

## **Summary of Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Social Services Committee (2014-2015)**

### **Meeting**

The Social Services Committee (“SSC”) held its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting on 13 January 2015.

### **Cooperation Scheme of Civic Education with 18 District Councils 2015-2016**

2. The SSC agreed to join the above scheme and resolved to co-organise the activities with the Tuen Mun District Civic Education Committee.

### **Request for Expeditious Implementation of Universal Retirement Protection**

3. The representative of the Social Welfare Department indicated that the Labour and Welfare Bureau (“LWB”) noted Members’ concerns about the issue of universal retirement protection. She said that the LWB hoped Members would listen to the Policy Address first, adding that Members would be welcome to raise further enquiries if necessary.

4. Members put forward the following views and enquiries on the above discussion item: (a) as many problems had arisen in the existing Mandatory Provident Fund (“MPF”) system, it was suggested that public consultation on universal retirement protection be launched as soon as possible; (b) Members hoped the LWB would send representatives to attend a SSC meeting to expound on universal retirement protection, and suggested inviting Professor Nelson CHOW to a SSC meeting to give a brief introduction to his research; and (c) a Member pointed out that as a spouse was counted in the asset calculation under the existing MPF system, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and the Old Age Living Allowance, non-working women could neither be covered by retirement protection, nor could their poverty be relieved.

5. The SSC resolved to write to the LWB inviting it to send representatives to a SSC meeting and follow up on this discussion item after the announcement of the Policy Address. The SSC also resolved to write to Professor Nelson CHOW inviting him to a SSC meeting to give a brief introduction to the Research Report on Future Development of Retirement Protection in Hong Kong.

### **Response Plan for Service During Winter Influenza Season**

6. Members put forward the following views and enquiries on the above discussion item: (a) they expressed support for the above plan; (b) worrying about the manpower shortage of Tuen Mun Hospital, Members requested more resources for medical services in New Territories West; (c) it was suggested that an ad hoc working group be set up, and an area in the hospital be designated for response to winter influenza in order to prevent cross-transmission; (d) Members believed that the workload of Tuen Mun Hospital could be effectively eased only by stronger efforts in preventing winter influenza, so it was suggested that the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and the TMDC strengthen public education and publicity on healthcare; (e) it was suggested that the age for free influenza vaccination be lowered; and (f) Members hoped that Tuen Mun Hospital would provide the reporting documents on the plan for them to see whether the related measures were effective.

7. The SSC resolved to pass the above issue to the Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services for follow-ups.

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

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

8. A Member hoped that the working group could re-run the Tuen Mun Abilympics in the year 2015-16.

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

9. A Member suggested the activities of the working group should not only target at elderly people, women and ethnic minorities, but also chronic patients, people under rehabilitation, the disabled, and the youth at risk. Accordingly, it was suggested that the working group write to the relevant organisations inviting them to co-organise caring activities for these groups. In addition, it was opined that the working group should seek innovation rather than repeating its activities. Another Member indicated that the working group could hardly organise more activities due to limited resources.

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

10. A Member said the working group should pay attention to bullying in schools, and suggested that the working group should teach young participants in its activities not to make fun of, discriminate against and bully others, in order to reduce discrimination or even bullying among peers.

**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 about the implementation of the coordinated kindergarten admission scheme; (c) Members were concerned about the demand and supply of kindergarten and primary school places in the coming year; (d) Members hoped that the “three-fold preservation policy” for secondary schools could be fully implemented to achieve the goals of not closing schools and not cutting resources; and (e) while nursery classes were not compulsory, Members hoped that the Education Bureau could provide guidance for parents to secure nursery class places for their children.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat  
Date: 12 February 2015  
Ref: HAD TMDC/13/30/SSC/2