

**Summary of Minutes of the 7th Meeting
of the Social Services Committee (2014-2015)**

Meeting

The Social Services Committee (“SSC”) held its 7th meeting on 11 November 2014.

Enquiry on the Review of the Home Environment Improvement Scheme for the Elderly

2. Members put forward the following views on this discussion item: (a) they hoped that the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) would continue the well-received Home Environment Improvement Scheme for the Elderly (“Home Improvement Scheme”); (b) an enquiry was made about the effectiveness of the Home Improvement Scheme and the criteria for evaluating its effectiveness; and (c) an enquiry was made about the number of persons in Tuen Mun benefitted from the scheme.

3. A representative of the SWD responded that 2 000 elderly households in Tuen Mun were benefitted from the Home Improvement Scheme. She pointed out that the review of the scheme revealed that resources might not be used in the most effective way if a lump sum was earmarked for providing single service for the elderly. Therefore, the additional recurrent funding of \$160 million would be used to upgrade the existing social centres for the elderly across the territory to neighbourhood elderly centres. This new scheme could not only strengthen district support networks, but also serve the various needs of the elderly and let more aged people know about the scheme. The SWD would step up promotion of the new scheme. In addition, appropriate support could be provided under other funds if the domestic environments of elderly people were found to need improvement.

4. Members put forward the following views on the new scheme: (a) they considered that it was difficult to promote the new scheme when it was implemented by four assisting elderly centres instead; (b) an enquiry was made about the details of the implementation of the new scheme; (c) more cooperation with Members of the Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) was recommended for promotion of the scheme; and (d) it was suggested that the Government provide more resources for the SWD to enhance services and publicity, so that more elderly people could be benefitted.

Progress Report on the Proposed Establishment of Rehabilitation Service Facilities at the Site of the Former Siu Lam Hospital

5. While supporting the establishment of the integrated rehabilitation services centre (“Centre”), the SSC expressed concerns about traffic issues as follows: (a) as no specific data on vehicle and passenger flow were provided in the study report, Members hoped the SWD could give an account of how the establishment of the Centre could affect the community and road traffic; (b) Members worried that there would be traffic problems such as congestion since Hong Fai Road was relatively narrow and accordingly, they asked whether Hong Fai Road would be widened; and (c) they worried that the traffic problems would affect residents of Palatial Coast. Members also put forward other views and enquiries as follows: (a) it was suggested that communication with the TMDC Members of the constituency concerned and nearby constituencies should be strengthened and the progress should be reported to the TMDC regularly; (b) an enquiry was made about the type of the feeder buses; (c) it was suggested that using the interchange at Siu Lam or a West Rail station as an interchange point for free transport; and (d) it was considered that the location of the Centre was remote, and suggested that diversified activities should be provided for residents of the Centre so that they could get a taste of community life.

6. A representative of the SWD responded as follows: (a) among the 800 staff members of the Centre, more than 100 would travel to work in a direction opposite to that of Palatial Coast

residents, while other staff would work in three shifts, with some 200 persons in each shift. Moreover, as the Centre would be open all day, there would be no peak visiting hours and hence, no traffic problems; (b) after its establishment, the Centre would put additional loads of some 16% and 4% on the traffic of Hong Fai Road and Castle Peak Road respectively. As the roads were originally designed to accommodate even higher vehicle flow, the traffic impact brought by the establishment of the Centre would be manageable; (c) discussion had been held with the Transport Department on widening these two major roads, namely Hong Fai Road and Castle Peak Road, for provision of emergency access and pavements. Furthermore, the Centre would spare some space for the feeder buses to park and drop off and pick up passengers, so the buses would not stop on the major roads and cause congestion; (d) all-day feeder bus service would be provided and the interchange point would be selected with careful consideration. In addition, further consideration would be given to the provision of maxicab service to ease the pressure during peak hours; and (e) communication with TMDC Members and Palatial Coast residents would be strengthened and the progress would be reported to the SSC in due course.

7. The SSC resolved to visit the site of the former Siu Lam Hospital for inspection.

(Post-meeting note: The said visit was conducted on 10 December 2014.)

Work Reports by the Working Groups under the SSC

(a) Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services

8. The Convenor indicated that Members were welcome to join the visit to the new site of Siu Lam Hospital.

(Post-meeting note: The said visit was conducted on 26 November 2014.)

(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. The SSC noted the contents of the report of the working group.

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

11. Members put forward the following views and enquiries: (a) an enquiry was made about the figures on primary one admission in the year 2014-15; (b) an enquiry was made as to how places were allocated to cross-boundary students; (c) an enquiry was made about the reasons for the drop in the number of newly arrived children's admission to schools; (d) Members hoped that the Education Bureau would provide more information on secondary schools; and (e) an enquiry was made about the arrangements on allocation of kindergarten places. The representative of the Education Bureau gave responses to the above views and enquiries.

Report by the SWD

12. The SWD responded to Members' enquiries about the Training Subsidy Programme for Children on the Waiting List of Subvented Pre-school Rehabilitation Services and the Educational Programme on Stopping Domestic Violence.

Report on Crime Figures in the Tuen Mun District

13. The representative of the Hong Kong Police Force indicated that the homicide case mentioned in the report referred to a death case involving family violence, which had been reported before.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

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