

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Social Welfare and Youth Committee in 2025

Date : 5 March 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	11:03 am
Miss TUNG Kin-lei (Vice Chairman)	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr WONG Wai-shing	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr KU Wai-ping	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	10:00 am	11:03 am
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr NG Kai-tai	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms LAM Siu-man	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr LAM Yu-sing	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	10:00 am	11:03 am
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr HA Kim-kwan	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms GUO Xuanton	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	10:08 am	11:03 am
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	10:00 am	11:03 am
Miss CHAN Hiu-ying	10:00 am	11:03 am
Miss MOK Hei-man	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr WONG Yue-hon	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms WONG Po-yee	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	10:07 am	11:03 am
Mr LAU Tak-wing	10:00 am	11:03 am
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	10:12 am	11:03 am
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr LEE Kang-pan	10:00 am	11:03 am
Mr CHAU Ping-him	10:00 am	11:03 am
Ms YIP Shuk-kuen	10:00 am	11:03 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

Ms WONG So-man, Katrina

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

Executive Officer I (District Council)3,
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 FU Yim-ting, Jenny

Title

Service Director,

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for
Multi-Cultural Community

Mr CHENG Kwok-wai, Bob

Social Worker,

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for
Multi-Cultural Community

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments and organisation to the second meeting of the Social Welfare and Youth Committee this year.

2. The Chairman informed the meeting that some reporters in the public gallery might take photographs, or make video or audio recordings.

Application for Leave of Absence

3. The Chairman said that the Sha Tin District Council Secretariat (Secretariat) had not received any application for leave of absence in writing from members prior to the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 January 2025
(SWYC Minutes 1/2025)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Discussion Item

Briefing on Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community
(Paper No. SWYC 6/2025)

5. A representative of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community (OTMC) briefly introduced the paper.

6. The Chairman thanked the OTMC for its detailed presentation and invited members to speak.
7. Members enquired about the following matters:
 - (a) a member noticed that support services for the African ethnic group were not mentioned in the OTMC's briefing. Sharing a case of assisting an African family, the member asked whether the OTMC would provide support to the African ethnic group;
 - (b) members enquired whether the OTMC would provide referral services related to community or personal health, such as vaccination;
 - (c) members wished to know the distribution of functions between the OTMC and IDEA Centre, a support service centre for ethnic minorities (support service centre) under the Home Affairs Department (HAD) in Sha Tin District;
 - (d) members enquired about the schedule of the OTMC and its outreaching truck's visits to Sha Tin District for provision of services and relevant information for the purpose of conducting advance promotion;
 - (e) a member shared a case where money could not be drawn from the deceased partner's bank account due to the lack of a local identity card. The member wished to know whether the OTMC would follow up on this type of case and hoped to exchange relevant information after the meeting so as to provide further assistance; and
 - (f) members mentioned that many ethnic minority domestic helpers in City One Shatin were facing problems. They wished to know whether the support service centre could cover the area and provide support.
8. Members' views were as follows:
 - (a) members hoped to receive more promotional information to learn about the group activities to be held on the outreaching truck and its major service targets, so that they could make appropriate referrals;
 - (b) members hoped to receive more promotional leaflets of the OTMC, which they could place at their ward offices for distribution to residents in need; and
 - (c) English posters had previously been used for promotional activities but the results were not very satisfactory. Therefore, a member hoped to collaborate with the OTMC to conduct regular home visits and visiting work in order to strengthen the ties with ethnic minorities.
9. A representative of the OTMC gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) the OTMC services were funded by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), whereas IDEA Centre was a support service centre funded by the HAD. The main service objective of the OTMC was to connect ethnic minorities with mainstream welfare services, enabling them to access, understand and effectively use these services;

- (b) the OTMC identified ethnic minorities with welfare needs by means of outreach services with the focuses on case management and provision of support, whereas the support service centre worked on the district level, helping ethnic minorities adapt and integrate into the community;
- (c) the OTMC would discover and contact new ethnic minority families, referring them to IDEA Centre according to their needs. When they got to know and began to use services of the centre and/or other social welfare units to meet their welfare needs, the OTMC's work would cease;
- (d) the OTMC had social workers to assess the needs of individual cases, and would refer individuals/families with welfare needs to corresponding welfare service units in response to the needs of ethnic minorities in the district;
- (e) the outreaching truck was not only used for promotion but also served as a district activity base that proactively entered the community to provide services every three months. Various kinds of activities were held, including developmental and remedial activities;
- (f) the OTMC welcomed collaboration with various organisations in the community to provide diverse activities and services;
- (g) the OTMC was willing to accept the member's invitation for home visits and encouraged her to contact the OTMC to schedule the exact time;
- (h) regarding the needs of residents such as the African ethnic group, the OTMC would contact Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER) for the provision of translation service, and would collaborate with different ethnic organisations to provide support to residents of various ethnic groups;
- (i) if there was an identity card holder in the family, the case could be handled as a family unit. If the family member holding an identity card passed away unfortunately, the case would be referred to other organisations, such as International Social Service Hong Kong Branch or Christian Action, for the provision of relevant services;
- (j) currently, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui also received funding from The Hong Kong Jockey Club to launch health-related activities for South Asian families. For example, it had previously organised influenza vaccination as well as health checks, and had collaborated with District Health Centres;
- (k) at present, the OTMC released service information regularly via WhatsApp. It would be happy to provide services in different areas, and would also effectively utilise other service units of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui in the district, such as the centres in Shui Chuen O Estate and Sun Chui Estate, to provide relevant services; and
- (l) regarding promotional leaflets written only in English, if there was a need to translate the information into different languages, the OTMC could also help contact CHEER for assistance, so as to enable residents from different cultural backgrounds in the district to understand the leaflet content.

[Post-meeting note: The Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office of the SWD shared relevant promotional leaflets and information of the OTMC including its website, Facebook page and WhatsApp channel by email via the Secretariat on 19 March 2025 for members' reference.]

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

Question

Question Raised by Mr CHAN Tan-tan on the Support for Top Talents and Their Children in Sha Tin District

(Paper No. SWYC 7/2025)

11. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) it was noted that the Government intended to make Hong Kong a top talent hub and had adopted many measures to attract and support talents;
- (b) members expressed support to the Government's implementation of the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) which they considered effective in attracting top talents to come to Hong Kong for development and in encouraging their children to attend schools in Hong Kong; and
- (c) members considered that the talents participating in the TTPS generally earned higher income and their children usually preferred to study in international schools or Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools, and called on the Education Bureau (EDB) to pay attention to the demands of those school children.

12. Members' suggestions were as follows:

- (a) it was suggested that improvements should be made to the accessibility of information on the website of the Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE), particularly for the top talents using the WeChat application;
- (b) members suggested that the HKTE should set up a statistical system to gain an understanding of the distribution of top talents in various districts so that more targeted supporting measures could be put in place, and wished to be provided with the statistical data and relevant information on various districts in the future;
- (c) members mentioned that no detailed information on the InnoCell of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) was provided on the HKTE website and hoped that the relevant information could be provided on the website or other platforms;
- (d) it was suggested that posters should be put up at immigration control points, such as the airport, to publicise the relevant information on attracting talents;
- (e) members considered that the information on pursuit of further studies and employment at the district level was not sufficiently publicised in the talks held by the HKTE, and hoped that publicity at the district level could be stepped up for top talent families to facilitate their pursuit of further studies and employment;

- (f) it was suggested that the EDB should consider adding a status category, in addition to local and non-local students, and setting different admission thresholds and requirements specifically for children of talents under the TTPS who had resided in Hong Kong for less than seven years, so as to alleviate the pressure on students who were Hong Kong permanent residents;
- (g) members mentioned that cases of fabricated academic qualifications were discovered in some universities and suggested that the EDB should provide guidelines to primary and secondary schools to assist them in handling possible cases of fabricated academic qualifications during processing of admission applications;
- (h) suggested that the EDB should consider attracting more internationally renowned school sponsoring bodies to set up private schools and international schools in Hong Kong to meet the enrolment demand of children of talents under the TTPS;
- (i) it was mentioned that the rental prices in Sha Tin District had been pushed up as a result of the increase in the number of overseas students, and it was suggested that priority should be given to the building of student hostels to address the accommodation problem over the building of talent apartments;
- (j) it was hoped that the role played by Sha Tin District under the top talent policy could be clearly defined by the Government so that corresponding support and complementary facilities could be provided in a targeted manner; and
- (k) some top talents found it difficult to find a job in Hong Kong after making an application under the TTPS. It was suggested that the Labour Department should consider holding dedicated job fairs by making reference to the job fairs for the construction and catering industries or setting up targeted recruitment platforms for top talents to help them find a suitable job, thereby facilitating their long-term development in Hong Kong.

13. Members noted that the occupancy rate of the InnoCell of the HKSTP was not high and the InnoCell room types were mainly for singles or married couples, with very few room types designed for families. Members wished to know whether consideration would be given to making changes to some of the room types to provide accommodation for families of talents.

14. The Chairman indicated that as no representatives from the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) attended the meeting, the Secretariat would forward members' enquiries and suggestions to the LWB after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the LWB was provided in the Supplementary Information to the Question Raised by Mr CHAN Tan-tan on the Support for Top Talents and Their Children in Sha Tin District (Paper No. SWYC 07/2025).]

15. The representative of the EDB gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the EDB had all along attached importance to the nurture of talents and had adopted various measures to help newly arrived students, including the accompanying children of the persons who came to Hong Kong under various talent admission schemes, attend schools and pursue further studies in Hong Kong, and adapt to the local school environment and education system as early as possible;

- (b) the EDB had been working closely with the HKTE to provide a series of support services. Regarding the services provided by the EDB, the EDB launched a new thematic website to provide in-depth information on international schools and other schools offering non-local curricula in Hong Kong to make it more convenient for parents to find and compare school information, and provided school information and frequently asked questions on placement assistance on the EDB website and at the four EDB Regional Education Offices for reference;
- (c) with the support of the EDB, local school councils organised joint exhibitions and talks in Hong Kong and the Mainland to provide comprehensive education information to and answer enquiries from the Mainland parents and students who were interested in studying in local schools, enabling more people to know the features and strengths of Hong Kong education. Participating schools of the exhibitions included kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and higher education institutions. For example, several school councils jointly organised the Hong Kong Schools Expo in December 2024. Some schools even arranged school visits, class observations and experiential learning sessions for newly arrived families and/or those intending to apply to come to Hong Kong with a view to allowing them to directly experience the learning environment and conditions in Hong Kong;
- (d) the EDB would continue to work closely with the HKTE to further explore how to improve the channels for providing information, to constantly review the existing placement arrangements and the relevant support services, and to provide support to newly arrived parents with a view to helping the children of the newly arrived talents adapt to the learning environment and education system in Hong Kong as early as possible; and
- (e) regarding whether there would be different thresholds for local and non-local students for admission to universities, whether guidelines would be issued to assist primary and secondary schools in identifying forged academic qualification documents and whether arrangements would be made to attract school sponsoring bodies to set up international schools in Hong Kong, the Shatin District School Development Section would convey members' views to the relevant sections.

16. 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 (December 2024 to January 2025)
(Paper No. SWYC 8/2025)

17. Members noted the above paper.

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

Report on Youth Crimes in Sha Tin District (December 2024 to January 2025)
(Paper No. SWYC 9/2025)

19. Members wished to know the types of youth crimes covered in the report and whether crimes related to “space oil drug” were involved.

20. The representative of the Hong Kong Police Force gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) fighting among students and indecent assaults were included in the crimes; and
 - (b) there were no serious drug offences or arrests related to “space oil drug” between December 2024 and January 2025.
21. The Chairman announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

22. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10:00 am on 7 May 2025 (Wednesday).
23. The meeting was closed at 11:03 am.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/80

April 2025