

## **Summary of Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Social Services Committee (2012-2013)**

### **Meeting**

The Social Services Committee (“SSC”) held its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting on 10 September 2013.

### **Request the Lingnan University to Allow Free Access to the Sports Ground for the Public on Sessional Basis**

2. SSC asked the Lingnan University (“the University”) to consult the stakeholders on the further opening up of the sports facilities and consider the public’s request and the background of the issue. SSC understood that it was difficult for the University to open up all sports facilities to the public free of charge, but it still hoped that it could consider setting the fees at an affordable level and opening up the jogging track to public free of charge during designated sessions.

### **Arrangement on the Choice of Schools for Cross-boundary Students for 2014/15 School Year**

3. Comments of Members on Education Bureau (“EDB”)’s revised arrangements for Part B of the Central Allocation for the school year 2014/15 included: it was urged that EDB should ensure that students residing in Tuen Mun District could study at schools in the vicinity; it was suggested that the “re-allocation mechanism” should be extended to Tuen Mun District so that students who had been allocated school places in other school nets could attend schools in their respective school net; it was concerned that the revised arrangements would result in the scattering of cross-boundary students (CBS) in different schools, making it difficult to coordinate the transport arrangement for them; it was suggested that vacant classrooms of secondary schools which had cut classes could be used for the operation of primary classes, and that the closed primary schools could be reopened for the CBS; it was opined that there should be medium to long term planning for the development of schools in the district; it was considered that the revised arrangements could help alleviate the pressure of the North District and avoid the school places for students residing in the districts from being allocated to CBS; it was requested that EDB should urge the Transport Department and the Citybus Limited to properly arrange buses to pick up CBS during rush hours before school; it was suggested that EDB

should assess the future demand for primary one school places based on the current number of kindergarten students; and it was opined that EDB should take into account students admitted during the course of the school year and unexpected situations when considering the number of school places.

#### **Calling for Government's Expeditious Relaxation of the Eligibility for the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme under the Community Care Fund**

4. SSC opined that in the long run, the Administration should set up more dental clinics as there were only 11 dental clinics which provided emergency dental treatment in Hong Kong and the provision of such services could not meet the demand of the public. SSC also requested for a relaxation of the eligibility for the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme under the Community Care Fund and urged the Administration to provide dental care service for people aged 55 or above to prevent oral diseases.

#### **Introduction to Community Investment and Inclusion Fund**

5. Views of Members on the issue included: it was hoped that the Government would allocate more resources to the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund ("the Fund") to help it accomplish its objectives and ensure its sustainability; it was suggested that the Fund should consider including the element of promoting the rule of law in future projects; the vision of the Fund was recognised and it was hoped that the Fund could act as the community engineer and strive for building up social capital; and it was suggested that the Fund should encourage the further opening up of the social welfare organisations to members of the local community so that they could participate in the services during their spare time.

#### **Planned Welfare Facilities of Social Welfare Department in Leung King Estate**

6. SSC noted that the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") planned to provide four elderly and rehabilitation facilities at the former site of Kei Leung Primary School, and that space would be allocated to non-government organisations for the provision of self-financing community services. SSC expressed its recognition for SWD's provision of the aforesaid services at the former site of Kei Leung Primary School and asked SWD to strengthen the consultation on the proposed facilities, including the expeditious setting up of a consultation point at Leung King Estate.

## **Work Reports by the Working Groups under the Social Services Committee**

### **(a) Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services**

7. SSC agreed to the uploading of information of the tree planting activity which would be held soon by the Working Group to the webpage of Development Bureau's Be Our Greening Partner Campaign. The logo of the campaign would be used by the Working Group in the tree planting activity.

### **(b) Working Group on Social Care**

8. SSC noted the report of the Working Group.

### **(c) Working Group on Education and Youth Services**

9. In response to the enquiry of a Member, the Convenor of the Working Group said that the Working Group's position was to propose the adoption of EDB's "addition option" by Hong Chi Morning Hill School, Tuen Mun and Hong Chi Morning Light School, Tuen Mun, and that in the long run, EDB should identify suitable sites for the construction of new premises for the aforesaid schools. In this connection, a Member opined that SSC should also consider the option of relocating the aforesaid schools to old school premises, and that the position of the Working Group could be regarded as that of SSC only after confirmation by SSC.

10. The Chairman responded that at the last meeting, SSC had already considered the lead time and procedures involved in relocating the schools and the carrying out of addition works to the existing school premises respectively. It had also decided that EDB should be asked to proceed with the addition works as a short-term improvement measure, and that matters related to the works should be followed up by the Working Group. For long-term solution, SSC had resolved that the proposed construction of special school premises in Tuen Mun Area 54 would be followed up by the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee. The Convenor of the Working Group added that EDB had indicated that the proposal of relocating the aforesaid schools to old school premises was not feasible.

## **Report by the Tuen Mun District School Development Section of the Education Bureau**

11. SSC noted the report of the Education Bureau.

**Report by the Social Welfare Department**

12. SSC noted the report of the SWD.

**Report on Crime Figures in the Tuen Mun District**

13. Members noted the report of the Police Force.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

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