

**Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the**  
**Social Welfare Committee**  
**under Eastern District Council**

Date: 21 April 2026 (Tuesday)  
Time: 2:30 pm  
Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

**Present**

|                                               |                             |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH<br>(Vice-chairman) | Mr LAM Wing-shing           | Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph                |
| Mr TING Wong, Kacee                           | Mr LAM Wing-cheung          | Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi                       |
| Mr WONG Chi-chung                             | Mr CHAU Chi-yan, Benny      | Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH                   |
| Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah<br>(Chairlady)        | Ms LIN Cai-ying             | Ms LAU Suk-yin                          |
| Mr YUEN Kin-chung, Kenny                      | Mr HUNG Chi-kit             | Ms LAU Dana Sing-she                    |
| Ms LI Lee                                     | Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH,<br>JP | Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH                   |
| Ms NG Ching-ching                             | CHAN Hang, MH, JP           | Mr LAI Nuen-san                         |
| Ms LEE Ching-har, MH                          | Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan           | Mr LU Xiaofeng, Anthony                 |
| Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley                       | Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin     | Mr CHEUNG Man-sung<br>(Co-opted Member) |
| Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH                            | Mr KWOK Wing-kin            | Ms TSOI Ka-yu (Co-opted<br>Member)      |

**In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)**

|                            |                                                                                              |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms CHIU Man-nga, Jasmine   | Assistant District Officer (Eastern)1, Eastern<br>District Office                            |
| Ms LUONG An-an, Jacqueline | Senior Liaison Officer (2), Eastern District Office                                          |
| Miss KWOK Lai-yan, Avery   | Liaison Officer (Care Teams) 1, Eastern District<br>Office                                   |
| Ms HAU Suet-fan, Iris      | Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern/<br>Wan Chai)3, Social Welfare Department |

**In Attendance by Invitation (Government Representatives)**

|                         |                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms SIU Kin-heung, Mabel | District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern/Wanchai),<br>Social Welfare Department            |
| Mr KO Chi-wan, Ivanhoe  | Assistant District Social Welfare Officer<br>(Eastern/Wanchai)1, Social Welfare Department |
| Ms WAN Tsui-ling        | District Operations Officer (Eastern District), Hong<br>Kong Police Force                  |

|                     |                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr LAM Chun-ki, Ben | Assistant Police Community Relations Officer,<br>Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force                           |
| Ms FUNG How-yee     | Assistant Police Community Relations Officer,<br>Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force                           |
| CHAN Wing-yin       | Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Eastern District<br>Police Community Relations Office, Hong Kong<br>Police Force |
| Mr CHAN Lok-wai     | Senior School Development Officer (Hong Kong<br>East) <sup>1</sup> , Education Bureau                               |

**Secretary**

|                      |                                                                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms NG Sze-chung, May | Executive Officer I (District Council) <sup>3</sup> , Eastern<br>District Office |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Opening Remarks**

The Chairlady welcomed all Members and government representatives to the meeting.

**Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 13th Meeting of Social Welfare Committee (SWC)**

2. The above draft minutes were confirmed by the SWC without amendment.

**Agenda 2. Social Welfare Department Eastern and Wanchai District Social Welfare Office Business Plan 2026-27**  
**(SWC Paper No. 5/2026)**

3. The representative of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) briefed the meeting on Paper No. 5/2026.

4. Members' views and enquiries about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members commended the SWD's four key work objectives set for 2026-27, and enquired about the participation figures of frontline property management personnel in the Support for Carers Project (the Project), as well as the number of cases received and their follow-up status since the

## Action

enactment of the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (the Ordinance);

- (b) Members expressed concern regarding the following, including: :
  - (i) Follow-up work on identifying latent mental illness patients and the support provided for the community due to environmental hygiene nuisances (such as “garbage apartments”);
  - (ii) The impact of the fiscal deficit on elderly welfare;
  - (iii) Applications for the Carer’s Allowance;
  - (iv) Emotional support services for grassroots single-parent families and young people living in subdivided flats;
  - (v) The supply-demand gap in after-school care services for preschool children; and
  - (vi) The care needs of middle-class elderly after retirement;
- (c) Members made several suggestions, including:
  - (i) Using vacant school premises for elderly respite service and residential homes for young people;
  - (ii) Organising thematic seminars on mental health and psychological well-being for residents;
  - (iii) Enhancing the ability of District Council (DC) Members to handle mental health-related cases by holding sharing sessions and presenting cross-district case studies;
  - (iv) Collaborating with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and bodies to organise more sports development activities for grassroots youth;
  - (v) Providing more platforms for persons with disabilities to showcase their talents to the public; and
  - (vi) Further stepping up co-operation between the SWD and District Services & Community Care Teams (Care Teams).

5. The representative of the SWD responded to Members’ views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) The Project had provided training for over 1 300 security personnel;
- (b) Since the Ordinance came into effect, the SWD had received two cases of serious child abuse, which had been properly followed up and handled through inter-professional meetings;

## Action

- (c) District Health Centres, Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSC), Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness, and Cyber Youth Support Teams would identify, intervene in and support latent mental illness patients or residents with potential mental health risks;
- (d) In cases of requests for assistance regarding “garbage apartments”, where the consent of the owner could be obtained, the case may be referred to social welfare units for follow-up through relevant channels;
- (e) Welfare expenditure for the elderly had not been cut despite the fiscal deficit;
- (f) As applications for the Carer’s Allowance did not take into account family assets, the approval process was relatively lenient;
- (g) Young people living in subdivided flats who required emotional support could be referred to the IFSC for professional follow-up through Community Living Rooms. Single parents or single-parent families could also receive comprehensive services and assistance at the IFSC; and
- (h) The SWD noted Members’ suggestions and would actively explore the possibility of implementing them.

### **Agenda 3. Concern over Child Abuse Issues in the Eastern District and Strategies for Publicising the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance (SWC Paper No. 6/2026)**

- 6. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the Education Bureau (EDB) and SWD to the meeting.
- 7. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 6/2026.
- 8. The Chairlady requested Members to note the written reply from the Department of Health.
- 9. Members’ views and enquiries about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

## Action

- (a) Members enquired about how child abuse was defined and identified, and opined that many parents were unaware that corporal punishment may constitute physical abuse and thus violate the law. Members noted that children aged six to eight and children with special needs were high-risk victims of abuse, and that abusers may be family members of the children;
- (b) Members made several suggestions, including:
  - (i) Providing clear guidance on distinguishing between corporal punishment and child abuse;
  - (ii) Enhancing protection measures for junior primary students and children with special educational needs, and stepping up the dissemination of the Ordinance's content to relevant teachers;
  - (iii) Using non-skippable in-stream video advertisements or search engine keyword advertisements to accurately deliver child protection messages;
  - (iv) Creating an Eastern District info-pack containing the reporting process, helplines and a list of support units;
  - (v) Supplementing the Guide for Mandated Reporters with a checklist for identifying offences and making reporting decisions;
  - (vi) Organising more positive parenting seminars for parents (including expecting parents); and
  - (vii) Collaborating with schools, Care Teams, and the Eastern District School Liaison Committee to enhance the promotion of the Ordinance in the district.

10. The representatives of the EDB and SWD noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views as follows:

- (a) The EDB had consistently assisted designated professionals in the education sector in understanding the relevant legislation through various means (such as organising training workshops). It had also promoted the "Positive Parent Campaign" in schools and communities through extensive and diverse publicity channels to help parents develop positive thinking and adopt the correct methods and attitudes for raising children;
- (b) In the past, the SWD mainly received enquiries concerning the handling of suspected child harm or abuse. Professional social workers would answer questions and follow up when necessary;

## Action

- (c) The SWD stated that, generally speaking, the distinction between corporal punishment and child abuse required professional judgment. Continuous physical abuse may constitute a suspected case of child abuse, while minor or isolated incidents would generally be identified first as disciplinary issues and handled through counselling and intervention; and
- (d) The SWD would continue to organise a diverse range of public and parental awareness activities through collaboration with NGOs and cross-sectoral partnerships, and would continue to maintain close contact with different stakeholders in the district to actively build an effective safety net for children.

### **Agenda 4. Concern over Problems of Begging in the Eastern District** **(SWC Paper No. 7/2026)**

- 11. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and SWD to the meeting.
- 12. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 7/2026.
- 13. Members' views and enquiries about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
  - (a) Members pointed out that the problem of begging was also found in several other locations in the district, and that there were discrepancies between the actual situation and the prosecution figures provided by the Police. This was likely due to excessively high prosecution thresholds or the current legislation governing the prosecution of begging being outdated. Members therefore hoped that the Police and the Immigration Department (ImmD) would step up targeted joint operations, particularly in handling cases involving non-local persons; and
  - (b) Members enquired about entry restrictions for individuals with relevant criminal records.
- 14. The representatives of the SWD and HKPF noted Members' views. The representative of the HKPF responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

## Action

- (a) The Police would allocate resources and manpower according to crime trends and priorities. Given that begging was not a primary focus of enforcement in the district, frontline personnel must first complete key enforcement tasks before conducting on-site evidence gathering and enforcement regarding begging-related complaints. Enforcement numbers may therefore not be as high as expected;
- (b) The Police would prosecute beggars under the Summary Offences Ordinance, and would transfer their information to the ImmD for consideration of adding them to the list of persons refused entry for a period of two years; and
- (c) The Police would continue to conduct high-profile patrols in the district at irregular intervals and would step up patrols of begging hotspots when resources permitted. The Police would also actively conduct joint operations with the ImmD to step up prosecutions relating to begging.

HKPF/SWD

15. After discussion, the agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

### **Agenda 5. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous SWC Meetings under Eastern District Council**

**(Paper No. 8/2026)**

- (i) “Improvement to Difficulties in Appointment Booking with General Outpatient Clinics in the Eastern District”**

Hospital  
Authority (HA)

16. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

- (ii) “Suggesting the Government to Conduct Joint Operations in Stamping Out On-street Prostitutes on Chun Yeung Street in North Point to Restore Community Peace”**

17. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the HKPF to the meeting.

18. The SWC noted the written reply from the ImmD.

## Action

19. Members opined that it was insufficient for law enforcement agencies to conduct only two joint operations during Chinese New Year, as some Members still observed suspicious women loitering on Chun Yeung Street during the period. Therefore, Members suggested that cross-border prostitution activities should be stamped out at source, and that targeted joint operations and daily patrols should be stepped up to reduce the nuisance caused to the area.

20. The representatives of the HKPF noted Members' views.

21. After discussion, the SWC agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.

**(iii) “Establishment of a Support Service Centre for Ethnic Minorities in Chai Wan for Enhancing Support for Ethnic Minorities in Eastern District”**

Housing  
Department/  
District Lands  
Office, Hong Kong  
East/Planning  
Department/  
Home Affairs  
Department/  
EDB

22. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

**(iv) “Concern over Future Development Plan of Eastern Hospital”**

**(v) “Concern over the Merger of the Hong Kong East and Hong Kong West Hospital Clusters”**

23. As agenda items (iv) and (v) were related, the SWC agreed to combine them for discussion.

24. The SWC noted the written reply from the HA.

25. Members' views about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

## Action

- (a) Members were concerned about the specific impact on medical services in the Eastern District following the merger of the Hong Kong East and Hong Kong West Hospital Clusters, such as whether obstetrics resources of the Eastern Hospital would be relocated to Queen Mary Hospital, thereby affecting the medical choices of pregnant women in the district;
- (b) Members hoped that the HA could provide clear and specific information regarding the medical services of the Hong Kong Island Cluster so that DC Members could explain it to the public; and
- (c) Members expected that the HA could provide the latest progress on the Eastern Hospital expansion plan.

26. The SWC requested the Secretary to relay Members' views to the HA.

HA

27. After discussion, the agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

### **Agenda 6. Any Other Business**

#### **(i) Eastern District Council to Become a Supporting Organisation for the 17th "Quit to Win" Smoke-free Community Campaign**

30. The Chairlady briefed the meeting on the background information of the campaign.

31. After discussion, the SWC agreed to become a supporting organisation for the 17th "Quit to Win" Smoke-free Community Campaign, and agreed that the organiser, the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH), may display the Eastern District Council's logo on promotional materials.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat replied to the COSH on 22 April 2026.)

#### **(ii) Invitation for Representatives to Join the Organizing Committee for International Day of Persons with Disabilities of the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities**

32. The Chairlady announced that, after discussions with Members and with the consent of the DC Chairman, Ms LAU Suk-yin was recommended to join the Organizing Committee for International Day of Persons with Disabilities to

## Action

participate in the preparatory work for the 2026 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

33. The Chairlady requested the Secretary to provide the above list to the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities (“the Joint Council”).

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat sent the above list to the Joint Council on 22 April 2026.)

## **Agenda 7. Date of Next Meeting**

34. The fifteenth SWC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 9 June 2026 (Tuesday). °

35. The meeting ended at 4:10 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat  
May 2026