

Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Social Services Committee (2018-2019) of  
the Tuen Mun District Council

---

Date: 14 May 2019 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>		<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
Ms SO Ka-man (Chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSANG Hin-hong (Vice-chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kin-man, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Chairman	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr SO Shiu-shing	TMDC Member	10:16 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	10:56 a.m.
Mr CHU Yiu-wah	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	11:58 a.m.
Ms KONG Fung-yi	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Yau-hoi, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms LUNG Shui-hing, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	12:22 p.m.
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member	9:36 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YEUNG Chi-hang	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YAN Siu-nam	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TAM Chun-yin	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHU Wai-ming	Co-opted Member	10:02 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSANG Hing-chung	Co-opted Member	9:32 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr IP Chun-yuen	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	11:03 a.m.
Mr CHAN Pak-sum	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEUNG Hon-kit, Roger (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

By Invitation

Ms CHIU Lai-chun, Kitty

Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)1,  
Social Welfare Department

Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron

Senior Medical & Health Officer (Community Liaison)1,  
Department of Health

In Attendance

Miss YU Mei-yu, Melinder

Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tuen Mun District Office,  
Home Affairs Department

Ms YEUNG Lau-ngor, Sally

Senior School Development Officer (Tuen Mun)3,  
Education Bureau

Miss LAI PO-yi, Yondy

Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)2,  
Social Welfare Department

Mr LEE Wai-ming

Neighbourhood Police Coordinator,  
Police Community Relations Office (Tuen Mun District),  
Hong Kong Police Force

Ms WA Lei-chun, Winnie

Senior Community Relations Officer,  
Independent Commission Against Corruption

Absent with Apologies

Mr TSUI Fan, MH

TMDC Member

Ms NG Dip-pui

Co-opted Member

Mr YU Tai-wai, MH

Co-opted Member

Ms TSANG Ka-lai

Co-opted Member

Mr WONG Chi-chun

Co-opted Member

**I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Social Services Committee (“SSC”). She thanked Mr CHAU Ka-nin, Eric, the former Senior Liaison Officer (2) of the Tuen Mun District Office of the Home Affairs Department, and Mr LAM Man-kwong, the former Senior School Development Officer of the Education Bureau (“EDB”), for their past contributions to the SSC. She also welcomed their successors, Miss Melinder YU and Ms Sally YEUNG.

2. The Chairman reminded that Members who were aware of their personal interests in any matters discussed at the meeting should declare the interests before the discussion. The Chairman would, in accordance with Order 39(12) of the Tuen Mun District Council Standing Orders, decide whether the Members who had declared interests might speak or vote on the matters, might remain at the meeting as observers, or should withdraw from the meeting. All cases of declaration of interests would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

3. The Chairman reminded members of the public observing the meeting that the press areas set up on both sides of the screen in the conference room were reserved for use by media representatives who had registered and received stickers for identification. Other members of the public observing the meeting should remain in the public gallery.

**II. Absence from Meeting**

4. The Secretariat reported that no applications for leave of absence had been received from Members. However, Ms TSANG Ka-lai and Mr YU Tai-wai had indicated that they could not attend the meeting due to other commitments.

**III. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

5. As Members proposed no amendments to the minutes, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SSC (2018-2019) were confirmed.

**IV. Discussion Items**

**(A) Request for Addressing the Severe Child Abuse Problem in Tuen Mun**

**(SSC Paper No. 24/2019)**

**(Written Response of the Social Welfare Department)**

6. The Chairman welcomed Ms Kitty CHIU, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)<sup>1</sup> of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”), to the meeting.

7. The first proposer of the paper pointed out that in the past decade or so, child abuse had been prevalent in Tuen Mun. Among the 18 districts, Tuen Mun remained one of the top three districts which recorded the highest number of child abuse cases. Since child abuse would profoundly harm victims and undermine their future development, the TMDC attached great importance to handling child abuse cases. She requested that the SWD look into the reasons the number of child abuse cases remained high in Tuen Mun from various perspectives, including social background and family education. In addition, she said that she had communicated with local stakeholders about the captioned matter and they had demanded that the Government allocate more resources to handle child abuse cases.

8. Miss Yondy LAI, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)<sup>2</sup> of the SWD, replied that the department adopted a “zero tolerance” approach against child abuse cases and it acknowledged the significance of prevention. At the moment, the SWD compiled statistics on child abuse under the Child Protection Registry (“CPR”) and planned services based on the characteristics and general profile of child abuse cases. She would pass Members’ request for a district study to the department and communicate with the stakeholders proactively.

9. Members’ comments and enquiries on the captioned matter are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member was glad that the SWD’s representative would relay Members’ views to the Government and hoped that the department would strengthen collaboration with local social welfare organisations in building healthy families for children;
- (ii) A Member opined that the department should conduct an in-depth and comprehensive study about the reasons for the serious child abuse problem in Tuen Mun. Apart from physical abuse, sexual abuse against

children was also a severe problem in Tuen Mun. The SWD should step up education and impose heavier penalties;

- (iii) A Member asked whether the CPR maintained statistics on repeat offences and whether information in the CPR was available to SWD's offices in all 18 districts. Also, he reckoned that service units under the SWD should strengthen collaboration and implement policies to identify families at risk;
  - (iv) A Member pointed out that in 2017, there had been some 900 newly registered child abuse cases in Hong Kong but she believed that those cases were only the tip of the iceberg. The SWD should use the statistics in the CPR flexibly and allocate more resources for district studies;
  - (v) A Member suggested that the department step up publicity and education in the community to combat child abuse at its root; and
  - (vi) A Member enquired if the SWD had any specific measures to ensure schools could identify child abuse cases at an early stage. Separately, she requested that the department provide more resources to family service units.
10. Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD responded to Members' comments:
- (i) Since 2002, the SWD had carried out a publicity campaign on "Strengthening Families and Combating Violence". The publicity and public education activities aimed to enhance awareness about the significance of family unity and family violence prevention, and encourage people in need to seek timely and early assistance;
  - (ii) On the local level, through working groups under the Tuen Mun District Coordinating Committee on Family and Child Welfare Services, the SWD had implemented public education programmes and held workshops on early identification of child abuse cases for teachers. Also, the department had organised a range of activities under a home-school cooperation scheme to promote to parents a correct approach to children's behavioural problems;

- (iii) In 2018-19, the SWD had provided all Family and Child Protective Services Units (“FCPSU”) with additional resources and manpower to cooperate with local social welfare organisations and step up child protection work;
- (iv) Regarding sexual abuse against children, the advancement of cyber technology had made it possible for children to meet internet acquaintances alone, thus falling victim to sexual assault. In this connection, the department would, depending on the situation of individual cases, take appropriate actions and seek police assistance;
- (v) As all child abuse cases were registered in the CPR, a social worker handling a suspected child abuse case would first check whether the child concerned had been abused previously. Information in the CPR was available to service units across the territory so as to facilitate investigation; and
- (vi) Regarding the identification of families at risk, the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the EDB, the Department of Health (“DH”), the Hospital Authority and the SWD had jointly launched the Comprehensive Child Development Service, which aimed to identify health and social needs of children aged 0 to 5 and their families at an early stage. In addition, the SWD’s Integrated Family Service Centres, Integrated Services Centres, the FCPSUs and Psychiatric Medical Social Services Units had jointly implemented the Family Support Programme to provide support services to families through phone calls, home visits and other outreach services.

11. A Member opined that since the number of child abuse cases remained high in Tuen Mun, the SWD should allocate resources based on local needs.

12. A Member requested again that the department look into the reasons the number of child abuse cases remained high in Tuen Mun.

13. The Chairman asked the SWD’s representative whether the family situation of the abuser and the abused child would be recorded when registering a case in the CPR.

14. Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD responded to Members' comments:
- (i) In the past year, the SWD had provided the FCPSU (Tuen Mun) with additional resources and manpower, including four Social Work Officers. At the moment, there were altogether 21 social workers in the FCPSU (Tuen Mun), namely one unit supervisor (Senior Social Work Officer), 15 Social Work Officers and five Assistant Social Work Officers;
  - (ii) When registering a case in the CPR, staff would be required to input information such as case nature, gender and age of the abused child, location where the incident happened and relationship between the abused child and the abuser; and
  - (iii) She would pass Members' request for a district study to the department.

15. The Chairman thanked the SWD's representative for her response. She also suggested that the SSC write to the SWD and the Labour and Welfare Bureau about the captioned matter, requesting that more resources be allocated to Tuen Mun for handling the child abuse problem. She asked the Secretariat to follow the matter up. Secretariat

[Post-meeting note: The letters were sent on 9 July 2019.]

**(B) Request for Government Measures to Alleviate the Shortage of Social Welfare Facilities Expeditiously**  
**(SSC Paper No. 25/2019)**  
**(Written Response of the Social Welfare Department)**

16. The first proposer of the paper requested that the SWD respond to the demand of Tuen Mun residents by setting up in the district social welfare facilities such as child care centres, day care centres for the elderly, subvented residential care homes for persons with disabilities, residential care homes for the elderly and neighbourhood elderly centres.

17. Members' comments on the captioned matter are summarised as follows:
- (i) A Member reckoned that although the Government had proposed in the Budget of the current financial year an allocation of \$20 billion for the purchase of properties for social welfare facilities, the measure could not

alleviate the shortage of such facilities in Tuen Mun expeditiously. In this regard, the Government should first consider redeveloping existing properties such as the vacant school premises in Leung King Estate, instead of purchasing new sites;

- (ii) A Member opined that the Government had proposed to purchase private properties out of good intentions, but in practice it might create an impression of transfer of benefits. Apart from the aforementioned vacant school premises, the Government should also consider optimising the use of government premises which would soon be demolished (e.g. Tai Hing Government Offices). In addition, the Government should also reserve space for social welfare facilities when planning public rental housing;
- (iii) A Member pointed out that apart from the social welfare facilities mentioned in the paper, there was also a severe shortage of residential respite service places for the elderly. Besides, she objected to the Government's allocation of \$20 billion for purchasing private properties as it might eat into SWD's resources for new social welfare facilities and even bring concerns over government-business collusion;
- (iv) A Member pointed out that the redevelopment of Kei Leung Primary School in Leung King Estate had been dragged on for over a decade. She also asked whether the Government would allocate \$20 billion for purchasing properties in parallel with the SWD's provision of additional social welfare facilities. In response to the SWD's written reply that the Government would set up a working group to conduct a pre-purchase study, she requested that the department or the working group report on the work progress to the TMDC in due course; and
- (v) In regard to the SWD's written response that the Government would allocate \$20 billion for purchasing suitable premises from the market, a Member asked about the principle of property selection and whether resources would be allocated according to local needs.

18. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD responded to Members' comments:

- (i) In the 2019-20 Budget, the Government had proposed to allocate \$20 billion for purchasing suitable premises from the market for operating



social welfare facilities, in a bid to respond to the demand for welfare services at the district and territory-wide level. Under the plan, premises would be purchased in three years, involving more than 130 social welfare facilities such as child care centres, neighbourhood elderly centres, on-site pre-school rehabilitation services offices, district support centres for persons with disabilities, parents resource centres and co-parenting support centres;

- (ii) The SWD and the Government Property Agency would be responsible for the preparation and follow-up work of the purchase. A working group would be set up to conduct a pre-purchase study on areas such as exploring the supply of the property market and formulating purchase strategies. To ensure the proper use of public funds, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and the Independent Commission Against Corruption would also be consulted in respect of the purchase arrangements and procedures. Later, the Government would brief the Legislative Council's Panel on Welfare Services on the proposed measure and seek funding from the Legislative Council's Finance Committee. Meanwhile, the department would, depending on local needs, identify suitable sites or premises to provide additional social welfare facilities;
- (iii) Regarding the Member's proposal to optimise the use of vacant school premises in Tuen Mun, the SWD, in close liaison with relevant departments, would explore the possibility of changing those sites into permanent social welfare facilities through conversion, redevelopment or carrying out new development. In February 2019, the Lands Department had approved in principle the waiver application on converting the former Kei Leung Primary School in Leung King Estate into an integrated welfare service complex. Having commissioned a consultancy for the detailed design in May 2019, the SWD expected the works to commence in the second quarter of 2020;
- (iv) Noting Members' concern about the lack of residential respite service for the elderly, she said the provision of designated residential respite places in private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme would be regularised in 2019-20, in a bid to ease the pressure of caregivers; and

- (v) The SWD would take into consideration factors such as local needs, overall demand for welfare services and demographic characteristics to work out suitable welfare facilities and services.

19. A Member enquired whether the SWD maintained statistics on the demand for welfare services in Tuen Mun such as the number of elderly people waiting for residential care places and the number of elderly homes falling short. In addition, he opined that the allocation of \$20 billion was merely a one-off remedial measure. In the long run, it was necessary to strengthen the planning of social welfare facilities.

20. Regarding the demolition of Tai Hing Government Offices, a Member suggested that the SWD proactively write to the Development Bureau and other relevant departments, requesting that the government site concerned be reserved for redevelopment into social welfare facilities.

21. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD responded to Members' comments:

- (i) An overview of statistics on residential care services for the elderly was available on the website of the SWD;
- (ii) She thanked Members for their suggestions and said that the SWD would strive for good long-term planning. Moreover, as recommended by the Elderly Services Programme Plan, the department had reinstated population-based planning ratios for elderly services in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. For instance, one district elderly community centre should be set up in each new development area with a population reaching 170 000. Where appropriate, there should be one neighbourhood elderly centre in a cluster of new and redeveloped housing areas with a population of 15 000 to 20 000; and
- (iii) The Government had commissioned the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee to formulate a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan in 2017. The Committee would collect views from stakeholders and various sectors through public consultations and then set out strategic directions and measures to address the service needs of persons with disabilities at different stages of life.

22. The Chairman thanked the SWD's representative for her response. She also suggested that the SSC write to the SWD and the Government Property Agency to express Members' views about the captioned matter.

Secretariat

[Post-meeting note: The letters were sent on 9 July 2019.]

(C) **Request for Health Care Voucher Enhancement Measures to Protect the Interests of Elderly People**

**(SSC Paper No. 26/2019)**

**(Written Response of the Department of Health)**

23. The Chairman welcomed Dr Taron LOH, Senior Medical and Health Officer (Community Liaison)<sup>1</sup> of the DH, to the meeting.

24. The first proposer of the paper requested for greater flexibility in the use of Health Care Vouchers to better suit individual needs and demanded that spouses be allowed to share vouchers. He opined that the DH should expand the scope of the vouchers to cover medical equipment and consumables such as blood glucose test strips, blood pressure monitors and hearing aids.

25. A Member said that some people who sought consultation at public hospitals could not use the vouchers to purchase medications prescribed by government doctors. She hoped that the DH would expand the coverage of the vouchers.

26. Dr Taron LOH of the DH responded to Members' comments:

- (i) The objective of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme ("the Scheme") was to provide financial incentives for elderly people to choose private healthcare services that best suited their health needs. The Scheme aimed to strengthen primary healthcare services for the elderly and provide more medical alternatives;
- (ii) Since the launch of the Scheme, the Government had rolled out a series of enhancement measures, including lowering the eligibility age from 70 to 65 in 2017 and providing an additional \$1,000 worth of vouchers to eligible people on a one-off basis in 2018 and 2019. In addition, the Government had proposed in the Budget of the current financial year to

raise the accumulation limit of vouchers from \$5,000 to \$8,000. The measure aimed to allow greater flexibility and let elderly people better plan the use of vouchers;

- (iii) To ensure vouchers were actually used on elderly patients and prevent potential abuse, sole purchase of medications or medical items with vouchers was not allowed under the Scheme. However, vouchers could be used for the treatments and medications provided by the participating healthcare service providers in their professional capacities to meet the health needs of elderly people after consultations; and
- (iv) As regards the Member's enquiry about the feasibility of allowing spouses to share vouchers, she would pass it to the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") since the suggestion fell into the scope of policy-making.

27. Members' second round of comments are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member reiterated that some elderly people had genuine need for medical items and hoped that the DH's representative could relay Members' views to the relevant policy bureau. Besides, he requested for an online system where elderly people might check voucher balances on their own;
- (ii) A Member criticised the inconsistency of government policy objectives as spouses were assessed individually under the Scheme while they were required to submit documents for joint vetting under some other welfare schemes (e.g. the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme). In addition, he reckoned that the scope of the vouchers should be expanded to cover prescribed medications since spectacles were already covered by the Scheme; and
- (iii) A Member said that the Scheme had been implemented for quite some years and it was time to consider expanding the scope of vouchers to cover medications.

28. Dr Taron LOH of the DH responded to Members' comments:

- (i) She reiterated that the policy aimed to ensure that vouchers were actually used on the elderly and to prevent and curb voucher abuse;

- (ii) Elderly people who had created voucher accounts might check voucher balances via the Scheme's website and the Interactive Voice Response System. They might also call the Health Care Voucher Unit of the DH for enquiry; and
- (iii) The DH would introduce a new function for easy checking of voucher balance and transaction history on the Electronic Health Record Sharing System, which was under development.

29. Members' third round of comments are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member disagreed with Dr Taron LOH's view that allowing sole purchase might lead to abuse and opined that medications prescribed by government doctors should be covered by the Scheme;
- (ii) A Member welcomed the introduction of a new function on the Electronic Health Record Sharing System; and
- (iii) A Member found the DH's policy inconsistent and could not see why medications prescribed by government doctors were not covered by the Scheme.

30. Dr Taron LOH of the DH noted Members' views and said she would pass them to the relevant policy bureau and service units.

31. The Chairman asked the DH's representative to relay Members' views to the Government and continue to enhance the Scheme.

**(D) Request for Subsidised Measles Vaccination for Citizens Born between 1967 and 1984**  
**(SSC Paper No. 27/2019)**  
**(Written Response of the Department of Health)**

32. The first proposer of the paper said that more than 60 measles cases had been recorded in Hong Kong in the current year. The majority of citizens born between 1967 and 1977 had received only one dose of measles vaccine, which was merely 93% effective against measles. Although the Government had implemented the Special Measles Vaccination Campaign in 1997 to give a

second dose of measles vaccine to children and youngsters aged 1 to 19, some citizens born between 1978 and 1984 still had not received the second jab. Therefore, she requested that the Government provide a subsidised second dose to citizens born between 1967 and 1984 on a one-off basis and purchase more measles vaccines expeditiously.

33. A Member reckoned that it was the Government's responsibility to take care of citizens' health. Apart from free vaccination, he opined that the DH could arrange free tests for the public and prioritise vaccination for non-immune people. Other than measles, the outbreak of influenza must also be addressed. Therefore, he suggested that the Government provide free influenza vaccination to all Hong Kong citizens.

34. Dr Taron LOH of the DH responded to Members' comments:

- (i) Measles was a highly infectious disease caused by the measles virus. Recently, the number of measles cases had been increasing in Hong Kong, where 72 cases had been recorded in the current year. Among them, 29 cases involved staff of the Hong Kong International Airport;
- (ii) The Government had been providing free measles vaccination to local children for many years. As revealed by the findings of the territory-wide immunisation surveys regularly conducted by the DH, the two-dose vaccination coverage of measles had maintained at above 95%, and the local seroprevalence rates of measles virus antibodies reflected that most people in all age groups had acquired immunity to measles. On the whole, the risk of Hong Kong citizens contracting measles locally was relatively low;
- (iii) The World Health Organization ("WHO") recommended giving children two doses of measles-containing vaccine. The majority of people who were born in 1985 or after and attended primary school in Hong Kong had already received two jabs and acquired immunity to measles;
- (iv) Generally speaking, healthy people could enjoy long-term protection after receiving measles vaccination. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States, getting one dose of measles vaccine at the age of one as recommended could attain 93% immunity to

measles; and

- (v) The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (“SCVPD”) under the Centre for Health Protection (“CHP”) of the DH would keep abreast of the global and local measles trends, advice on measles vaccination from the WHO and other health authorities across the world, related scientific evidence and overseas practical experience. The SCVPD would also give science-based advice and recommendations to the CHP for consideration and follow-up actions.

35. A Member reckoned that since airport staff were involved in some confirmed cases, the Government should consider providing them with subsidised vaccination first.

36. The Chairman said that since the majority of Hong Kong citizens were already immune to measles virus, the Government should prioritise the vaccination of those who had not received two doses of measles vaccine.

37. Dr Taron LOH of the DH responded to Members’ comments:

- (i) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States, receiving one dose of measles-containing vaccine at the age of one as recommended could attain 93% immunity to measles. For adults who had only received one dose of measles-containing vaccine during childhood, there was no international consensus on whether they should receive a second jab for higher immunity; nor had the WHO given any specific recommendations; and
- (ii) In view of the recent measles outbreak in the Hong Kong International Airport, the top priority of the DH was to ensure a sufficient supply of measles vaccines for people who had more urgent need for vaccination, namely children under the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme, airport staff and healthcare workers of the Hospital Authority. The department had also procured additional vaccines to meet the local demand.

38. A Member suggested that the SSC write to the FHB and the DH to express Members’ views.

39. The Chairman concluded that the SSC would write to the FHB and the DH to express Members' views about the captioned matter. She also asked the DH's representative to pass Members' comments to the Government. Secretariat

[Post-meeting note: The letters were sent on 9 July 2019.]

**V. Reporting Items**

**(A) “Support Clean Elections” Integrity Programme in Tuen Mun 2019-20**  
**(SSC Paper No. 28/2019)**

40. Members noted the contents of the report by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

**(B) Social Welfare Department Tuen Mun District Social Welfare Office Work Plan 2019-20**  
**(SSC Paper No. 29/2019)**

41. Miss Yondy LAI and Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD gave a PowerPoint presentation (Annex 1) to brief Members on the department's work plan.

42. Members' comments and enquiries about the SWD's briefing are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member asked whether the SWD had done anything to regulate the charges of private elderly homes to prevent overcharging;
- (ii) A Member said that the education sector welcomed the implementation of the policy “two social workers for each secondary school” but they were concerned about the surge in demand for social workers. Also, he was concerned whether those social workers were experienced enough to tackle complicated adolescent problems;
- (iii) A Member opined that there was a lack of support services for households of elderly couples and pointed out that if one of the spouses fell ill while the other person remained healthy, the couple might not be able to enjoy some of the SWD's services such as meal delivery and household cleaning; and



(iv) A Member was concerned that the ramp in front of the day care centre for the elderly at 2gether on Wu On Street was so narrow that it might cause injury or trouble.

43. Ms Kitty CHIU and Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD responded to Members' comments:

(i) They thanked Members for their comments on the work plan;

(ii) The SWD was very concerned about the charges of elderly homes in Tuen Mun and would communicate with the Licensing and Regulation Branch and other relevant branches to monitor the charges;

(iii) The SWD was very concerned about households of elderly couples and had provided relevant service units with additional resources to strengthen outreach services for frail elderly people and caregivers;

(iv) Regarding the design of social welfare facilities, the SWD would pay more attention to the service needs of people with disabilities; and

(v) They noted Members' views on the policy "two school social workers for each secondary school" and would pass them to relevant branches.

44. A Member requested that the SWD strengthen support services for elderly people at risk.

45. A Member reiterated that the SWD should strengthen support services for households of elderly couples.

46. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD thanked Members for their comments and she would pass them to the relevant service units.

47. The Chairman thanked the SWD's representatives for briefing Members at the meeting and hoped that the department would continue to enhance its work plan.

**(C) Work Reports by the Working Groups under the Social Services Committee**

**(SSC Paper No. 30/2019)**

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

48. Members noted the contents of the report by the above working group.

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

49. Members noted the contents of the report by the above working group.

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

50. Members noted the contents of the report by the above working group.

51. The Chairman announced that the above three working group reports were endorsed.

**(D) Report by the Tuen Mun District School Development Section of the Education Bureau**

**(SSC Paper No. 31/2019)**

52. Members noted the contents of the relevant report by the EDB.

53. A Member noted that the admission number of secondary school students in Tuen Mun had stabilised and hoped that the EDB would formulate policies concerning kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools in a holistic and balanced manner.

54. Ms Sally YEUNG of the EDB noted the Member's view and said that the bureau would pay close attention to the admission numbers of different learning stages.

**(E) Report by the Social Welfare Department**

**(SSC Paper No. 32/2019)**

55. Members noted the contents of the relevant report by the SWD.

**(F) Report on Crime Figures in the Tuen Mun District**

**(SSC Paper No. 33/2019)**

56. Members noted the contents of the relevant report by the Hong Kong Police Force.

**VI. Any Other Business**

**(A) Visit to Tin Shui Wai Hospital**

57. The Chairman said that in light of Members' request to visit Tin Shui Wai Hospital, the Secretariat had contacted the HA and arranged for Members to conduct a visit on 30 July 2019 in the afternoon. The Secretariat would send an email to invite all TMDC Members, whether SSC Members or not, to join the activity. Secretariat

**VII. Date of Next Meeting**

58. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:24 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 16 July 2019.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 5 July 2019

File Ref: HAD TM DC/13/25/SSC/19