

## **Summary of Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Social Services Committee (2014-2015)**

### **Meeting**

The Social Services Committee (“SSC”) held its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 11 March 2014.

### **Improvement Works for Tuen Mun Methadone Clinic**

2. The SSC supported the improvement works for the methadone clinic, but saw it necessary to continue to consider its relocation as the clinic had caused disturbance to nearby residents for years.

### **Funding Scheme for Women’s Development**

3. Members made various proposals for following up on the funding of the aforesaid scheme, covering relevant application and approval procedures, dissemination of information and details of activities, etc.

4. After discussion, the SSC voted on the follow-up of the aforesaid scheme, and eventually confirmed that the funding of the scheme would be followed up by the Working Group on Community Care in cooperation with local women’s groups or non-governmental organisations.

### **General Out-patient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme**

5. The SSC supported and welcomed the aforesaid programme, and hoped that it would benefit people with chronic illness other than hypertension and diabetes. The SSC also urged the Hospital Authority to consider increasing healthcare manpower, subsidised visits under the partnership programme, and incentives for private doctors and patients to participate in the partnership programme.

6. In addition, matters related to service enhancement in Pok Oi Hospital to divert demand from Tuen Mun Hospital would be followed up by the Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services.

### **Tuen Mun District Welfare Office Business Plan 2014-15**

7. Views expressed by the SSC on the aforesaid business plan included: it was suggested that the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) should enhance its situation assessment, and analyse the community problems and needs of Tuen Mun District; it was opined that specific details should be included in the SWD’s report submitted to the SSC to reflect the manpower arrangement, waiting time, service targets and needs of Tuen Mun District; it was suggested that the salary of child carers under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project be increased; the SWD was urged to step up consultation with mutual aid committees and owners’ corporations on the provision of rehabilitation and elderly service facilities at the premises of former C.C.C. Kei Leung Primary School; and it was concerned that people in need might not receive appropriate care from inadequate service.

### **Work Reports by Working Groups under SSC**

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

8. The SSC noted the contents of the report of the Working Group.

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

9. The SSC noted the contents of the report of the Working Group.

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

10. A Member hoped that the Working Group would revisit Hong Chi Morning Hill School, Tuen Mun (“Morning Hill School”) during school hours to inspect its overcrowding problem. The convenor responded that attempts had been made to arrange a visit with the Principal of Morning Hill School, but a reply from the school was still pending.

### **Report by Tuen Mun District School Development Section of Education Bureau (“EDB”)**

11. A Member said that the surplus school places of some kindergartens reported to the EDB were not fully used to address new applications. She hoped that greater support would be provided to ensure kindergarten education for all applicants. Moreover, she considered it necessary to provide more whole-day places.

12. Although kindergarten admission was a school-based decision, and parents could choose freely among kindergartens for their children, the EDB would endeavour to provide school places information to parents. On the other hand, kindergarten operation on a whole-day or half-day basis was a school-based decision.

13. A Member said that kindergartens eligible for voucher redemption should be subject to Government regulation to a certain extent. The EDB should rationalise kindergarten school places allocation as soon as possible, and decide if it would coordinate the kindergarten admission procedures in Tuen Mun District next year. The representative of the EDB responded that some kindergartens were considering the use of vouchers to confirm acceptance of offers by parents from the next school year. The EDB was examining adjustment to voucher issuance time to tie with the relevant admission arrangements.

14. On the other hand, in response to a Member’s enquiry about whether secondary schools in the district would cease to operate Secondary 1 class due to under-enrollment in the coming year, the representative of the EDB said that the “three-fold preservation” measures would be implemented continuously in secondary schools to preserve their strengths for sustainable development.

### **Report by SWD**

15. A Member was worried that renting of subdivided flats in industrial buildings would be encouraged by the Assistance Programme “One-off Living Subsidy for

Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving CSSA” under the Community Care Fund, as it covered persons renting accommodations in industrial buildings. The representative of the SWD responded that the aforesaid assistance programme aimed to support low-income households in need, but not to encourage renting of accommodations in industrial buildings.

16. In addition, a Member hoped that the Old Age Living Allowance “Auto-conversion” cases could be reviewed less frequently.

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

17. The SSC noted the contents of the report of the Hong Kong Police Force.

#### **Year-plan and Budget of SSC**

18. The SSC hoped to be allocated with District Council funds of \$800,000 for 2014-2015.

#### **Concluding Report of Tuen Mun District Anti-corruption Programme in 2013/2014: “Uphold the Core Value of Hong Kong, Move Towards Independent Commission Against Corruption (“ICAC”)’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”**

19. A Member hoped that in 2014-2015, the ICAC could organise anti-corruption programme related to building management and maintenance in Tuen Mun District in tandem with the implementation of the RenoSafe Scheme.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

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