

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of
the Social Services Committee (2018-2019) of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date: 16 July 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	9:33 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr SO Shiu-shing	TMDC Member	9:31 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	10:53 a.m.
Mr CHU Yiu-wah	TMDC Member	9:31 a.m.	End of meeting
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	9:35 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:32 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	11:05 a.m.
Ms LUNG Shui-hing, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting.
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	11:18 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	9:39 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
Ms NG Dip-pui	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHU Wai-ming	Co-opted Member	10:00 a.m.	11:35 a.m.
Mr YU Tai-wai, MH	Co-opted Member	9:39 a.m.	11:34 a.m.
Ms TSANG Ka-lai	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSANG Hing-chung	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr IP Chun-yuen	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Pak-sum	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr WONG Chi-chun	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 LEUNG Wing-shan, Magnolia	Senior Education Officer (School Building), Education Bureau
Mr CHIU Tseng-hung, Horace	Project Manager (School Building) ⁴ , Education Bureau
Ms WONG Pui-shan, Christine	Education Officer (Special Education Support 1), Education Bureau
Ms LAU Oi-wing, Judy	Senior Project Manager 125, Architectural Services Department
Mr YEUNG Shun-shing, Willy	Project Manager 144, Architectural Services Department
Mr W K SHEK	Principal, Hong Chi Morninghill School, Tuen Mun
Mr Vetus LAU	Director, Percy Thomas Partnership (HK) Limited
Mr C M KWOK	Associate, Ho Tin & Associates Consulting Engineers Limited
Dr Simon TANG	Cluster Chief Executive, New Territories West Cluster, Hospital Authority
Ms Joana YU	Cluster Manager (Public Affairs & Donation Management), New Territories West Cluster, Hospital Authority

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

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all present to the 11th meeting of the Social Services Committee (“SSC”).

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 seating area.

II. Absence from Meeting

4. The Secretariat reported that no applications for leave of absence had been received from Members.

III. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

5. As Members proposed no amendments to the minutes, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 10th meeting of the SSC (2018-2019) were confirmed.

IV. Discussion Items

**(A) Extension of Hong Chi Morninghill School, Tuen Mun
(SSC Paper No. 34/2019)**

6. The Chairman welcomed Ms Magnolia LEUNG, Senior Education Officer (School Building), Mr Horace CHIU, Project Manager (School Building)4, and Ms Christine WONG, Education Officer (Special Education Support 1), of the Education Bureau (“EDB”), Ms Judy LAU, Senior Project Manager 125, and Mr Willy YEUNG, Project Manager 144, of the Architectural Services Department, Mr W K SHEK, Principal of Hong Chi Morninghill School,

Tuen Mun (“the School”), Mr Vetus LAU, Director of Percy Thomas Partnership (HK) Limited, and Mr C M KWOK, Associate of Ho Tin & Associates Consulting Engineers Limited, to the meeting.

7. Ms Magnolia LEUNG of the EDB gave a PowerPoint presentation (Annex 1) to brief Members on the extension.

8. Members’ comments and enquiries about the matter are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member supported the extension since it had long been awaited by parents and members of the public. As early as in 2003, the TMDC had requested that the Government relocate the School to larger premises or build new premises to address the lack of space on campus. He also asked whether the EDB would assign more students to the School after the extension as an improvement measure on extension of years of study for students of special schools;
- (ii) A Member was concerned about students’ safety as there would be a road between the new and the existing premises;
- (iii) A Member opined that it was severely inadequate to provide only five additional classrooms under the extension project;
- (iv) A Member pointed out that the extension project was related to the measures put forward by the EDB in 2010-11 to extend the years of study for students of special schools. The Member also asked whether the extension could tackle the lack of space at the School; and
- (v) A Member asked for the School’s opinion about the extension and enquired whether the EDB had confirmed with relevant departments the height limit of the new premises mentioned in the paper.

9. Ms Magnolia LEUNG of the EDB responded to Members’ comments:

- (i) There were certain technical constraints on the extension project and the height limit of the site was determined based on requirements of the Planning Department; and

(ii) Regarding Members' concern about the safety of students travelling between the new and the existing premises, she quoted the TD's remarks that traffic was not busy at that location and the department had preliminarily agreed to provide pedestrian crossing facilities there.

10. Mr Horace CHIU of the EDB responded to Members' comments:

(i) Despite the numerous constraints on the extension project, factors such as legal requirements and safety remained the top priorities; and

(ii) Regarding the access between the new and the existing premises, the EDB had considered three solutions, namely building a subway, constructing a footbridge and enhancing the design of the school premises. After considering various factors and consulting the School and relevant stakeholders, the bureau decided to enhance the design of the school premises. The two premises would operate independently to reduce unnecessary travel between the premises and better suit the operational needs of the School.

11. Mr W K SHEK, principal of the School, responded to Members' comments:

(i) He thanked Members for their concern and assistance over the years;

(ii) After the extension, both premises would be equipped with necessary facilities for students and could operate independently;

(iii) The School would treat the need for students to cross the road as an opportunity for them to learn how to use traffic facilities. Under safe circumstances, senior students could familiarise themselves with the correct way to cross the road;

(iv) The School currently offered a total of 180 places and the number was expected to increase to 225 after the extension. The School believed that it had sufficient resources to cope with the growth in the number of students after the extension.

12. A Member reckoned that government support for the disadvantaged had been inadequate over the years and suggested that the bureau consider connecting

the new and the existing premises with a footbridge.

13. A Member enquired about the number of special school places needed in the next few years. Also, he opined that the Architectural Services Department should plan larger washrooms in the new premises as those washrooms would support the operation of both premises.

14. Mr Horace CHIU of the EDB responded to Members' comments:

- (i) In view of students' actual needs, shower facilities would be provided in the washrooms of the new premises;
- (ii) The height limit of the works was determined by the Planning Department; and
- (iii) The EDB had considered connecting the new and the existing premises with a footbridge. However, such a plan might not be feasible because the addition of a footbridge would affect the overall structural safety of the existing premises.

15. Ms Christine WONG of the EDB thanked Members for their concern about the demand for special school places across the territory and said that the bureau would continue to monitor the situation.

16. Members raised another round of comments, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member asked how many students were waiting for admission to the School at the moment;
- (ii) A Member suggested that the Government identify another piece of land for building new school premises to address citizens' demand for special education;
- (iii) A Member pointed out from the EDB's information that the School could provide 30 additional places after the extension and opined that those places could only fulfil the short-term need. The extension should not only make up for the shortfall in space over the years, but also prepare the School for future population growth; and

(iv) A Member asked the EDB to submit the extension project to the Legislative Council for funding approval expeditiously.

17. Ms Christine WONG of the EDB added that under the bureau's special school policy, the number of additional special school places was estimated based on the actual demand for special school places in Hong Kong, the population projection across the territory and the projected population distribution in different districts. She said that there were sufficient special school places across the districts to meet the growth in the number of children with intellectual disability in the next few years.

18. The Chairman concluded that the SSC supported the captioned matter and it looked forward to an expeditious extension to tackle the lack of space at the School. Also, Members gave comments about complementary facilities and safety issues of the extension. They hoped that the EDB would formulate long-term plans for special schools, allocate more resources and identify land to build more school premises.

19. A Member reiterated that the EDB should not keep asking the School to provide more classes after the extension.

(B) Request for Increasing the Quota of Integrated Home Care Services and Improving Home Care Services

(SSC Paper No. 35/2019)

(Written Response of the Social Welfare Department)

20. The first proposer of the paper said that there were quite a number of households of elderly couples in the district. Many of the elderly people suffered health problems and needed support from the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"). Noting a three-year "Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment" ("the Pilot Scheme") mentioned in the department's written response, she asked the SWD's representative to tell Members about the details and the current operation of the Pilot Scheme.

21. A Member asked the SWD about the progress of reviewing the Pilot Scheme. Also, she opined that some elderly people required home care services after discharge from hospital, so suggested that the department strengthen

communication with hospitals.

22. Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD responded to Members' comments:

- (i) At the moment, the SWD would assess the level of impairment of the elderly people in need and provide them with appropriate care services. The department had an internationally recognised assessment tool to evaluate the physical conditions of the elderly people, including their ability to take care of themselves, the level of impairment in memory and communication skills, health conditions and environmental risks. After assessment, they would be classified into three categories according to the level of impairment, namely mild, moderate or severe;
- (ii) For frail elderly identified with needs for long-term care services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services ("SCNAMES"), the Central Waiting List for Subsidised Long Term Care Services administered by the SWD would handle their applications and allocations of community and residential care services. Elderly people using the Integrated Home Care Services ("IHCS") needed not be assessed by the SCNAMES and such services were not considered long-term care services;
- (iii) In December 2017, the SWD received funding of around \$383 million from the Community Care Fund to launch the three-year Pilot Scheme which offered about 4 000 places for home care and support services. The Pilot Scheme provided different services under the IHCS to low-income elderly people who were assessed to be with mild impairment in order that they could age in place with appropriate support. Both IHCS teams from Tuen Mun (i.e. Yan Oi Tong and the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council) joined the Pilot Scheme;
- (iv) Under the Pilot Scheme, all service teams adopted the same assessment tool and provided preventive services to elderly people with mild impairment to maintain their physical conditions. At the moment, the two IHCS teams from Tuen Mun offered 160 services places in total; and
- (v) To support elderly people treated in public hospitals, the Community Care Fund launched another three-year pilot scheme on post-discharge support

in February 2018. After comprehensive assessment, a maximum of six months of home care services would be arranged for those elderly people according to their needs.

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

- (i) A Member thanked the SWD's representative for her response. She hoped that the SWD would report to the TMDC on the review of the Pilot Scheme in due course. In addition, she reckoned many elderly people in the community were unaware that they could receive assessment from the SWD. Therefore, she hoped that the department would step up publicity;
- (ii) A Member opined that the Government should expeditiously allocate more resources to the SWD so that more people could benefit from the IHCS. In addition, he pointed out that it had become much harder for elderly people to move into residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHE") in recent years. Even for case referrals from Members, many of them had been assessed to be without a need to move into the RCHEs. Therefore, he reckoned that while the department should continue to strengthen the IHCS, it should also arrange for elderly people in need to move into the RCHEs;
- (iii) The Government announced in the Budget of the current year an allocation of \$20 billion for the purchase of properties for social welfare facilities. Regarding this measure, a Member enquired about the SWD's work progress in Tuen Mun; and
- (iv) A Member found the promotion of elderly services inadequate. Despite their actual needs, many elderly people did not know which organisation or facility of the SWD they should approach.

24. Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD thanked Members for their comments and responded as follows:

- (i) In recent years, the SWD had rolled out various types of services to cater for the needs of elderly people with different physical conditions. If elderly people were unsure which service plans they could use, they might seek assistance from any Neighbourhood Elderly Centre nearby. She added that some social workers in the Neighbourhood Elderly Centres

were qualified assessors who could immediately conduct assessments on the elderly people;

- (ii) To meet the growing demand, the Government planned to issue an additional 1 000 vouchers under the Second Phase of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly in 2019-20, making a total of 7 000 vouchers; and
- (iii) Regarding Members' concern about the allocation of \$20 billion for the purchase of properties for social welfare facilities, she would communicate with a relevant unit of the SWD and report to the TMDC in due course.

25. The Chairman thanked the SWD's representative for her response and asked her to relay Members' views to the department.

V. Reporting Items

(A) Hospital Authority New Territories West Cluster 2018-19 Annual Plan **(SSC Paper No. 36/2019)**

26. The Chairman welcomed Dr Simon TANG, Cluster Chief Executive, and Ms Joana YU, Cluster Manager (Public Affairs & Donation Management), of the New Territories West Cluster of the Hospital Authority ("HA"), to the meeting.

27. Dr Simon TANG of the HA gave a PowerPoint presentation (Annex 2) to brief Members on the authority's Annual Plan.

28. Members' comments and enquiries about the matter are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member pointed out that the waiting time for consultations at the Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology of Tuen Mun Hospital ("TMH") was relatively long and asked whether the HA had any plans to improve the service. Also, some members of the public had told him that they could not make telephone appointments for general outpatient services. Therefore, he hoped that the HA would adjust the quota of such services;

- (ii) A Member pointed out the severe shortage of ophthalmologists in TMH and suggested that the HA consider hiring overseas ophthalmologists to ease the pressure of local healthcare staff; and
 - (iii) A Member thanked the healthcare staff of TMH for their hard work and hoped that the HA would allocate more resources and recruit additional staff.
29. Dr Simon TANG of the HA responded to Members' comments:
- (i) The HA noted the relatively long waiting time for outpatient consultations at the Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology. However, since recruitment and training took time, the HA would concentrate manpower on emergency and inpatient services in the meantime. To cope with the problem, the HA also planned to implement a series of measures, including hiring seven orthopaedic doctors in July 2019, recruiting part-time doctors, and to boosting manpower through the Special Honorarium Scheme;
 - (ii) Regarding Members' concern about telephone appointments for general outpatient services, adjustments would be made depending on the actual situation. For instance, some elderly people might not be able to make appointments on a mobile app;
 - (iii) He thanked Members for their concern over the lack of ophthalmologists. Sharing this concern, the HA was recruiting overseas doctors through the limited registration scheme and would conduct publicity campaigns to attract more doctors; and
 - (iv) Electronic management of the Accident and Emergency ("A&E") Department would be implemented in TMH progressively in the next few years.
30. Members' second round of comments are summarised as follows:
- (i) A Member said that some doctors had requested that administrative work be reduced and he hoped that the HA would consider the suggestion. Also, he asked the HA to allocate more resources for sign language interpretation in hospitals;

(ii) A Member asked whether the service demand in TMH had been alleviated after the launch of the 24-hour A&E services in Tin Shui Wai Hospital (“TSWH”). Also, she opined that there had been quite a number of public criticisms about the HA’s handling of staff pressure. Therefore, she asked whether the HA had any improvement plans in the following year; and

(iii) A Member enquired about the number of ophthalmologists in Tuen Mun and suggested that the HA step up promotion of its services to give Tuen Mun residents more healthcare information.

31. Dr Simon TANG of the HA responded to Members’ comments:

(i) The HA was very concerned about the work pressure of the staff and had implemented various measures such as cancelling unnecessary meetings during the winter influenza season;

(ii) The HA noted Members’ concern over sign language interpretation services and would, depending on actual needs, strengthen such services when appropriate;

(iii) The HA was recruiting 56 part-time doctors and 380 part-time nurses for the New Territories West Cluster to alleviate the work pressure of full-time healthcare staff;

(iv) Before the launch of the 24-hour A&E services in TSWH, the number of patients seeking consultations at the A&E Department of TMH was around 600 per day and the number dropped to about 450 per day after the launch. It showed that TSWH had effectively eased the pressure of the A&E Department of TMH; and

(v) Currently, there were altogether 23 ophthalmologists in TMH.

32. The Chairman thanked the HA’s representatives for their response and asked them to relay Members’ views to the authority.

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

(SSC Paper No. 37/2019)

(i) Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services

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

(ii) Working Group on Community Care

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

(iii) Working Group on Education and Youth Services

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

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

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

(SSC Paper No. 38/2019)

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

(D) Report by the Social Welfare Department

(SSC Paper No. 39/2019)

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

(E) Report on Crime Figures in the Tuen Mun District

(SSC Paper No. 40/2019)

39. 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

40. The Chairman said that the SSC would visit TSWH on 30 July 2019 in the afternoon.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

41. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:41 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 10 September 2019.

Action

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 14 August 2019

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