

Brief on Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong

Introduction

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launched the Pilot Scheme of Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) in June 2014 and GDRCS Scheme was regularised in January 2020. It is to provide an option for the elderly persons on the Central Waiting List (CWL) for subsidised care and attention places to choose to live in the residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) in Guangdong designated under the Scheme.

2. Starting from 28 July 2023, SWD expands the GDRCS Scheme by including to cover the elderly persons waitlisted for subsidised nursing home places under CWL and to invite applications from operators of RCHEs with experience and satisfactory track records in providing subsidised elderly residential care services in Hong Kong and are operating RCHE(s) in Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area¹ (GBA) to register their RCHE(s) in GBA cities as the Recognised Service Provider (RSP) under the GDRCS Scheme.

3. Starting from 1 October 2023, to encourage eligible elderly person to join the GDRCS Scheme, SWD has included into the Scheme a 6-month trial stay (i.e. counting from the date of admitting to the RCHE under the GDRCS Scheme.) During the 6-month's trial stay in the Mainland RCHE, the elderly person's application for Subsidised Long Term Care (LTC) Services under CWL will change to be "inactive" status. If the elderly person continues to reside in the Mainland RCHE upon the expiry of the trial period, his/her application for LTC

¹ Nine municipalities in Guangdong includes Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing.

² The elderly persons under the following four categories may be unsuitable for joining GDRCS Scheme. They are: (1) subjects of guardianship order under the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap.136) with the Director of Social Welfare acting as the public guardian; (2) in need of social workers of SWD acting as their appointees to manage their welfare money under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme or Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme; (3) required to attend regular follow-ups at psychiatric unit (excluding those suffering from dementia); or required to receive renal dialysis treatment.

services on the CWL will close. If the elderly person chooses to be discharged from the Mainland RCHE under the GDRCS Scheme during the trial period, his/her original position of application for LTC services on the CWL will resume according to the application date.

Eligibility of elderly persons joining GDRCS Scheme and how to apply

4. The elderly persons who have been assessed and matched for residential care services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services and waitlisted on CWL for subsidised care and attention places or nursing home places may contact the respective responsible workers to file an application for GDRCS Scheme. New applicants of LTC services may approach Medical Social Services Units, Integrated Family Service Centres or Elderly Centres to make an application and request for referral for subsidised LTC services. Through initial screening and assessment as appropriate, they may apply for LTC service, including GDRCS Scheme, in accordance with their assessment results after their care needs have been ascertained in the Standardised Care Needs Assessment.

The Criteria of being an RSP under GDRCS Scheme

5. The operators of RCHEs having experiences in providing subsidised elderly residential care services with satisfactory track records and operating RCHE(s) in Mainland cities of GBA may apply for registering the RCHE in Mainland cities of GBA as the RSP under GDRCS Scheme in order to provide the subsidised residential care service for Hong Kong eligible elderly persons. The eligibility criteria are-

- (i) The applicant shall have experiences in providing subsidised residential care services in Hong Kong for at least 2 consecutive years in the past 5 years;
- (ii) the proposed RCHE(s) (the prospective RSP), located at the Mainland cities of GBA, shall have obtained the operating licence under the local authority and be in operation (i.e. with the elderly residents paid for habitually residing in) for at least 6 months;

- (iii) the applicant shall actively involve in the decision making on the operation of the proposed RCHE(s) in the Mainland Cities of GBA (such as on the matters of staffing ratio, bed arrangement, fee charges, etc.), and is accountable for the operation and performance of the proposed RCHEs; and
- (iv) the applicant shall have the legal capacity to enter into agreement/ contract. The Service Agreement under GDRCS Scheme should be entered into by three parties, i.e. the Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government, the successful applicant and the proposed RCHEs located at Mainland cities of GBA under the legal framework of Hong Kong. The applicant shall, through the proposed RCHE(s), fulfil the service responsibilities as stipulated in the Service Agreement. In case of failure to fulfil the terms as stipulated in the Service Agreement, the applicant and the proposed RCHE(s) shall be jointly liable for the legal responsibility.

Services Content and Fee under GDRCS Scheme

6. RSP under GDRCS Scheme shall provide the elderly persons joining the Scheme a comprehensive and well-coordinated residential care services, and adopt a multi-disciplinary approach, including comprehensive medical care, nursing care, nutrition, personal care, rehabilitation and social work service, etc., to attend to the health problem and care need of the elderly persons. The services include-

- (i) accommodation within shared rooms;
- (ii) at least 3 meals per day plus snacks;
- (iii) 24-hours care and nursing services;
- (iv) formulation and implementation of individual care plan;
- (v) at least 2 rehabilitative services sessions per week, on an individual or group basis;
- (vi) at least 1 visit per month by a registered medical practitioner as arranged by RSP to conduct medical check, general medical consultation and provide designated prescribed drugs;
- (vii) providing transport and escort for the residents joining GDRCS Scheme to attend medical follow-up and receive treatment at designated hospitals/clinics, including arranging persons staying with the residents during his/her hospitalisation;

- (viii) counselling, developmental/supportive/therapeutic groups, etc., and regular social or recreational activities; and
- (ix) laundry service.

7. The service payment made by the Government to RSP include full subsidy for the elderly persons joining the GDRCS Scheme to receive the services provided by RSP as listed in the items (i) to (ix) of paragraph 6. RSP shall not require the residents joining GDRCS Scheme to pay for the services concerned. GDRCS Scheme allows the elderly persons to make a top-up payment to purchase enhanced or value-added services as provided by RSP. RSP shall list out the available enhanced or value-added service items, their service fee concerned and the mechanism of service fee adjustment in the service agreement with the residents.

Application for being an RSP and Enquiry

8. Applicant for being an RSP shall read the Invitation for Application, and send the completed application form with the relevant documents for application.

9. For the details of GDRCS Scheme, you may contact the Residential Care Service Section of Elderly Branch as follows-

Address: Elderly Branch (Residential Care Service Section)
Social Welfare Department
Room 2354, Floor 23, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road
East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Telephone: 2961 7234

Fax: 3104 2872

Email Address: elderly2@swd.gov.hk

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May 2024