

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

Date: 8 April 2025 (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
Miss MA Siu-yee	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)

Ms SIU Kin-heung, Mabel	Social Welfare Officer (Eastern/Wan Chai), Social Welfare Department
Ms TSANG Yim-ting	Social Work Officer (Planning & Co-ordinating) (Eastern/Wan Chai)1, Social Welfare Department
Mr CHAN-yee, Wilson	Chief Management Services Officer (Digital Inclusion and Research)2, Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
Mr NGAI Wing-chung, Patrick	Senior Systems Manager (Digital Inclusion and Research)4, Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau

Mr CHOW Kwok-chu, Tony

Assistant Police Community Relations Officer,
Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WONG Chun-tung

Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Eastern District, Hong
Kong Police Force

Secretary

Ms NG Sze-chung, May

Executive Officer I (District Council)³, Eastern District
Office

Opening Remarks

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

Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 7th 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 2025-26

(SWC Paper No. 3/2025)

3. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting.

4. The representative of the SWD briefed the meeting on Paper No. 3/2025.

5. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members commended the SWD Eastern and Wanchai District Social Welfare Office for formulating comprehensive themes and contents for the annual plan.

- (b) Members put forward a number of suggestions, including:

- (i) Enhancing community and home care services for the elderly (e.g.

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- escort for medical consultations, haircut services);
 - (ii) Strengthening support for patients with mental illness and their family members;
 - (iii) Encouraging more members of the public to engage in volunteer services through a volunteer commendation scheme;
 - (iv) Collaborating with the District Services & Community Care Teams (Care Teams) and District Council (DC) members to organise talks on mental health for carers, parents and children; and
 - (v) Stepping up the publicity of anti-drug messages against “space oil drug” to upper primary students.
- (c) Members made a number of enquiries, including:
- (i) The greatest challenge faced in setting the objectives of the annual plan;
 - (ii) Whether a mechanism had been established to assess the effectiveness of the plan;
 - (iii) The demand and supply of respite services for elderly persons;
 - (iv) The feasibility of extending the “Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong” to Fujian;
 - (v) Details of the collaborative platform set up by social welfare units, support services and resources allocation for promoting “positive psychology” among youth; and
 - (vi) Information related to Muslims spending their retirement years in the Mainland and their after-death arrangements.

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

- (a) The SWD indicated that coping with the intensifying trend of ageing population in the Eastern District was so far the greatest challenge faced.
- (b) The SWD had stipulated requirements and standards for various services to assess the performance of subsidised units.
- (c) The SWD introduced the home-based community care services that provided different types of support for eligible frail elderly persons and carers to facilitate ageing in place.
- (d) In 2025, the SWD and two Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness would organise various activities and talks on issues including

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community mental health and identification of mental illness, self-harm behaviours among youth and student suicide, with a view to raising public awareness on mental health.

- (e) Led by the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau and funded by the SWD, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals CROSS Centre helped preventing youth from drug abuse by providing counselling and medical services, as well as organising community educational activities.

7. The SWC invited the SWD to note Members' views and suggestions.

Agenda 3. "Smart Silver" Digital Inclusion Programme for Elders (SWC Paper No. 4/2025)

8. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the Digital Policy Office (DPO) to the meeting.

9. The Chairlady reported Members' declarations of interests as follows:

Name of Member	Affiliated Organisation and Position Held
Mr LAU Hing-yeung	Director, Hong Kong Island Social Services Charitable Foundation (4 th Term of Board of Directors)
Ms LI Lee	Director, Hong Kong Island Social Services Charitable Foundation (4 th Term of Board of Directors)

10. Regarding the declarations above, the Chairlady ruled that Member LAU Hing-yeung, in the capacity of the representative of the implementation organisation of the "Smart Silver" Digital Inclusion Programme for Elders (the Programme), could report the implementation details of the Programme in the Eastern District and participate in the discussion as a Member of the SWC, while Member LI Lee could also participate in the discussion as a Member of the SWC.

11. The representatives of the DPO and implementing organisation briefed the meeting on Paper No. 4/2025.

12. Members enquired whether the department would consider subsidising the elderly to use 5G service plan and adjusting the guiding approach and support

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strategy to tie in with the learning capabilities of different age groups in future. Apart from that, the views and suggestions of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members suggested providing facilitation measures for persons aged 60 and above, allowing them to use government mobile applications without email registration and identity authentication by face recognition;
- (b) Members proposed designing teaching materials and user manuals tailored to various mobile phone brands;
- (c) Members recommended that more community-based mobile help desks should be provided;
- (d) Members advised that Wi-Fi hotspots should be installed at more government venues;
- (e) Members suggested further stepping up the publicity programme so as to encourage more elderly persons to embrace digital life, for example, by inviting DC members and Care Teams to assist in the promotion; and
- (f) Members urged that assistance should be provided to the elderly in downloading the Scameter+ mobile application to reduce the risk of falling victim to fraud.

13. The representative of the DPO indicated that Members' views would be taken into consideration when assessing the effectiveness of the programme and provided the following supplementary information:

- (a) Currently, the implementing organisations had set up regular and fixed-point community-based help desks and mobile outreach service stations, which provided technical support catered to the personal needs of the elderly, with training courses covering topics on cybersecurity and anti-fraud information.
- (b) The implementing organisations would assign staff, recruit volunteers and organise publicity campaigns in collaboration with local organisations and groups (including Care Teams), the trades and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) ("Senior Police Call"), with a view to

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consolidating community efforts and promoting digital inclusion among the elderly.

- (c) The DPO would continue to adopt extensive and diverse publicity channels to reach out to more elderly persons.

14. The SWC invited the DPO to note Members' views and suggestions.

Agenda 4. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous SWC Meetings under Eastern District Council (SWC Paper No. 5/2025)

- (i) ***“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 representatives of the HKPF to the meeting.

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

17. Members thanked the HKPF for their efforts in stamping out on-street prostitutes on Chun Yeung Street, and expressed their views and made enquiries about the agenda item, including: the effectiveness of installing closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras over the past few months; whether the HKPF would conduct data analysis on the video footage and personal images captured by the CCTV cameras; how the HKPF would handle corrupted footage or power outages; whether notices had been affixed at the locations with CCTV cameras installed; whether there were any other blackspots of prostitution activities in the district; the reasons for the discrepancy between the arrest figures provided in the written replies by the HKPF and ImmD; and whether CCTV cameras were installed at target buildings and recorded video at targeted time slots.

18. Some Members were of the view that CCTV cameras could serve as a deterrent to criminal activities but might have limited legal enforceability. Some other Members suggested that the HKPF adopt measures that would embarrass patrons of prostitution (such as notifying their families upon arrest), with a view to reducing prostitution activities.

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19. Members expected the HKPF to continue exploring other ways that could stamp out and prevent prostitution activities.

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

- (a) The HKPF had been taking proactive measures to stamp out vice activities in order to reduce potential nuisance caused to the public, and the results were positive.
- (b) The HKPF would only use CCTV footage as and when crimes occurred to identify more clues to facilitate crime investigation.
- (c) In case of damaged CCTV installations or power outages, the HKPF would collect information and evidence through the surveillance systems of nearby stalls, shops, etc.
- (d) Notices would be displayed prominently in the areas covered by CCTV cameras to remind the public and protect their privacy.
- (e) The HKPF provided supplementary information on the latest arrest figures (four individuals were arrested in each of February and March this year), and believed that the discrepancy between the arrest figures provided in the written replies by the HKPF and ImmD was due to the fact that different periods were used by the two departments for their calculations.
- (f) The locations for installing CCTV cameras and the time slots under surveillance were determined based on targeted criteria.
- (g) The HKPF announced in advance that DC members would be invited to attend the kick-off ceremony of Project SAFE on Chun Yeung Street.

HKPF/ImmD

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

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

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- SWD
22. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.
- (iii) ***“Improvement to Difficulties in Appointment Booking with General Outpatient Clinics in the Eastern District”***
- Hospital Authority (HA)
23. The agenda item would be followed up on 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
24. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.
- (v) ***“Concern over Future Development Plan of Eastern Hospital”***
- HA
25. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.
- (vi) ***“Concern over the Problem of Street Sleepers in Eastern District”***
26. Given that the departments concerned had answered Members’ enquiries and noted Members’ views and suggestions in previous meetings, and the departments had not made any progress for reporting to the SWC at the current stage, the SWC agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.

Agenda 5. Any Other Business

(i) “Eastern District Council Serving as a Supporting Organisation of the 16th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign”

27. The Chairlady briefed the meeting on the background information of the Campaign.

28. After discussion, the SWC agreed to become the supporting organisation of the 16th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign and allow the organiser Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) to display the Eastern District Council logo on its publicity materials.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had returned the completed reply slip to COSH on 7 May 2025.)

(ii) “Invitation for Nomination of Representative to the Organizing Committee for International Day of Persons with Disabilities organised by the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities (the Joint Council)”

29. The Chairlady announced the recommendation of the following Member to join the Organizing Committee for International Day of Persons with Disabilities to participate in the preparation work of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025:

Names of Committee	No. of DC Member to be Recommended	Name of the Recommended Member
Organizing Committee for International Day of Persons with Disabilities	1	Ms LAU Suk-yin

30. The Chairlady asked the Secretariat to submit the above list to the Joint Council.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had submitted the above list to the Joint Council on 7 May 2025.)

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Agenda 6. Date of Next Meeting

31. The ninth SWC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 10 June 2025 (Tuesday).
32. The meeting ended at 4:08 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
May 2025