

(Translation)

**Minutes of the 9th Meeting of  
Social Welfare and Women Development Committee,  
the 7th Term Kwun Tong District Council**

**Date:** 22 May 2025 (Thursday)  
**Time:** 2:30 p.m. – 3:39 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 CHAN Yiu-hung, Jimmy, MH
Ms LEE Shuk-woon, Sophia (Vice-chairlady)	Mr TSANG Wing-fai
Mr YU Ka-ming	Ms CHING Hoi-yan
Mr NG Ting-fung	Ms FENG Yunsi
Mr LUI Tung-hai, MH	Mr LAU Kar-wah
Mr LEE Ka-hang	Ms CHU Lok-wai
Mr LAM Fung, MH	Mr TANG Wing-chun
Mr LAM Wai	Mr CHENG Keung-fung
Ms KAM Kin	Mr TAM Siu-cheuk
Mr HUNG Kam-in, MH	Mr KWAN Kin-wing
Ms LEUNG Sze-wan	Mr PANG Chi-sang
Mr HSU Yau-wai	Ms NGAN Ming-sau (Co-opted Member)

**In Attendance**

Mr CHEUNG Ka-long, Kelvin	Assistant District Officer (Kwun Tong)2
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**

Miss TSUNG Ka-yee

Officer-in-charge,  
Central Foster Care Unit,  
Social Welfare Department  
Assistant Social Work Officer,  
Central Foster Care Unit,  
Social Welfare Department

**Item II**

Ms TSE Chi-yin

### **Opening Remarks**

The Chairlady welcomed all attendees to the 9th 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 8th meeting were confirmed.

#### **II. Briefing on Foster Care Service**

3. The representative of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) introduced foster care services.

4. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

4.1 Members enquired whether foster parents received allowances and how SWD monitored foster care services.

4.2 Members enquired about the differences in eligibility criteria and training content between ordinary and emergency foster families.

4.3 Members enquired whether there were still orphanages in Hong Kong and how decisions were made regarding whether a child should be placed in a foster family or receive other residential care services.

4.4 Members suggested inviting some Home-based Child Carers to become foster parents

and enquired about the application procedures for becoming a foster family.

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

5.1 SWD stated that foster families were eligible to receive a monthly incentive payment. From 1 April 2025, the monthly incentive payments for ordinary and emergency foster families were \$12,102 and \$13,831, respectively. Additionally, foster families received a monthly maintenance grant for foster children of \$6,916 to cover the living expenses of foster children.

5.2 SWD stated that there were currently 11 non-governmental organisations providing foster care services across Hong Kong. Foster care workers from these organisations maintained close liaison with foster parents, conducting at least one home visit per month and holding regular case review meetings. These measures aimed to supervise and monitor foster families and provide support for foster parents to ensure the quality of foster care services.

5.3 SWD explained that the eligibility criteria for emergency and ordinary foster families were the same. Applicants must pass a comprehensive assessment and complete pre-service training. The department would explain the requirements of foster care services in detail to applicants so that they could thoroughly consider whether they were suitable to provide such services.

5.4 SWD replied that in addition to foster care services, residential child care services also included Child Care Centres, Children's Homes and Small Group Homes. After assessing each case, referring social workers would arrange an appropriate type of residential service for children in need.

5.5 SWD stated that if Home-based Child Carers wished to become foster parents, they must, like other applicants, pass the relevant vetting and complete pre-service training. While providing foster care services, they were not allowed to continue working as Home-based Child Carers to ensure that they could focus on caring for foster children.

6. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

6.1 Members hoped that SWD would provide relevant publicity materials so that District Council ("DC") Members could assist in promoting foster care services.

- 6.2 Members enquired whether neighbours or relatives who were willing to care for children had to formally apply to become foster families.
  - 6.3 Members enquired whether public housing tenants could become foster families.
  - 6.4 Members enquired how SWD would handle cases in which children needed to receive foster care services again.
  - 6.5 Members were concerned that when children transitioned from foster families to adoptive homes, they needed to readapt to a new living environment. Additionally, Members enquired what factors SWD considered when assessing the suitable type of residential facility for a child.
  - 6.6 Members enquired about the living environment requirements for foster families.
  - 6.7 Members enquired whether the incentive payments provided for foster parents were chargeable to tax and whether they would affect the income limits for public housing tenants.
  - 6.8 Members enquired about the mechanism for the interface between emergency and ordinary foster care services, and whether children could reside in emergency foster families for more than six months.
  - 6.9 Members enquired whether the number of foster family applicants was insufficient, and suggested that SWD strengthen its publicity efforts.
7. The representative of SWD responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:
- 7.1 SWD stated that applicants wishing to become foster parents must pass the relevant vetting by SWD or foster care service organisations and complete pre-service training. After applicants were registered as foster parents, foster care workers would match suitable foster children with foster families.
  - 7.2 SWD explained that foster care allowances were exempt from taxation. Additionally, when public housing tenants declared their incomes under the "Well-off Tenants Policies", half of the incentive payment could be exempted from declaration.
  - 7.3 SWD replied that foster families must meet home safety requirements, including the

provision of window grilles or the installation of window opening restricting devices. In addition, foster families must have adequate living space, including providing foster children with separate beds and appropriate storage for personal belongings, with an average living space per person of no less than 5.5 square metres.

- 7.4 SWD stated that referring social workers responsible for following up on cases would assist children in transitioning from foster families to adoptive homes, and would arrange for clinical psychologists to provide counselling when needed.
- 7.5 SWD stated that if problems in a child's birth family remained unresolved, the child might need to receive residential care services again. After assessing the case, the referring social worker would arrange for the child to reside in an appropriate type of residential facility and would follow up on the related welfare matters.
- 7.6 SWD indicated that the aim of foster care services was to prioritise the interests of children, and therefore the department would flexibly adjust children's accommodation arrangements according to individual circumstances.
- 7.7 SWD stated that following the increase in incentive payment and enhanced publicity in 2024, the number of foster parent applications had risen significantly. In response to the natural attrition of foster families, the department would continue to recruit foster families.
- 7.8 SWD indicated that it had been promoting foster care services through various channels to recruit suitable individuals to register as foster parents. In addition to promotion through DCs and local organisations, it also broadcast promotional videos on various media platforms, gave interviews to newspapers and radio, placed advertisements on public transport, and posted publicity posters at various government venues.

8. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

- 8.1 Members enquired whether the maintenance grant for foster children was reimbursed based on actual expenses.
- 8.2 Members enquired whether background checks on foster families, particularly criminal record checks, would be conducted on all household members.
- 8.3 Members enquired who would bear responsibility if a foster child had an accident or

fell ill.

9. The representative of SWD responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

9.1 SWD stated that the maintenance grant for foster children was paid directly to foster families monthly and was not reimbursed based on actual expenses. The maintenance grant must be used in full to cover the living expenses of foster children.

9.2 SWD replied that only the main applicant, i.e. the primary caregiver of a foster child, needed to undergo criminal record checks.

9.3 SWD explained that if a foster child fell ill, foster parents must arrange for the child to receive appropriate medical treatment.

10. Members suggested conducting criminal record checks on all household members living with a foster family applicant.

11. The representative of SWD noted Members' suggestion.

12. Members noted the relevant matters.

### **III. SWD – Report on the data on major social services in Kwun Tong District (KTDC SSWDC Paper No. 3/2025)**

13. The representative of SWD presented the paper.

14. Members noted the paper.

### **IV. Any Other Business**

#### Hong Kong Excellent Family Awards

15. The Secretary introduced the activity details.

16. Members noted the relevant matters.

**V. Date of Next Meeting**

17. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 24 July 2025 (Thursday).

18. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on 24 July 2025.

**Kwun Tong District Council Secretariat**

**July 2025**