

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Social Welfare and Youth Committee in 2025

Date : 7 May 2025 (Wednesday)
Time : 10:00 am
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)	10:00 am	11:23 am
Miss TUNG Kin-lei (Vice Chairman)	10:06 am	11:23 am
Mr WONG Wai-shing	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr KU Wai-ping	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	10:03 am	11:23 am
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr NG Kai-tai	10:02 am	11:23 am
Ms LAM Siu-man	10:01 am	11:23 am
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr LAM Yu-sing	10:02 am	11:23 am
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	10:00 am	11:23 am
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr HA Kim-kwan	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	10:00 am	11:23 am
Miss CHAN Hiu-ying	10:00 am	11:23 am
Miss MOK Hei-man	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr WONG Yue-hon	10:00 am	11:23 am
Ms WONG Po-yee	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	10:32 am	11:23 am
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	10:07 am	11:23 am
Mr LAU Tak-wing	10:00 am	11:23 am
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	10:00 am	11:23 am
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	10:00 am	11:23 am
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	10:12 am	11:23 am
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr LEE Kang-pan	10:00 am	11:23 am
Mr CHAU Ping-him	10:00 am	11:23 am
Ms YIP Shuk-kuen	10:00 am	11:23 am
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

Mrs LAU HO Man-wai

Ms TONG Mai-mai

Inspector WONG Hiu-lam, Shirleen

Ms WONG Mo-sze, Nancy

Title

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2
Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Sha Tin District Office
Senior School Development Officer (Shatin)5,
Education Bureau
Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin)2,
Social Welfare Department
Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Youth
Engagement), Shatin District, Hong Kong Police Force
Labour Officer (Workplace Consultation Promotion),
Labour Department

In Attendance by Invitation

Ms NG Hoi-yee

Dr CHIM Pak-wing

Ms TAM Sau-wai

Ms FUNG Shuk-man, Wendy

Ms KWAN Jennifer

Ms WONG Shuk-yee

Title

Senior School Development Officer (Shatin)1,
Education Bureau
Senior Medical and Health Officer
(Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)2,
Department of Health
Registered Nurse
(Emergency Preparedness and District Relations),
Department of Health
District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin),
Social Welfare Department
Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin)1,
Social Welfare Department
Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin)3,
Social Welfare Department

Absent

Ms GUO Xuantong

Title

District Council Member (Application for leave of absence received)

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

Application for Leave of Absence

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

Ms GUO Xuantong

Postpartum recovery

3. The SWYC unanimously approved the application for leave of absence submitted by Ms GUO Xuantong.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 5 March 2025
(SWYC Minutes 2/2025)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Discussion Item

District Activities / Programmes of the Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office for 2025/2026
(Paper No. SWYC 10/2025)

5. The Chairman welcomed the District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) and 3 Assistant District Social Welfare Officers of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting.
6. The representative of the SWD briefly introduced the paper (Paper No. SWYC 10/2025), reviewing the work of the Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office in 2024/2025 and elaborating on the District Activities / Programmes for 2025/2026.
7. The Chairman invited members to speak for the first round.
8. Members' suggestions were as follows:
 - (a) in respect of life planning, consideration should be given to the diverse interests and preferences of young people. While promoting the social welfare care sector, we should also promote other areas to cultivate the different interests of young people, so as to alleviate students' pressure and enhance their sense of happiness; and
 - (b) members proposed to organise the Outstanding Parents Election, emphasising that family was an important element and parents were the key players in the growth of their children. It was hoped that through the activity, parents would be encouraged to become role models and enhance their sense of responsibility.
9. Members pointed out that the elderly in the district would like to know more about the existing welfare services, in particular the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly and the arrangements for assessment of the relevant services, and opined that some staff of the service centres in the district were unable to give a detailed introduction of the relevant services.
10. Members shared a case of an 80-year-old elderly person taking care of his/her grandchildren, and wished to know how the Integrated Family Service Centres would intervene and provide support for the skipped generation family case concerned, pointing out that there was no contact information of youth centres in the referral form of the Care Teams at present.
11. The representative of the SWD gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) she thanked members for their views and pointed out that the existing Designated Hotline for Carer Support 182 183 could provide one-stop service for carers, including information on relevant welfare services;

- (b) the Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) had invited staff of the Elderly Branch of the SWD to brief the District Coordinating Committees on relevant services, such as the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly, and would encourage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to step up the training of their frontline workers to enhance their understanding of welfare services;
- (c) the DSWO also provided self-learning materials for District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams), including introducing relevant welfare services to Care Team members in the form of short videos to enhance their understanding of the services, so that they could recommend the services to their service targets and encourage the elderly and families to make effective use of the resources;
- (d) for the skipped generation family cases, frontline social workers of Integrated Family Service Centres would provide relevant support to the elders in need, such as individual counselling or sharing of skills in taking care of grandchildren in a small group setting;
- (e) consideration would be given to adding information on Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres to the referral form of Care Teams to facilitate referrals;

[Post-meeting note: The DSWO distributed the community resources packs to the Sha Tin District Care Teams at a training activity on 12 March 2025, which contained information on relevant welfare services in the service areas of various sub-districts, including youth services, and was available for reference by the Care Team members.]

- (f) the Strive and Rise Programme also provided different types of life planning opportunities for disadvantaged children; and
- (g) members' suggestion on the Outstanding Parents Election would be conveyed to the relevant working group for consideration.

12. Members suggested that the name of the election be changed to Best Father or Outstanding Parents Election, emphasising the contribution of parents to the family together and the need for love, care and companionship in family relationships, and it was hoped that parents would take practical actions to allow their children to express their appreciation for them. Members also hoped that the focus of the activity would not only be on the image of the participants, but also on the fact that they would actually be able to build good communication and parent-child relationships with their children.

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

- (a) the SWD agreed that in terms of publicity effect, sharing real family stories was more effective and convincing than relying solely on social workers' preaching; and
- (b) in future, collaboration with NGOs could be pursued to try to identify and publicise the stories in the community.

14. Members' enquiries were as follows:

- (a) members wished to know the details of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, including the names of the 15 participating residential care homes for the elderly, their locations, number of residents, conditions, service items and fees; and

- (b) regarding the future development of the Scheme, members were interested in knowing whether similar services would be provided in other Mainland regions outside Guangdong Province.

15. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) members raised concern about dual working families, as many dual working parents lacked resources to take care of their children in their workplaces, and hoped that the community could step up advocacy and encourage enterprises to increase their support and assistance to dual working parents in taking care of their children; and
- (b) members considered that the SWD could collaborate with them to enhance residents' understanding of social welfare information through, for example, briefings on social welfare to be organised by various Area Committees for the public at different locations.

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

- (a) further details of the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong, including the eligibility criteria, complementary measures, residential care homes and related support services, could be introduced at future meetings;
- (b) the SWD agreed that the protection of children required the concerted efforts of different sectors, and looked forward to strengthen collaboration with different platforms in the district in the future, so as to enhance publicity on caring for children in the community and among enterprises; and
- (c) the SWD was willing to introduce its services to the Area Committees. Given the wide range of social welfare services/information available, the SWD also encouraged members of the public in need to make immediate enquiries with the relevant service centres on their personal needs to ensure that they could receive the required services in a timely manner.

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

Questions

Question Raised by Mr LAU Tak-wing on the Concerns and Prevention of the Spread of "Space Oil" to the Sha Tin Community and Schools
(Paper No. SWYC 11/2025)

18. Members enquired about the following matters:

- (a) whether the SWD had any specific anti-drug work directions for Sha Tin District;
- (b) whether the number of persons aged 12 to 29 arrested for drug abuse provided by the Police in the reply included repeat offenders, and about the types of drugs involved in the cases, particularly the figures related to "space oil drug";
- (c) the details of participation of teachers and schools in Sha Tin District in the Teacher Professional Development Programme entitled "Values Education (Health Education) Series:

Latest Information on ‘Space Oil Drugs’ and Promotion Strategies for Anti-Drug Education” held on 14 February;

- (d) other major work of the Education Bureau (EDB) and its work directions in 2025 apart from revision of teaching materials;
- (e) whether the young people abusing “space oil drug” needed other support, such as assistance related to psychological counselling or personal growth;
- (f) the number of anti-drug publicity activities related to “space oil drug” held by the Police in Sha Tin District, including talks in secondary schools and interactive dramas in primary schools;
- (g) whether the anti-cannabis and anti-“space oil drug” promotion truck would be parked in Sha Tin District for holding activities; and
- (h) the specific number of anti-“space oil drug” promotional materials distributed by the Police and whether consideration would be given to arranging publicity through the Sha Tin District Council, Area Committees or Care Teams.

19. Members’ views were as follows:

- (a) members indicated that there was a spreading trend of “space oil drug” in the community and shared a case of a non-engaged young person seeking help in connection with abuse of “space oil drug”. Members recognised the work of the social workers of the Neo-Horizon of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council and thanked them for assisting and accompanying the young person to make a report to the Police and attend court;
- (b) members indicated that in schools, social workers and teachers could identify students in need and provided support. However, in the community, support and identification work for young people abusing “space oil drug”, particularly non-engaged young people abusing “space oil drug”, might not be adequate;
- (c) members agreed that schools could hold the “Anti-‘Space Oil Drug’ Week” campaign in line with the EDB’s policy to raise students’ anti-drug awareness and strengthen their determination to refuse drugs;
- (d) the Police held meetings with school sponsoring bodies every year to introduce anti-drug work and step up publicity and education efforts, thereby effectively raising students’ anti-drug awareness;
- (e) members thanked the Police and the EDB for providing schools with promotional resources, enabling schools to provide parents with relevant information on dangerous drugs, thereby deepening parents’ understanding and promoting family education through educational platforms; and
- (f) members hoped that with the support from various sectors, students could be guided to build up drug-free positive values which could promote their healthy growth.

20. Members' suggestions were as follows:

- (a) regarding marginalised young people vulnerable to drug abuse, such as young people lacking family care and community support, members enquired whether government departments, such as the Police, the SWD and the Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau, would consider strengthening prevention and identification work in the community through collaboration with NGOs and District Council Members;
- (b) the easy availability of “space oil drug” provided young people with the opportunity to try drugs for the first time, after which they might switch to other drugs. There were many reasons why young people abused drugs. Members suggested that the Government should not only pay attention to “space oil drug” but also arrange publicity targeting at other drugs, such as cocaine and cannabis;
- (c) the main reasons for young people to take drugs included boredom, stress and depression. The Government should provide corresponding support to address these issues and prevent young people from relapse after drug rehabilitation;
- (d) noting that drug abuse often took place at home and family education was crucial in preventing drug abuse, members suggested that anti-drug education and parental involvement be strengthened starting from the primary school stage to enhance children's resistance to drugs; and
- (e) members were of the view that schools should not only provide academic support but also consider making use of technologies, such as artificial intelligence, to help students discover their interests, thereby promoting their healthy growth.

21. A representative of the EDB gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Government had been adopting a multi-pronged strategy to combat drugs, with the ND of the Security Bureau playing the central role in coordinating anti-drug work across various policy bureaux and departments, public organisations and NGOs. The EDB had all along promoted anti-drug education and attached great importance to promoting health education (including anti-drug education and resistance to harmful substance), which was an important component of values education;
- (b) through ongoing renewal of curriculum documents, the production of learning and teaching resources, and the organisation of Teacher Professional Development Programmes and student activities, the EDB holistically supported schools to help students develop proper values and positive attitudes towards life, and resolutely resist any harmful substances through the “learning within and beyond the classroom” and “whole-school participation” approaches, thereby promoting their healthy growth;
- (c) regarding the school curriculum, the EDB introduced the Values Education Curriculum Framework (Pilot Version) in 2021 which provided schools with directional and strategic suggestions and exemplars for the planning of their values education within and beyond the classroom, to foster the development of students' positive values and attitudes from an early age, in order to help them face the challenges in their studies, daily lives and growth with a positive attitude. One of the major focuses of the curriculum framework was the enhancing of the learning elements of anti-drug education, which included enabling students'

understanding of the harms of drugs, building proper values for facing adversity and resisting temptation, maintaining a positive attitude towards life and leading a healthy lifestyle. The curriculum framework emphasised whole-school participation in promoting values education within and beyond the classroom, and encouraged schools, parents and various parties in the community to create a desirable promotion atmosphere. The learning elements related to anti-drug education and resistance to harmful substance had all along been embedded in various key learning areas and subject curricula in primary and secondary schools, such as Primary Humanities, Primary Science as well as the key learning areas of Personal, Social and Humanities Education and Technology Education in secondary schools;

- (d) regarding learning and teaching resources, the EDB provided diversified learning and teaching resources on an ongoing basis, including “life event” exemplars, video resources on values education, animations, comics for moral education, board games, thematic webpages and exemplars of learning and teaching; and
- (e) regarding teacher training, the EDB held relevant Teacher Professional Development Programmes, such as Curriculum Planning and Strategies of Promoting Anti-drug Education in Schools and Curriculum Planning and Learning Activities Design for Promoting Students’ Physical and Psychological Well-being to enhance teachers’ techniques in respect of curriculum planning and strategies for promoting anti-drug education in schools in a bid to support schools in promoting relevant work. As for Teacher Professional Development Programmes on drug prevention, examples of the programmes held from 2022/2023 to date included Values Education (Health Education) Series: Latest Information on “Space Oil Drugs” and Promotion Strategies for Anti-Drug Education, Values Education Experiential Learning Workshop: Teaching Strategies and Resources for Promoting Anti-drug Education and Health Education in Secondary Schools and Values Education Experiential Learning Workshop: Teaching Strategies and Resources for Promoting Anti-drug Education and Health Education in Primary Schools”.

22. A representative of the SWD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the future directions of anti-drug education and publicity work, service units under the SWD, including Integrated Family Service Centres and Probation and Community Service Orders Offices, and subvented NGOs would continue to organise different types of anti-drug education and publicity activities in the district, including the screening of short videos as well as the holding of exhibitions/talks and group activities, to let the public gain an understanding of the harms of different drugs;
- (b) the SWD would make use of established platforms to bring together school social workers, NGOs and youth workers to share information and promotion strategies related to drug prevention in a bid to enhance collaboration;
- (c) the Neo-Horizon would continue to expand its school network in the future to carry out anti-drug education and publicity work for more secondary school and tertiary students. The Neo-Horizon also attached importance to the work on parent education and was currently producing “tips for parents” to help parents understand the drug problems, enhance communication skills and obtain information on emergency assistance to effectively address their children’s drug abuse problem;

- (d) the Neo-Horizon would also strive to strengthen cross-professional collaboration in the future, for example, collaborating with District Youth Outreaching Social Work Teams and Chinese medicine practitioners to provide immediate medical assessments with a view to achieving the effects of early intervention and anti-drug publicity;
- (e) the Neo-Horizon employed innovative methods, such as using “drug simulation goggles”, to let young people experience the effects after drug abuse, thereby enhancing their understanding and vigilance regarding the harms of drugs; and
- (f) recognising the importance of inter-departmental collaboration, the SWD would invite the ND again to share information with relevant Co-ordinating Committees to further strengthen collaboration in anti-drug work in the district.

[Post-meeting note: The ND had been invited to give an introduction of the anti-drug situation in Hong Kong and the Government’s anti-drug work at the relevant Co-ordinating Committee meeting to be held on 21 November 2025.]

23. The representative of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Shatin Police District arrested a total of 64 persons suspected of possessing “space oil drug” or nicotine-containing electronic cigarettes between June 2024 and April 2025, seven of whom were underage persons, accounting for about 10%;
- (b) the Police would reach out to more young people through school talks and activities to raise their awareness of the harms of “space oil drug”;
- (c) cannabis-type drugs were the most common among adolescents under 21 years old because it was easy to buy the drugs and their prices were lower. Students did not have adequate understanding of the harms of the drugs either, wrongly believing that they were less severe than other drugs;
- (d) if the Police planned to use the promotion truck for anti-drug publicity against the abuse of cannabis and “space oil drug” in Sha Tin District, District Council Members would also be invited to participate in the publicity at that time;
- (e) promotional leaflets could be provided to District Council Members and Care Teams after the meeting to enhance public awareness of the harms of drugs, particularly among adolescents in the district; and
- (f) District Council Members were urged to assist in contacting relevant personnel of international schools so that the Police could arrange anti-drug talks in English to expand the coverage of anti-drug education.

24. Members enquired about the following matters:

- (a) the specific information on schools and teachers in Sha Tin District who participated in the Teacher Professional Development Programme held on 14 February; and

- (b) whether the School Development Section would encourage the schools that did not participate in relevant activities and arrange district-based training for them in a bid to increase participation.

25. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) other members were encouraged to visit the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre in Admiralty set up by the Government to gain an understanding of relevant information; and
- (b) members shared that three short videos on the harms of youth drug abuse had been produced, and students had responded well to the publicity made via the television. Short videos could be used as an effective educational tool, which were suitable for use in classrooms or sharing sessions and provided an opportunity for debriefing. If other members were interested, the short videos could be provided to them for promotional use.

26. A representative of the EDB gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) there was no specific information on participating schools in Sha Tin District for the time being. Members could make an enquiry about the data if necessary; and
- (b) the EDB had all along attached importance to helping students cultivate proper values and positive attitudes towards life, and practise lawful and appropriate behaviour so as to build up a healthy lifestyle. Schools should adopt the "whole-school participation" approach to promote values education, including health education. With various key learning areas, subjects and groups complementing each other and through diversified learning activities within and beyond the classroom, the EDB would, on an ongoing basis, teach students to resist all harmful substances and to cultivate proper values and a healthy attitude towards life, thereby promoting their healthy growth.

[Post-meeting note: A total of 29 schools in Sha Tin District participated in the Teacher Professional Development Programme entitled "Values Education (Health Education) Series: Latest Information on 'Space Oil Drugs' and Promotion Strategies for Anti-Drug Education" on 14 February 2025, and 70 teachers from Sha Tin District participated in the Programme.

The EDB would continue to produce relevant learning and teaching resources as well as promotional resources, and organise Teacher Professional Development Programmes through inter-departmental and cross-sectoral collaboration to support schools in promoting anti-drug education.]

27. A representative of the SWD indicated that service units under the SWD could make good use of the short videos for anti-drug publicity and education.

[Post-meeting note: Representatives of the SWD contacted the members concerned after the meeting to discuss the screening of anti-drug short videos at units under the SWD.]

28. The representative of the HKPF expressed interest in members' suggestion and consideration would be given to the screening of the short videos in anti-drug talks.

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

Question Raised by Ms WONG Po-yee on School Dental Care Service and Student Health Service in Sha Tin District

(Paper No. SWYC 12/2025)

30. Members enquired about the following matters:

- (a) members mentioned that during primary school days, they travelled to dental care centres by school bus and considered that the dental care service was important for students;
- (b) members wished to know whether this service was still coordinated by schools, or parents needed to take their children to attend the clinics. If the latter was the case, students might be deprived of the opportunity to receive the dental care service; and
- (c) members wished to know the number of schools in Sha Tin District participating in the dental care service and whether these schools had arranged dedicated vehicles to take students to dental care centres.

31. Members' suggestions were as follows:

- (a) members noted that the current service hours of the dental care service were the office hours from Monday to Friday. They suggested that the Department of Health (DH) review the service hours of the dental care service to reduce the inconvenience caused to parents due to the need to take leave frequently to accompany a number of children for dental check-ups;
- (b) members hoped that the DH could coordinate the appointment times of siblings to simplify the arrangement process for parents; and
- (c) members indicated that there was room for improvement in the service attitude of the staff when parents made an application for rescheduling appointments for their children.

32. A representative of the DH gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) understood the difficulty for parents to take leave and noted Members' suggestion to extend the service hours of the dental care service or to provide evening time slots. The views would be relayed to the relevant service units;
- (b) understood the difficulties parents faced when they rescheduled appointments, including the inconvenience of making telephone contacts and the attitude of the service staff, and indicated that users who had enrolled for the School Dental Care Service on the webpage could reschedule appointments via online channels; and
- (c) confirmed that schools could arrange school bus transport service, and the number of participating schools in Sha Tin District would be provided at a later time.

[Post-meeting note: At present, 50 schools in Sha Tin District participated in the School Dental Care Service, of which 31 schools used the School Dental Care Service school bus transport service.

For the School Dental Care Service, all participating schools were encouraged to use the school bus transport service provided free of charge by the DH. However, the schools had the final decision on whether to use the school bus transport service.

On the other hand, students of a primary school that participated in the School Dental Care Service could apply and enrol for the service through the school, while students of non-participating schools could enrol for the service individually.]

33. 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 (February to March 2025)

(Paper No. SWYC 13/2025)

Report on Youth Crimes in Sha Tin District (February to March 2025)

(Paper No. SWYC 14/2025)

34. Members noted the above paper.

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

Date and Time of Next Meeting

36. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 9 July 2025 (Wednesday).

37. The meeting was closed at 11:23 am.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/80

July 2025