

Invitation to Expression of Interest for the Provision of Services to Operate a District Health Centre and a Centre for specific elderly wellness services

Outline brief

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this invitation for expression of interest (“EOI”) exercise is to invite market feedback, on a non-committal basis, for the Provision of Services to Operate a District Health Centre (DHC) and a Centre for specific elderly wellness services at two respective sites in the Sham Shui Po District to be provided by the Government, under a non-profit making funding model. This EOI exercise will mainly collect feedback and focus on the part on operating the Centre for specific elderly wellness services. Interested organisations are invited to respond to this invitation.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Health Bureau (HBB) released the Primary Healthcare Blueprint (the Blueprint) in December 2022 to introduce systemic changes to the healthcare system by shifting its focus to prevention-oriented, community-based Primary Healthcare (PHC) system. The Blueprint outlined a series of reform initiatives aimed at strengthening the PHC system in Hong Kong. One of the key recommendations is to integrate the PHC services under the Department of Health (DH) into the district-based community healthcare system with a view to improving service continuity, reducing service duplication and enhancing resource efficiencies.
- 2.2. Taking into account the level of synergy and impact of service transition, a phase-by-phase approach is adopted for the service integration. In the 2024 and 2025 Policy Address, the Chief Executive put forward the initiatives of integrating the services of DH’s Elderly Health Centres (EHCs) into the district health network in phases. At present, the DH delivers elderly health services such as health assessment, curative treatment and health education activities to eligible persons aged 65 or above through 18 EHCs.

3. Elderly wellness services

- 3.1. Organisations are invited to operate a Centre to provide mandatory specific elderly wellness services including but not limited to:

- a) conduct elderly-specific assessment including but not limited to assessment of nutrition, vision, hearing, mobility, psychological capacity, cognition, urinary condition;
 - b) provide multidisciplinary interventions including but not limited to intervention on cognitive training, stress management, diet, mobility, muscle strength, and bone health, pain programme, fall prevention programme, exercise prescription, visual and hearing protection, continence health, and self-care;
 - c) provide preventive and curative services commonly required by older adults such as vaccination, wound care and medication management services; and
 - d) provide doctor consultation with management including referral to relevant specialist and allied health professionals according to diagnosis and clinical needs.
- 3.2. Organisations are invited to provide mandatory specific elderly wellness services including, but not limited to the above scopes, with a minimum capacity of serving at least 4 000 headcounts per year.
- 3.3. In addition, Organisations are invited to provide other specific elderly wellness services under multi-disciplinary approach, complemented by other purchased services and technology adoption, including but not limited to:
- a) adopt technology to complement the elderly wellness services to be provided in the district health network;
 - b) provide doctor consultation, assessment and management for elderly-specific conditions as value added services e.g. driving license assessment;
 - c) provide interventions and follow-up for specific conditions set out by the Government; and
 - d) develop Chinese medicine service model, provide Chinese medicine services onsite or through collaboration and engagement with service providers in the District Health Network.

4. DHC Services

- 4.1. The Government is committed to enhancing district-based PHC services by setting up full-fledge DHCs throughout the territory progressively. DHCs are operated by a non-government entity through Government funding.
- 4.2. In addition to operating the Centre for specific elderly wellness services, operator may be required to operate a DHC. DHC Scheme is a service network developed through partnership with local organisations and healthcare personnel in the district to enhance service accessibility. With the repositioning of the DHC Scheme as mentioned in the Blueprint, DHCs will be further developed to provide district-based family-centric community health service.

- 4.3. Details of the operation and resource requirement for the operation of the DHC is not required to be included in this EOI exercise.

5. Core team staffing requirement

- 5.1. The core team for operating the Centre for specific elderly wellness services shall include:

- a) A full-time equivalent (FTE) doctor(s)¹ with a qualification registrable in Hong Kong under the Medical Registration Ordinance; and a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine who is registered in the Specialist Register in any one of the relevant specialties (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine) of the Medical Council of Hong Kong or a Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians or Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Physicians or possess the Diploma in Family Medicine (Hong Kong College of Family Physicians); and enlisted under the sub-directory of Doctors in the Primary Care Directory (PCD), with at least two aggregate years of experience in clinical services in primary healthcare setting or other similar settings considered relevant by the Government;
- b) A Registered nurse-in-charge who must possess the Certificate of Post-Registration Certification Course in Gerontological Nursing or is a fellow member of The Hong Kong College of Gerontology Nursing or obtained relevant training for the provision of primary healthcare services for elderly considered relevant by the Government; and at least five aggregate years of experience in nursing practice as a registered nurse with Part I or Part II Registration with the Nursing Council of Hong Kong, of which at least three aggregate years earned in supervising the operation of a clinic or similar type of facility in non-public sector or other similar settings considered relevant by the Government, e.g. non-governmental organisations or private healthcare sector;
- c) Registered nurse(s) with Part I or Part II Registration with the Nursing Council of Hong Kong;
- d) A Physiotherapist who must possess at least five aggregate years of patient care related practice in physiotherapy with Part Ia Registration with the Physiotherapist Board; and enlisted under the sub-directory of Physiotherapist in the PCD;
- e) An Occupational Therapist who must possess at least five aggregate years of patient care related practice in occupational therapy with Part I Registration with the Occupational Therapist Board; and enlisted under the sub-directory

¹ One or more doctors may be proposed for the one post of FTE doctor(s).

of Occupational Therapist in the PCD;

- f) A Dietitian who must possess at least five aggregate years of patient care related practice in dietetic services with post-graduate diploma in dietetics or a bachelor of science degree in dietetics, inclusive of an internship, or equivalent; and on the list of Hong Kong Academy of Accredited Dietitians;
- g) A Clinical Psychologist (0.5 FTE) who must possess at least two aggregate years of patient care related practice in clinical psychology services as a clinical psychologist with a Master's or Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from a local university, or equivalent;
- h) Two Wellbeing Practitioners who must possess a Bachelor's or Master's degree in mental health or health-related study (e.g., psychology, social work, counselling, public health etc.) and have received 120 hours of systematic training in emotional assessment and low-intensity psychological therapy provided by the local universities or NGOs; and
- i) A Social Worker who must possess at least five aggregate years of practice in social or medical service upon assumption of duty with registration with the Social Workers Registration Board.

6. Tentative procurement timeline

- 6.1. Following this EOI exercise, the tentative procurement schedule will be as follows:
 - Issuance of Invitation to Tender – 3Q 2026
 - Award of Contract – 4Q 2026 - 1Q 2027

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