

(Translation)

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the Youth, Community Development and Innovation Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date : 19 June 2025 (Thursday)

Time : 9:30 a.m.

Venue : Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

Vice-Chairman

Mr LEUNG Ping-kin

Members

Ms WU Wanqiu

Ms WU Sze-wan

Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai

Mr CHAN Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Mr CHAN Lung-kit

Ms CHEN Lihong

Mr WONG Chun-hung, Hanson

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

Dr WONG Chung-leung, JP

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Ms CHUNG Ching-may, MH

Mr LO Chi-chiu

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, MH

Co-opted Member(s)

Mr LAM Wai-keung

In Attendance

Ms YUEN Pui-yuk, Quinnie

Senior Liaison Officer 2, Sham Shui Po District Office

Mr YEUNG Tsz-hin

Senior School Development Officer (Sham Shui Po)1,
Education Bureau

Ms LEUNG Shui-toi, Polo

Social Work Officer 1 (Planning & Coordinating), Sham
Shui Po District Social Welfare Office, Social Welfare
Department

Mr WONG Wai-tong, Tom

Assistant Police Community Relations Officer, Sham
Shui Po District, Hong Kong Police Force

Ms CHUNG Kit-sum, Candy

Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Police Community
Relation Office, Sham Shui Po District, Hong Kong
Police Force

Secretary

Miss LO Ki-chi, Becky

Assistant Executive Manager (District Council) 5, Sham
Shui Po District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the 9th meeting of the Youth, Community Development and Innovation Committee (“YCDIC”) of the 7th term of Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”).

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Youth, Community Development and Innovation Committee

2. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Item 2: Concern about the Problem of Young People Taking “Space Oil Drug” (YCDIC Paper No. 4/2025)

3. A member presented Paper No. 4/2025.
4. Mr YEUNG Tsz-hin responded as follows: the Education Bureau (“EDB”) had rolled out a series of anti-drug courses and measures and had proactively collaborated with various government departments. These included the following: (i) the Values Education Curriculum Framework (Pilot Version) was launched in November 2021 to further strengthen anti-drug education; (ii) learning elements related to anti-drug education and resistance to harmful substances was incorporated into the key learning areas and subjects of primary and secondary schools. Topics covered the harmful effects of drugs, cigarettes and alternative smoking products, relevant legislations, and tactics to deal with drugs, such as identifying misinformation in the media and resisting peer pressure. All these aimed to enhance students’ self-protection awareness and enable them to firmly refuse drugs; (iii) the anti-“space oil drug” education resources developed by various government departments were available on the EDB’s Values Education webpage for teachers’ reference and use; (iv) the EDB had also specially developed a series of life event exemplars (e.g. an exemplar about the truth of “space oil drug” and self-protection against temptations) and a music video titled Building Our Dreams – Let’s Knock Drugs Out, which, coupled with teachers’ explanations, aimed to enhance students’ understanding of “space oil drug” and strengthen their determination to refuse drugs; (v) since January this year, the EDB had disseminated anti-“space oil drug” information to all kindergartens, primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong (including special schools and international schools) through various channels, introducing the learning and teaching resources jointly developed by the EDB, the Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”) and the Narcotics Division (“ND”) under the Security Bureau; (vi) earlier this year, the EDB and the ND had jointly organised the Anti-“Space Oil Drug” Week campaign, engaging schools to educate students about the control of “etomidate” (the main ingredient of “space oil drug”) and its

harmful effects through talks, anti-drug video viewing sessions and other activities; (vii) the EDB had organised professional courses for teachers regarding the Government's legislative amendment to include "etomidate" in the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance to strengthen anti-drug education; (viii) the ND had met with representatives from the Committee on Home-School Co-operation and district-based Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations to discuss ways to prevent the emerging "space oil drug" from harming young people and improve parent education; and (ix) the EDB would continue to provide parents with anti-drug information developed by government departments via the Parent Education webpage and Smart Parent Net.

5. Mr Tom WONG responded as follows: (i) the HKPF expressed grave concern about the rising trend of "space oil drug" abuse. It had been maintaining communication with schools in the HKPF Sham Shui Po District (the "Police District"), and providing relevant information to them in a timely manner; (ii) eight reports about students taking "space oil drug" or smoking e-cigarettes at schools were received in the Police District from January to May, with 11 students arrested. The enforcement actions had achieved a deterrent effect on students; (iii) the HKPF proactively disseminated information about "space oil drug" through social media to enhance public awareness of drug harms, particularly among young people; (iv) a total of 32 individuals were arrested on suspicion of trafficking or possessing "space oil drug" in the Police District during January to May, with "space oil" infused capsules, "space oil" e-liquid, and etomidate powder seized; (v) the Police District made proactive efforts in publicity and education. Anti-drug talks, enriched with contents about "space oil drug" in October 2024, were held for 13 schools between January and May; (vi) the HKPF designated April as the Anti-Cannabis cum Anti-Space Oil Drug Month. During this period, the Narcotics Bureau disseminated anti-drug information across the territory using the Promotion Truck; and (vii) the Police District would continue to adopt an intelligence-led enforcement strategy, while strengthening collaboration with the EDB, schools, and community stakeholders. It was hoped that the three-pronged approach of enforcement, prevention, and education could effectively combat the issue of "space oil drug", thus ensuring the healthy growth of young people and maintaining the safety of the community.

6. Members raised the following: (i) enquired whether the effectiveness of the promotional materials had been evaluated, and suggested strengthening promotion in the district; (ii) suggested enhancing parents' knowledge of "space oil drug" and teaching them how to identify if their children were taking "space oil drug"; (iii) enquired about the follow-up support and drug treatment facilities for students arrested for drug abuse; (iv) the name "space oil drug" glorified the drug, misleading students into underestimating the danger of taking them; and (v) enquired about ways to better help the public distinguish "space oil" infused capsules from regular e-cigarette cartridges, as they appeared identical.

7. Mr YEUNG Tsz-hin responded as follows: (i) no data were available on the schools' use of the relevant media resources. Members' concerns would be relayed to the Department after the meeting; (ii) it was understood that as at early March this year, most schools had organised relevant activities in accordance with the circular of the EDB, including playing anti-drug-themed music videos and films on campus, and briefing students about the regulation of "space oil drug" and refusal techniques during appropriate occasions such as morning assemblies and weekly assemblies; (iii) promotional materials provided by the ND were displayed on school campus and anti-"space oil drug" electronic leaflets were sent to parents and students; (iv) some schools had even organised their own school-based activities, such as setting up booths on the theme of anti-"space oil drug", holding interactive theatres and drama performances, and inviting police officers to host anti-drug talks at schools; and (v) the information on the new round of anti-"space oil drug" promotional activities to be launched by the ND before summer holiday had been forwarded to all schools in June this year. The information included details of anti-drug talks for students, teaching staff and social workers, etc.

8. Mr Tom WONG responded as follows: (i) some products purporting to be free of nicotine or space oil might in fact contain Part 1 poisons under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, thereby posing risks; (ii) as "space oil drug" was an emerging issue, the HKPF was currently focusing its resources primarily on the students; (iii) the HKPF would organise community activities and collaborate with community stakeholders to further promote anti-drug information; (iv) the HKPF would take appropriate follow-up measures for the arrested students and would explore ways to help them quit drugs with their schools and parents; and (v) the Government would rename "space oil drug".

[Post-meeting note: The Government officially renamed "space oil" as etomidate on 31 July 2025.]

9. Ms Polo LEUNG responded as follows: the Counselling Centres for Psychotropic Substance Abusers were operated by non-governmental organisations with the subvention from the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") to provide services for habitual/occasional/potential psychotropic substance abusers and young people at risk. The Hong Kong Christian Service PS33 – Shamshuipo Centre (the "Centre") was the designated service unit for this district. Regarding the issue of young people taking "space oil drug", the Centre adopted a multi-pronged approach to preventive education and publicity. The work included: (i) implementing a number of targeted measures in response to the emergence of "space oil drug" and conducting public education through television, radio, the press and other media; (ii) providing professional training for medical personnel, teaching staff, frontline social workers and other relevant professionals; (iii) helping schools establish response mechanisms so that those with students

suspected of taking “space oil drug” could take follow-up action in accordance with the relevant procedures; (iv) developing and distributing anti-drug promotional materials to secondary schools in Sham Shui Po District, including Schools for Social Development, to help teaching staff identify students who were taking “space oil drug” and familiarise themselves with the follow-up arrangements for such cases; and (v) regularly organising talks and workshops. On 25 June 2025, the Centre co-organised with the ND under the Security Bureau a webinar about concerns over the abuse of “space oil drug” among young people. The webinar covered the ingredients and harms of “space oil drug”, relevant legal liabilities and support, with a view to enhancing the district stakeholders’ understanding of the “space oil drug”.

10. Members suggested including the differences between “space oil drug” and e-cigarettes in the anti-drug publicity materials to prevent young people from taking “space oil drug” unknowingly.

11. The Chairman concluded as follows: (i) the Committee expected stronger efforts at the community level to prevent and combat the problem of young people taking “space oil drug; and (ii) suggested that government departments and community organisations should enhance co-operation, publicity and monitoring efforts in this regard.

Item 3: Suggestions for the Development and IT Support of Services for the Visually Impaired in Sham Shui Po District (YCDIC Paper No. 5/2025)

12. A member presented Paper No. 5/2025.

13. Ms Polo LEUNG responded as follows: (i) the Government expressed grave concern about the welfare service needs of the visually impaired. With the subvention from the SWD, the Hong Kong Society for the Blind (“HKSB”) provided rehabilitation, career support, computer and entertainment facilities, device loan service, etc. for the visually impaired; (ii) in response to the rapid evolution of innovative assistive technologies, the HKSB provided customised training to the visually impaired to enhance their understanding and use of innovative technologies, and also assisted them in using digital accessibility services, mobile apps and other assistive technologies, improving their daily lives in a practical way; and (iii) whether visually impaired persons used high-end technological products could be determined by factors such as their age and affordability.

14. Members raised the following: (i) enquired whether the SWD would subsidise visually impaired persons to purchase necessary technological products; (ii) suggested that the SWD should draw on the bus arrival notification pilot scheme launched in Sham Shui Po District in collaboration with the Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (1933) Ltd. (“KMB”) to engage other government departments to cooperate with bus companies and other transport service providers

and encourage them to adopt similar accessibility measures; and (iii) hoped that the SWD and non-governmental organisations would jointly promote the application of advanced assistive equipment and devices, and offer necessary support to visually impaired persons with financial difficulties.

15. Ms Polo LEUNG responded as follows: (i) the HKSB had provided radio frequency identification (RFID) cards to about 200 visually impaired persons. Used together with the dedicated KMB mobile app, these cards could help the visually impaired obtain bus route information; (ii) the SWD would provide subsidy for the visually impaired with financial needs to purchase assistive devices such as talking watches; and (iii) if necessary, the SWD would help visually impaired persons in need to seek additional financial support based on the actual circumstances.

16. The Chairman concluded as follows: (i) the Committee noted the content of the paper; and (ii) hoped that wider application of the relevant technologies would bring greater convenience to the daily lives of the visually impaired in Sham Shui Po District.

Item 4: Any Other Business

17. Members did not raise any other business.

Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

18. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 7 August 2025 (Thursday).

19. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:18 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
July 2025