

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 1st Meeting of
the Social Welfare and Youth Committee in 2025

Date : 15 January 2025 (Wednesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH (Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Miss TUNG Kin-lei (Vice Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr WONG Wai-shing	2:35 pm	3:31 pm
Mr KU Wai-ping	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr NG Kai-tai	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms LAM Siu-man	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr LAM Yu-sing	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr HA Kim-kwan	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms GUO Xuanton	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Miss CHAN Hiu-ying	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Miss MOK Hei-man	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms WONG Po-yee	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr LAU Tak-wing	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr LEE Kang-pan	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Mr CHAU Ping-him	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms YIP Shuk-kuen	2:30 pm	3:31 pm
Ms YEUNG Suet-man, Kelly (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Sha Tin District Office	

In Attendance

Ms TSANG Ka-yi, Carmen

Mr LEE Man-fai, Dave

Ms WONG So-man, Katrina

Mrs LAU HO Man-wai

Ms TONG Mai-mai

Sergeant YU Wing-chin, Michael

Ms WONG Mo-sze, Nancy

Title

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Sha Tin District OfficeExecutive Officer I (District Council)3,
Sha Tin District OfficeSenior School Development Officer (Shatin)5,
Education BureauAssistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin)2,
Social Welfare DepartmentAssistant Police Community Relations Officer, Shatin District,
Hong Kong Police ForceLabour Officer (Workplace Consultation Promotion),
Labour Department**In Attendance by Invitation**

Ms HUI Yee-mei, Maria

Dr CHIM Pak-wing

Dr WONG Jao-chin, Sophy

Ms KWOK Sau-lun

Ms OR Hiu-man, Stella

Ms LUK Kin-hong, Cathy

Ms LUN Kit-ting, Kitty

TitleChief School Development Officer (Shatin),
Education BureauSenior Medical and Health Officer
(Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)2,
Department of HealthMedical and Health Officer (Health Promoting School)1,
Department of HealthNursing Officer (Health Promoting School)1,
Department of HealthSenior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion,
Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentLiaison Officer i/c (Youth Programme),
Sha Tin District OfficeLabour Officer (Employment Services)
(Racial Diversity Employment), Labour Department**Absent**

Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP

Mr AU Chi-on, Paul

TitleDistrict Council (Application for leave of absence received)
Member

Ditto (Ditto)

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the first meeting of the Social Welfare and Youth Committee (SWYC) this year.

Applications for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) Secretariat had received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following members prior to the meeting:

Mr DENG Kairong

Attendance at a meeting of the Guangdong
Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's
Political Consultative Conference

Mr Paul AU

Ditto

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

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 12 November 2024
(SWYC Minutes 6/2024)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Discussion Item

Briefing on the Whole School Health Programme
(Paper No. SWYC 1/2025)

5. The representative of the Department of Health (DH) briefly introduced the paper.
6. The Chairman thanked the representative of the DH for their detailed introduction, and opined that the programme was of significant importance in promoting adolescent health.
7. Members enquired about the following matters:
- (a) members wished to know whether the DH would enhance social health support for junior secondary students;
 - (b) whether a list of schools not participating in the Whole School Health Programme and reasons for them not participating were available on the DH's website; and
 - (c) quite a number of parents were concerned about the quality of lunch boxes provided by school lunch box suppliers. Members wished to learn more about healthy eating and how different schools could ensure the quality of lunch boxes.
8. Members' views were as follows:
- (a) members pointed out that schools working closely with the Education Bureau (EDB) was conducive to raising awareness of psychological health among students, teachers and parents, increasing their understanding of mental health, as well as enhancing resilience;
 - (b) members highlighted the importance of developing adaptability in students' whole-person development, and appreciated the resources provided by the EBD, such as the "Spread the Love, Care and Shine" Campaign, "Mental Health@School", and the "One-off Grant for Mental Health of Parents and Students"; and

- (c) members recognised the importance of collaboration among various sectors, and encouraged further coordination among members to learn about the concerns of schools and to jointly promote the participation of more schools in the programme.

9. The representative of the DH gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) thanks were extended to members for their support and assistance in promoting the programme;
- (b) mental health issues concerned every person, including adults and children, and should be taken seriously by all. With a focus on mental health, the DH launched mental health programmes such as “Shall We Talk”. Under the Whole School Health Programme, the DH also collaborated with the EDB and non-governmental organisations to promote mental health;
- (c) all Hong Kong students were encouraged to participate in the free health assessments under the DH’s Student Health Service, which included mental health assessment, in order to facilitate early identification of problems and referrals to professionals;
- (d) it was suggested that schools could form a working group to formulate, implement, monitor and review the health policies of schools, and establish a mechanism for early identification of students’ emotional problems and provision of necessary support, so as to achieve the goal of whole-school mental health;
- (e) the DH organised various health promotion events, such as game booths and emotion management seminars, to boost understanding of emotional problems among students, parents and teachers;
- (f) the DH launched the “EatSmart@school.hk” Campaign for promoting healthy eating, under which schools and suppliers were provided with healthy diet guidelines to ensure healthy and quality-assured diets for students, in order to facilitate schools to choose a supplier capable of producing healthy and tasty lunch meals as well as to monitor the nutritional quality of meals provided by the suppliers, so as to reduce the provision of food high in salt, sugar and fat as far as possible; and
- (g) the representative of the DH thanked members for their views on extending the Whole School Health Programme to kindergartens and broadening the membership of the Committee, and said that the views would be relayed to the department.

10. A member said that prior to the establishment of the Health Promoting School Advisory Committee, the Committee had once explored whether the programme should be extended to kindergartens or whether the membership of the Committee should be broadened. The Committee wished to take forward the programme in an orderly and progressive manner by targeting primary and secondary schools first, and would not preclude the possibility of further extending the programme.

11. A member opined that parents’ understanding of mental health was not comprehensive enough, and suggested that the DH should step up publicity and promotion to provide more real-life examples to enhance parents’ understanding of mental health.

12. The representative of the DH gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the representative recognised the importance of parents in child development, and mentioned the respective roles of families and schools in promoting mental health;
- (b) it was mentioned that one of the goals of the “Shall We Talk” initiative was to enhance public understanding of common mental health problems for early identification of persons with mental health problems around them; and
- (c) the DH would organise a webinar on mental health hosted by the psychiatrist Dr TANG on 21 March. Schools had been encouraging parents to sign up for the webinar.

13. The Chairman thanked the DH for their reply and encouraged local people who were interested in the webinar to approach the chairman of the relevant committee.

14. The Chairman announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

Questions

Question Raised by Ms GUO Xuantong on the Support Provided for New Arrivals and Ethnic Minorities in Sha Tin District

(Paper No. SWYC 2/2025)

15. Members enquired about the following matters:

- (a) it was asked whether the advisory services provided at the Lo Wu Control Point were confined to social welfare, and whether they would include relevant supporting services provided by other government departments;
- (b) it was asked whether the Labour Department (LD) provided employment counselling services for new arrivals;
- (c) members hoped that the Home Affairs Department (HAD) would attach importance to the changes in the number of new arrivals in Sha Tin District and looked forward to receiving information on the use of the Neighbourhood Mutual Help Programme after the meeting; and
- (d) members were concerned about the employment situation of new arrivals and ethnic minorities, and hoped in particular that the LD could organise job fairs in Sha Tin District to provide more employment opportunities for the people concerned.

16. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) members were concerned about the growth of new arrivals in Sha Tin District, in particular the significant increase in the number of new arrival students receiving the School-Based Support Scheme Grant in the 2021/22 to 2023/24 school years;
- (b) it was noted that according to the website of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), since 2021, new arrivals in Sha Tin District have accounted for about 6% of Persons from the Mainland Having Resided in Hong Kong for Less than 7 years, whereas Ethnic Minorities in Sha Tin District have accounted for about 6% of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong, reflecting that quite a number of new arrivals and ethnic minorities would choose to settle in Sha Tin;

- (c) members acknowledged the support work of the SWD and the EDB for these groups, in particular the effectiveness of the SWD's outreaching teams in reaching out to the ethnic minorities; and
- (d) it was expected that the SWYC or the STDC would have the opportunity to visit the new IDEA Centre in Sha Tin in the future to gain a better understanding of the support services provided to ethnic minorities, so as to promote the relevant services more effectively.

17. The representative of the LD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Job Centres of the LD provided personalised employment counselling services to job seekers, including new arrivals and ethnic minorities, who could meet with placement officers to discuss employment needs, job search skills and market information, etc. The Job Centres also organised regular employment seminars for new arrivals from the Mainland and ethnic minorities to help them understand the latest situation of the job market and job vacancies, etc.;
- (b) the LD actively liaised with employers to organise various district and industry-specific job fairs and provided on-the-spot job interviews;
- (c) the LD also organised inclusive job fairs for ethnic minorities from time to time, e.g. the large-scale inclusive job fair held in Mong Kok on 13 November; and
- (d) apart from the services provided by the Job Centres, the LD also operated the Interactive Employment Service website and mobile application, and the Telephone Employment Service Centre. The website had designated pages for new arrivals from the Mainland and ethnic minorities to provide employment information.

18. The representative of the SWD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the SWD, through the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch, provided information on social services at the Lo Wu Control Point to help new arrivals learn more about relevant resources;
- (b) the SWD commissioned three non-governmental organisations to set up three outreaching teams for ethnic minorities (OTEMs) on mainly Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories to provide services to ethnic minorities since 2021. Among them, the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community served ethnic minorities in the New Territories, assisting those with welfare needs to integrate with mainstream welfare services, including applying for financial support and food assistance, etc.; and
- (c) the representative of the SWD added that the OTEMs were also equipped with mobile service vans which provided services at different locations in Sha Tin District on a regular basis to reach out to more ethnic minorities.

19. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) it was recommended to pay a visit to the office of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community to better understand the services and support it provided;
- (b) members noted that the new IDEA Centre in Sha Tin had just opened in December 2024, and hoped that the HAD could arrange a visit for members to better understand its functions and services; and
- (c) members noted that the LD organised recruitment activities every month and hoped that in the new year, the LD would send relevant publicity materials of the ethnic minorities' recruitment fairs to the District Councils by email, facsimile and mail, etc., so as to further promote them to ethnic minorities in the districts and facilitate their participation in the recruitment activities.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat was organising a visit to the Support Service Centre for Ethnic Minorities (IDEA Centre) between March and April.]

20. A member wished to learn about the link between the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community and District Members' ward offices, and was looking forward to exploring ways to better co-ordinate the use of resources, particularly in helping new arrivals and ethnic minorities to apply for allowances.

21. The representative of the SWD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the representative of the SWD said that the Department would consider arranging the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community to make a presentation at the Council meeting in the future so as to enhance members' understanding of its services and strengthen mutual collaboration; and
- (b) the Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office organised a multicultural sharing session in 2023 to enable frontline staff in the district to learn about the customs, cultural characteristics and ways of seeking assistance of different ethnic minorities, and could explore whether similar sharing activities would be organised in the district again in future.

[Post-meeting note: The Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office of the SWD has arranged for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community to present its services at the Council meeting on 5 March.

22. The representative of the LD thanked members for their views on the publicity of the inclusive job fairs, and the Department would continue to disseminate relevant information on the job fairs to the District Councils.

23. The Chairman invited the Secretariat to convey members' enquiries and suggestions to the HAD after the meeting and announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

[Post-meeting note: Supplementary Information from the HAD was set out in the supplementary information to Question Raised by Ms GUO Xuantong on the Support Provided for New Arrivals and Ethnic Minorities in Sha Tin District (Paper No. SWYC 02/2025).

Question Raised by Miss MOK Hei-man on Enhancing the Sense of Community Involvement among Youth in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. SWYC 3/2025)

24. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) it was considered that experience sharing was not the same as autonomous participation, and that young people needed to enhance their sense of responsibility and belonging in order to develop their creativity and uniqueness;
- (b) the implementation of the five visions and four goals (五為四能) of the youth policy was a key task of the Government's advisory departments, which aims to help young people realise their visions for the future and promote the sustainable development of the community; and
- (c) on recruiting and organising young people to participate in activities, members stressed the need for District Council members and government departments to make efforts to remove barriers to young people's participation in public affairs and provide necessary support and facilities.

25. Members' suggestions were as follows:

- (a) the Music Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) runs 18 youth orchestras/bands, including symphony orchestras and choirs, throughout the territory. There were training bases for choirs and Chinese orchestras in Sha Tin District, but there was a lack of training facilities for string orchestras and symphonic bands. It was asked whether the LCSD would consider setting up a training base for orchestras in Sha Tin, so as to enhance the sense of commitment to orchestral music among the young people in Sha Tin District; and
- (b) it was pointed out that the HKSAR Government had earlier set up two youth committees, namely the District Youth Community Building Committee and the District Youth Development and Civic Education Committee. Members suggested that the LCSD could consider communicating and co-ordinating with these two youth committees by inviting members to participate in the planning of activities, so as to enhance the sense of community involvement among young people in Sha Tin District.

26. The representative of the LCSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) active consideration would be given to organising more programmes within the available resources to enable young people to participate in the organisation of activities;
- (b) she would liaise with colleagues in the Music Office to understand the reasons for not being able to set up a string and symphonic orchestra in the Shatin Music Centre and would take follow-up actions; and

[[Post-meeting note: The representative of the LCSD liaised with members on the follow-up actions on 14 February 2025.

- (c) the representative of the LCSD indicated that they were willing to attend meetings of the District Youth Committees concerned and to explore ways to make use of the resources available to organise more activities for the participation of young people.

27. The Chairman announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

Information Papers

Number of Children Referred to Public Sector Primary and Secondary Schools in Sha Tin District Provided by the Education Bureau (October to November 2024)
(Paper No. SWYC 4/2025)

28. Members noted the above paper.

29. The Chairman announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

Report on Youth Crimes in Sha Tin District (October to November 2024)
(Paper No. SWYC 5/2025)

30. Members noted the above paper.

31. The Chairman announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

32. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10:00 am on 5 March 2025 (Wednesday).

33. The meeting was closed at 3:31 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/80

February 2025