Introduction
The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme) commencing in March 2017. Adapting the principle of “money-following-the-user”, the Pilot Scheme will provide an option whereby elderly persons in need may choose to receive residential care service (RCS) at residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) run by Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) or private sector.

Eligibility Criteria of Elderly Participant
Announced under SWD’s Standardised Care Level Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services to be of moderate level of impairment; and
Available for care and attention places on the Central Waiting List (CWL) of the Long Term Care Services Delivery System.

Recognised Service Providers (RSPs)
- RCHEs joining the Pilot Scheme as RSPs should meet the track record and service requirements as specified by SWD.
- The Pilot Scheme will be implemented in three phases with RSPs as follows:
  - Phase I: Subsidised contracted-care training homes meeting entry requirements
  - Phase II: Extended contracted enhanced assisted living care scheme (ELCAS) homes meeting entry requirements
  - Phase III: All RCHEs meeting entry requirements.

Scope of Service
RSPs have to provide “adequate service package” under the voucher value for individual voucher holder as follows:
- (i) accommodation within shared rooms;
- (ii) at least 3 meals a day plus snacks;
- (iii) basic and special nursing care;
- (iv) skilled on duty 24 hours per day;
- (v) personal care service;
- (vi) rehabilitative services session twice per week;
- (vii) regular visits by a registered medical practitioner;
- (viii) social or recreational activities on regular basis; and
- (ix) laundry service.

Voucher Value & Co-payment
Sliding scale of co-payment with 8 levels and each voucher applicant will be assessed on basic assets and income –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User co-payment ratio</th>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Actual co-payment amount for voucher holders under different co-payment levels will be calculated according to the voucher value in the year:
- Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients when opting for voucher holders should withdraw from CSSA. They will be classified as under Co-payment Level 0 if they still meet the eligibility criteria for CSSA.
- Voucher holders with Co-payment Level 0 will be granted:
  - Medical leave for public healthcare agencies;
  - Full assistance under the Samaritan Fund and the Community Care Fund under Assistance Programme (IF fulfilled the application requirements);
  - Government subsidy to RSPs to cover the items, including diapers, special diet, and medical consumables, for voucher holders with proven needs as assessed by public doctors.

Top-up Payment
Voucher holders and their families may make top-up payments to purchase enhanced or value-added services, e.g. single room,double room dormitory, accommodation, etc., from RSPs, up to an amount of 150% of the full voucher value.

Trial Period and Application Status in CWL
- 4-month trial period for each voucher holder under the Pilot Scheme;
- Charges as “In receival” on CWL status during the trial period, and
- If a voucher holder chooses to opt out of the Pilot Scheme during the expiry of the trial period, his/her original status in CWL will be resumed.
- If a voucher holder opts to stay in the Pilot Scheme upon expiry of the trial period, his/her application in CWL will be closed.

Caspework Service
Residential Care Service Voucher Office of SWD will provide casework support service for voucher holders, e.g. selecting/reviewing RSPs and providing follow-up support after their admission to RSPs.

How to Apply
- A total of 3000 vouchers will be issued to eligible elderly persons through rounds of invitation with a specific quota of vouchers for each round.
- SWD will announce each round of invitation for applications through SWD website and send invitations to a specified number of eligible elderly persons.
- If the number of applications received exceeds the voucher quota in a particular round, a selection list will be prepared accordingly according to applicants’ position on CWL with specific quota also set for CSSA recipients. SWD will inform the applicants about the result by letters.

Enquiry
- Residential Care Service Voucher Office of SWD
  - Telephone: 3107 2280 / 3107 3290
  - Responsible workers of the elderly persons
- Visit SWD website at www.swd.gov.hk for the details of the Pilot Scheme and the list of RSPs.

Social Welfare Department
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