residential places and 20 day-training places. • In 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018), 175 cases received service. The centre has been serving 1 210 cases since it was established in March 2008.
II. Home-based Services	
Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severely Physical Disabilities (ISS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced since November 2014, there are 2 organisations providing service. • The service consists of financial assistance and home-based support service. The financial assistance aims to provide persons with severely physical disabilities with a special subsidy for renting respiratory support medical equipment and purchasing medical consumables. The subsidy level of the financial assistance on renting respiratory support medical equipment and purchasing medical consumables are both capped at \$2,500 per month. The home-based element serves as a one-stop service point for the users, including nursing care, rehabilitation training, personal care service, social work service and home respite service etc. The burden of caregiving by the parents/carers is also relieved upon receiving the services. • In 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018), 1 108 cases received service, 285 of which received financial subsidy for renting respiratory support medical

Service Name	Brief description of the service and service places
	equipment and purchasing medical consumables.
Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities (HCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularised in March 2014, and there are 6 organisation providing service. • To provide a package of home-based support services to meet the personal care, nursing care and rehabilitation training needs of persons with severe disability living in the community (whether they are in the waiting list for residential care services or not). It also aims at relieving the stress of their family members / carers and improving their quality of life. • At present, there are 6 service teams with an annual number of about 3 250. In 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018). There have been more than 4 400 cases in total receiving service.
III. Respite Services	
Day Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 16 DSCs, 4 CRDCs, and 9 Care and Attention Homes for Severely Disabled Persons, providing day care for persons with severe disabilities, including nursing, rehabilitation, social, and personal care services so as to strengthen the caring capability of families or carers, with a view to enhancing opportunities of persons with severe disabilities to continue living in the community. • At present, there are 200 service places.
Respite Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Respite Service is provided through the SWD-subsentved Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities, for family members/carers of persons with disabilities a planned short break (such as taking a vacation) or to attend to their personal business (such as undergoing a medical operation), with the purpose of making life for those involved in routine care for persons with disabilities less stressful and more stimulating. This service is also available for children with disabilities aged 6 to 14. As of end-December

Service Name	Brief description of the service and service places
	<p>2018, there are a total of 297 places for Residential Respite Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day Respite Service is provided through SWD-subsvented rehabilitation service units, for persons with disabilities with temporary daytime care service. As of end-December 2018, there are 158 places for Day Respite Service.
IV. Financial Assistance	
Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide persons with severe disability who are living in the community and not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance with a special care subsidy for them to purchase care goods, services, or for other purposes related to nursing care. • Subject to the family income test, an eligible individual is entitled to either full grant (\$2,000 per month), three-quarters grant (\$1,500 per month), or half grant (\$1,000 per month).
Pilot Scheme on Providing Special Subsidy for Persons with Permanent Stoma from Low-income Families for Purchasing Medical Consumables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families for purchasing medical consumables, relieving their financial burdens. • Subject to the family income test, an eligible individual is entitled to either full grant (\$1,000 per month), three-quarters grant (\$750 per month), or half grant (\$500 per month).
V. Community Network	
Community Rehabilitation Network (CRN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide educational and training programmes and support services for patients with visceral disability or chronic illness; and to assist them to establish a supporting network for living in the community as usual. • At present, there are 6 service units operated by the Hong Kong Society of Rehabilitation. 261 community

Service Name	Brief description of the service and service places
	events related to rehabilitation have been organized in 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018).
Gateway Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the social skills and independence ability of persons with intellectual disability to facilitate their integration into the community by organizing a number of cultural and recreational activities for the joint planning and participation of volunteers, parents, and persons with intellectual disability. • At present, there are 3 service units in operation. 102 events have been organised in 2018-19 (as of end-December 2018).
VI. Other	
Medical Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical social workers (MSWs) are stationed in public hospitals and some specialist out-patient clinics to provide timely psycho-social intervention to patients and their families and help them cope with or solve problems arising from illness, trauma or disability. As a member of the clinical team, MSWs play an important role in linking up the medical and social services to facilitate patients' recovery and rehabilitation in the community. Furthermore, MSWs also help medical professionals formulate discharge plan and make referral of rehabilitation services and community resources for patients and their families.

Financial Support Scheme for Self-help Organisations of Persons with Disabilities/Chronic Illness

Period of Scheme	Number of Application	Number of Funded Organisations	Minimum Amount of Funding (\$)	Maximum Amount of Funding (\$)	Median of Funding (\$)	Average of Funding (\$)
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2012	58	56	77,500 ²	330,000	330,000	305,068
1 April 2012 to 30 September 2014 ³	72	68	65,000 ⁴	375,000 ⁵	375,000 ⁶	357,375 ⁷
1 October 2014 to 30 September 2016	82	79	70,000 ⁸	450,000	390,000	372,591
1 October 2016 to 30 September 2018	83	83	200,000 ⁹	450,000	330,000	357,110
1 October 2018 to 30 September 2020 ¹⁰	95	94	150,000	500,000	400,000	409,330

² Amount shown here is equal to the actual amount of funding applied by the organisation.

³ The SWD conducted a review on the Scheme in 2014-16, so the Scheme in 2012-2014 was extended by 6 months to 30 September 2014.

⁴ The funding period of the Scheme in 2012-2014 was 30 months; therefore, the amounts should not be in comparison with those in other periods.

⁵ See above.

⁶ See above.

⁷ See above.

⁸ Amount shown here is equal to the actual amount of funding applied by the organisation.

⁹ See above.

¹⁰ Each successfully funded organisation is also entitled to a one-off extra grant of \$20,000 for purchasing office equipment.

Major Community Care Fund Assistance Programmes

Programmes	Brief description
Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide persons with severe disability who are living in the community and not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance with a special care subsidy for them to purchase care goods and services or for other purposes related to nursing care.• Subject to the family income test, an eligible individual is entitled to either full grant (\$2,000 per month), three-quarters grant (\$1,500 per month), or half grant (\$1,000 per month).
Pilot Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance recipients engaged in paid employment to hire carers with a view to encouraging them to sustain employment.• Each eligible person will be granted a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 to hire a carer.
Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide carers of persons with disabilities from low-income families with a living allowance to help supplement their living expenses so that persons with disabilities in need of long-term care may, with the help of their carers, receive proper care and remain living in the community.• As of late January 2019, 1 929 eligible cases have been granted the allowance¹¹.• 24 non-governmental organisations that operate District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, Parents/Relatives Resource Centres, or Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (46 service

¹¹ See **Annex 4** for the eligibility of Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities.

units in total), are approved by SWD to assist in the implementation of the scheme. These service units across the territory will provide support and follow-up service for persons with disabilities and their eligible carers, including making referral/arrangement on training, home visit to follow up the cases, and emotional counselling for carers. During the receipt of the allowance by the carers, the persons with disabilities are still eligible on the waitlist for long-term care, residential, and subvented community care services.

- Phase II of the Pilot Scheme was approved by the Commission on Poverty in June 2018 and lasts for two years from October 2018 to September 2020. In Phase II, the monthly allowance for each eligible carer has been increased from \$2,000 to \$2,400. A maximum allowance has been increased from \$4,000 to \$4,800 for an eligible carer who has to take care of more than one person with disabilities. There are a total of 2 500 eligible cases in the two phases of the Pilot Scheme.

Eligibility Criteria of “Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities”

An applicant, who is the carer providing care for the person(s) with disabilities, must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- (i) the person(s) with disabilities being taken care of must be living in Hong Kong and on the waiting lists for any specified rehabilitation services¹² subsidised by SWD, for special school with boarding placement under the Education Bureau (EDB), or for infirmary service of the Hospital Authority (HA) on or before a specified date;
- (ii) the person(s) with disabilities being taken care of must be living in the community without using any residential care services (RCS)/boarding service of special school/infirmary service¹³ and not undergoing long-term hospitalisation¹⁴ during the application period or while receiving the allowance;
- (iii) the carer must be capable of taking up the care-giving role¹⁵ and is providing at least 80 hours of care-giving work¹⁶ per month, or not less than a total of 120 hours per

¹² Specified rehabilitation services refer to subsidised RCS/day rehabilitation training services with waiting lists managed by the CRS Rehab of SWD, including hostels for severely physically handicapped persons, hostels for severely mentally handicapped persons, hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons, care-and-attention (C&A) homes for severely disabled persons, C&A homes for the aged blind, long-stay care homes, residential special child care centres, day activity centres, sheltered workshops and special child care centres, as well as CCS with waiting lists managed by service operators, including home care service for persons with severe disabilities and integrated support service for persons with severe physical disabilities.

¹³ The persons with disabilities being taken care of who are receiving CCS and/or day rehabilitation training services while on the waiting lists for specified subsidised RCS are also eligible for Phase II of the Pilot Scheme.

¹⁴ If the persons with disabilities being taken care of have been receiving in-patient treatment at a hospital for more than three months, they are regarded as undergoing “long-term hospitalisation” and are therefore not eligible for Phase II of the Pilot Scheme. If these persons with disabilities (including those who have been invited but have never submitted applications or whose applications have been approved but allowance payments have been suspended due to hospitalisation) are discharged from hospital and live in the community without using any RCS/boarding service of special school/infirmary service before Phase II of the Pilot Scheme ends (i.e. in or before September 2020), the carers concerned can contact SWD for making application/ re-application. The subsidy period for eligible carers of Phase II of the Pilot Scheme will end in September 2020 the latest.

¹⁵ Any person who is under the age of 15, or has been assessed under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services to be of moderate or severe level of impairment, or is on the waiting lists for any specified rehabilitation services subsidised by SWD, special school with boarding placement under EDB, or for infirmary services of HA, or is a recipient of DA, will not be deemed to be a fit and capable carer, and therefore will not be eligible for the carer allowance of Phase II of the Pilot Scheme.

¹⁶ The care provided by the carer to the persons with disabilities refers to independent activities of daily living, such as meal preparation, home making, medication management, purchase of daily necessities, escort, etc. and/or personal care and assistance in activities of daily living required by the person with disabilities concerned, such as moving, dressing, toileting, personal hygiene, etc. For some carers taking care of the persons with disabilities with behavioural or emotional problems, the time needed to calm down the persons with disabilities before the above daily living care can be provided may be counted as care-giving hours. In addition, the number of hours for the carer to attend training can also be counted as care-giving hours.

- month for taking care of more than one person with disabilities who meets the above-mentioned criteria at the same time;
- (iv) the carer must be a Hong Kong resident living in Hong Kong and not engaged in any form of employment relationship with the person(s) with disabilities being taken care of;
 - (v) the carer must not be a recipient of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), Old Age Living Allowance (OALA), or allowance in respect of taking care the same person with disabilities under Phase III of the “Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families” of CCF; and
 - (vi) the monthly household income, excluding assets, of the carer and the household members residing with him/her, does not exceed the specified income limit (i.e. 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income).