

**Sha Tin District Council**  
**Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of**  
**the Social Welfare and Youth Committee in 2025**

**Date :** 5 November 2025 (Wednesday)  
**Time :** 2:30 pm  
**Venue :** Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441  
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Time of joining the meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Time of leaving the meeting</u></b>
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH (Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Miss TUNG Kin-lei (Vice Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr WONG Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr KU Wai-ping	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	2:32 pm	3:15 pm
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet, MH	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr NG Kai-tai	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms LAM Siu-man	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr LAM Yu-sing	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr HA Kim-kwan	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms GUO Xuanton	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-wai	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Miss CHAN Hiu-ying	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Miss MOK Hei-man	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms WONG Po-yee	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr LAU Tak-wing	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr LEE Kang-pan	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Mr CHAU Ping-him	2:30 pm	3:15 pm
Ms YEUNG Suet-man, Kelly (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Sha Tin District Office	

**In Attendance**

Ms LI Ching-ting, Kylie

Mr LEE Man-fai, Dave

Ms WONG So-man, Katrina

Mrs LAU HO Man-wai

Ms CHOY Yuk-ling, Elaine

Inspector CHOI Chung-wai, Bruce

Ms WONG Mo-sze, Nancy

**Title**

Acting 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 (Youth Engagement),  
Shatin District, Hong Kong Police ForceLabour Officer (Workplace Consultation Promotion),  
Labour Department**Absent**

Ms YIP Shuk-kuen

**Title**

Co-opted Member (Application for leave of absence received)

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

**Application for Leave of Absence**

2. The Chairman indicated that the Sha Tin District Council Secretariat had received a written application for leave of absence from the following member prior to the meeting:

Ms YIP Shuk-kuen

Personal reasons (urgent business)

3. The SWYC unanimously concurred with the application for leave of absence submitted by the above member.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting****Minutes of the Meeting Held on 3 September 2025**

(SWYC Minutes 5/2025)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

**Questions****Question Raised by Dr LAM Kong-kwan on Community Support Services for Vulnerable and Hidden Elderly Persons in Sha Tin District**

(Paper No. SWYC 26/2025)

5. Members' enquiries and suggestions were as follows:

- (a) members opined that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) currently lacked targeted measures for early identification of vulnerable and hidden elders, as well as a firm grasp of the number of unidentified hidden elders in Sha Tin District;

- (b) members pointed out that the SWD's schemes in place were rather passive, with heavy reliance on property management personnel and District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) for case identification; nevertheless, in the absence of professional training, the majority of the frontline might not be able to effectively identify elders with mental health issues or suicide risk. Members hence enquired whether the SWD had assessed the effectiveness of relevant measures and schemes;
- (c) members asked whether District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) had offered vulnerable and hidden elders proactive outreach services with targeted resources and services;
- (d) members enquired whether the SWD had specific strategies for vulnerable and hidden elders to overcome psychological barriers and seek assistance proactively;
- (e) taking the view that addressing hidden elders required systematic data-driven approaches, community participation and intervention strategies, members asked whether the SWD would consider allocating additional resources to Sha Tin District in the future to provide vulnerable and hidden elders, as well as high-risk individuals, with timely support and appropriate follow-up actions; and
- (f) in sharing Care Team's experience of district home visits to doubleton elderly households, members indicated that under the SWD's Carer Support Data Platform, only one elder living at the same address could be registered as "care recipient", while the other could only be registered as "carer"; therefore, members suggested that the SWD should optimise the system to allow separate registration of two or more elders at the same address, so as to obtain a more complete picture for home visits.

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

- (a) since April 2025, the SWD had provided Care Team members in Sha Tin District with training on simple and straightforward approaches in identifying elders/households with mental health issues or at higher risk;
- (b) recognising that Care Team members might not be as professionally attuned as social workers, she recommended case referral to the SWD or social workers of district social welfare services units whenever elders of concern were identified or the risk level could not be determined;
- (c) SWD-subsidised DECCs and NECs had long identified/reached out to singleton and doubleton elderly households and provided services to hidden elders through outreach and networking, while continuing efforts to identify local hidden elders. At present, the average number of cases identified each month in Sha Tin District exceeded 600, with regular follow-up visits arranged. Where possible, the services would go beyond elders living in public housing estates to cover those residing in private housing; and

[Post-meeting note: To enhance support for the needy elders and their carers while encouraging public participation, the SWD launched the Support for Carers Project in October 2018, with invitation to property management companies to join and, where necessary, support ageing in place through earlier use of community resources. Following the Project's extension to cover persons with disabilities (PWDs) in October 2023, all Care Teams under the Home Affairs

Department across the territory were officially invited from April 2025 to participate in the District Services and Community Care Teams - Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers, so as to help identify singleton and doubleton elderly households, carers of elders and carers of PWDs in need through visits and contacts, and refer cases requiring assistance to social welfare organisations for follow-up. It was thus evident that the Government had been expanding the support network for elders and their carers through proactive use of district resources.]

- (d) she explained that even if the other elder was registered as “carer” on the household information management platform under the District Services and Community Care Teams - Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers, the system would still capture relevant information and send it to the SWD’s data system. For example, upon the hospitalisation of an elder registered as “carer”, the SWD would identify the household in need based on data linked to the pilot scheme with the Hospital Authority and would then provide parallel support to the carer and the care recipient via the Designated Hotline for Carer Support, demonstrating that information of both elders could be captured and the support mechanism could be activated accordingly under the current registration arrangement.

7. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

Question Raised by Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy on the Implementation of the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly in Sha Tin District  
(Paper No. SWYC 27/2025)

8. Members’ views and suggestions were as follows:

- (a) members pointed out that the complicated application procedures of the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) could be rather difficult for elders, with only one successful application among local referrals last year, suggesting that the implementation of the Scheme might not be effective;
- (b) members indicated that many elders could not choose the most suitable community care service due to unfamiliarity with the wide range of services under the CCSV Scheme, while service providers might not fully grasp elders’ actual needs or provide information on service waiting times during assessments. Members therefore suggested that service units should provide more information to help elders compare available services and, where appropriate, recommend options with shorter waiting times, so that users could benefit from services as soon as possible;
- (c) members noted that elders, despite being eligible, still had to complete numerous forms, which were hard for them to manage independently; coupled with inadequate assistance rendered by service units, this had contributed to the under-utilisation of CCSVs; and
- (d) members suggested that the SWD should step up publicity and clearly explain the differences among community care services to help elders select the best-fitting scheme, while enhancing training for service providers to ensure the provision of proper advice and assistance, as well as adequate support during the application process based on elders’ individual circumstances.

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

- (a) as a general rule, upon receipt of CCSV applications from elders, a social worker of the social welfare services unit would first conduct preliminary assessment on their family background

and caregiving situation, and would then arrange the Standardised Care Need Assessment to ascertain their long-term care service needs, as well as the requisite level of care, having regard to their circumstances, so as to facilitate applications for suitable residential or community care services. Applicants assessed as ineligible for long-term care services but in need of care services might discuss the assessment results with the social worker, while exploring alternative community support services; and

- (b) the non-utilisation of CCSVs, whether immediate or otherwise, after issuance might occur when, for instance, elders were hospitalised, experienced health deterioration that rendered community services inappropriate and necessitated transfer to residential care, or were still considering service options or awaiting service provision; the SWD would allow sufficient time for elders to choose suitable services; and
- (c) on the administration of CCSV applications, the Government strove to streamline the process to reduce elders' burden. In parallel with the assistance provided by case social workers in preparing the required documents, including financial statements for determining the co-payment category, the public was also encouraged to offer elders more support.

10. Members' supplementary views were as follows:

- (a) members urged the SWD to squarely address the paradox of unused CCSVs alongside unserved elders in need, and pointed to insufficient information transparency and inadequate support for elders in service selection as the root causes.
- (b) members stated that elders might be confused by a range of service options; without adequate information and guidance, they would require clear principles and advice to make appropriate choices. Members also considered that in the absence of proper assistance, elders' needs would not be fully met even if more social workers were available;
- (c) members noted that a number of case referrals were subject to prolonged waiting times and had not yet resulted in successful CCSV applications, which discouraged elders in need; and
- (d) members suggested that the SWD should step up publicity on elderly services via community talks and other means, so that elders could better understand the available social welfare benefits and services; alternatively, the SWD could encourage service providers to offer more in-depth briefings on their services, thereby enhancing support for elders.

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

- (a) she indicated that about 20% of elders in Sha Tin District were assessed as eligible CCSV applicants under the Standardised Care Need Assessment; nevertheless, some might be unable to use the CCSV due to personal reasons;
- (b) subsequent to elders' submission of CCSV applications, the case social worker would continue to follow up and provide necessary assistance and counselling to facilitate service selection; meanwhile, social workers of the SWD's CCSV Office would also offer support and answer enquiries about the use of the CCSV or service selection; and

[Post-meeting note: The SWD supplemented that the enquiries handled included explanations of application procedures, recommendations on suitable recognised service providers (RSPs)

and service packages according to elders' individual circumstances, as well as assistance with change of RSPs where necessary. CCSV recipients might contact their preferred RSPs to purchase services based on their needs.]

- (c) concurring that information talks could help enhance elders' understanding of CCSVs and the available options, she advised that the SWD would continue to promote such activities in collaboration with DECCs and NECs.

12. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

Question Raised by Mr DENG Kairong on Education on the National Flag and Regional Flag in Sha Tin District

(Paper No. SWYC 28/2025)

13. Members' views and suggestions were as follows:

- (a) members recognised the effectiveness of education and efforts undertaken by schools and the Police on the display of the national flag and regional flag;
- (b) in view of public concerns about inconsistent community standards for raising the national flag and regional flag, members suggested that relevant government departments should step up education, provide guidance and establish an effective monitoring mechanism, so as to ensure territory-wide compliance with relevant regulations, while extending the successful experience and practices of school education and publicity on flying the national flag and regional flag to the wider community;
- (c) members noted that certain government venues like stadiums lacked basic flag-raising facilities (e.g. flagpoles and the national flag), such that organisers had to hire and transport movable flagpoles and the national flag from flag-raising teams and other departments; and
- (d) members hoped that all government venues would be fitted with flagpoles to facilitate users' engagement of professional flag-raising teams to conduct a flag-raising ceremony at ceremonial events and national celebrations, thereby promoting national education.

14. A representative of the Education Bureau (EDB) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 6/2024 on the National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem stipulated that all schools must display the national flag on each school day and conduct a national flag-raising ceremony weekly;
- (b) all teaching and learning resources for primary and secondary schools were available on the EDB's theme-based webpage on the National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem, which included brief descriptions of the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem, points to note on the display of the national flag and regional flag in schools, as well as relevant materials and reference links. For regulations on the display and use of the national flag and regional flag, as well as the etiquette to be observed during a national flag-raising ceremony and the playing and singing of the national anthem, schools might refer to relevant provisions under the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance, the amended Regional Flag and Regional Emblem

Ordinance and the National Anthem Ordinance, as well as the Protocol Division Government Secretariat's webpage. A demonstration video on raising the regional flag alongside the national flag in a flag-raising ceremony was also uploaded to the EDB's webpage for school reference;

- (c) to support teachers in understanding the points to note when conducting national flag-raising ceremonies, the EDB had set up the online resources platform "National Education One-stop Portal"; continued to update/enrich its theme-based webpage; published the Learning and Teaching of the National Anthem: Supplement to the Music Curriculum Guide; and provided teacher professional development programmes; and
- (d) under the current mechanism, the EDB would keep abreast of schools' implementation of education on the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem and offer advice through inspection, school visits, daily liaison and other channels.

15. A representative of the Hong Kong Police Force indicated that all police stations would conduct national flag-raising ceremonies regularly and that the Police were willing to provide flag-raising information as necessary.

16. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

Question Raised by Miss LAW Yuen-pui on the Places in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly and for Persons with Disabilities in Sha Tin District  
(Paper No. SWYC 29/2025)

17. Members' further enquiries and views were as follows:

- (a) with thanks to the SWD for furnishing the figures of places in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and residential care homes for PWDs (RCHDs) in Sha Tin District, members pointed out that given the prolonged waiting times for subsidised RCHEs as evidenced by the data, some elders had passed away while waiting;
- (b) members expressed concerns about the ineffective and inadequate community support for elders and their families pending placement; relevant information was copious yet fragmented, let alone clear guidelines for District Council Members on providing assistance;
- (c) members suggested that the SWD should provide a clear, simple and consolidated profile of community support services, summarising available services and application procedures (e.g. subsidies for carers, respite services and CCSVs); with enhanced information transparency, District Council Members and elders could easily understand community support services available for application while waiting for RCHE places;
- (d) members asked whether the SWD had any strategies and directions to shorten waiting times while addressing the shortage of places, such as through cross-boundary elderly care or by promoting ageing in place;
- (e) members expressed concerns about the rising number of applicants for hostels for moderately mentally handicapped persons in Sha Tin District. Despite slight decreases in the average waiting times over the past three years, moderately mentally handicapped persons still had to wait for about eight and a half years, while severely mentally handicapped persons had to wait

even longer, i.e. nine and a half years; members therefore enquired whether the SWD had any support measures to alleviate carers' burden;

- (f) noting that the SWD had secured the Legislative Council's funding approval of \$20 billion in 2020 to purchase welfare premises, members asked if the SWD had any plans to increase the number of places in Sha Tin District through such purchases, so that mentally handicapped persons could be admitted to local hostels and their family members could more easily provide care and make visits; and
- (g) emphasising the prolonged waiting times for RCHEs in Sha Tin District, members suggested that the SWD should address the root causes through enhanced support for non-governmental organisations and expedited processing of applications from relevant organisations to operate RCHEs, thereby increasing the supply of places.

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

- (a) concurring that the waiting times for RCHEs and RCHDs were prolonged, she noted that the SWD would continue to proactively increase the provision of places and district support services;
- (b) the Government had community resources in place to support elders' service needs pending RCHE placement. Elders could, wherever necessary, switch to using the CCSV to purchase community support services without affecting their priority for RCHE places. With cases moved only to the Inactive Waiting List, applicants who wished to continue waiting for a place could apply at any time to return to the Active Waiting List;
- (c) despite the challenges in identifying suitable sites for setting up RCHDs and subject to full consideration of community reaction and needs, the Government was revitalising former service sites through consolidation and review of existing services, aiming to provide more places under integrated services to meet demand; and
- (d) the Government encouraged developers to incorporate welfare facilities, including RCHEs and RCHDs, into new private developments through lease modification, land exchange or private treaty grant, thereby increasing the supply of such services at source.

19. Members' further enquiries were as follows:

- (a) considering the high vacancy rates in a number of shopping malls, members asked if the SWD would consider renting or purchasing properties in such malls, so as to expand service facilities for PWDs; and
- (b) members sought information on the SWD's identification of sites for service provision in Sha Tin District over the past three years, including community views and objected cases.

20. A representative of the SWD advised that the SWD had explored the feasibility of providing RCHD services in the properties concerned. Given no specific figures available at present, the SWD would report back to members after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: Following the SWD representative's report, members raised no further questions.]

21. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on 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 (August to September 2025)  
(Paper No. SWYC 30/2025)

22. Members noted the above paper.

23. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

Report on Youth Crimes in Sha Tin District (August to September 2025)  
(Paper No. SWYC 31/2025)

24. Members noted the above paper.

25. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

26. The date and time of the next meeting were yet to be confirmed.

27. The meeting was closed at 3:15 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/80

January 2026