Challenges and Opportunities for Welfare Services Industry during the Pandemic

Mr Chua Hoi Wai Chief Executive The Hong Kong Council of Social Service



Impacts on Welfare Services

Service suspension or service provision in a limited scale

Users worry about the risk of infection

Change of service delivery mode



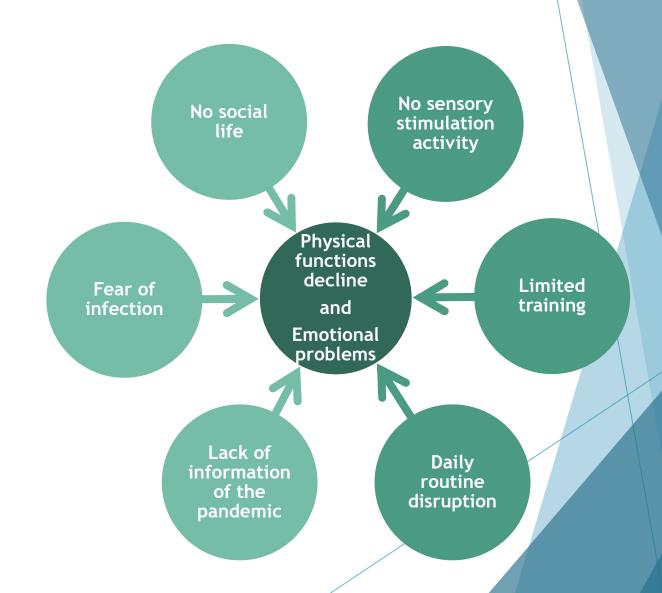
Influence on Service Users

Survey on living conditions of the disadvantaged groups during the pandemic

Use of medical or social services

79.1%
Suffer from chronic illness and need regular medication or follow-up appointments

70.8%
Worried that their condition would worsen



Influence on Caregivers

Study on the respite needs of carers in Hong Kong

Carer quality of life scale



>60% psychologically exhausted



11.7 fatigue and stress score



Lack of support

Longer time for caregiving

Pressure and Depression

Limited

service



Challenges to Organisations

- Variation in readiness and preparation to change service delivery mode
 - Insufficient knowledge and equipment of service users and caregivers
 - ► Knowledge and productivity of staff
 - ► Infrastructure and technical support for units



HKCSS Covid-19 Information Portal

- ► Integrated information and advice on the pandemic for general public
- Covering activities and learning tools for using at home, tips for managing mental health, motivational stories and donation platforms for NGOs











Christian Family Service Centre Mind Delight Memory & Cognitive Training Centre

Change in service delivery mode

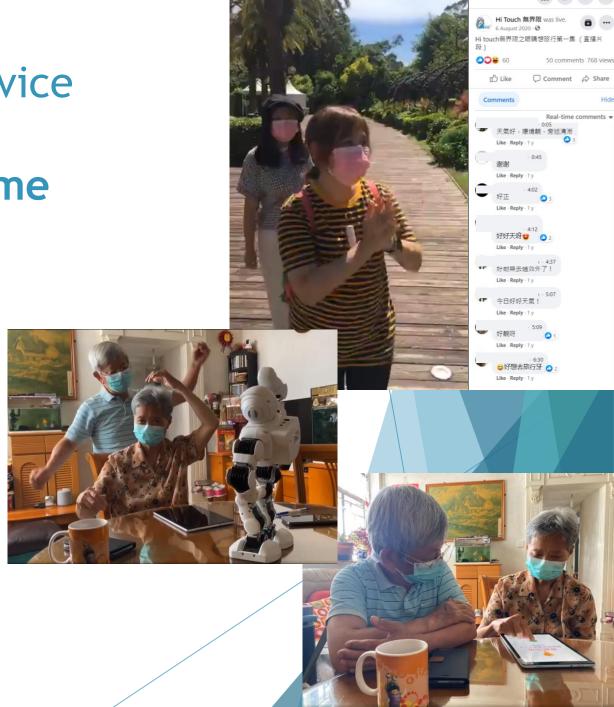
- Maintained activities and training through online video communication
- Provides equipment
- ► Taught to use digital device



Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service Hi Touch with Robot -Health Management Programme

Change in service delivery mode and Increase in service usage

- Online recreational activity and live tour on social media
- Exercise with robot via online video communication or at home
- Online training through tablet
- Online health platform for personal health management and monitoring
- ► Tele-health consultation



Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong Lifestyle Reactivation Project

Maintain service delivery

- 1. Health monitoring system
- 2. Demonstration video for rehabilitation training
- 3. Cognitive training games
- 4. Online information access via tablet

『生活再動計劃:賽馬會居家安老新里程』





Changes

Insight and
Opportunities

Challenges

Facilitate the adoption of technology in services to cope with the new normal



Tele-practice

- "Development of telehealth services" ISE14/20-21, a LegCo research publication
 - potential benefits of enhancing the access to, and quality, efficiency and costeffectiveness of healthcare services.
 - ▶ a plausible solution for easing the growing demand for healthcare services brought by population ageing and disease outbreaks.
 - Government efforts required on framework and guidelines
- An initial study, Singapore Tele-technology Aided Rehabilitation in Stroke (STARS) Study, led by Prof Gerald C H KOH, National University of Singapore, found that telerehab system could help therapists reap productivity gains of more than 30 per cent.*
- Tele-practice data collected from service users and other parties, can provide valuable information for service development and policy advocacy.





Tele-practice

- Continuum of care in users' natural / home environment; and early provision of service for those on the service waiting list;
- Expanded capacity of service through a wider reach and better utilization of time and staffing resources.
- Serving as wean-off programme for discharged cases;
- Resolving work disruption due to diseases outbreak/pandemic;
- Health and social care professionals quickly review data collected from patients via the Internet and mobile devices.



Tele-practice - a pilot project

- Promote tele-services through the deployment and adoption of new technology on a cloud platform
- ► A joint league to gather internal and external talents for cross-NGO e-service deployment through a pilot project
- ► Share resources, new technology deployment, data exchange and interfacing with current IT infrastructure and software application for service operators, big and small







Transforming Ageing and Rehabilitation with Gerontechnology

Funded by:







Collaborative Partners:





















Gerontechnology Platform

Functionalities



Knowledge Hub Network and Capacity Building Consultancy, Localisation and Testing Support

Impact Assessment



Jockey Club "age at home" Gerontech Education and Rental Service

- Rental Service through assessments, consultations, induction and recommendations of gerontech equipment for elderly and carers, and follow through the progress of cases
- ➤ To enhance the understanding on gerontechnology and its applications
- ► To build up the capability and confidence of "ageing in place" among elderly and their carers





Partnership with the Government

► Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit

Summit: 2nd-4th November as webinar

Expo: 3rd-6th November @ HKCEC

► Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care





Smart City Blueprint - Smart Living





Thank you!

