

(Translation)

**Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
Social Welfare and Women Development Committee,
the 7th Term Kwun Tong District Council**

Date: 26 September 2024 (Thursday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:44 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Kwun Tong District Office,
Unit 05-07, 20/F, Millennium City 6, 392 Kwun Tong Road,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon

Present

Ms FU Pik-chun, MH (Chairlady)	Mr TSANG Wing-fai
Ms LEE Shuk-woon, Sophia (Vice-chairlady)	Ms CHING Hoi-yan
Mr YU Ka-ming	Mr WONG Chun-ping, MH, JP
Mr NG Ting-fung	Ms Zhan Baoyu
Mr LEE Ka-hang	Mr LAU Kar-wah
Mr LAM Fung, MH	Ms CHU Lok-wai
Mr LAM Wai	Mr TANG Wing-chun
Ms KAM Kin	Mr CHENG Keung-fung
Mr HUNG Kam-in, MH	Mr TAM Siu-cheuk
Mr CHEUNG Yiu-pan	Mr KWAN Kin-wing
Ms LEUNG Sze-wan	Mr PANG Chi-sang
Mr HSU Yau-wai	Ms NGAN Ming-sau (Co-opted Member)
Ms FENG Yungsi	

In Attendance

Ms CHAN Wai-chun, Regina	Assistant District Officer (Kwun Tong)1
Mr CHOW Lap-kan, Douglas	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Kwun Tong District Office
Miss YIK Wai-sze, Cecilia	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Kwun Tong District Office
Miss Sandra LIM	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Kwun Tong)1, Social Welfare Department

Secretary

Mr WONG King-yui, Bobby	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Kwun Tong District Office
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In Attendance by Invitation

Ms LEE Yu-po

Assistant Chief Executive,

Item II

S.K.H. St. Christopher's Home

Ms TSE Pui-chi

Child Care Centre Supervisor,

S.K.H. St. Christopher's Home

Ms NG Ka-ying

Assistant Child Care Centre Supervisor,

S.K.H. St. Christopher's Home

Opening Remarks

The Chairlady welcomed all attendees to the 5th meeting of the Social Welfare and Women Development Committee ("SWWDC") under the 7th Term Kwun Tong District Council ("KTDC").

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. Members did not raise any other comments. The minutes of the 4th meeting were confirmed.

II. Introduction of the Services of Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home

3. The representative of the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") introduced the background of day child care services.

4. The representative of Sheng Kung Hui St. Christopher's Home ("SKHSCH") introduced the services provided by the organisation and the services of the child care centre to be established in Shun Lee Estate.

5. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

5.1 Members supported SKHSCH's establishment of a child care centre in Shun Lee Estate.

5.2 Members enquired how SKHSCH would handle situations where the number of applications for the child care centre exceeded the quota.

5.3 Members suggested that the child care centre increase the manning ratio for taking

care of children aged two to three, enhance staff training and recruit volunteer groups to take care of children.

5.4 Members enquired whether SKHSCH would promote their child care centre services at On Tai Estate.

5.5 Members enquired whether SKHSCH had a mechanism in place to support families with suspected cases of violence or child abuse.

6. The representative of SKHSCH responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

6.1 Admission arrangements: SKHSCH said that admissions were currently processed on a first-come-first-served basis, and parents could join the waiting list in advance for their unborn children. In addition, the child care centre would give priority to cases with special needs depending on circumstances, and would prioritise children referred by the medical social workers of the United Christian Hospital, Family and Child Protective Services Units and Integrated Family Service Centres ("IFSCs"). SKHSCH welcomed Members to refer cases with special needs to the child care centre.

6.2 Child care: SKHSCH said that it would arrange adequate staffing to take care of children based on their experience in operating Small Group Homes, and would provide necessary training and support to staff. In addition, if suspected child abuse cases were identified, the child care centre would conduct an initial assessment before making further referrals.

6.3 Manning ratio: SKHSCH indicated that each activity room currently had at least two child care workers responsible for taking care of two groups of children. In addition, there were child care aide posts in the child care centre to support the child care workers. Also, SKHSCH welcomed the suggestion to include volunteer groups. To ensure service quality at the child care centre, volunteer groups must first receive relevant training and sign a work agreement.

6.4 SKHSCH said that it had distributed promotional leaflets for the child care centre at On Tai Estate, and it would be pleased to accept Members' suggestions to visit different sub-districts to enhance publicity and enrolment.

7. Members enquired about the fees of the child care centre and whether subsidies would be provided to families in need.

8. The representative of SKHSCH said that the monthly service fee would be approximately \$5,000, with extended service charged at \$13 per hour. All families could apply to SWD for the “Child Care Centre Parent Subsidy” of up to \$1,000 per month, which was not subject to asset test. In addition, needy families could apply for government subsidies through the “Kindergarten & Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme”, which required a means test.

9. Members noted the relevant matters.

**III. Social Welfare Department – Report on the data on major social services in Kwun Tong District
(KTDC SWWDC Paper No. 6/2024)**

10. The representative of SWD presented the paper.

11. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

11.1 Members suggested that SWD provide more detailed data by sub-district to facilitate Members in offering corresponding support to the sub-districts they served.

11.2 Members relayed that the number of student suicide cases had been high recently and enquired about SWD’s support measures.

11.3 Members pointed out that the number of Old Age Living Allowance (“OALA”) cases in Kwun Tong District continued to rise and enquired whether SWD’s current support for the elderly was adequate.

11.4 Members pointed out that among the IFSC cases in Kwun Tong District, there was a higher number of cases involving family issues. Members enquired whether SWD would introduce corresponding policies to slow down the increase.

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

12.1 SWD stated that while it understood Members’ wish to obtain more detailed categorised data, the current system was unable to provide the case numbers for each sub-district in Kwun Tong District.

- 12.2 SWD indicated that since the start of the school year in September this year, Kwun Tong District had recorded a higher number of student suicide cases compared to other districts. Therefore, SWD had begun pairing 13 Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres with 33 secondary schools in the district this year to provide additional support services to schools and students' families. In addition, SWD would strengthen the development of children's emotional intelligence and adversity quotient in the "For Next Generation" life planning programme, helping them improve their mental health and enhance resilience.
- 12.3 SWD said that with the overall improvement in quality of life and healthcare standards in society, average life expectancy had been increasing and the elderly population was growing, leading to a continuous rise in the number of OALA cases. In recent years, SWD had continuously strengthened support for the elderly, particularly by introducing various new support measures for elderly carers and caregivers.
- 12.4 SWD pointed out that cases involving family problems were generally more complex, with each case requiring a longer time on average, sometimes even up to two to three years, to complete case intervention work. This had resulted in higher case numbers compared to other categories.

13. Members noted the paper.

IV. Any Other Business

14. Members requested SWD to provide details of the social welfare facilities for each project listed in the Progress Report of Public Housing Projects under the Housing Department.

15. The representative of SWD introduced the details of the social welfare facilities.

16. Members enquired about the procedures for establishing a social welfare facility in a public housing project, as well as whether residents of Kwun Tong District could use the social welfare facilities in Sai Kung District.

17. The representative of SWD said that the department would conduct district consultation, including seeking views from the District Council, in a timely manner during the planning stage according to the progress of each social welfare facility project. After finalising project details, SWD would apply to the Lotteries Fund for construction costs. Then, before an occupation permit

was issued for the welfare premises in public housing, SWD would invite organisations to submit service proposals through tender notices or invitations for proposals. After selecting the operating organisation, SWD would apply to the Lotteries Fund for renovation costs. It generally took one to one and a half years for social welfare facilities to be renovated and put into service, and service provision could only officially commence after obtaining the relevant licences.

18. The representative of SWD pointed out that except for certain services applied through the central waitlist system and case services that were provided based on place of residence, all individuals could use the facilities of social welfare units and participate in their activities. As such, residents in Kwun Tong District could also use the social welfare facilities at Tai Sheung Tok in Sai Kung District.

19. Members noted the relevant matters.

V. Date of Next Meeting

20. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 28 November 2024 (Thursday).

21. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on 28 November 2024.

Kwun Tong District Council Secretariat
November 2024