

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the
Social Welfare Committee
under Eastern District Council

Date: 10 December 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30 pm
Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

Present

Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH	Mr LAM Wing-shing	Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi
Mr TING Wong, Kacee	Mr LAM Wing-cheung	Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine
Mr WONG Chi-chung	Mr CHAU Chi-yan, Benny	Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH
Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah (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, JP	Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH
Ms NG Ching-ching	Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan	Mr LAI Nuen-san
Ms LEE Ching-har (Vice-chairlady)	Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin	Mr LU Xiaofeng, Anthony
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	Mr KWOK Wing-kin	Mr CHEUNG Man-sung (Co-opted Member)
Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH	Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph	Ms TSOI Ka-yu (Co-opted Member)

In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)

Ms CHIU Man-nga, Jasmine	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)1, Eastern District Office
Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
Miss NGAI Ka-man, Carman	Senior Liaison Officer (4), Eastern District Office
Ms HAU Suet-fan, Iris	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern/ Wan Chai)3, Social Welfare Department

In Attendance by Invitation (Representatives from the Government and Organisations)

Dr PANG Kai-yuen	Deputy Hospital Chief Executive, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
Ms Julie LI	General Manager (Administrative Services), Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
Ms Sarah LAM	Public Affairs Officer, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
Miss CHAN Fung-po	Social Work Officer (Planning & Coordinating) (Eastern/Wan Chai)2, Social Welfare Department

Mr CHAN Ka-leong, Kieran	Police Community Relations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWONG Suk-ching	District Operations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LAI Yi-ling, Elaine	Assistant Divisional Commander (Operations) North Point Division, Hong Kong Police Force
Ms TANG Leqing	Officer-in-Charge of District Special Duties Squad of Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force
Miss LEUNG Po-kei, Polly	Liaison Officer-in-charge (Causeway Bay), Eastern District Office
Miss WONG Hoi-kiu, Salina	Executive Officer (District Management) ¹ , Eastern District Office

Secretary

Ms NG Sze-chung, May	Executive Officer I (District Council) ³ , Eastern District Office
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Opening Remarks

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

Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Social Welfare Committee

2. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendment.

Agenda 2. Concern over Future Development Plan of Eastern Hospital (SWC Paper No. 19/2024)

3. The Chairlady welcomed the representative of the Hospital Authority (HA) to the meeting.
4. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 19/2024.
5. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

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- (a) Members acknowledged that social development was constantly changing and resources were limited. With only a year left before the relocation of the Chai Wan Laundry and its complete cessation of operation, the HA had yet to formulate the specific use of the land to be released upon the relocation of the Laundry. In light of the aging population in the Eastern District and the dilapidated condition and bed shortage at the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH), Members considered this a waste, and therefore hoped that the HA would finalise and announce the expansion plan of the PYNEH as soon as possible, so that they could present the specific plan to the public.
 - (b) Members indicated that some news revealed that the HA was considering re-organising the Hong Kong East Cluster, including exploring the transfer of certain services of the PYNEH to the Queen Mary Hospital of the Hong Kong West Cluster. Members opined that it might inconvenience the residents of the Eastern District who needed to seek medical treatment in other districts.
 - (c) Members agreed to write to the Health Bureau and the HA, urging them to make proper planning about the land to be released when the Chai Wan Laundry had fully ceased operation, and implement the construction of the Ambulatory Care Block at the PYNEH in accordance with the preliminary idea of the Second Ten-year Hospital Development Plan (HDP) as soon as possible.
6. The representative of the HA noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:
- (a) The HA acknowledged the medical needs of the Eastern District, and understood that the SWC and the residents were very concerned about the future planning of the PYNEH. For the time being, the released space should tie in with the development of hospital services in the cluster, and the HA would consider the suitable uses of the land when it formulated the overall planning for Hong Kong.
 - (b) The PYNEH would continue to optimise the existing resources to provide better medical services to residents of the district, and would provide the SWC with the details of the HDP in due course.

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- HA 7. After discussion, the agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat wrote to the Health Bureau and the HA on 20 December 2024.)

Agenda 3. Concern over the Problem of Street Sleepers in Eastern District **(SWC Paper No. 20/2024)**

8. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Eastern District Office (EDO) to the meeting.

9. A Member briefed the SWC on Paper No. 20/2024.

10. The views of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
- (a) Members enquired about the reasons for the substantial decrease in the number of street sleepers compared with last year, and whether there were any accommodation places in the district for female street sleepers.
 - (b) Members requested the SWD to pay attention to and follow up on the several female street sleepers in the areas of Chai Wan MTR Station, Shau Kei Wan Bus Terminal and Healthy Village.
 - (c) Members hoped that the SWD would keep in view whether any street sleepers allocated with public rental housing units were receiving double benefits.
 - (d) Members indicated that street sleeping was a complicated social problem. It required interdepartmental collaboration to help those in need to live off the street, and to thoroughly clear up the articles accumulated at the blackspots as soon as possible, so as to minimise the disturbances caused to the public and environmental hygiene.
 - (e) Members suggested that relevant departments should explore the possibility of addressing the problem of street sleepers by plugging the

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existing legal loopholes for cases where individuals rejected rehousing offers of the Government due to various addictive behaviours, with a view to balancing the interests of different parties (such as the wishes and personal safety of the persons concerned, the well-being of residents, and the maintenance of a clean city environment).

11. The representatives of the SWD and the EDO noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

SWD

- (a) The number of street sleepers in the Eastern District accounted for about 1.6% of the total number in Hong Kong, and the number of cases which required handling dropped from 28 in 2020 to around 10 in 2024, indicating that the problem had been greatly improved.
- (b) There were no accommodation places for females in the district for the time being. Female street sleepers in need could consider staying in the Wanchai Shelter in Wanchai, Hong Kong. Moreover, Members could contact the SWD after the meeting to inform the SWD on the situation.

EDO

- (c) The EDO would continue to co-ordinate and organise joint operations with the relevant departments, and study feasible measures to improve the environmental hygiene of the locations concerned.
- (d) The EDO would also continue to explore ways to provide suitable welfare supports to street sleepers more effectively.

SWD/EDO

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

Agenda 4. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous SWC Meetings under Eastern District Council
(SWC Paper No. 21/2024)

(i) ***“Request for Additional Residential Care Home for the Elderly in Eastern District”***

SWD

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

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

HA

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

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

15. The Chairlady welcomed the representative of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to the meeting.

16. The SWC noted the written reply from the Immigration Department (ImmD).

17. The views of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members thanked the HKPF for joining them to distribute leaflets against vice activities in the Chun Yeung Street area on a number of occasions over the past months. Members were of the view that the efforts were rather effective.
- (b) Members hoped that the HKPF would keep an eye on whether there were organisations manipulating illegal street prostitution, and step up patrols and enforcement actions during the year end.
- (c) Members asked whether those prostitutes who had breached the conditions of stay would be put on the “blacklist” of prohibition of entry, and asked about the duration of such prohibitions.

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- (d) Members hoped that the HKPF would continue to encourage persons-in-charge of private shops in the Chun Yeung Street area to proactively respond to the installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems outside their shops to enhance deterrence.

18. The representative of the HKPF noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) The HKPF cited the progress report, and stated that apart from the three CCTV cameras installed on Chun Yeung Street by the Government earlier, the HKPF was considering installing more government CCTV cameras at the said place to enhance deterrence.
- (b) The HKPF would continue to pay attention to the situation, and would take enforcement action in a timely manner.
- (c) The HKPF advised Members to enquire the ImmD about the details concerning travellers repatriated to the Mainland for breach of conditions of stay, as well as the details of notification to the Mainland authorities of restrictions on their re-visit to Hong Kong.

HKPF/ImmD

19. After discussion, the SWC agreed to continue to follow up on the agenda item upon further progress.

(iv) ***“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/
Education Bureau

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

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Agenda 5. Any Other Business

21. There was no other discussion item for the SWC.

Agenda 6. Date of Next Meeting

22. The seventh SWC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 25 February 2025 (Tuesday).
23. The meeting ended at 3:33 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
January 2025