

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Education and Welfare Committee in 2019

Date : 7 March 2019 (Thursday)
Time : 10:00 am
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Ms LAM Chung-yan (Chairman)	DC Member	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger (Vice-Chairman)	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	DC Chairman	10:00 am	12:03 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	10:05 am	12:07 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	"	10:58 am	12:07 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	"	10:00 am	12:02 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	10:18 am	12:07 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	10:00 am	12:02 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	10:32 am	12:07 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	"	10:00 am	12:02 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	10:00 am	12:02 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	10:00 am	12:01 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	10:12 am	12:07 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	"	10:05 am	12:03 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH, JP	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	"	10:13 am	12:07 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	10:46 am	12:07 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	10:10 am	12:07 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	10:12 am	12:07 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	10:00 am	12:07 pm
Ms YU Wai-ting, Amy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1/ Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

Ms CHAN Lai-na, Laura

Title

Housing Manager (Tai Po, North, Shatin)1/

Housing Department

Ms CHIANG Lam

Senior School Development Officer (Shatin) 5/
Education Bureau

In Attendance

Mr CHAN Ping-ching, Roy

Ms NG Suk-min

Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

Mr CHAN Ka-shing, Kenny

Ms CHAN Sze-wa, Debbie

TitleAssistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 1/
Social Welfare Department

Acting Chief Liaison Officer/ Sha Tin District Office

Senior Executive Officer (District Council)/

Sha Tin District Office

Executive Assistant (District Council)5/

Sha Tin District Office

Executive Assistant (District Council)7/

Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr WONG Chi-ming

Ms Eliza Lai-yi WONG

Ms Annie Wai-ling CHEUNG

Title

Council Member/

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong Limited

Professor/

The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care/

Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Research Associate/

The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care/

Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Absent

Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS,JP

Mr SIU Hin-hong

Mr TING Tsz-yuen

Title

DC Vice-Chairman (Application for leave of absence received)

DC Member (")

" (")

Action

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the second meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC) of this year.

Applications for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following members:

Mr Thomas PANG	Attending meetings / events held by organisations under the government in the Mainland
Mr SIU Hin-hong	Physical discomfort
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	Other reason

3. Members unanimously confirmed the applications for leave of absence submitted by the members above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10 January 2019

(EWC Minutes 1/2019)

4. Members unanimously confirmed the above meeting minutes.

Matters Arising

Responses of the Relevant Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

(Paper No. EW 3/2019)

5. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

Proposed Estimates under Expenditure Head 5 of 2019/2020

(Paper No. EW 4/2019)

6. The Chairman said the paper mentioned that the Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs recommended the EWC to apply to the Finance and General Affairs Committee for transferring \$40,000 from the Sha Tin District Council's reserves to the proposed estimates for organising an activity, the details of which could be referred to in the next discussion paper (Paper No. EW 5/2019). If members had any questions, please refer to Mr WONG Yue-hon, the convenor of the working group.

7. Members unanimously confirmed the above paper.

2019-2020 Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee

(Paper No. EW 5/2019)

8. The Chairman said that in order for the two working groups under the EWC, namely the Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs and the Working Group on Family and Women Affairs, to make preparation for activities as soon as possible, the 2019 work plans and related funding applications had been endorsed. She asked whether any members needed to declare their interest regarding any joint organiser in the work plans, including Silent Youth Power, Love in Society and Hong Kong Single Parents Association.

9. Mr LI Sai-wing declared that he held a substantive position at the joint organiser Love in Society.

10. The Chairman said that according to the usual practice, members holding substantive positions in the relevant organisations were allowed to attend the meeting after having declared their interests, but had no right to vote in respect of the related funding applications.

11. Mr LI Sai-wing asked where the extreme sports activities planned by the Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs would be held in Sha Tin District.

12. The Chairman asked Mr WONG Yue-hon, the convenor of the working group, to answer.

13. Mr WONG Yue-hon responded that the extreme sports activities held by the working group last year were held at Pai Tau Village Playground and were attended by teenagers who loved skateboarding and BMX cycling. The location of the venue was ideal. Apart from young people in the district, there were also youngsters from Korea and other regions participating in the event. The teaching sessions of the event also allowed young people and local communities

to learn more about BMX bikes and skateboarding which would soon become an Olympic sports game. He opined that extreme sports deserved to be continually promoted. He also showed photos of last year's event and introduced the contents of the event and related arrangements.

14. Members unanimously confirmed the above paper.

Draft Study Report on the Promotion and Implementation of Medication Therapy Management in the Sha Tin District Submitted by the Working Group on Age-friendly Community
(Paper No. EW 6/2019)

15. Ms Eliza WONG, Professor of the research institute the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong briefly introduced the contents of the paper.

16. The Chairman agreed to let Ms Scarlett PONG, the convenor of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community to supplement information on the contents of the paper.

17. Ms Scarlett PONG gave supplementary information as consolidated as follows:

- (a) she thanked the research institute for agreeing to substantially increase the number of research samples. In addition to the elderly as the major study targets, primary and secondary school students were also involved, making the report more comprehensive;
- (b) the elderly of the senior services centres participating in the scheme would promote the knowledge they learned from the correct medication education talks to the students in the form of drama;
- (c) for senior citizens and primary and secondary school students who had become Medication Safety Ambassadors, they were required to explain medical therapy management (MTM) information to at least one elderly person in order to obtain the certificate, and the participating secondary school volunteers were required to go to the communities to actively assist the elderly; and
- (d) the elderly and primary and secondary school students could learn about the concept of age-friendly community advocated by the World Health Organization.

18. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) on the issue of medication safety knowledge, even if the elderly learned the relevant knowledge at the activity, the proportion of the questions they answered correctly after the activity was lower than before. Therefore, he would like to know whether the set questions were too difficult;
- (b) primary school students accounted for the majority in the proportion of primary and secondary school students participating in the scheme. He opined that the data of the two groups for comparison to each other could only be used as a reference;

- (c) regarding the evaluation of the content of the scheme by primary school students, he asked whether the information dispatched to primary school students was specially prepared for them;
- (d) whether there were any differences in the statistical results due to the two genders of primary and secondary school students;
- (e) he proposed that the scope of study on the use of medication for secondary school students might include psychiatric medicines in the future; and
- (f) he wanted to know what information the Medication Safety Ambassadors received during the training process. In addition, he asked whether the institute had produced leaflets on MTM and also guidelines on how to communicate the message to the elderly and on training the ambassadors. This would help the community to promote relevant knowledge and serve as a reference for similar studies in the future.

19. The views of Mr PUN Kwok-shan were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether each and every elder person would be provided with services under the concept of community pharmacists;
- (b) he noted that the proportion of elderly people who forgot to take medication was high, and asked whether the concerned study had considered the factor of dementia separately; and
- (c) many elderly people bought medicines at their own expense, but they were not well aware of the side effects of the medicines. He asked how the elderly could clearly understand the side effects of the medicines.

20. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

- (a) he asked what advice on MTM could be given to the elderly in the district and how many elderly centres had been invited to participate in the scheme;
- (b) he was concerned about the dementia conditions of the elderly and hoped that the study could research deeper into this aspect;
- (c) he would like to know why the ratio of elderly people getting the right answers to most questions about medication safety knowledge was lower than that before the activity;
- (d) since primary school students accounted for the majority of participants in the scheme, the data of the two groups of primary and secondary school students should be compared separately; and
- (e) in the questionnaire on daily medication habits, he opined that Question 1 (If you feel physical discomfort, and a friend gives you medicines, would you take it?) should explain what the symptoms of discomfort were and indicate what the medicines were.

21. The views of Mr Rick HUI were summarised below:

- (a) he asked about the content of training for the Medication Safety Ambassadors, including the training process, the time required, the qualifications of the participants, how to ensure the accuracy of the information conveyed by the ambassadors, and the continuity of knowledge they grasped;
- (b) he opined that some questions that participants were required to answer, whether the answer was yes or no, had no specific meaning, such as Question 1 in the daily medication safety questionnaire; and
- (c) he was concerned about and asked how to deal with the problem of medication safety of reclusive elderly people. He also suggested that health care institutions inform the contact person of the patient of the risk of taking excessive amount of related medicines and the precautions when prescribing high risk medicines if taken excessively.

22. Mr NG Kam-hung pointed out that many of the older elderly were unable to distinguish between different medicines or follow the medication instructions, and some of them lacked the care by family members. He also shared cases that some elderly people received different treatments in a short period of time, but they did not know whether they could take several medicines at the same time. He hoped that difficulties encountered by the elderly in taking medication would receive attention.

23. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) she opined that under the trend of “Ageing in Place”, MTM for the elderly and the community pharmacist scheme were worth promoting, and asked the research institute what advice they had on the policy; and
- (b) the report indicated that secondary school students had a low level of participation in the scheme. She asked how the awareness of adolescents could be raised, and how the working group would further educate the elderly and the public on MTM in the future.

24. Ms Eliza WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in respect of medication safety knowledge, the performance of the elderly after the activity was worse than before or showed no significant difference. After analysis, this was a statistical random error;
- (b) she agreed that the number of questionnaires collected from secondary school students in the study was small and therefore its statistical value was not high. Different from the presentation, the detailed report had listed out statistical data of questionnaires from primary and secondary school students separately;
- (c) she said that further analysis would be made to study whether different conditions, such as gender, physical condition and cognitive ability would result in differences in the difficulty of taking medication for the elderly;

- (d) the elderly had a poor awareness of the side effects of medicines, and received limited assistance from hospitals or community services. In this respect, community pharmacists could make up the shortcomings. She added that her research institute was now working with the Hospital Authority. In addition to the QR Code printed on the prescription form for patients to download information on the side effects of the medicines, a separate leaflet describing the side effects of high risk medicines was available for nurses to explain to discharged patients. Furthermore, the relevant information leaflet contained contact details to facilitate follow-up and enquiries by patients or their family members; and
- (e) studies had shown that the situation of reclusive elderly people not following the instructions on taking medicines was 60% worse 10 years ago in comparison with the recent period.

25. Ms Scarlett PONG gave supplementary information as consolidated as follows:

- (a) the number of secondary school students participating in the scheme was relatively small compared to that of primary school students. They provided correct medication knowledge for live-alone elderly people on a voluntary basis. In addition, she said that primary school students in higher grades were more effective than those in lower grades in receiving knowledge of MTM;
- (b) the scheme concerned had invited 11 elderly centres in the district to participate, 8 of which joined the activity. She said the scheme disseminated medication knowledge to students and the elderly through dramas and talks. The elderly were more active in participation and in raising questions. The talks covered medicine labelling, medication knowledge, positive attitude of medication, and correct methods of storing medicines. Leaflets were also distributed to the elderly and elderly centres for reference or educational purposes. As for follow-up work in the future, it would depend on available resources. It was hoped that a press conference would be held to publicise the results of the scheme and the scheme booklets would be distributed to DC Members;
- (c) community pharmacists could play the role of the gatekeeper in MTM and non-communicable diseases, and could also explain the side effects of medicines to patients. She said that if there was an outreach service scheme for pharmacists to visit the reclusive elderly, it would help solve their medication problems; and
- (d) she reiterated that excessive use of any medicines, even the common prescription medicines, was dangerous, and therefore, medicines should not be taken indiscriminately.

26. The Chairman suggested that if studies on the reclusive elderly would be conducted in the future, relevant information could be obtained from NGOs and the Social Welfare Department and the scheme could be promoted through the elderly neighbourhood centres.

27. Ms Eliza WONG added that since many students had allergies, when designing the questionnaire questions, it was hoped to convey a clear message that whether it was a prescription or over-the-counter medicine, a doctor or pharmacist should be consulted before taking it.

28. Members noted the above paper.

Motion

Motion by Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick on Improving the Administration of the “Caring and Sharing Scheme”

(Paper No. EW 7/2019)

29. Mr Rick HUI said that the preparation by the Government was insufficient, the scheme application forms were in short supply, and the requirements for supporting documents and postage were changing, and the complexity of application eligibility had deterred some people from applying due to worries about taking legal risks. He proposed the following motion:

“The administration of the Caring and Sharing Scheme is chaotic. The Sha Tin District Council urges the Government to follow up on the following procedures: First, set up an online application progress checking system for members of the public to check the progress of their applications, including indicating whether the Government has received their application forms, whether it is necessary to supplement further information, and whether payment has been approved. Second, set up a re-submission period after the application deadline for members of the public to re-submit their application forms, if it is indicated that their application forms have not been received due to various reasons, e.g. the form is lost or lost in the mail. Third, leniently handle applications with incorrectly submitted personal information.”

Mr Billy CHAN seconded the motion.

30. Mr WONG Yue-hon agreed with the general direction of the motion, but opined that the administrative procedures of the Government took time and it might not be possible to set up an online checking system in a short period of time. The Government should improve the “handout” arrangement in the future so that members of the public could check their personal tax records and other information online to ensure that the submitted information was correct.

31. The views of Ms Iris WONG were summarised below:

- (a) it was not very feasible to establish an online checking system at this stage, but in the future a system compatible with the new smart identity card could be established to simplify the “handout” procedures;
- (b) due to the time required to process a large number of applications, she said that many members of the public had not received the SMS confirmation acknowledging the receipt of their application. They might repeat sending the application because they were worried about losing the application form, which would increase the administrative burden of the Government; and
- (c) regarding information incorrectly submitted by members of the public, for example, the tax and property declarations in the application form, she hoped that the Government should confirm the information before handling it if there was any doubt.

32. The views of Mr YAU Man-chun were summarised below:

- (a) he said that although he had notified the Working Family Allowance Office (WFAO) of the number of application forms required in advance, the quantity of application forms received was still seriously insufficient to meet the needs of the residents of his constituency. He asked whether DC Members should be reimbursed by the Government for the expenses for printing the forms on their own; and
- (b) he reflected that many members of the public were worried whether they would be held accountable for incorrectly submitted information. Even though the proposed online checking system might not be implemented in the present scheme, he still supported the motion and hoped that the Government could learn the lesson and improve its administrative arrangements in the future.

33. Mr Michael YUNG pointed out that the arrangements for the present scheme were very confusing compared to the “handout” arrangements a few years ago. Apart from the insufficient quantity of printed application forms, the design of the questions in the form was complicated, such as the bank account number and the declaration options of the eligibility of the applicant, which made it easy to fill in wrongly for those members of the public who were not sure about their personal tax status. He opined that the Government’s subsequent waiver of address proof submitted by members of the public was just an effort to save time for verifying supporting documents. Hence, he expressed support for the motion.

34. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised below:

- (a) the hotline set up by the WFAO had no one answering the calls for a long time, and the staff member who came to his district council member office to collect the completed application forms did not count the number of forms;
- (b) the Government had not clearly informed members of the public that apart from providing a bank account, they could also receive the allowance through cash cheques; and
- (c) most of the general public did not have a complete idea about tax. The contents of the form were complicated and difficult for them. He hoped that the motion would be endorsed.

35. The views of Ms TUNG Kin-lei were summarised below:

- (a) the process of “handout” this time was a public nuisance. The Government should review its methods, actual operations and manpower arrangements;
- (b) since the personal data of the citizens could not be exchanged between government departments, the application approval had to be handled by several parties. She opined that the Government should set up an electronic database to collect personal data;
- (c) many citizens who had submitted the forms had not yet received the SMS acknowledging receipt of their application. Thus, they were doubtful whether they were eligible for the application; and

- (d) everyone should make more suggestions to improve the content of the motion so as to improve the Government's initiatives to benefit the people.

36. Mr Wilson LI pointed out that the administrative costs of the scheme were high. The Government had caused confusion because it had underestimated the quantity of application forms required, and reprinted only after many citizens had already got the form, resulting in waste. He hoped that everyone would support endorsing the motion.

37. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said that the scheme was not facilitating the public and putting the responsibility for receiving the allowance on the public. He opined that the Government should have followed the effective "handout" arrangements made last time. Hence, he expressed support for the motion.

38. Mr YIP Wing said that when the scheme began accepting application, the Government had not prepared enough application forms to be distributed to the public and DC Members, causing dissatisfaction from all parties. He believed that there were many reprinted forms left over now. If there would be another "handout" scheme, he hoped that the Government could learn from experience, implement electronic administrative measures and improve the relevant arrangements.

39. Mr LI Sai-wing pointed out that the content of the motion addressed too much on the progress of the application of the present scheme. He opined that suggestions should be put forth on the entire process of the allowance application, so that the Government could improve the future "handout" arrangements, such as by using eID to apply online.

40. The Chairman agreed that there were many inadequacies in the administrative arrangements for the scheme. However, the scheme had already been launched for some time. If the Government now implemented new measures, it was afraid that it would increase administrative expenditures, but without much results. At present, many members of the public were worried that the application documents were lost in the mail, but making enquiries was difficult. She hoped that the Government would consider extending the application deadline for the scheme or implement other arrangements to make the public feel comfortable. She asked whether Mr Rick HUI, the proposer of the motion, had any further comment.

41. Mr Rick HUI said that he did not know when the Government could issue the payments. As the scheme had already invested a lot of administrative resources, members should urge the Government to improve the current arrangements.

42. The Chairman asked whether members had any other comments on the content of the motion.

43. Mr PUN Kwok-shan opined that time should be given to everyone to consider whether there would be a more targeted motion based on the discussion just then. He suggested that the meeting should be adjourned for 5 minutes.

44. The Chairman adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes.

45. The meeting resumed. The Chairman put the motion to vote. Members unanimously endorsed the motion in paragraph 29.

46. The Chairman said that she received a provisional motion proposed by Mr WONG Yue-hon, and since she did not receive objection from members to deal with this provisional motion, it would be dealt with now.

47. Mr WONG Yue-hon proposed the following provisional motion:

“The application procedures of the Caring and Sharing Scheme are complicated, causing inconvenience and confusion to the public. As the Government will issue eID to all Hong Kong citizens in 2020, the Sha Tin District Council urges all departments to make good use of this electronic infrastructure to improve the ‘handout’ arrangements in the future:

1. With the electronic signature authorisation from members of the public, their personal data could be interconnected between government departments to enable them to check their personal data at ‘one-stop’ which could help protect their privacy and also avoid submission of incorrect information;
2. Set up an online and mobile platform to enable members of the public to use their eID to check whether they are eligible for different schemes and the amount of payment they can obtain, and simultaneously facilitate them to make applications, enquire about the progress and provide supplementary information, so that they do not have to fill in and submit the same information every time;

The above proposals cannot be implemented before 2020. However, since many members of the public have indicated that they have not received an SMS confirmation after submitting the information to apply for the Caring and Sharing Scheme, and they are wondering if the forms have been lost or lost in the mail, it is suggested that the Government exercise its discretion and give members of the public an opportunity to re-submit their applications for cases of lost application form or lost mail.”

Ms Iris WONG seconded the motion.

48. Mr WONG Yue-hon said that the application procedures for the Caring and Sharing Scheme were complicated and members of the public were not fully aware of their personal data. In order to prevent members of the public from filling in the wrong personal information when applying for similar schemes, he suggested that the Government set up an electronic database. With the authorisation from members of the public, various government departments could check their application eligibility, such as tax status. This would be an environmentally friendly solution simplifying the application procedures of various schemes. It would also eliminate the need for members of the public to submit personal data repeatedly and allow them to access the information on the Internet at any time.

49. Members unanimously confirmed the provisional motion in paragraph 47.

Information Items

Reports of Working Groups
(Paper No. EW 9/2019)

50. Members noted the above paper.

Information Papers

Number of Newly Arrived Mainland Children Admitted to Public Sector Primary and Secondary Schools in Sha Tin District Provided by the Education Bureau
(Paper No. EW 10/2019)

51. Mr WAI Hing-cheung asked, regarding the total number of newly arrived mainland children admitted to public sector primary and secondary schools in Sha Tin District stated in the paper, whether all of them had sought assistance from the Bureau, and whether their requests had been dealt with.

52. Ms CHIANG Lam, Senior School Development Officer (Shatin) 5 of the Education Bureau responded that the number referred to the number of applications received by the Bureau which had been dealt with.

53. Mr WAI Hing-cheung asked further whether the relevant documents provided by the Bureau to the EWC in the past fully reflected the actual situation of the applications received, and whether all cases had been satisfactorily solved.

54. Ms CHIANG Lam added that assistance had been provided for the applications for admission by the newly arrived mainland children as mentioned in the paper. However, the number of refusal by the applicants after being offered a school place was not provided in the paper.

55. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said he was worried that not all newly arrived mainland children who had sought assistance from the Bureau were arranged for school admission.

56. The Chairman asked Ms CHIANG Lam to respond and whether there was any special case to share.

57. Ms CHIANG Lam added that all applications had been dealt with unless the individual applicants were over-aged.

58. The Chairman suggested that if members wanted to know more about individual cases, they could approach the Bureau for enquiry.

59. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

60. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10:00 am on 9 May 2019 (Thursday).

61. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/35

March 2019