

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Education and Welfare Committee in 2020

Date : 9 July 2020 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
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>
Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	4:12 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:30 pm	7:16 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	7:16 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	DC Vice-Chairman	2:54 pm	3:18 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:31 pm	6:50 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	3:39 pm	7:16 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	"	2:30 pm	7:16 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	"	2:42 pm	5:47 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	"	4:40 pm	7:16 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	"	2:30 pm	7:16 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	"	2:31 pm	3:19 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	"	2:33 pm	4:34 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	"	2:31 pm	7:16 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	"	4:40 pm	7:16 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	"	3:46 pm	6:03 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	4:28 pm	7:16 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	"	2:30 pm	7:16 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	5:24 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:40 pm	6:41 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	"	2:30 pm	4:32 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	"	2:38 pm	5:43 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	"	2:42 pm	7:16 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	"	2:36 pm	6:41 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:35 pm	3:12 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:30 pm	7:16 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	"	2:39 pm	6:48 pm
Mr SHEK William	"	2:30 pm	6:56 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	"	2:30 pm	4:34 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	"	3:46 pm	6:43 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:33 pm	5:32 pm
Mr WONG Ho-fung	"	2:54 pm	3:32 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	"	2:52 pm	5:19 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:44 pm	7:16 pm
Mr YEUNG Sze-kin	"	3:04 pm	5:23 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	7:16 pm
Ms YU Wai-ting, Amy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 1, Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

Ms YEW Suet-yi, Mary

Mr CHAN Ping-ching, Roy

Ms LEUNG Yee-lee, Maggie

Ms CHAN Yee-chi, Elaine

Ms CHIANG lam

Mr WONG Tsz-hei, Christopher

Ms WONG Yee-wah, Eva

Ms YIP Pui-yi, Alice

Mr CHAN Sai-ho

Mr YUEN Ching-man

Mr CHAN Hiu-tik

Mr KONG Randy

Mrs CHAN NG Ting-ting, Elina

Ms WONG Yuen-yin, Bianca

Ms LEUNG Wing-shan

Mr CHIU Tseng-hung, Horace

Ms NG Yuet-ngo

Mr CHAN Ding-chuen

Ms LAU Lai-yee

Ms NG Suk-min

Ms CHENG Siu-ling

Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

Title

Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)3,
Social Welfare Department

Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)1,
Social Welfare Department

District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin),
Social Welfare Department

Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin)2,
Social Welfare Department

Senior School Development Officer (Shatin)5,
Education Bureau

Senior School Development Officer (Shatin)2,
Education Bureau

Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Shatin 11)
Housing Department

Senior Estate Surveyor/NW (District Lands Office, Sha Tin)
Lands Department

Architect, Chows Architects Limited

Project Architect, Chows Architects Limited

Structural Engineer (School Improvement Works Section),
Education Bureau

Senior Engineer (School Improvement Works Section),
Education Bureau

Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research
Support), Education Bureau

Senior Education Officer (Special Education Support 1),
Education Bureau

Senior Education Officer (School Building),
Education Bureau

Project Manager (School Building)4, Education Bureau

Principal, Shatin Public School

Senior Staff, Shatin Public School

Speech Therapist, Shatin Public School

Senior Liaison Officer (East), Sha Tin District Office

Chief Liaison Officer, Sha Tin District Office

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Sha Tin District Office

Absent

Mr CHENG Tsuk-man

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

Ms NG Ting-lam

Mr TING Tsz-yuen

Ms LUK Tsz-tung

Mr YIP Wing

Title

DC Member (Application for leave of absence received)

” (”)

” (”)

” (”)

” (No application for leave of absence received)

” (”)

Welcome Message

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

Application for Leave of Absence

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

Mr CHENG Chung-hang	Official commitment
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	”
Mr HUI Lap-san	”
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	”
Ms NG Ting-lam	”
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	Sickness

(Remarks: Mr CHENG Chung-hang and Mr HUI Lap-san attended the meeting at 4:40 pm.)

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

(EWC Minutes 3/2020 and EWC Minutes 4/2020)

4. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes of the meeting above.

Matters Arising

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

(Paper No. EW 5/2020)

5. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said the above document had not mentioned any specific measure that the government would introduce, including rent remission and intake support that could be provided to the residence of Chun Yeung Estate.

6. Mr Felix CHOW questioned if the government could guarantee that, in case of the outbreak of the third wave of Covid-19, Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan would not be used as a temporary quarantine centre, or the resident-intake arrangement would be postponed. He hoped that the government would handle the issues concerning school transfer and admission of residents of Chun Yeung Estate as soon as possible.

7. Mr MAK Tsz-kin said, the Education Bureau had pointed out that the 3 school networks should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of prospective Chun Yeung Estate residents, he would like to know the remaining school places of the secondary and primary schools, and asked whether the 100 applications of school transfer of the tenants of Chun Yeung Estate could be submitted to the Education Bureau to follow up. He would also like to know when the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre would be put into service.

8. Ms Eva WONG, Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Shatin 11) of the Housing Department said the government announced through press release published on 26 June this year that the use of Chun Yeung Estate at Fo Tan as quarantine centre was going to be ceased by the end of July. The relevant flat would be cleaned and thoroughly disinfected, and the estate would be returned to the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) afterwards. It would take time for the HA to carry out renovation and inspection work. Although the need for maintenance differed among the building and flats, HA was committed to finishing the relevant work as soon as possible. Currently, the intake arrangement for the prospective tenants would be implemented in two stages, and it was expected that first part of the new tenants would move in starting from late August this year. For the prospective tenants of the flats that required larger scale of renovation, the intake would be put off to late October.

9. The Chairman asked if Chun Yeung Estate would not be used as a quarantine centre again.

10. Ms Eva WONG said, according to the relevant press release, the government was going to cease the use of Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan as quarantine centre.

11. Ms CHIANG lam, Senior School Development Officer (Shatin)5 of the Education Bureau said that, as at 30 June 2020, 3 school networks in the district could offer 600 places for primary 2 to 6 students to transfer from other districts to Shatin District (91 places in Sha Tin Town Centre and Fo Tan; 88 places in Tai Wai; 89 in Ma On Shan), while there were approximately 3 000 places remaining for secondary 2 to 6 students. In addition, she said she would follow up on the requests for assistance with Mr MAK Tsz-kin that he received.

12. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

Formation of Working Groups under the Committee (Paper No. EW 6/2020)

13. The Chairman said he had received suggestions from the committee member before the meeting for amending the name and the terms of reference of the Working Group on Family and Women Affairs. Ms WONG Man-huen believed that the working group should not label women with any direct connection to family. Thus, he suggested changing the name to Working Group on Family Affairs and asked for committees' opinion on this issue.

14. Mr Johnny CHUNG believed that the Working Group on Family and Women Affairs should have its name changed to Working Group on Family and Gender Affairs.

15. Ms WONG Man-huen pointed out that the word "women" in the context could be biased and stereotyped. She believed that the EWC should advocate for gender equity, in such belief she agreed to change the name of the working group to Working Group on Family and Gender Affairs.

16. Mr Michael YUNG believed, if the committee had come to an agreement that the name of the working group should be changed, the terms of reference should as well be modified.

17. Mr LO Yuet-chau said the activities had held by Working Group on Family and Women Affairs mostly targeted at the women from single-parent families. Yet persons of different gender were able to form a family. He proposed dividing the current working group into Working Group on Family Affairs and Working Group on Women Affairs respectively.

18. Mr Jimmy SHAM said the terms of reference of the Working Group on Family and Women Affairs encompassed support for various underprivileged communities such as foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities and the disabled. Therefore, he suggested renaming it Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

19. The Chairman said he concurred very much with Mr Jimmy SHAM's suggestion. In addition, he believed that the use of negative words like "underprivileged communities" should be refrained in the terms of reference of the working group. Since there were two options available for the renaming, which were Working Group on Family and Gender Affairs and Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities, members should vote for the decision.

20. Mr Michael YUNG suggested modifying the name of the Working Group on Family and Women Affairs to Working Group on Family and Gender Equity Affairs.

21. Mr Johnny CHUNG agreed with Mr Jimmy SHAM's suggestion. He believed the terms of reference should also be modified.

22. The Chairman believed that the committee could first decide the new name of the working group, and modify the terms of reference afterwards.

23. Mr Jimmy SHAM believed that the phrase "underprivileged communities" was not a negative label. Underprivileged communities were groups of people who possessed less right than others. He believed the working group should put its stress on the care for the needs of different communities instead of gender equity. Thus, he hoped the committee members would vote for modifying the name of the Working Group on Family and Women Affairs as Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

24. Ms WONG Man-huen believed that Working Group on Family and Gender Equity Affairs was a more suitable option.

25. The Chairman believed that the phrase "underprivilege communities" had an implication of "inferiority". But he agreed that the committee members might hold different views. He suggested setting up a poll to decide whether Working Group on Family and Gender Equity Affairs or Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities should be the new name of Working Group on Family and Women Affairs.

26. Mr Michael YUNG asked whether the terms of reference would need to be modified after the EWC passed the name changing of the Working Group on Family and Women Affairs.

27. Mr Jimmy SHAM said, according to the Equal Opportunities Bill that was proposed by the former Legislative council member Ms WU Hung-yuk, Anna in 1991, equal opportunities meant eliminating all sorts of discriminations, including gender, disability, age, and sexual orientation. He believed that the existing problems were not limited to the aspect of gender.

28. The Chairman believed there were only a few modifications needed in the term of reference of the working group concerned. The EWC could first elect the convenor of the working group concerned before discussing how the term of reference should be modified. The Chairman declared that the voting process began.

29. 17 members voted for replacing the name of Working Group on Family and Women Affairs with Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities, while 9 members voted for Working Group on Family and Gender Equity Affairs. The Chairman declared that the working group would be renamed Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

30. The Chairman asked if there was any member opposed to establishing 3 standing working groups which would be administered by EWC, including Working Group on Age-friendly Community, Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs and Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

31. Members unanimously endorsed the establishment of the above 3 working groups.

32. The Chairman suggested selecting the convenors of the working groups in accordance with the following standard and procedures:

- (a) the convenors of the working groups were required to be District Council Members;
- (b) each candidate should be nominated by a committee member and seconded by at least 2 other committee members;
- (c) if there was only 1 candidate being nominated to be the convenor of any working group, the candidate should be deemed as uncontested. In addition; and
- (d) if more than one candidate was nominated, the voting order would follow the nomination order. The present members would choose a convenor through the electronic system. The candidate who obtained an absolute majority would win.

33. Members unanimously endorsed the above rules and procedures in electing the convenors of the working groups.

34. The Chairman invited members to make nominations for the convenor of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Mr Billy CHAN	Mr CHIU Chu-pong	Mr YAU Man-chun
		Mr Johnny CHUNG

35. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced the end of nomination immediately. Mr Billy CHAN was automatically elected as the convenor of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community.

36. The Chairman invited members to make nominations for the convenor of the Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Mr Johnny CHUNG	Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	Mr CHIU Chu-pong Mr George WONG

37. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced not to accept any more nomination. Mr Johnny CHUNG was automatically elected as the convenor of the Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs.

38. The Chairman invited members to make nominations for the convenor of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities and said that he would like to nominate Mr Jimmy SHAM as the convenor.

39. Mr Jimmy SHAM said that he did not accept the nomination.

40. The Chairman asked members if there were other nominations:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Mr LO Yuet-chau	Mr Ricardo LIAO	Mr CHIU Chu-pong Mr Wilson LI

41. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced not to accept any more nomination. Mr LO Yuet-chau was automatically elected as the convenor of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

42. The Chairman said that he had to leave the meeting due to official commitment and invited the Vice-Chairman to chair the meeting.

43. The Vice-Chairman invited members to refer to Annexes 1 and 2 of the Paper before endorsing the terms of reference of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community and the Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs.

44. Members unanimously endorsed following the previous terms of reference of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community and the Working Group on Education and Youth Affairs.

45. The Vice-Chairman invited members to raise comments on the terms of reference of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

46. Mr Michael YUNG enquired whether EWC had to revise the terms of reference of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities in this meeting.

47. Ms Amy YU, Executive Officer (District Council) 1 of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) said that according to the agenda, members could endorse establishment of working groups under EWC, which included revising and endorsing the terms of reference of the working groups.

48. Mr Wilson LI proposed discussion of other agenda items first by EWC to allow more time for revision of the terms of reference of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

49. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa enquired whether current procedure allowed the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities to convene a meeting to discuss its terms of reference first and then submit them for endorsement of EWC.

50. The Vice-Chairman invited the Secretariat to explain the related procedure and enquired whether it would vet the revised terms of reference to see if they complied with the functions of a district council as stipulated in Article 61 of the District Councils Ordinance.

51. Ms Amy YU quoted from the Chairman that the revision of terms of reference should be discussed after endorsing the name of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities. The terms of reference endorsed by the EWC should be subject to the comments of the STDO and other related government departments (if any).

52. Mr Jimmy SHAM said that he had a few suggestions on the terms of reference of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities, which mainly included renaming “underprivileged groups” as “different groups” and changing the first point of the terms of reference as “Relaying comments to the Education and Welfare Committee and related government departments on participation in community affairs by local women, families and different groups”.

53. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam enquired whether the establishment of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities was still valid if EWC failed to endorse its terms of reference in this meeting.

54. The Vice-Chairman invited Mr Jimmy SHAM and Mr LO Yuet-chau, the convenor of the working group and its members to discuss and then submit the revised terms of reference of the working group for EWC’s endorsement.

55. Ms Amy YU said that the working group could propose revision of its terms of reference and submit them for discussion of EWC.

56. The Vice-Chairman said that the discussion should proceed to the next agenda item first if no member raised objection.

Conversion to Shatin Public School

(Paper No. EW 7/2020)

Question to be Raised by Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on the Expansion Project of Shatin Public School

(Paper No. EW 11/2020)

57. Mrs Elina CHAN, Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research Support) of the Education Bureau (EDB) introduced the contents of the paper.

58. Mr Ricardo LIAO said the conversion of Shatin Public School took 32 months to complete. He asked about the class arrangements during implementation of the works and the measures to mitigate impacts on students.

59. The Vice-Chairman said that as the enquiries raised by Mr Michael YUNG on Shatin Public School was related to its conversion submitted by EDB and no member raised objection, he proposed to deal with his enquiries and discuss the school's conversion in one go. He invited members to refer to the replies of the government departments in the Paper.

60. Mr NG Kam-hung said that he once solicited views on conversion from individual teachers. He opined that the Bureau could not ignore the support for the teachers and social workers, as well as the policy on improving special education. He pointed out that students with special education needs were more emotionally vulnerable and the school was close to residential area. He enquired whether the Bureau had made some preparations.

61. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned whether the noise created during the works would greatly affect students' learning and enquired whether the Bureau had considered arranging a temporary campus for the school;
- (b) problems like noise and dust created by the school conversion works would affect students and nearby residents. He enquired whether the school had received parents' complaints and whether parents had arranged change of school due to the works. Moreover, he enquired whether the school had consulted nearby residents and the owners' corporations for their comments; and
- (c) he was of the view that a number of large works vehicles would park near the campus which would further worsen the problem of illegal parking.

62. Mrs Elina CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Bureau's consulting firm would include a provision in its agreement with the contractor that it would implement mitigation measures and control noise and dust during implementation of the works. The consulting firm would also supervise the situation on the site and maintain close communication with the school, so that louder works would be properly arranged to minimise the impact on students and residents;
- (b) she said that the Bureau once discussed a plan of temporary campus with the school. However, considering that students with mild intellectual disabilities were weaker in adapting to a new environment, the pile works which involved use of equipment only lasted for a few months and most of the remaining works would be interior decorations, they decided not to adopt the plan;
- (c) parking spaces were available in the campus. School buses and works vehicles did not need to park in Chik Fai Street outside the campus, so the conversion would not increase burden on the nearby road traffic; and
- (d) the proposed new wing included special rooms and classrooms for group learning and more activities.

63. Ms NG Yuet-ngo, Principal of the Shatin Public School gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the school was very much concerned about the impact of the conversion on students and provided comments for the consulting firm from time to time. She said that the existing school building was quite far away from the new wing. The louder pile works would be implemented in the third to eighth month at the early stage of conversion. The school would timely rearrange school holidays so that the works could be conducted during holidays as far as practicable. It would also discuss with the consulting firm to adopt different noise mitigation measures;
- (b) she said that previous school improvement works were carried out when students were having lessons. The school had experience in taking care of students' emotions. Looking back to previous experience, if pile works and other louder works had to be carried out on school days, the implementation time would be arranged after school at about 3 pm to 6 pm to minimise the impact on classes;
- (c) 17 classes were set up for the academic year 2019/2020. The number of classes was expected to increase to 18 after the conversion. New facilities included Social Worker Room and Speech Therapy Room to better cater for students' needs. She added that professionals providing student counselling services tended to enter classrooms to assist in teaching and have more interaction with students;
- (d) the school provided education of primary 1 (P.1) to secondary 6 for students with mild intellectual disabilities at the age of 6-18. The school facilities were different from mainstream schools' to cope with the students' special needs. She said that as there were students with physical disabilities, the campus adopted a single-storey design without staircases. Facilities such as fences and bolts were set up also. Therefore, the school did not consider vacant campus for mainstream school as an appropriate choice for temporary use during the works. Moreover, their students were weaker in adapting to a new environment. As the campus location was highly accessible and near Tai Wai MTR Station, if students and parents were asked to leave this familiar environment and change their transportation route, they would be significantly disturbed;
- (e) the conversion plan was proposed as early as 12 years ago. Most of the parents preferred their children to stay in the original campus during the works and hoped that the new wing could be completed as soon as possible, so that their children could enjoy new facilities. She also pointed out that change of school was mainly due to relocation to other districts but not the conversion; and
- (f) the school had a meeting with the representative of the nearby Sui Wo Study Centre earlier to understand and answer their questions on the conversion. It had also issued a letter to the owners' corporations of the nearby residential buildings to invite them to give comments or raise questions on the conversion. She said that the school was willing to discuss it with local

stakeholders to allay their doubts and further reduce the impact of the works on the surroundings.

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

- (a) the school understood the needs of students and parents the best. He considered that the school conversion was the result of long discussion of various parties and he believed it would bring about maximum benefits;
- (b) he said that site safety and impact on the surroundings and stakeholders should be of the first priority. Most of the schools in the district had gone through improvement works of different scales and there were cases which students continued to go to school as usual. He suggested that the school enhance communication with local stakeholders, including parents, local persons and district councillors; and
- (c) he asked whether the quota of special schools was sufficient and whether the Bureau would increase quota, apart from enhancing teaching quality.

65. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that students with mild intellectual disabilities had less concentration and might be more sensitive to noise. He enquired about the impact of conducting interior decoration works for a long time on students. Moreover, he was worried that site staff would randomly place tools outside the site and enquired whether students would be afraid of meeting strangers in the campus.

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

- (a) the Land Allocation Number provided by the Lands Department did not match the one on the GeoInfo Map. He asked which group owned Sha Tin Town Lot No. 24 and when the government had granted the lot. He also said that the Property Reference Number was C5471692;
- (b) online information showed that students and teachers of normal curriculum moved to Shatin Public Mei Lam Primary School in Mei Lam Estate, Sha Tin in 1982 while those of special curriculum stayed in the original campus. He pointed out that Shatin Public Mei Lam Primary School was currently the temporary campus of TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School. Therefore, he asked why Shatin Public School did not move into the campus of Shatin Public Mei Lam Primary School during the conversion works;
- (c) he would like to take a look on the layout plan of Shatin Public School and asked whether all classrooms were set up on the ground floor and why the proposed new wing had 6 storeys; and
- (d) compared with the works of other schools, the costs of conversion of Shatin Public School reached as high as \$120 million. He would like to know the reason.

67. Mrs Elina CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the conversion of Shatin Public School was expected to take about 32 months and louder works would be conducted in the first few months. The remaining works were mainly about interior decoration. The contractor would carry out acoustic treatment outside the structure including installing noise insulating fabric and noise barriers. She said that the contractor would adopt proper and efficient noise mitigation measures based on the actual circumstances of the campus site;
- (b) the site area within the campus would be enclosed and the entrance would be locked. There would be duty staff guarding to avoid access of persons who were not staff. Moreover, a cover would be built above the road behind the site to avoid throwing of objects at height;
- (c) a special school normally had 12 classes and Shatin Public School would have 18 classrooms after conversion to provide more places. She said the Bureau actively promoted inclusive education in recent years to help students with special education needs to integrate into mainstream schools, receive education with students of the same age and enhance their abilities to adapt to the society;
- (d) the Bureau reviewed the quota of special schools and its supply and demand from time to time to plan for construction or relocation of schools. She said that current supply of places was sufficient. The Bureau had planned to build a special school in Kowloon Tong;
- (e) campus construction costs were subject to design and actual site circumstances. She quoted HHCKLA Buddhist Po Kwong School as an example of recent school conversion/expansion. The costs of construction and building services per cubic meter were slightly lower than those of Shatin Public School but the estimated construction costs of Hong Chi Morninghill School, Tuen Mun, which also served students with mild intellectual disabilities, were slightly higher than Shatin Public School's. She added that the costs for Shatin Public School involved land formation and slope preventive works, and the contractor would carry out pile works at those locations. Due to differences in campus environment and project items, the works costs could not be directly compared; and
- (f) as the school said, if students were arranged to move to a temporary campus, the disadvantages would outweigh the advantages when compared to staying in the original campus.

68. Ms NG Yuet-ngo gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Shatin Public School was a mainstream primary school before 1982. However, due to limited space, students of the normal curriculum moved to Shatin Public Mei Lam Primary School. She said that the operator no longer participated in the operation of Shatin Public Mei Lam Primary School and only served Shatin Public School; and

- (b) campus facilities of a mainstream school could not cope with the needs of students with special education needs. Many safety facilities had to be prepared in advance if students moved to another campus during the works. Moreover, the schedule of other vacant schools in Shatin did not cope with the works schedule. In order not to delay works progress, it was the best option for students to stay in the current campus.

69. Ms LAU Lai-yee, Speech Therapist of Shatin Public School gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she pointed out that TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School was currently using the vacant school premises of Estate Primary School, not Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School in Mei Lam Estate, Shatin (previously Shatin Public Mei Lam Primary School);
- (b) the school building of TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School in Shui Chuen O was expected to be completed in 2022. The vacant school premises of Estate Primary School were only available for use by other schools by then. Although students of Shatin Public School could go there to avoid being affected by the works, the completion date of the new wing would be further delayed. She said that teachers, students and parents would like to commence the works and use the facilities of the new wing as soon as possible. Therefore, all teachers, students and parents agreed to let the students stay on the current school premises;
- (c) over these years, the school premises of Shatin Public School and the surrounding had gone through three kinds of works, including the school improvement works in 2004, construction of T3 Highway in 2007 and a high-rise building in 2018. Students continued to go to school during those periods. She said that students had different reactions to sounds such as thunder, national anthem and construction noises. They would not be too moody to the extent that affected their learning if they received proper guidance from teachers; and
- (d) the owner of the lease of Sha Tin Town Lot No. 24 was the operator of Shatin Public School. Therefore, the government did not need to allocate the land for the conversion works.

70. The Vice-Chairman asked whether Shatin Public School had used the school premises of Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School.

71. Ms NG Yuet-ngo said that Shatin Public School had never used the school premises of Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School and had all along been providing special education services at the current location.

72. Ms Alice YIP, Senior Estate Surveyor/NW (District Lands Office, Sha Tin) of the Lands Department said that simply put, land distribution could be categorised as allocation and grant. Allocation meant that a lot was handed over to a government department for authorised use while grant meant that the government gave a lot to a non-government department for authorised use, such as individuals, companies and organisations. Shatin

Public School belonged to Sha Tin Town Lot No. 24 and the government granted the land to the tenant for use as a school. The annex of Paper No. EW 11/2020 was a list of sites in Shatin granted by the government for use as a school.

73. Mr Johnny CHUNG asked whether the conversion included addition of special education facilities or other software.

74. The views of Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa were summarised below:

- (a) students of Shatin Public School were those with mild intellectual disabilities. He worried that the noise created by the works and presence of site staff within the school premises would affect their emotions and asked about the school's arrangements; and
- (b) the school was located in Chik Fai Street, Tai Wai and it was close to a wet market. The road traffic was busy there with severe illegal parking. A number of large construction vehicles passing through there would be unavoidable during the works period and he worried that illegal parking might affect their access to the school premises. The police might not be able to promptly solve the problem which would lead to traffic problems.

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

- (a) he asked whether the Bureau would take over the school if the operator decided to terminate the operation of Shatin Public School after its conversion and whether the land owner was the operator. He asked whether the proposed new wing was owned by EDB or the operator; and
- (b) the school pointed out just now that the single-story design of the campus aimed to facilitate movement of students with physical disabilities but the proposed new wing had 6 storeys. A number of schools which provided special education had several storeys too. He asked whether multi-storey buildings were unsuitable for use by persons with disabilities and whether special schools should be built in rural areas.

76. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised as below:

- (a) the IQ of persons with mild intellectual disabilities were 50-69 while those with IQ 70 were already counted as normal. Therefore, students of Shatin Public School were only weaker in understanding and they required more time for understanding, but this did not mean that they had severe intellectual disabilities. He trusted that teachers and professionals of the school were able to take care of the students. He opined that persons with disabilities were not as alert to strangers as people thought. On the contrary, they might not be alert enough;

- (b) he supported the school's conversion. Besides, he said that transmissible diseases might become normal and asked whether the conversion would enhance the anti-epidemic facilities of the campus such as safer ventilation design. He asked whether the school would solicit views of the Department of Health (DH) and other professionals on the design of the new wing; and
- (c) he asked whether the Bureau would provide more resources for the school to employ more staff to take care of students' needs during the works.

77. The Vice-Chairman reminded members that Mr CHENG Chung-hang and Mr HUI Lap-san had returned to the meeting.

78. Mrs Elina CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the budget for conversion of Shatin Public School did not only include external works such as land formation and construction of a new wing, but also interior decoration, furniture and fittings of the new wing school premises. As a subsidised school, Shatin Public School had been receiving regular operation funding from EDB and replaced facilities as necessary. She said that the Bureau would work with the police to maintain road safety and smooth traffic, depending on the works progress and traffic situation;
- (b) apart from providing guidelines on dealing with the epidemic, the Bureau suggested that the school enhance hygiene facilities, such as installation of sensor-controlled taps in washroom and wash basins in classrooms, as well as teaching students about anti-epidemic knowledge;
- (c) the Education Regulations stipulated that no part of any school premises would be allowed to be situated at a height of more than 24 m above ground level, i.e. about 6-7 storeys. She said that proposed new school premises in Tung Chung only had 3 storeys to cater to the needs of students with mild, medium and severe intellectual disabilities. Shatin Public School was set up for children with mild intellectual disabilities and the current single-story design was an old type of school premises design. Therefore, to better utilise space, the proposed new wing school premises had 6 storeys. Most of the classrooms were at lower floors and the building was equipped with lifts to facilitate movements of students with physical disabilities;
- (d) she said that the owner of the lease of the land where Shatin Public School was located was the school operator. As a subsidised school, if the operator chose to terminate the school, it would be required to repay the construction costs to the government at a depreciation rate of 2.5% p.a. in accordance with the terms of fund allocation; and
- (e) as far as she knew, if the owner of the lease changed the land use, the government might exercise its rights in the lease, including land resumption.

79. Ms Alice YIP said that each lease had different terms. In general, if the government granted a site to a lessee at nil or nominal premium, once the lessee changed the land use or significantly reduced the area for authorised use, the government would resume the land based

on the lease term. Whether a change of land use represented contravention of the land lease depended on the actual use of the land and the terms of the lease. Views of related bureaux needed to be sought before land resumption under the terms of the lease.

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

- (a) he opined that the government department did not clarify whether the site of Shatin Public School was owned by the government and whether the terms of the lease of Sha Tin Town Lot No. 24 stipulated that the government had the right to resume the land. He worried that the operator would close the school and asked if there were other options apart from campus expansion; and
- (b) he said that as the Legislative Council would soon adjourn, provision of fund for conversion of Shatin Public School required discussion and approval by various Committees and the earliest commencement date of the works was expected to be in the third quarter of 2021. TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School could return the school premises of Estate Primary School in Mei Lam Estate, Shatin in 2022 and he pointed out that the Bureau should consider that. Moreover, he opined that there was no need to rush to endorse the project in this meeting. He suggested that the Bureau prepare more information and continue to answer Members' questions in the next meeting of EWC on 10 September.

81. Mrs Elina CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Bureau had been providing funds for public schools to carry out necessary reconstruction or improvement works and restriction terms would be added when preparing the agreements. In general, if the government granted a site to an operator for educational use and the operator later chose to close the school, the government would resume the vacant school premises. However, the actual handling depended on the lease terms;
- (b) even TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School could return the temporary school premises in 2022 as scheduled, the facilities there were for mainstream primary schools. As Shatin Public School was a special school, if its students needed to go to mainstream school premises, alteration works would be required and the new wing school premises works would be delayed for 2-3 years. She said that both the Bureau and the school agreed that the conversion works currently proposed were the most suitable arrangement after discussion; and
- (c) subject to endorsement of the conversion of Shatin Public School by members, the Bureau would follow existing procedures to submit a funding approval to the Legislative Council and conduct tendering procedures at the same time to gauge the budget for the works more accurately. She added that this conversion had been following the existing procedures of the Bureau and it was not different from the works of other schools. She hoped that the project could obtain members' support so that the teachers and students could use the new wing as soon as possible.

82. Ms Alice YIP said that direct granting of sites by the government required stringent vetting, support of the Bureaux and compliance with the requirements of the government departments before approval. If there was a change in the operation of the school which caused a discrepancy between the land use and the criteria stipulated on the lease, the government would execute the lease terms based on the existing mechanism.

83. Mrs Elina CHAN added that the government had a mechanism on land resumption. She quoted an example of a school in Wan Chai which had been closed earlier. The site was returned voluntarily based on the lease terms.

84. Ms NG Yuet-ngo gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) construction of a new wing had been the common wish of teachers, students and parents of Shatin Public School for so many years. They all liked the existing school but there was not sufficient learning space. The current plan was decided after rounds of discussion between the school and the EDB and was supported by parents. They did not want their children to go to another school and adapt to a new learning environment during the works. She said that the school would continue to discuss with local stakeholders for better arrangement of the conversion; and
- (b) Shatin Public School was established in 1954 and started to provide education to students with mild intellectual disabilities in 1982. She said that the operator had nearly 70 years of experience in running a school. They would continue to run the school and hoped that members would not worry too much.

85. The Vice-Chairman asked whether terms of the lease of Sha Tin Town Lot No. 24 stipulated that the government reserved the right to resume the land.

86. Ms Alice YIP said that there was such provision in the lease of the lot.

87. The Vice-Chairman put the motion to vote.

88. The members endorsed Paper No. EW 7/2020 with 23 affirmative votes, 0 dissenting vote and 2 abstention votes.

Formation of Working Groups under the Committee (Paper No. EW 6/2020)

89. The Vice-Chairman said to continue discussion on the above Paper and invited members to note the following terms of reference of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities raised by the convenors of the working group, i.e. Mr LO Yuet-chau and Mr Jimmy SHAM:

- (1) give feedback to the Education and Welfare Committee, relevant government departments and organisations on participation in community affairs by women in the district;

- (2) give feedback to the Education and Welfare Committee, relevant government departments and organisations on affairs of families and different communities in the district;
- (3) enhance the awareness of people in the district on affairs of families and different communities through different channels and community events; and
- (4) liaise with district groups, government departments, organisations and interested persons to work together to enhance the awareness on families, women and different communities.

90. Mr LO Yuet-chau suggested endorsing the terms of reference of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities first and discussing to add a new Working Group on Women's Affairs in the next meeting.

91. The Vice-Chairman said that according to the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders, each committee was entitled to set up not more than 3 regular working groups at the same time and EWC had already set up 3 working groups. He continued to say that women affairs could be discussed by the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities.

92. Mr Felix CHOW was of the view that points (1) and (2) of the terms of reference were highly overlapping. He suggested deleting point (2) and revising point (1) as "give feedback to the Education and Welfare Committee, relevant government departments and organisations on participation in community affairs by women, families and different communities in the district".

93. The Vice-Chairman asked members whether they agreed with the proposed revision raised by Mr Felix CHOW.

94. Members unanimously endorsed the following revised terms of reference of the Working Group on Affairs of Equal Opportunities:

- (1) give feedback to the Education and Welfare Committee, government departments and organisations on participation in community affairs by women, families and different communities in the district;
- (2) enhance the awareness of people in the district on affairs of families and different communities through different channels and community events; and
- (3) liaise with district groups, government departments, organisations and interested persons to work together to enhance the awareness on families, women and different communities.

95. The Vice-Chairman said that the terms of the 3 working groups started from today until the end of term of EWC, i.e. 31 December 2023. He hoped that convenors of the working groups could submit member lists and this year's work plans as soon as practicable for endorsement of EWC. The Secretariat would issue invitation letters to members to invite those interested to join a working group to submit an application.

2020-2021 Work Plan of Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office
(Paper No. EW 8/2020)

96. Ms Maggie LEUNG, District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) of Social Welfare Department (SWD) introduced the contents of the paper.

97. The views of Mr HUI Yui-yu were summarised below:

- (a) he asked when the eligible age of the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and the Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (\$2 transport fare concession scheme) would be lowered from 65 to 60. He suggested that the government allow eligible senior citizens to take public traffic for free during non-peak hours to discourage them from taking public traffic during peak hours;
- (b) he hoped that the government could relax the eligible age of the Old Age Allowance and medical fee waiver to 65;
- (c) although rent level in Hong Kong became lower recently, expenditure on rent occupied a considerable proportion of the amount of the assistance provided to persons who were waiting for public rental housing (PRH) and those who were receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA). He opined that the government should refer to the market rent level when adjusting the amount of the rent allowance; and
- (d) the online OALA form on the website of SWD required the applicant's signature on every page while the form taken from a SWD Office only required the signature on the last page. He hoped that SWD could simplify the online form for senior citizens.

98. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) although population aging was increasingly serious in Hong Kong, as living quality and medical services had improved a lot, many senior citizens were able to take care of themselves. Many senior citizens over 70 were still very healthy and active. However, the government policy mainly treated them as the cared. He opined that SWD should focus more on their community participation by encouraging them to join local events and enhance their social value; and
- (b) according to theories of positive psychology, he opined that regarding the development of the policy on mental health services, the Department should not only stress "therapy to treat diseases" but also promote the importance of well being and development of good psychological qualities.

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

- (a) he asked whether a fixed period was set for "People of Sha Tin, Walk with Love - Dementia Awareness Alliance Scheme" and what the differences were with the Dementia Community Support Scheme;

- (b) he asked whether the participants of “Sha Tin District Carer Recognition Scheme” would receive actual rewards. Moreover, the “Sha Tin District Elderly Services Collaboration Project” launched by the Department only served senior citizens with special needs and their carers. He opined that there were many people at the age of 18-64 who were in need but sadly there were not sufficient institutions;
- (c) the Department did not mention in the Paper how to enhance outreach services for young people. He opined that the Department might get in touch with young people in need through online social platforms to increase their willingness to communicate with others; and
- (d) he would like to know the details of Community Support of Green Ribbon in Sha Tin.

100. Ms Maggie LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the \$2 transport fare concession scheme was within the purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau. The government proposed to combine the normal OALA and higher OALA with a standard monthly payment rate of \$3,715 and raise the asset limit to \$500,000. Currently, the numbers of recipients of higher OALA and normal OALA were about 520,000 and 50,000 respectively;
- (b) the government had announced to raise the amount of rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme, including raising the rent allowance for 1-person families from \$1,945 to \$2,475. The amount would be reviewed from time to time;
- (c) the Department would look into how to simplify the application forms of different welfare services schemes so as to assist district councillors to submit applications for members of the public;
- (d) she said that senior citizens of Sha Tin had been actively participating in Opportunities for the Elderly Project regularly organised by the Department over the years. The Department would continue to encourage them to join similar events to unleash their potentials;
- (e) as for mental health services for young people, the Department would actively unleash their potentials and encourage them to participate in social services when organising different activities, so as to help them establish positive values. Moreover, starting from December 2018, SWD had been subsidising non-governmental organisations to set up 5 Cyber Youth Support Teams all over the territory including Sha Tin. These teams proactively approached and engaged the at-risk and reclusive youths through cyber means, and provided consultation and counselling services on their social life, emotions, personal growth and other problems. She said that the Cyber Youth Support Team of Sha Tin had been working closely with the District Youth Outreaching Social Work Team to approach and help young people in need through different means;

- (f) she pointed out that the Department regularised the Dementia Community Support Scheme last year and extended its services to all district elderly community centres in Hong Kong. The People of Sha Tin, Walk with Love - Dementia Awareness Alliance Scheme could gather community resources of social workers, medical staff and government departments and enhance support and care for elderly with dementia and their carers through a medical-social collaboration model;
- (g) the government launched the Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families in 2014, which aimed at providing carers of elderly persons from low-income families with a living allowance to help supplement their living expenses. As at the end of last year, about 5 700 carers had received a living allowance;
- (h) the District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities and Integrated Home Care Services of SWD continued to provide assistance for persons with disabilities in need and help them integrate into the community through rehabilitation services programmes; and
- (i) the organising committee of Green Ribbon led many welfare services unit to launch a community care event in the district, including a large-scale home visit in Sun Chui Estate by volunteers, so as to identify reclusive persons or those who were in need of care and timely provide proper services. The Department would collaborate with welfare services units of Sha Kok Estate to promote neighbourhood care and strengthen local support network.

101. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below

- (a) he said that young people might be confused about their sexual orientation. Besides, the social movements last year stirred up emotions of many young people. The people they knew might have been arrested. He hoped that SWD and EDB could enhance support to handle students' emotional problems; and
- (b) he asked whether SWD had long-term planning on services for young people to give them more confidence.

102. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) each of the staff members of Social Security Field Units was responsible for different cases. He worried that if a staff member took leave or had too many cases, there might be delay in obtaining assistance;
- (b) he asked about the progress of the Dementia Friendly Community Campaign launched by the Department and how to support persons with dementia and their families; and
- (c) he wanted to know whether the elderly centre of Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan had been requisitioned for quarantine use and when the welfare services organisation set up in Chun Yeung Estate could start providing services to

residents. He also asked about the progress of the tendering exercise of the social welfare building in Phase 2 of Yan On Estate.

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

- (a) he opined that SWD's work plan had always been able to respond to public concern and said that members wanted to understand the demand and supply of social welfare services in the district, including the queuing of elderly care homes, halfway houses, sheltered workshops and day care centres/units for the elderly;
- (b) he said that the elderly were required to submit an application for the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme in an elderly centre or a community centre, but different centres might have different ways to process the applications and some of the staff members had poor attitudes. For example, the queuing time of the centre in Sha Kok was about 3 months which was so long;
- (c) cases of nuisance took place in communities from time to time but he pointed out that the cases were left unsolved as SWD always used the excuses of personal privacy and difficulty in approaching the persons who carried out the acts of nuisance. He hoped that SWD could enhance collaboration with other departments and join hands to solve the problems; and
- (d) he opined that the application procedures of the Senior Citizen Card were too complicated. An elderly person needed to download and print the form from SWD website and submit the paper form to SWD. He suggested setting up an online platform for submitting applications to speed up the procedures.

104. The Vice-Chairman asked members to note that cleaning would be carried out at 6:30 pm. He suggested continuing the meeting during the cleaning.

105. Ms Maggie LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Department was willing to discuss the issue of sexual orientation of young people with youth services organisations if necessary. Its Clinical Psychology Units could also provide assistance. The government had been subsidising social welfare organisations to provide community support services for children and youth under caution, arrested youth and their peers by organising various group activities and skill training courses, so as to help them re-integrate into the community;
- (b) she said that the Department's staff processed the applications on a case-by-case basis. Even if any change of personnel took place, other staff members of the offices concerned would continue to follow the cases;
- (c) the Department had carried out the Dementia Friendly Community Campaign since 2018 to deepen local collaboration, enhance care and support for patients of dementia on the community level;

- (d) the social welfare services unit of Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan was located within the area of the quarantine centre and could start providing services for residents after handing over the facilities to the organisation and finishing interior decoration;
- (e) she said that the Department noted the views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying. The above Paper was mainly about introducing the work plan of Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office and therefore did not mention the demand for other welfare services and the Central Waiting List. She also pointed out that the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme was not within the purview of SWD;
- (f) the Department received nuisance cases referred by district councillors from time to time and arranged follow-up by social workers or home visits as soon as possible. There were successful cases but individual persons who had made the acts of nuisance refused to cooperate. Such cases might require assistance of other departments or related parties; and
- (g) she would relay the request for electronic application form for Senior Citizen Card to the headquarters so as to facilitate online submission of applications.

106. The Vice-Chairman asked which government department was responsible for the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme.

107. Ms Maggie LEUNG said that DH was responsible for launching the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme.

108. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that although DH was responsible for the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme, the programme accepted applications of eligible elderly though local service units of different districts. Therefore, he hoped that SWD could urge those local service units to provide better services.

109. The Vice-Chairman invited SWD to provide a video on their work review for the year 2019-2020 for members' information.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat emailed the work review video on 31 July 2020 for members' information.)

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

- (a) a number of families newly settled in Hong Kong in the district suffered from problems in marriage, family dispute, education or even domestic violence. He said that living pressure was huge in Hong Kong and newcomers found it more difficult to adapt to and integrate into the community. He asked whether the Department had set aside resources to support these families;
- (b) he said that it was hard for social welfare services organisations to find a suitable location to set up its services centre; and

- (c) 3 Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness were currently available in the district. He asked whether the Department had assessed the demand and considered increasing the number of Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness.

111. The views of Mr MAK Tsz-kin were summarised below:

- (a) the intake of the first batch of the prospective tenants of Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan would commence gradually from end of August this year. He asked whether SWD would provide welfare and consultation services and consider teaching the residents domestic disinfection and anti-epidemic knowledge in collaboration with other government departments such as DH and EDB; and
- (b) he asked whether the Department had liaised with the Housing Department (HD) to reserve a space for welfare organisations to set up services centre for residents.

112. Mr Wilson LI considered that the government policy on the elderly failed to provide sufficient support to the elderly in need and there were a large number of people waiting for a place in elderly care homes. He also asked when the government would confirm lowering the eligible age of the \$2 concessionary transport fare from 65 to 60.

113. Mr Jimmy SHAM considered that no effectiveness would result from asking homosexuals to consult medical advice and pointed out that the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders removed homosexuality from the list of mental disorders as early as 1990. He said that current support services available for homosexuals were only the 24-hour hotline TWGHs Pride Line for sexual minorities and Project Touch of The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong. He hoped that homosexuals could be treated as a group with special needs and the government could provide assistance for them and promote public awareness on the needs of sexual minorities.

114. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that a large number of new arrivals from the Mainland lived in Yan On Estate and the problems of dispute, elderly or child abuse were more severe in those families. He asked whether SWD would work with the STDO to enhance support for them.

115. The Vice-Chairman said that it was difficult for welfare organisations to provide outreach services to residents including those new arrivals because they could not set up service centres in new estates.

116. Ms Maggie LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Department had been taking care of the welfare needs of the new arrivals from the Mainland and providing necessary assistance. She said that the Integrated Family Service Centres and Family and Child Protective Services Units in the district had been dealing with a number of cases of families newly settled in Hong Kong. They always held group activities and carried out community education to help those families solve their problems of family dispute and marriage;

- (b) the Department had planned to set up different welfare services units in Phase 2 of Yan On Estate, including a supported hostel for mentally/physically handicapped persons, a special child care centre, an integrated children and youth services centre, an elderly care home, a day care centre for the elderly and an early education and training centre, which were expected to gradually start services in the year 2022/2023. She said that the Department would establish more welfare facilities through the programme to purchase premises for provision of welfare facilities;
- (c) two Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness in Shatin had set up a permanent location to provide services last year and had been proactively following up on cases and organising activities to promote mental wellness with local welfare units. Moreover, the Department and various local welfare units jointly organised a large-scale project “Sha Tin Care & Share Street Corner” from October to December last year. They set up booths in 10 local communities in Sha Tin and organised public educational activities with mobile vans for publicity on mental wellness;
- (d) the Department had liaised with HD to reserve space for welfare organisations to set up tentative offices to launch programmes under the Community Investment & Inclusion Fund and other public educational campaigns in the estate; and
- (e) she thanked Mr Jimmy SHAM for his suggestion and would liaise with the related welfare organisations to enhance the elements of life planning in youth services. She also said that the theme of the above Paper was “People of Sha Tin, Walk with Love” and the Department was dedicated to gathering community resources to strengthen support for persons in need and encourage all to face challenges with a positive mind.

117. Members noted the above paper.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr TSANG Kit on the Progress of the Caring and Sharing Scheme
(Paper No. EW 9/2020)

118. The Vice-Chairman asked Mr TSANG Kit whether he had further questions on the replies of the Working Families Allowance Office.

119. Mr TSANG Kit said that he did not have questions to raise.

120. The Vice-Chairman declared the end of the discussion on this item on the agenda.

Question to be Raised by Mr YAU Man-chun on Primary School Places in Sha Tin District and the Development of TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School
(Paper No. EW 10/2020)

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

- (a) he was concerned about whether there would be shortage in school places after intake of Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan and other newly completed estates. He hoped that EDB could make plans for the school places for the coming few years in advance;
- (b) the Bureau's replies in the Paper mentioned that there were 5 vacant classrooms in the district and he asked whether those vacant classrooms were owned by TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School;
- (c) he asked whether the Bureau had set up an upper limit on the places in each class. He said that increasing the number of students in each class would lower teaching quality; and
- (d) he asked about the construction progress of TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School and whether the new school premises could be completed before the third quarter of 2020 as scheduled.

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

- (a) he opined that wrong policy was the root cause of the lack of primary school places in the district. He continued to say that more and more people moved to Sha Tin and the "closure of school" in 2000s also led to shortage of places. The government planned to establish a primary school with 30 classrooms in the PRH site in Ma On Shan Tsuen Road but the school was expected to be completed after 2030;
- (b) he opined that the Bureau failed to make proper planning on supply of school places, so that many students needed to go to another district for school while the traffic facilities were not well-developed. For example, many students living in Shui Chuen O needed to go to schools in Wong Nai Tau or Ma On Shan but there was no direct bus route;
- (c) he asked how the Bureau would deal with the temporary campus currently used by the English Schools Foundation after it was returned; and
- (d) the Bureau's replies mentioned that there were 5 vacant classrooms in the district and he asked whether those vacant classrooms were owned by TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School.

123. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that after "doubly non-permanent resident children" and holders of one-way permits settled in Hong Kong, their children would create pressure on the demand for school places in Hong Kong. He asked what plan the Bureau had in mind. Moreover, if the Public Security Department of the Mainland could provide information on families of holders of one-way permits and the schooling arrangements for their children, this could help the government make proper planning on future supply of places.

124. The views of the Vice-Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he was dissatisfied that the Bureau only aimed to provide immediate and short-term solutions and opined that it should not solve the shortage of school places simply by adding them;
- (b) he asked whether the temporary school premises of Shatin Public Mei Lam Primary School would be continued to be used as a school after relocation of TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School; and
- (c) TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School belonged to School Net 89 (Ma On Shan) but the temporary school building was located in School Net 91 (Sha Tin Town Centre, Fo Tan). He said that the inclusion of the primary school places into School Net 91 meant a transfer of school places of School Net 89 to School Net 91, which would mislead parents.

125. Mr Christopher WONG, Senior School Development Officer (Shatin)² of the EDB said that the demand and supply of P.1 places every year were subject to different factors such as whether parents chose public sector primary schools, the number of newly-arrived children, intake time of new estates, etc. Students population and parents' wishes for change of school might vary every year. The Bureau had been discussing with the industry to adopt flexible arrangements to increase places and cope with the needs, including borrowing school places from other school nets, use of vacant classrooms for additional P.1 classes and temporarily increasing the quota of each P.1 class. He continued to say that the Bureau would make proper planning on supply of school places by paying attention to "doubly non-permanent resident children" and newly-arrived children.

126. Ms CHIANG lam added that the new school building of TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School was located in School Net 91 while the temporary one currently in use was located in School Net 88. The Bureau clearly stated the above in the Primary School Profiles. After completion of the new school premises, its places would be included in School Net 91. After TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School returned the temporary school building, the Bureau would consider whether to continue to use it as a school or hand over it to the Planning Department for other uses based on the prevailing mechanism.

127. Mr YAU Man-chun said that the Bureau did not respond to his question as to whether the 5 vacant classrooms in the district belonged to TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School and his concern as to whether the increase in places might affect teaching quality.

128. Mr Michael YUNG opined that the Bureau did not make long-term planning on demand and supply of school places in the district. He worried that the completion of Kam Chun Court under the Home Ownership Scheme after two years might create large demand for places and thus a huge quota shortage in School Net 89. He asked how the Bureau would deal with this.

129. Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa said that intake of a number of new estates would take place in Sha Tin in a short period of time while increasing the quota of each class was only a temporary measure. He hoped that the Bureau could review whether places in the district could cope with future needs.

130. Mr Christopher WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) peak demand of P.1 places in general was over which meant a reduction in the demand. Therefore, even newly completed estates might increase the demand for school places, the Bureau had planned to ensure that there were sufficient places in the district to cope with the needs; and
- (b) regarding vacant classrooms in the district, he said that the Bureau currently did not have supplementary information to provide.

131. The Vice-Chairman asked again whether the 5 vacant classrooms in the district belonged to TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School.

132. Mr Christopher WONG said that he was willing to talk about it with members after the meeting.

133. Mr Michael YUNG did not understand why the Bureau did not directly answer the question.

134. Mr YAU Man-chun did not understand why the Bureau refused to disclose the information of the vacant classrooms. He said that many parents wanted to know which primary schools still had vacant classrooms to decide whether they would make applications for their children.

135. Ms CHIANG lam said that the Bureau had not yet calculated the number of remaining P.1 places pending confirmation. Currently, there were about 600 places for P.2 - P.6 which should be able to cope with the demand. If a certain level required more classes, the Bureau would consider the vacant classrooms, which resulted from the remaining places of P.1, together with the current 5 vacant classrooms. Therefore, parents should not make an application just because an individual school had vacant classrooms. She also pointed out that the 5 vacant classrooms belonged to TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School.

136. The Vice-Chairman declared the end of the discussion on this item on the agenda.

Information Papers

2020-2021 Approved Estimates of Expenditure Heads under the Committee
(Paper No. EW 12/2020)

137. The Vice-Chairman asked the members to note the above paper.

Number of Children Referred to Public Sector Primary and Secondary Schools in Sha Tin District Provided by the Education Bureau
(Paper No. EW 13/2020)

138. Mr CHAN Pui-ming quoted from the Paper that 2 students from the Mainland joined a local school in May this year. He asked whether the 2 students were transferred from another district or immigrants who newly came to Hong Kong.

139. Mr Christopher WONG said that he currently did not have the related information and would contact Mr CHAN Pui-ming after the meeting.

140. The Vice-Chairman asked the members to note the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

141. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 10 September 2020 (Thursday).

142. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/35

September 2020