

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of  
the Sha Tin District Council in 2019**

**Date** : 21 March 2019 (Thursday)  
**Time** : 2:30 pm  
**Venue** : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room  
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Time of joining the meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Time of leaving the meeting</u></b>
Chairman : Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Vice-Chairman : Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	2:30 pm	4:45 pm
Members : Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	2:30 pm	4:03 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	3:22 pm	3:59 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	2:30 pm	4:12 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	2:51 pm	5:35 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	2:30 pm	4:03 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	2:30 pm	5:52 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	2:30 pm	3:57 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin, MH	2:30 pm	5:02 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	2:30 pm	3:22 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:30 pm	4:23 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	2:30 pm	5:18 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	2:30 pm	4:22 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH, JP	2:30 pm	3:43 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	2:30 pm	5:42 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	2:30 pm	5:30 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	2:57 pm	4:58 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	2:30 pm	3:57 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	2:30 pm	6:01 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	3:22 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr YIP Wing	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man	2:30 pm	6:40 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	2:30 pm	6:40 pm

Secretary : Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek      Senior Executive Officer (District Council) /  
Sha Tin District Office

**In Attendance**

Ms CHAN Yuen-man, Amy, JP  
Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon  
Mr WONG Shek-hay, Sebastian  
Mrs MAK LAU Wai-mun, Josephine  
Mr TAM Chun-hei, Terry

Ms TANG Ching-pan, Janet

Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson  
Mr YUEN Sze-chun

Mr YUEN Tat-yung, Zorro

Ms CHU Ha-fan, Jessica

Mr CHIU Hak-pui, Christopher

Ms HEUNG Ching-yee, Alice

Ms LO Lai-fong, Jackie

Ms CHAN Siu-kin, Ester

Mr LEUNG Cheuk-ming, Rico

Mr LAI Wing-chi, Derek

Mrs LEE CHEUNG Yat-wai, Gloria

Ms YIP Sau-mei, Joyce

Ms NGO Po-ling

Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy  
Ms NG Suk-min  
Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia  
Mr WONG Chun-wai, Edmund  
Mr HO Kin-nam, David

**In Attendance by Invitation**

Ms Carol YIP, JP  
Ms CHAN Yee-chi, Elaine

**Title**

District Officer (Sha Tin)  
Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1  
Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2  
District Commander (Shatin) / Hong Kong Police Force  
Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin District) /  
Hong Kong Police Force  
Officer in Charge (District Intelligence Section) (Shatin) /  
Hong Kong Police Force  
District Lands Officer / Sha Tin (Acting)  
Administration Assistant / Lands  
(District Lands Office/Shatin)  
Chief Engineer / North 2  
Civil Engineering and Development Department  
District Planning Officer (Sha Tin, Tai Po and North) /  
Planning Department  
Principal Transportation Officer (New Territories) 1 /  
Transport Department  
Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) /  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) /  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Sha Tin /  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
Senior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) /  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) /  
Social Welfare Department  
Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin) /  
Education Bureau  
Chief Manager / Management (Tai Po, North, Sha Tin)  
(Acting) / Housing Department  
Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office  
Senior Liaison Officer (East) / Sha Tin District Office  
Senior Liaison Officer (West) / Sha Tin District Office  
Senior Liaison Officer (3) / Sha Tin District Office  
Executive Officer I (District Council)1 /  
Sha Tin District Office

**Title**

Director of Social Welfare  
Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)2 /  
Social Welfare Department

### **Absent**

Mr MAK Yun-pui

(Application for leave of absence received)

### **Action**

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments and organisations to the second meeting of this year.

2. The Chairman informed all attendees that some members of the public, being present as observers, were taking photographs and making video and audio recordings.

3. The Chairman, on behalf of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC), welcomed the following representatives to the meeting: Ms Carol YIP, Director of Social Welfare; Mrs Gloria LEE, District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin); and Ms Elaine CHAN, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)<sup>2</sup> of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

### **Application for Leave of Absence**

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received an application for leave of absence in writing from the following Member:

Mr MAK Yun-pui

Official Commitment

5. The Council approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the Member above.

### **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24 January 2019**

(STDC Minutes 1/2019)

6. The Council unanimously confirmed the minutes.

### **Visit of Director of Social Welfare**

(Paper No. STDC 29/2019)

7. The Chairman welcomed the Director of Social Welfare Ms Carol YIP to the STDC and invited her to briefly introduce the work of the SWD.

8. Ms Carol YIP briefly introduced the work of the SWD, with the following main points:

- (a) the total expenditure of the SWD continued to increase in the past decade, with the increase rate of the expenditure in 2018-19 exceeding those of the previous years. Social welfare expenses accounting for 19.1% of the estimated recurrent government expenditure exceeded medical expenses. Social security accounted for nearly 70% of social welfare expenses, followed by services for the elderly;
- (b) means test thresholds of social security schemes differed according to their different objectives, among which the financial assessment of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme was the most stringent, followed by the Normal Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and the Higher OALA which was implemented last year. Means test was not required

for the Old Age Allowance (OAA), commonly called the “fruit grant”, and the Disability Allowance (DA);

- (c) she said that, in order to provide further convenience for members of the public who chose to relocate to the Guangdong Province or the Fujian Province for retirement, the Policy Address had announced the new social security measure to extend the OALA to the 2 provinces and the special one-off arrangement to exempt the application requirement of 1 year’s continuous residence in Hong Kong. The Budget had also announced the provision of an extra allowance to recipients of social security payments, equal to 1 month of the standard rate CSSA payments or allowance payments of OAA, OALA or DA. The additional expenditure was \$3.8 billion approximately. Around 1.32 million people would benefit from the above measure. Also, a one-off grant of \$2,500 would be provided for eligible students from child care centres, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools who were receiving CSSA in the 2019/20 academic year, so as to ease parents’ pressure in dealing with expenses at the start of the new school year;
- (d) the new measures of services for the elderly accorded priority to the provision of home care and community care, providing an additional 2 000 service places of “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services”, as well as day care services and training for the elderly in need at qualified Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs). The total number of vouchers provided by the “Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly” would be increased to 7 000. To relieve the stress of carers, the Government would increase the number of residential respite places for the elderly in all RCHEs and purchase an additional 5 000 EA1 places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme. Through devoting more resources to increasing the supply of private RCHE places and to improving the overall service standard, the Government aimed to reduce the number of elderly people on the Central Waiting List. Apart from the above, the SWD would reinstate the population-based planning ratios in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) in respect of future demands for services for the elderly and promote public awareness of dementia through “Dementia Friendly Community Campaign”, a territory-wide public education campaign. Around 8 000 people had registered as “Dementia Friends” half a year after its implementation, exceeding expectations;
- (e) the SWD launched the \$1-billion “Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care” (“I&T Fund”) last December to subsidise elderly and rehabilitation service units in the use of innovative and technological products so as to help the elderly or persons with disabilities in need. Besides, professionals such as doctors, social workers, speech therapists and physiotherapists would provide services for patients directly at private RCHEs under the “Visiting Medical Practitioner Service for Residential Care Homes” and the “Pilot Scheme on Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the Elderly”, so as to promote their well-being and to care for their social and rehabilitation needs;
- (f) established in June 2017, the “Working Group on the Review of Ordinances and

Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes” was expected to complete its work in the middle of this year. The working group would submit its report to the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) for its consideration. The Government would study the report and consult the industry and stakeholders on specific proposed amendments. In order to improve the service quality of residential care homes, the SWD had launched a 5-year scheme in phases besides the above outreach services to provide full subsidies for home managers, health workers and care workers of RCHEs and Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (RCHDs) to enrol in Qualifications Framework-based training courses. The SWD would also subsidise private RCHEs to take part in accreditation schemes, conduct consultancy studies, etc.;

- (g) “SWD Elderly Information Website” and “SWD Information Website for RCHDs” were set up to provide the public with easy access to the service information on all RCHEs and RCHDs in the territory and to enhance their service transparency. Equipped with a search function, the websites provided a wide range of information on RCHEs and RCHDs, including licence / certificate of exemption, services, fees, staffing, facilities, service quality (including conviction records and warning records) and whether the homes had joined accreditation schemes or “Service Quality Group” Scheme, for the public’s comparison of the services of different homes and for their selection of a suitable one;
- (h) the new measures of the Policy Address included regularising the “On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services”, increasing the number of service places of the said services, strengthening the establishment of speech therapists and social workers and identifying young children with special needs early on to provide intervention services. She added that the SWD and the Education Bureau were exploring ways to provide more appropriate bridging and support services for children with special needs when they proceeded to Primary One;
- (i) the target groups of the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMWs), i.e. ex-mentally ill persons and carers, would be expanded to include secondary school students with mental health needs. She said that the service scope of home-based care services for persons with disabilities would be expanded and transport support for the services would be enhanced. There would be a total of 21 District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, after the addition of the 5 new centres. After the addition to strengthen services for persons with autism and their family members, there would be a total of 5 Support Centres for Persons with Autism;
- (j) the service models of sheltered workshops and vocational training were being explored. Service quotas of different rehabilitation services were increasing yearly. The SWD was also strengthening speech therapy services for the elderly, the disabled and children in need;
- (k) to provide reliable and affordable trust services for the parents of children with special needs, where the Director of Social Welfare Incorporated would act as the trustee to ensure that the assets of deceased parents would be used, in

accordance with the parents' wishes, for meeting the long-term daily needs of their children. Besides, Medical Social Workers of the Hospital Authority (HA) would receive more professional support;

- (l) regarding family and child welfare services, the SWD would strengthen its childcare services. The SWD would also launch a three-year pilot scheme that provided social work services in phases for a total of about 150 000 pre-school children and their families in more than 700 subsidised/aided child care centres, kindergartens and kindergarten-cum-childcare centres in Hong Kong for early identification of and provision of assistance to pre-school children and their families with welfare needs. She said that the SWD was going to set up 5 specialised co-parenting support centres operated by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to strengthen co-parenting support for divorced/separated parents and their children. Besides, in order to address the welfare needs of ethnic minorities, dedicated outreach teams would approach needy ethnic minority families and assist in their access to mainstream welfare services. The SWD would also commission NGOs to set up dedicated teams to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence in ethnic minorities and encourage victims to seek help through public education activities. Additional funding would also be provided for Special Child Care Centres and Early Education and Training Centres to support pre-school ethnic minority children with special needs;
- (m) she said that the Government, out of its concerns for the mental well-being and the academic pressure of teenagers, announced in the Budget the implementation of the measure of “two school social workers for each school” starting from the 2019/20 school year, with the purpose of strengthening school social work services of secondary schools and enhancing teenagers' mental health and stress resilience. The SWD also subsidised the fees for After School Care Programme (ASCP) for children aged 6 to 12 from families in financial difficulties through the “Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the ASCP”. The service hours of ASCP centres would also be extended during evenings of weekdays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. The pilot scheme launched by the Community Care Fund (CCF) further relaxed the household income limit and increased the fee-waiving subsidy places for low-income families of the said fee-waiving subsidy scheme. In addition, the SWD had set up 5 Cyber Youth Support Teams since last December to proactively approach at-risk and hidden youths. The ceiling of direct cash assistance and the quota of the District Support Scheme for Children and Youth Development had been increased since 2018-19, benefitting more children and teenagers;
- (n) a 4-year pilot project providing Wi-Fi service would be launched in the fourth quarter this year to provide Wi-Fi service to service units operated by subvented organisations under the SWD so as to support the use of technology products in social welfare service units to improve services; and
- (o) she thanked all Members for their support for the “Dementia Friendly Community Campaign” and the many suggestions they provided at the meeting of the District Welfare Planning Committee in February this year. She also greatly appreciated the mentioning of the activities of the Job Tasting

Programme in Social Welfare Care Services, which could attract teenagers to the line of work by introducing it to them and subsequently refresh the industry and promote the use of IT facilities. She hoped that the activity would continue to be held. Besides, she gave recognition to the community neighbourhood care projects held in the districts, as many large-scale property management companies in the territory had taken part in the “Support for Carers Project”. The activity helped raise the awareness of security guards to identify, care for and assist elderly tenants that were single, patients of dementia or without family support when necessary.

9. The Chairman thanked Ms Carol YIP for giving a brief introduction to the work of the SWD, and invited Members to express their views.

10. The views of Mr WONG Yue-hon were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that the construction and location of welfare facilities should adapt to the changes in population distribution. For example, the residents of Lek Yuen Estate, Pai Tau Village and Sheung Wo Che Tsuen were not arranged to receive service from the nearby Social Security Field Unit (SSFU) at Sha Tin Government Offices, but the farther office in Yu Chui Shopping Centre instead. Therefore, he hoped that the SWD could review the demarcation of district boundaries in the future when relevant facilities were being added, so as to provide greater convenience to residents;
- (b) many social welfare organisations faced the problem of manpower shortage. Due to the job nature, young people were not attracted to join the field and services were therefore affected. He asked the SWD if it would consider importing labour to fill job vacancies; and
- (c) even though the Government invested resources to support ex-mentally ill persons, such persons could refuse to receive assistance and their actions could cause great distress to their neighbours. He asked how the SWD would handle the situation.

11. Mr Victor LEUNG opined that services for the elderly were insufficient, even though he agreed with the SWD’s policy direction of the ageing-in-place scheme. He pointed out that, after the relocation of the social welfare organisation, Shatin Rhenish Neighbourhood Elderly Centre, from City One Shatin to Shui Chuen O Estate, the services provided by the new organisation, Sheen Hok Charitable Foundation Kwan Shon Hing Yu Chui Neighbourhood Elderly Centre of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK Neighbourhood Elderly Centre), could not meet the needs of the residents of City One Shatin. Due to resources and manpower limitations, the ELCHK Neighbourhood Elderly Centre had shorter service hours and could not provide the level of service or hold as many activities for the elderly as before, causing great discontent among the elderly residents of City One Shatin. He hoped that the issue would be seriously considered and would receive a response.

12. The views of Ms LAM Chung-yan were summarised below:

- (a) she pointed out that a number of elderly centres of different organisations, such

as the centre in Hin Keng, were temporarily closed without prior notice to residents for renovation works because of obsolete equipment. This caused inconvenience to residents obtaining community services through the elderly centres, such as dental care services under the CCF;

- (b) she opined that community services were seldom designed for retired men and the users of the service provided by the elderly centres and the elderly volunteers were mainly women. Many retired men spent their time playing chess or chatting in public open spaces and might easily become the targets of money lenders. She opined that the SWD should give more attention to retired men in its future planning of social services; and
- (c) due to insufficient child care services in the district, many parents relied on grandparents for child care. She thought that child care resources should be regularised to support grandparents, especially when they were looking after infants under 2 years old.

13. The views of Mr WONG Ka-wing were summarised below:

- (a) the advances of medical technology increased not only life expectancy, but medical needs as well. He suggested that the SWD allocate more resources to elderly centres in communities for inviting community members and encouraging retired elderly to organise interest groups, disseminate health information and healthy eating habits, etc. This could foster a spirit of mutual support in the community, promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent illnesses, thereby reducing the burden on public health care system; and
- (b) he suggested that the Government arrange for ex-mentally ill persons to live in particular public rental housing (PRH) buildings with facilities such as good sound insulation, so as to avoid excessive disturbance to the neighbours and facilitate social workers to provide suitable support services. Besides, according to his understanding, under the existing laws, social welfare organisations could not interfere with cases of persons who were suspected to be mentally ill and refused to seek help. It was necessary to study if relevant laws should be amended.

14. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that, instead of ageing in place, the majority of the elderly and their family members chose to wait for a place in the RCHEs; however, the waiting time was very long. He asked if the SWD could expeditiously increase the number of places provided by NGOs within 8 to 10 years and effectively monitor private RCHEs to ensure improved service quality. In addition, he pointed out that although the Government's welfare expenditure increased yearly, there was no significant improvement in the development of services for the elderly to catch up with the needs of the public; and
- (b) a number of mentally ill patients living in PRH did not receive appropriate treatment or refused assistance from others; however, there was still no clear



policy on inter-departmental cooperation to solve the problem.

15. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:

- (a) he suggested lowering the age threshold of the OAA from 70 years old to 65 years old, so that the living expenses of members of the public ineligible for the Normal OALA or the Higher OALA could be subsidised by other government allowances;
- (b) a number of the elderly people who were waiting for subsidised RCHE places instead of private ones passed away before arrangements could be made for them. He opined that the increase in the number of subsidised RCHE places was utterly inadequate and failed to meet public demand;
- (c) due to differences in culture and living habits, disputes between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law were common. He mentioned a case where an applicant could not obtain a place at the Family Crisis Support Centre due to a shortage of accommodation places, which made improving family relationships difficult; and
- (d) he urged the SWD to intervene if mentally ill patients were causing disturbances to neighbours and to help patients who had not yet received treatment to seek medical attention.

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

- (a) he quoted Ms Carol YIP as previously saying that she discouraged the elderly from retiring in the Mainland, which was inconsistent with the opinion of Dr LAW Chi-kwong, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, stated during his meeting with Members that Hong Kong citizens living in the Guangdong Province needed not return to the territory for their retirement. The two-way flow of the elderly populations between the two regions was in line with the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. He opined that the planning study on services for the elderly should be forward looking and in line with the actual expectations of the elderly. He asked about the number of elderly people ineligible for the OALA due to the residence requirement; and
- (b) he pointed out that the elderly population in the district was continuously on the rise and asked about the approximate area of land that should be used for welfare facilities.

17. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) the number of Community Care Service Vouchers for the Elderly was limited. He asked how long the elderly and carers had to wait before they could benefit from the scheme;
- (b) the recipients of the Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families were not eligible for the OALA. He opined that this was

not a measure that benefitted members of the public;

- (c) the number of training places of the “Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Elderly Care” was very limited. He asked if the SWD would put more measures in place to help those in need;
- (d) the Budget mentioned that the Government would allocate \$20 billion to purchase properties for welfare facilities. He hoped that the Government could also make good use of industrial buildings and vacant plots of land for welfare uses;
- (e) the Sha Tin District had a population of almost 700 000. However, the Stewards Take Your Way Clubhouse was the only ICCMW designed for mentally ill patients and ex-mentally ill persons, showing a lack of welfare resources. He pointed out that timely intervention by social workers was crucial to identifying persons with underlying mental illnesses and helping patients re-integrate into the community;
- (f) due to a shortage of resources, such as manpower, some frontline service units had stopped processing application for Elderly Dental Assistance Expanded Programme under the CCF, or elderly people had to wait for 3 months before receiving subsidised services. He asked the Government how it would ensure that organisations maintained regular services;
- (g) he asked the SWD if its Task Force for Review on Enhancement of Lump Sum Grant Subvention System had come up with any review proposal; and
- (h) he hoped that the SWD could lower the age threshold of the OAA from 70 years old to 65 years old to benefit more members of the public.

18. The views of Mr CHENG Tsuk-man were summarised below:

- (a) he mentioned a case where an elderly person, though under the care of a foreign domestic helper, would scream in the middle of the night and disturb the neighbours. However, his children living nearby refused intervention from social welfare organisations. He asked the SWD how the case should be handled; and
- (b) he pointed out that the hygiene condition of a residential flat was unsatisfactory and the unit became the breeding ground for flies and mosquitoes, causing great distress to the neighbours. Although help from the SWD had been sought, the problem remained unsolved. He hoped there was a way to help the residents.

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

- (a) about 170 000 babies were born in the territory from 2015 to 2018. However, only around 30 000 child care service places were provided, which accounted for less than 20% of the total number of births. She pointed out that there was a keen demand for child care services among working parents. Nonetheless,

there was only 1 child care centre in Tai Wai in the district so far, providing around 100 places. Even though a new child care centre would soon commence operation in Shek Mun, there was still a lack of child care services in areas such as Ma On Shan. She estimated that around a few hundred children were competing for 1 child care place in the district at present and the demand for child care services would inevitably increase further with the development of new communities in Fo Tan and Ma On Shan;

- (b) she then pointed out that, according to the HKPSG, that the Legislative Council (LegCo) studied to revise last December, 101 child care places per 200 000 persons should be provided. In other words, the number of child care places for the Sha Tin District was still lacking. She asked the SWD about its short- and medium- to long-term measures regarding the shortage of public child care services in the district; and
- (c) she said that it was extremely difficult for parents to seek emergency occasional child care services in the district and that there were no 24-hour neighbourhood support child care services. She hoped that the SWD could coordinate different departments in expanding child care services and suggested that the Housing Department use some of the vacant PRH flats on the lower floors as child care centres.

20. The views of Mr WONG Hok-lai were summarised below:

- (a) living in cramped conditions, citizens were under tremendous stress. He pointed out that nuisances caused by individual tenants were unavoidable in a community. The problem might not be resolved even with police intervention. He suggested that the SWD strengthen outreaching community services for the mentally ill; and
- (b) the SWD should strengthen the support for disabled persons and their carers. He said that some disabled persons could not take care of themselves on a daily basis even after they came of age, and he hoped that the Government could provide more spaces for relevant hostels, day care services, sheltered workshops and vocational training centres.

21. The views of Mr Sunny CHIU were summarised below:

- (a) Mr CHEUNG Kin-chung, Matthew, Chief Secretary for Administration pointed out that lowering the age threshold of elderly CSSA to 65 years old would put it on par with the thresholds of other subsidies. He therefore urged the SWD to expeditiously lower the age threshold of the OAA from 70 years old to 65 years old;
- (b) although there was a huge demand for the services of elderly centres in the district, the number of elderly centres was insufficient. For example, Pok Hong Estate, Jat Min Chuen and Sha Kok Estate all relied on the services of TWGHs Wilson T.S. Wang District Elderly Community Centre. With such a keen demand, the quota of the meal delivery service that many of the stay-at-home

elderly needed was often full before long;

- (c) he pointed out that the problem of manpower shortage at elderly centres resulted in the elderly not being able to receive timely dental care services under the CCF and often having to wait for 3 to 6 months;
- (d) he was against the suggestion of mutual recognition of social work professional qualifications among the social welfare sectors of Hong Kong, Macao and the Mainland mentioned in the “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”. He opined that the social workers in the territory were regulated by the Social Workers Registration Board and the design and contents of training courses were different from those of the Mainland and Macao. There was no foundation for mutual recognition of qualifications and it would be difficult to ensure service quality; and
- (e) he opined that the support for mental rehabilitation and the community education concerned had yet to be strengthened. On the occasion that a person with mental health issues did not seek help and did not receive timely intervention from social workers, it could result in a violent incident.

22. The views of Mr CHIU Man-leong were summarised below:

- (a) Ma On Shan had a population of almost 200 000, accounting for around one-third of the population in Sha Tin; however, no SSFU had been set up in Ma On Shan. Residents of Ma On Shan had to travel by public transportation to the SSFU in Yu Chui Court for services;
- (b) ELCHK, Ma On Shan District Elderly Community Centre in Kam Tai Court would be closed for 6 months for renovation works, during which services for the elderly living in Ma On Shan would be insufficient. He hoped that the SWD would request subsidised social welfare organisations to make transitional arrangements during the period so as to avoid affecting social services; and
- (c) many parents in the territory, including those in the middle class, were working parents. He suggested that the territory follow the example of Singapore and strengthen child day care services for children aged 2 to 6, so as to encourage childbirth and release more labour force to the market.

23. The views of Mr SIU Hin-hong were summarised below:

- (a) experienced social workers relayed to him that the work pattern of the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) of the SWD could not alert the SWD to potential welfare needs. He opined that the IFSCs could be converted to house elderly facilities if the usage of the centres was not high;
- (b) he asked the SWD about ways to regulate NGOs that provided social services, including their modes of operation, remuneration systems and resources utilisation for providing services; and

- (c) he opined that it was very difficult to promote Visiting Medical Practitioner Service given the shortage of medical practitioners in the territory and that it was relatively easier to develop the services of community nurses.

24. Mr Tiger WONG urged more attention to the need for the stay-at-home elderly to get in touch with the community. He opined that, besides the setting up of the “I&T Fund” to subsidise elderly and rehabilitation units to procure technology products, the SWD should also secure resources for constructing relevant facilities in community buildings devoid of barrier-free access. This would allow the elderly easy access to seek services and participate in community activities.

25. The views of Ms CHAN Man-kuen were summarised below:

- (a) she pointed out that the SWD had to handle a huge volume of cases and thanked the SWD’s frontline staff of the district for their hard work;
- (b) under the existing mechanism, it was difficult to handle the mentally ill in the community who did not seek assistance, and therefore the number of problematic cases continued to increase. She was concerned that the affected residents might also develop mental health problems if the existing situation saw no improvement. She hoped that the SWD could adjust the mechanism to solve the problem;
- (c) she urged the SWD to encourage employment for housewives and increase labour force by investing more resources in providing them with vocational training, such as elderly care; and
- (d) child care services be strengthened to lessen the burden of working parents.

26. The views of Ms Scarlett PONG were summarised below:

- (a) a working group of the STDC released the study report of 2 community projects, which focused on the health conditions of residents and the safety issue regarding the use of medication among the elderly in the district. The report showed that many elderly people were suffering from multiple illnesses and cognitive impairments and had to receive treatments from time to time and take multiple medications. However, most of them did not have the proper knowledge of the use of medication. She therefore opined that the “Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme” should cover pharmacist services and there should be 1 pharmacist per RCHE of a certain scale to serve the elderly and to properly manage medication;
- (b) 24-hour emergency occasional child care services were equally important for middle-class families to tackle unexpected occasions;
- (c) few middle-class retired men participated in the activities of elderly centres, but they did not refrain from taking part in social services. She hoped that the SWD would promote social activities designed for retired men; and

- (d) she asked, if the trust assets that parents prepared for their children with special needs had run out, whether the SWD had reserves or other resources to ensure that people with special needs would continue to be cared for.

27. Mr Thomas PANG pointed out that, owing to the cooperation of various government departments back in 1995, Yan Oi Tong set up a Neighbourhood Elderly Centre in Sui Wo Court, which remained the only elderly service unit in Sui Wo Court. The centre previously rented the venue to his office for organising activities outside operating hours. However, the centre refused to do so over the past 2 to 3 years because the SWD had received complaints against the rental. He opined that the SWD should not change its policies as soon as individual complaints were received because such a change could hinder cooperation within the community. He opined that the SWD should consider arranging for social workers to counsel complainants with issues.

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

- (a) he thanked Mrs Gloria LEE for giving a written answer to his inquiry within 3 days;
- (b) currently, there were 5 IFSCs serving the public in the district. He pointed out that the population of Tai Wai was sizeable and the number of residents in the district would continue to increase due to successive completion of new housing estates. He hoped that the SWD could properly plan the community and set up facilities including IFSCs and child care centres in Tai Wai; and
- (c) live-alone elderly persons were not entirely incapable of caring for themselves, but they needed assistance such as meal delivery services and home cleaning services. He hoped that the SWD would carry out planning correspondingly.

29. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) the number of street sleepers had been on the rise in recent years. Some of them had been staying underneath bridges along Shing Mun River for years. He opined that the SWD should pay more attention to the street sleepers, or else they might develop mental health issues over time;
- (b) he noticed that many elderly men gathered to gamble or sang on the streets and women were the majority using elderly centres. He asked if the SWD had studied the relevant situation;
- (c) the middle class faced considerable stress of taking care of the elderly, but they were worried about the service quality of private RCHEs. He urged the SWD to improve the quality of private RCHEs and to handle the long-term shortage of RCHE places; and
- (d) the mentally ill resided in both private and public housing estates, causing distress to their neighbours and property management offices. He hoped the SWD would pay more attention to the issue.

30. The views of Mr Alvin LEE were summarised below:

- (a) the pace of establishing welfare facilities in Ma On Shan could not catch up with that of population increase in the area. He suggested that the SWD compete for land resources solely for welfare purposes so as to take care of social needs. For example, he opined that the temporary car park at On Chun Street in Ma On Shan should be developed expeditiously for providing facilities, such as an elderly centre and a child care centre;
- (b) he supported the Government's new measure to allocate \$20 billion for the purchase of properties for welfare facilities. He hoped that the SWD would carry out proper regulation and local consultation, and that newly-constructed welfare facilities in different districts should be allocated according to population distribution and the demographic structure; and
- (c) he hoped that the SWD could expeditiously promote the 1-billion "I&T Fund" and suggested that technology companies organise exhibitions at Sha Tin Town Hall, so that RCHEs could learn more about technology products.

31. Ms YUE Shin-man was aware of quite a few middle-aged "hidden" patients with mental illness living in Wo Che Estate who would cause noise nuisances and even harm others. The neighbours had been enduring the situation in silence. For example, a man in his 40s had been loitering in the community and affecting others ever since he stopped working at a sheltered workshop. She hoped that the SWD could provide more employment opportunities for mentally ill patients and provide leisure facilities for them to spend their time at.

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

- (a) he thanked Mrs Gloria LEE for her assistance in social services and hoped that the Government could invest more resources in social welfare items and in opening more RCHEs to provide services within a short term to address the ageing population;
- (b) there was a tendency of people developing dementia at a younger age. He hoped that the Government would invest more resources in this aspect to ease the burden on patients and their carers; and
- (c) the deteriorating quality of the speech therapy services provided by NGOs was related to the criterion of "the lowest bidder wins" that the SWD set for organisations participating in tender exercises. He hoped that the SWD would review the approach and strengthen support for students with special education needs. He also pointed out the demand for optometry services in society.

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

- (a) he pointed out that, given the abundant financial resources of the Government, the age threshold of the OAA should be lowered to 65 years old and the age thresholds of free public health care services should be standardised and lowered

from 75 years old to 65 years old; and

- (b) he opined that the Government should investigate the amount of basic living expenses that the elderly needed and use the findings as the calculation basis for adjusting subsidy amounts and assets limits.

34. The views of Mr LI Sai-wing were summarised below:

- (a) the welfare planning of the district was chaotic. The SWD did not put in place a comprehensive and official consultation mechanism or seek the opinions of stakeholders when launching social services. He asked if the SWD carried out formal consultation on the scheme to set up an ICCMW in Yiu On Estate;
- (b) he pointed out that the District Social Welfare Officer said at the briefing session on 7 March this year that the SWD already talked about the scheme and carried out consultation at the meeting of the Sha Tin District Management Committee (STDMC) in 2014, and that relevant papers had been submitted to the STDC. However, the meeting of the STDMC was only attended by the Chairman and the Vice-chairman of the STDC as well as the chairmen of all committees. He opined that it was not an official consultation mechanism and he had yet to receive a consultation proposal for the scheme by the SWD; and
- (c) he then pointed out that the SWD said at the briefing session that the scheme received no objection. However, he wrote a letter to the District Social Welfare Officer in 2014, mentioning the imbalance of ancillary welfare facilities and expressing a hope for the provision of other elderly facilities or a SSFU. He therefore opposed the setting up of an ICCMW in Yiu On Estate, and demanded that the SWD carry out consultation. He received a reply from the SWD 2 months later saying that there would be no consultation on the scheme. As the SWD's response did not reflect the truth, he demanded a reasonable explanation from the SWD or that the District Social Welfare Officer apologise publicly.

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

- (a) she was disappointed in the overall planning of welfare services in the district, as the SWD misallocated resources, worked behind closed doors and conducted inadequate consultation. There were only 2 SSFUs in the district with a population of over 600 000, so that many of the elderly had to travel long distances to SSFUs to apply for welfare services;
- (b) she demanded that the SWD make forward-looking planning in 2013 and to discuss with other departments the option of building welfare blocks on vacant school premises in Tai Wai and relocating the Shatin (South) IFSC and the SSFU to Tai Wai. However, the SWD did not follow up on the suggestion, leading to the lack of office space for a number of NGOs;
- (c) the SWD did not respect DC Members or residents in the process of setting up the 2 ICCMWs. She pointed out that the SWD, regarding the briefing session on 4 May 2018, wrote in April 2018 to notify Tai Wai's Mutual Aid Committees,



Owners' Corporations and residents of Mei Lam Estate to invite representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). However, she was not invited and unaware of the briefing session beforehand; and

- (d) she then pointed out that the District Social Welfare Officer reminded her to note the presence of the press and representatives of the EOC and to speak carefully when she was relaying her opinions to the District Social Welfare Officer. She asked if the SWD refused to listen to voices of opposition. Also, the residents submitted over 500 objection letters on that day, yet the SWD had not responded. She expressed anger and disappointment at how the SWD handled the matter.

36. The views of Mr LI Sai-hung were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked Mrs Gloria LEE as well as staff members of the IFSCs and the SSFU under the SWD for their years of service and their efforts to relieve people's hardships;
- (b) he pointed out that a number of women wished to join the labour market, but child care services were insufficient;
- (c) some middle-aged persons were in dire straits as they were incapacitated due to work injuries or illness. However, there was currently no CSSA for the unemployed. He hoped that the Government could review the policy; and
- (d) he pointed out that many elderly couples were financially independent. However, information on income and assets of the spouse was required for application for the OALA. It would be difficult for them to apply if their spouse refused to cooperate and declare their assets. He hoped that the SWD could improve the arrangement.

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

- (a) he thanked Mrs Gloria LEE and her team for their years of dedication to welfare services of the district;
- (b) Mr LI Sai-wing mentioned that the SWD had put forward a proposal to set up an ICCMW in Yiu On Estate at a District Management Committee meeting in 2014. He had read relevant papers of the meeting and opined that the description of the proposal was clear, but there was insufficient consultation. He cited the upcoming new facilities and community services in Yan On Estate Phase 2 as examples and pointed out that there were no welfare facilities in Yan On Estate Phase 1 at present, and the branch of a youth centre would be provided during expansion. He hoped that the SWD would take the initiative to contact residents and DC Members as early as possible to give a detailed account of the new welfare facilities in future so as to allay residents' concerns and misunderstanding; and
- (c) statistics revealed that the number of requests for assistance from patients with mood disorders was higher than that of mental patients. Medical services were

important to mental patients, while support given by related community facilities, for example an ICCMW, was equally important. He believed that the SWD would make good use of land for proper provision of welfare facilities and social inclusion services.

38. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) grassroot people were the main service target of the SWD and social welfare organisations. He pointed out that many of them had rather negative comments on the work attitude of the frontline staff of the SWD and non-government organisations. They often had an impression that the staff often deliberately made things difficult when approving their applications for subsidies or providing services. He hoped that the SWD would strengthen the training and monitoring of frontline staff so as to take better care of the feelings of members of the public; and
- (b) he was aware that welfare facilities and child care services were insufficient in the district. He suggested that the SWD consider providing welfare facilities which would meet the needs of the district, for example a child care centre, in the confirmed government complex in Tai Wai.

39. Ms Carol YIP gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that welfare services were people-oriented and agreed that frontline staff of the SWD and social welfare organisations should pay particular attention to their own attitude when providing service or handling applications, so as to take care of the feeling of members of the public. She thanked Members for recognising the SWD's effort and giving encouragement. She said she was aware that there was room for clarification and improvement in terms of consultation work and communication with different sectors. She discussed with her colleagues district affairs at their monthly meetings and would remind them to pay attention to and strengthen communication;
- (b) she noted that Members had given advice on how the Government could provide more welfare facilities, for example, by purchasing properties and altering industrial buildings, etc. She said the SWD would also do their utmost to identify suitable sites and actively study the development of welfare projects with other government departments, as well as exploring the feasibility of converting vacant non-residential units in public rental housing (PRH) estates or school premises. The construction of welfare facilities had to comply with relevant planning standards and there were certain requirements in terms of ventilation, lighting, ceiling height of the building, as well as transport facilities nearby. Some vacant sites were not suitable to be altered for welfare use due to different considerations, but the SWD would still actively consider Members' proposals;
- (c) she mentioned the development of different welfare projects in the district, as well as the additional service units provided in line with the completion of 3 new PRH estates. Projects in Shek Mun Estate Phase 2 included a day child care centre, a supported hostel for people with intellectual/physical disabilities, a

residential care home cum day care centre for the elderly, and the Ma On Shan SSFU which would be relocated there. 30 service places would be provided at the 4 small group homes in Chun Yeung Estate, Fo Tan. There would also be social welfare facilities including a day care centre for the elderly, a special child care centre, an early education and training centre, an integrated children and youth services centre (ICYSC) and an RCHE. Meanwhile, in Yan On Estate, a supported hostel for people with intellectual/physical disabilities, a special child care centre, an early education and training centre, an ICYSC, an RCHE and a day care centre for the elderly would be set up there;

- (d) she further pointed out that the SWD was considering the construction of a welfare facility complex at On Chun Street, Ma On Shan, for the provision of social welfare units of elderly, rehabilitation, family and special child care services. Furthermore, the SWD planned to set up a neighbourhood elderly centre and an aided standalone child care centre, and to relocate the Shatin (South) IFSC and SSFU in the government complex at Chik Fuk Street, Tai Wai, for the convenience of residents in the area;
- (e) as for the manpower shortage in community services and the difficulty in attracting young people to join the sector, the SWD would provide more subsidies to attract young people to join, support organisations to provide enrolled nurse training courses, and facilitate the launch of the programmes of Master in Physiotherapy and Master in Occupational Therapy of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Apart from expanding the local labour force, the SWD would also actively consider other means to overcome the severe challenge of manpower shortage in the social welfare sector;
- (f) regarding the disturbance caused by mental patients, she was aware of the public concern. Such cases were followed up by IFSCs of the SWD, and suitable services and assistance were also provided for such cases by ICCMW. Meanwhile, the SWD would also follow up such cases with other government departments, and there were quite a number of successful cases in which patients received treatment under assistance;
- (g) to provide more child care services was the highlight of the SWD's work. The department would look into the community needs from DC Members, and then identify and acquire appropriate sites to set up child care centres through a multi-pronged approach, so as to address the needs of residents of various districts;
- (h) she added that the child care centre in Shek Mun Estate Phase 2 would provide 100 full-day long hours child care service places for children aged below 3. Regarding the long-term development of child care services, the Government would take into account the recommendations put forward in the report of the "Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services" to draw up the planning ratio of government-subsidised places of child care services on the basis of population, and to improve the current qualified staff-to-child ratio of day child care centres. In addition, the professional and supporting manpower of "Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project" would be

increased to enhance the training of home-based child carers, and the incentive payment of home-based child carers would also be increased to enhance the quality of “Child Care Project”;

- (i) she said the regulation of residential care homes and the relevant law enforcement were the important tasks of the SWD. The “Licensing and Regulation Branch” was specifically set up on 2 May of 2017 by the SWD for licensing and regulatory work in respect of RCHes and RCHDs. A working group was also set up in June of the same year to follow up the review of the ordinances and Codes of Practice for Residential Care Homes, to study areas which needed improvement and feasible measures, and to propose concrete amendments. She also emphasised that the Licensing and Regulation Branch was implementing a range of improvement measures to strengthen regulation and law enforcement, as well as enhancing the quality of residential care home service;
- (j) she agreed that the places of Community Care Service Voucher and Residential Respite Service for the Elderly could not meet community needs, and therefore the SWD would increase resources in various aspects. The value of the Voucher ranged from over \$3,000 to over \$9,000, covering home care services provided by nurses, supporting service related to caring of the elderly, etc. The SWD would also keep increasing the supply of residential care places by various means, including purchasing an additional 5 000 EA1 places under the “Enhanced Bought Place Scheme” in the next five years, providing Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly valued \$14,000, and incorporating land sale conditions which required private developers to construct RCHes;
- (k) she clarified that the Government’s intention was to facilitate the Hong Kong elderly persons to retire to their hometowns. As such, elderly persons who lived on the Mainland (Guangdong and Fujian Provinces) were allowed to apply for and receive CSSA, OAA and Normal OALA. The SWD also purchased places of residential care homes on the Mainland for elderly persons who needed residential care service on the Mainland. She pointed out that recipients of OAA and Normal OALA were required to reside in Hong Kong for not less than 60 days per year. Meanwhile, under the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme, recipients of OAA were only required to reside in Guangdong/Fujian for not less than 60 days;
- (l) regarding the Review on Enhancement of Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, the SWD established a task force in November 2017, which was composed of representatives from 9 parties, including LegCo Members, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, management, staff, service users of NGOs, committees related to the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, independent members of the community, and representatives of the LWB and the SWD. The task force was now undertaking an overall review by covering 8 different areas, and the review was expected to be completed by mid-2020. The task force had uploaded all discussion papers and minutes of meetings onto the webpage of the SWD for public information. She mentioned that, as for the regulation of NGOs, such organisations were required to sign the “Funding and Service

Agreements” (FSAs) with the SWD to ensure that the use of Lump Sum Grant complied with the requirements and objectives listed in the FSAs, as well as the conditions in the “Lump Sum Grant Manual”; and

- (m) the SWD and the HA had jointly launched the “Dementia Community Support Scheme” to provide support services to elderly people with dementia and their carers. She said if parents had exhausted the trusts that they arranged for their children who had special needs, they could apply for CSSA, the social security support provided by the Government to members of the public who could not afford basic living expenses. As for schemes such as OAA, they served the purpose of subsidising part of the living expenses of the elderly, instead of covering all their expenses.

40. Mr LI Sai-wing pointed out that Ms Carol YIP had not responded to his question on why the SWD said in the briefing session on setting up an ICCMW in Yiu On Estate that no objection had been received.

41. The Chairman invited Ms Carol YIP to respond to Mr LI Sai-wing’s question.

42. Ms Carol YIP said she did not have any papers on hand for her to check the related records, but she reiterated her view that the SWD had to enhance the communication with local stakeholders regarding the provision of social welfare services.

43. The Chairman said the second round of speeches was not to be conducted for this item to avoid a prolonged meeting. He invited Mr Wilson LI to make the last speech, and if other Members had any follow-up questions, they might ask the SWD to give written responses after the meeting.

44. Ms Carol YIP said she had to attend another meeting later. If she had not fully responded to Members’ questions, the SWD would gladly give written responses in future.

45. Mr Wilson LI pointed out that he and Mr Billy CHAN had mentioned that the SWD could convert industrial buildings for the purpose of RCHE. He asked for the SWD’s response.

46. Ms Carol YIP said the SWD would continue to explore different ways to provide additional social welfare facilities. However, the site had to comply with certain planning and environmental requirements.

47. The Chairman thanked again the Director of Social Welfare and other representatives for the visit, and suggested Members keep expressing their views and having discussion on the SWD’s work at the meetings of the Education and Welfare Committee.

### **Discussion Items**

Draft Estimates of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) for 2019-2020  
(Paper No. STDC 14/2019)

48. The Chairman said that at its meeting on 14 March 2019, the Finance and General

Affairs Committee (FGAC) had endorsed that the “Draft Estimates of the Sha Tin District Council for 2019-2020” would be recommended to the STDC for consideration, while the actual amount of funding for the STDC for 2019-2020 had yet to be confirmed. After the Home Affairs Department (HAD) had confirmed the amount of funding for the STDC for 2019-2020, the proposed amendments to the draft estimates would be submitted to the STDC via the FGAC if necessary.

49. The Council unanimously endorsed the draft estimates of 11 Expenditure Heads as set out in the paper.

Duty Visit of the STDC to Zhaoqing  
(Paper No. STDC 15/2019)

50. The Chairman said that at its meeting on 14 March 2019, the FGAC had endorsed the proposal of duty visit of the STDC to Zhaoqing and recommended it to the STDC for approval.

51. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper.

52. Mr Derek YUEN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the Sha Tin District Office said that the Secretariat would send a letter to invite Members to participate in the duty visit upon the STDC’s endorsement of the paper.

53. The Chairman added that according to the paper of the duty visit proposal, all procurement and logistical arrangements (including transportation, accommodation, meals, etc.), would be procured and arranged by individual Members participating in the duty visit on their own, in accordance with the “Manual on the Use of Provision for Duty Visits Outside Hong Kong for Members of the DCs of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” (Manual), or, with the assistance of Members participating in the duty visit and entrusted by the delegation, jointly procured and arranged by the delegation in accordance with the Manual. Under the Manual, for procurement that valued over \$20,000 or might involve conflict of interests, Members were required to invite at least 3 quotations for comparison of price and service. As the duty visit would start on 15 April this year and the time for preparation was rather short, the Secretariat would assist the Working Group on Public Relations and Publicity (Working Group) in sending reply slips of participation of the duty visit to Members. Members who were interested in participating in the duty visit should return the completed reply slips to the Secretariat by noon on 25 March of this year, so as to allow the Secretariat to refer the matter to the Working Group for follow-up actions. Besides, he asked the proponent of the delegation, Mr James CHAN, to contact the units to be visited as soon as possible, to finalise the itinerary of the duty visit, and to finish the work including related procurement and logistical arrangements.

**Funding Applications**

Extension of Opening Hours of Community Halls in Sha Tin District  
(Paper No. STDC 16/2019)

54. The Chairman said that this funding application was about the STDC’s proposal to extend the opening hours of 13 community halls/centres in the district for the period between

April 2019 and February 2020. The District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC) and the FGAC had, at their meetings on 21 February and 14 March 2019 respectively, endorsed that the funding application would be recommended to the STDC for approval. As the amount of funding applied for exceeded \$1 million, approval had to be sought from the STDC via the FGAC upon recommendation by the DFMC.

55. The Council unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

Proposed District Free Entertainment Programmes from April 2019 to March 2020 Jointly Organised with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
(Paper No. STDC 17/2019)

56. The Chairman said that the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee (CSCDC) and the FGAC had, at their meetings on 28 February and 14 March 2019 respectively, endorsed that the funding application for district free entertainment programmes for the period between April 2019 and March 2020 to be organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) would be recommended to the STDC for approval. As the amount of funding applied for exceeded \$1 million, approval had to be sought from the STDC via the FGAC upon recommendation by the CSCDC.

57. The Council unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

Proposed Recreation and Sports Activities from April 2019 to March 2020 Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Sha Tin District  
(Paper No. STDC 18/2019)

58. The Chairman said that the CSCDC and the FGAC had, at their meetings on 28 February and 14 March 2018 respectively, endorsed that the funding application concerning the organisation of recreation and sports activities in the Sha Tin District for the period between April 2019 and March 2020 by the LCSD would be commended to the STDC for approval. As the amount of funding applied for exceeded \$1 million, approval had to be sought from the STDC via the FGAC upon recommendation by the CSCDC.

59. The Council unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

## **Information Items**

### **Reports of Committees under the STDC**

District Facilities Management Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 19/2019)

Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 20/2019)

Education and Welfare Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 21/2019)

Development and Housing Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 22/2019)

Traffic and Transport Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 23/2019)

60. Mr LI Sai-hung thanked the police for their assistance in combating illegal parking in Tai Wai. He said residents had complained that large vehicles always parked illegally at the pedestrian crossing outside Greenview Garden and blocked the view of pedestrians crossing the road. He requested the police to pay attention to the issue and take follow-up actions.

61. Mr Michael YUNG was dissatisfied that the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB) had not sent the Operations Manager of Sha Tin Depot to the meetings of the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) according to the established arrangements since October of last year. He pointed out that the KMB representative responsible for planning failed to respond to questions regarding unstable frequency and lost trip rate. He requested the Transport Department (TD) to demand that the KMB submit information papers on lost trip rate and give an explanation of the absence of the Operations Manager from the TTC meeting.

62. Mr CHIU Man-leong said except KMB, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) had also sent a public relations representative to the meetings only and could not respond to Members' questions regarding works, noise nuisance and site settlement. He urged the TD to deal with the problem of representatives as a whole.

63. Mr LI Sai-wing said the TTC would demand responses from representatives of the bus company and the MTRCL via the TD. He would also discuss with the Secretariat of the TCC the follow-up actions taken by the TD.

64. Mr Christopher CHIU, Principal Transportation Officer (New Territories) 1 of the TD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the TD would follow up the problems of the KMB's service, including complaint handling, monitoring, investigation arrangement, service adjustment, etc. in accordance with the established procedures;
- (b) for lost trips, during the meeting with the KMB management in early March, the TD had solemnly requested the KMB to make improvement, including trying their utmost to maintain regular frequencies and to avoid lost trips and delays; and
- (c) the TD would relay to the bus company and the MTRCL the request for sending representatives to the TTC meeting.

Health and Environment Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 24/2019)

65. Mr LI Sai-hung said villagers of Kak Tin Village had complained that there were more passers-by feeding wild pigs, and hoped that the Food and Environmental Hygiene



Department (FEHD) would strengthen law enforcement. Some wild pigs even appeared at Golden Lion Garden Stage I, destroying flower beds of the LCSD, and causing odour by urinating and defecating nearby. He asked the LCSD whether the flower beds could be filled and converted into a footpath.

66. Ms YUE Shin-man said she had no comment on the recommendation.

67. Ms Jackie LO, District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) of the LCSD said the beautification works carried out there would include a wooden fence with a view to blocking wild pigs from destroying plants on the flower beds. The LCSD had an open attitude towards the recommendation on filling the flower beds.

68. Mr Derek LAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD said the FEHD would deploy additional staff to patrol Kak Tin Village. If anyone was found feeding wild pigs and fouling public places, the FEHD would initiate prosecution and enhance public education.

Finance and General Affairs Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 25/2019)

69. The Council noted the above 7 reports.

Financial Account of the STDC (as at 12 March 2019)  
(Paper No. STDC 26/2019)

70. The Council noted the above paper.

**Information Paper**

Sha Tin District Police Action Plan for 2019 and Crime Brief for 2018  
(Paper No. STDC 27/2019)

71. Mrs Josephine MAK, District Commander (Shatin) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) briefly introduced the paper, and the main points were as follows:

- (a) the overall crime figure of the Sha Tin Police District in 2018 was 2 876 cases, showing a slight increase of 32 cases or 1.1% when compared to 2017;
- (b) street crimes including robbery, burglary, wounding and aggravated assault, serious drug offence, snatching, pickpocketing and bicycle theft, etc, had a significant drop. Among these, shop theft cases dropped drastically from 533 to 462 in 2018. She, on behalf of the HKPF, thanked the following Members for distributing leaflets on prevention of thieves and shop theft in the 23 activities organised by the HKPF for distribution of winter precaution leaflets during the period between November 2018 and January of this year. The Members included Mr HO Hau-cheung, Mr James CHAN, Ms CHAN Man-kuen, Mr CHENG Tsuk-man, Mr Sunny CHIU, Mr CHIU Man-leong, Mr Rick HUI, Mr LAI Tsz-yan, Ms LAM Chung-yan, Mr Wilson LI, Mr Alvin LEE, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr LI Sai-wing, Mr MAK Yun-pui, Mr PUN Kwok-shan, Mr

TONG Hok-leung, Ms TSANG So-lai, Ms TUNG Kin-lei, Mr Tiger WONG, Mr WONG Hok-lai, Mr YAU Man-chun, Ms YUE Shin-man, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr WONG Yue-hon, Ms Iris WONG, Mr CHING Cheung-ying, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Mr YIU Ka-chun and Ms Scarlett PONG. Mr WAI Hing-cheung had even attended leaflet distribution activities 4 times;

- (c) besides, the number of juvenile offender (aged 10 to 15) arrested had decreased significantly, from 83 in 2017 to 46 in 2018. She believed that it was because of a series of juvenile crime prevention talks, “My Future Self in 2028” ( “2028的我” ) held by the Police in 2018. Over 4 000 primary and secondary school students attended the talks, and they were reminded that they must not attempt to commit any crimes;
- (d) the number of miscellaneous thefts, for example, victims carelessly leaving their belongings in parks, forgetting to take cash from automatic teller machines, frauds committed through the use of technology, had shown an upward trend;
- (e) in light of the crime trend of 2018, the Police had drawn up the “2019 Action Plan and Operational Priorities of Police Districts”. The Police Community Relations Office would contact Members on the cooperation between the Police and the administration later; and
- (f) in response to Mr LI Sai-hung’s question on the illegal parking problem at Greenview Garden, the Police would take follow-up action.

72. Ms LAM Chung-yan appreciated the the Police Community Relations Office for setting up contact groups for the dissemination of crime prevention information. She said the non-profit making organisations of her constituency had tried to make contact repeatedly but received no replies. She suggested that the police closely contact with the persons-in-charge of local organisations and schools, and strengthen cooperation on crime prevention.

73. Mr Tiger WONG suggested that when combating phone frauds targeting the elderly, apart from calling for staff of banks and money changers to alert the elderly when processing huge amount of transactions and remittances, the Police should also consider disseminating the message to and educating the staff of chain stores, where online game virtual point cards (virtual point cards) were sold, to repeatedly remind the elderly not to be defrauded.

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

- (a) he asked whether the Police would increase the manpower establishment to deal with illegal parking in the coming year;
- (b) he asked how the Police would combat frauds, for example, blessing scams and online romance scams; and
- (c) for domestic violence cases, he asked how the Police would effectively make referrals of such cases to the SWD for follow-up actions and handling.

75. Ms CHAN Man-kuen thanked the Police of the Sha Tin District for actively promoting crime prevention message. She pointed out that there were private cars parking at the bus stop at Kwong Sin Street, which blocked buses from pulling in at the bus stop. As a result, residents had to board buses on the road. She hoped that the Police would step up law enforcement and take follow-up actions to combat illegal parking.

76. Mr CHIU Man-leong thanked the Police for making an effort to keep the crime rate of the Sha Tin District at a low level. He pointed out that currently, there were many types of fraud, and many mainland students of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) had fallen victims to frauds and the amount of money involved was often quite large. He suggested that the police enhance publicity in campus and keep promoting fraud and crime prevention information in the community.

77. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said some victims of online romance scams had reported their cases to Mong Kok and Yuen Long Police Stations respectively. However, their cases were only recorded by frontline police officers, and some were even dismissed. It was only when he accompanied the victims to report the cases to Tin Sum Police Station that the cases were finally referred to Sha Tin Police Station. However, the victims did not get copies of their statement and did not know the progress of their cases. He opined that the attitude of frontline police officers were not active when handling online romance scams. He urged the Police to face up to the problem and make improvement.

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

- (a) he thanked Sergeant LAU Fai of Ma On Shan Police Station for always handling case reporting in a serious manner;
- (b) he asked the Police to provide fraud figures of the past January and February. Fraud figures had risen significantly from 394 to 582 in 2018, representing an increase of 47.7%. He asked the Police what strategies they had to fight against frauds; and
- (c) as the number of illegal immigrants had sharply increased from 1 to 7, he asked what the reasons were and how the Police would deal such a situation.

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

- (a) she commended the Police for meeting the development of the district, responding quickly and deploying additional staff to Shek Mun Estate Phase 2;
- (b) with the intake of Shek Mun Estate Phase 2, she hoped that the Police would pay attention to and combat the illegal parking at On Yiu Street, On Ming Street and On Muk Street in order to avoid traffic congestion;
- (c) with regard to debt collection activities of loan-sharking syndicates, she said in one case, the debtor lived in Tuen Mun but the finance company shifted their target to the debtor's family living in Shek Mun. As such, she asked how the Police would help the residents who were harassed; and

- (d) she asked the Police when the reporting of a missing person should be made.

80. The Chairman concluded that Members generally praised the Police for combating illegal parking in Tai Wai in a serious manner. He had attended the meeting of West Two Area Committee earlier, and Tin Sum Police Station had sent a representative to the meeting and responded to questions related to illegal parking. He said mobile office trucks were often parked illegally at Grandeur Garden and on the road towards the direction of Sha Tin Government Offices, from Citylink Plaza. Even though they were driven away by the Police, they would still come back and even put easy-mount frames and folding tables on footpaths. He asked the Police to follow up the issue actively.

81. Mr LI Sai-hung added that mobile office trucks that parked outside Grandeur Garden mostly belonged to securities companies or real estate agencies. The trucks were engaged in publicity and promotional activities. He said the illegally parked vehicles just came back soon after they were driven away by the Police. Therefore, it was hard to eradicate the problem. Mobile office trucks occupied roads for a long time and sometimes even blocked the access of ambulances. As such, he urged the Police to figure out a solution to tackle the problem.

82. Mrs Josephine MAK gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Police had always been educating staff of convenient stores that sold virtual point cards, and those of banks and money exchanges that when elderly people made a huge amount of transaction or remittance, they should delay the process by asking them different questions so as to make them think twice whether they were cheated;
- (b) 5 posts would be added to the manpower establishment of the Sha Tin Police District this year (including 1 senior traffic warden and 4 traffic wardens);
- (c) with effect from the third quarter of this year, Sha Tin would be the first pilot point of New Territories South to complement enforcement actions of traffic policemen with technology. When police officers found illegally parked vehicles, they would take a photo of the car plate or scan the barcode with a special device. Then the information of the vehicle owner would be immediately recorded in the electronic system and a fixed penalty ticket would be printed on the scene. This would replace the current procedure that police officers had to check first whether the owner of the illegally parked vehicle was wanted, register the information of the vehicle, and then fill in the fixed penalty ticket by hand, so that the efficiency of law enforcement could be enhanced;
- (d) regarding technology crimes, the Fight Crime Committee would arrange Members to pay a visit to Anti-Deception Coordination Centre to learn about the latest fraud prevention information;
- (e) the Police would place easy-mount frames displaying different fraud prevention information in housing estates to enhance publicity;
- (f) the Police Community Relations Office would work with the HAD and broadcast

short films of technology crime prevention at different locations, for example, MTR stations, hospitals, clinics, schools, etc., with a view to disseminating technology crime information to the public and enhancing public awareness;

- (g) with regard to the Cyber Youth Support Teams set up by the SWD, the Police would explore opportunities for cooperation to promote fraud prevention information, and to actively combat internet fraud including naked chat, fake compensated dating, online shopping and impersonating public security officers;
- (h) upon receipt of report of domestic violence cases, police officers would first check whether the children on the scene were injured, and then search the database to see whether there had been records of quarrel or domestic violence report of the concerned couple or address. If, after investigation, the police officers believed that the household might be involved in the use of violence, the Police would mandatorily refer the case to the SWD for follow-up action;
- (i) for drug abuse among young people, apart from intelligence-led strategy, the Police would work with school principals, teachers, parents and different stakeholders of policing under the programme “Youthlink 2019-2020” to strengthen cooperation on the approach of early intervention and crime prevention;
- (j) apart from broadcasting short drama series during morning assemblies in schools, the Police Community Relations Office and the Anti Triad Sections also sent representatives to schools to carry out fight crime publicity activities on naked chat, cyber-bullying, school-bullying, shop theft, etc. Moreover, the Police also organised essay writing and drama competitions on topics of the said issues;
- (k) regarding CUHK students being cheated, she said most victims were postgraduate students from the Mainland who were studying in Hong Kong. They were defrauded by fake public security officers. The Police had been recruiting mainland students to be ambassadors in campus to promote fraud prevention information through WeChat and in school canteens;
- (l) in response to the online romance scams mentioned by Mr CHING Cheung-ying, she said if victims reported their cases to police stations in the Sha Tin District, the Police would definitely conduct inspection and provide assistance in a serious manner;
- (m) in response to Mr Wilson LI, she said the increase of fraud cases was due to the rise of internet fraud;
- (n) she appealed to the public that if they found that their family members or friends suddenly lost contact or unusually went missing, as long as they had doubts about the safety of the missing person, they could seek police assistance no matter whether the person had gone missing for over 48 hours or not;
- (o) regarding the problem of illegal parking, the Police would take follow-up actions

at the locations and streets mentioned by Members, and would actively take enforcement actions; and

- (p) since 40 percent of the calls made to report cases in the past were related to parking offences, and 30 percent of the inspections initiated by the Police were related to traffic offences, starting from 1 April of this year, the Sha Tin Police District would implement new measures, that is, 3 specialised operation teams would be commanded directly by a district operation officer to handle traffic offences. A review would be conducted in May to see whether the efficiency of law enforcement targeting on the traffic issues would be effectively enhanced under this pilot scheme.

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(Paper No. STDC 28/2019)

- 83. The Council noted the above paper.

**Date of Next Meeting**

- 84. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 23 May 2019 (Thursday).
- 85. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/50

May 2019