

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of
the Social Services Committee (2018-2019) of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date: 10 September 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>
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	9:38 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:38 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHU Yiu-wah	TMDC Member	9:30 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	9:32 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
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	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.	9:50 a.m.
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:40 a.m.	9:48 a.m.
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member	9:34 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	10:09 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 YU Tai-wai, MH	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHU Wai-ming	Co-opted Member	9:35 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms TSANG Ka-lai	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr IP Chun-yuen	Co-opted Member	9:39 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		

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

Ms SO Ka-man (Chairman)

TMDC Member

Ms NG Dip-pui

Co-opted Member

Mr TSANG Hing-chung

Co-opted Member

I. Opening Remarks

The Vice-chairman welcomed all present to the 12th meeting of the Social Services Committee (“SSC”). Since Ms SO Ka-man, the Chairman of the SSC, could not attend the meeting due to illness, he would preside at that meeting.

2. The Vice-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. He would, in accordance with Order 39(12) of the Tuen Mun District Council Standing Orders (“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 Vice-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 Ms SO Ka-man had submitted a sick leave application and a medical certificate to the SSC. Her absence was approved by the SSC in accordance with Order 42(1) of the Standing Orders. No leave applications had been received from other Members.

III. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

5. As no amendments were raised, the Vice-chairman announced that the minutes of the 11th meeting of the SSC (2018-2019) were confirmed.

IV. Discussion Item

**(A) Request for Additional Resources to Enhance Community After-School Care Services
(SSC Paper No. 41/2019)
(Written Response of the Social Welfare Department)**

6. The first proposer of the paper said that many parents were unable to

work full-time because they had to take care of their children after school. Although some schools and non-governmental organisations provided care services, the service places were in short supply. In view of the great demand for after-school care services by Tuen Mun residents, she requested that the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) provide after-school care sessions in vacant classrooms so as to release the manpower of dual-income families.

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

- (i) To solve the problem, a Member found it necessary for the Government to allocate resources to study citizens’ actual need for relevant services. Although some schools currently provided after-school care services until around 6 p.m., the majority of dual-income families found such services inadequate;
- (ii) A Member said that while many schools provided after-school care services until 6 or 7 p.m., parents should not shift their child care responsibility to schools or tutorial centres. In this regard, the Government might take reference from the principle of “ageing in place” and allocate resources in the direction of “child care in place” to let elderly people unleash their potential; and
- (iii) Given the heavy workload of school teachers, a Member suggested that schools only provide venues for care services while the SWD hire other workers to care for the children.

8. Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD responded to Members’ comments as follows:

- (i) The SWD understood the needs of dual-income families for care services and had launched the Enhanced After School Care Programme (“ASCP”) in December 2014. Under the measure, some of the ASCP operators were allocated additional resources to extend service hours on weekday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays. Services included homework guidance, social and developmental programmes, and skill learning. The department would regularly review the service utilisation rate of each district and adjust service quotas. Regarding Members’ request for using school premises flexibly for the provision of care

services, the department was open to such a suggestion. To meet the needs of the community, interested organisations were also welcome to apply for the ASCP;

- (ii) Apart from after-school care services, the SWD also carried out the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project to provide parents in need with flexible child care services. In 2016, the department commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a “Consultancy Study on the Long-term Development of Child Care Services” and the study had been completed. Taking reference from the recommendations of the study report, the Government proposed a series of measures to improve relevant services; and
- (iii) In March 2016, the SWD had launched a two-year Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents, which had attracted almost 600 participants. In 2019, the department planned to implement a similar project offering 1 200 places to help participants cope with child care difficulties and strengthen support for them and their relatives at the family level.

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

- (i) A Member suggested that the SWD step up collaboration with social welfare organisations in the district proactively and recruit elderly people to strengthen child care services;
- (ii) A Member pointed out that many schools already provided after-school care services and opined that they should receive additional resources from the Government; and
- (iii) A Member reiterated that parents should not shift their child care responsibility to schools and that schools might not have adequate resources to provide comprehensive after-school care services.

10. The Vice-chairman thanked the SWD’s representative for her response and asked her to relay Members’ views to the department.

V. Reporting Items

(A) “Support Clean Elections” Integrity Programme in Tuen Mun 2019-20 Progress Report
(SSC Paper No. 42/2019)

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

(B) Work Reports by the Working Groups under the Social Services Committee
(SSC Paper No. 43/2019)

(i) Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services

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

(ii) Working Group on Community Care

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

(iii) Working Group on Education and Youth Services

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

15. The Vice-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. 44/2019)

16. Members noted the contents of the relevant report by the Education Bureau.

(D) Report by the Social Welfare Department
(SSC Paper No. 45/2019)

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

18. 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.

19. Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD said that the department would move a

motion on the measure in the Legislative Council's Finance Committee and report to the TMDC in due course.

20. Regarding the Day Care Centre for the Elderly and the Residential Care Home for the Elderly at Kwong Choi Market, a Member asked about the progress of the tender exercise and when the facilities would come into operation.

21. A Member enquired about the progress of the conversion of the former Kei Leung Primary School.

22. Miss Yondy LAI of the SWD replied that the Day Care Centre for the Elderly and the Contract Residential Care Home for the Elderly at Kwong Choi Market were expected to come into operation in 2020-2021 and the department would report the progress to the SSC in due course. Regarding the other enquiry, she would communicate with relevant colleagues and submit a report to the SSC afterwards.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding the conversion of the former Kei Leung Primary School, the SWD commissioned a consultancy for a detailed design in May 2019 and the works were expected to commence in the second quarter of 2020.)

(E) Report on Crime Figures in the Tuen Mun District
(SSC Paper No. 46/2019)

23. Members noted the contents of the relevant report by the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF").

24. Noting the continuous increase in the number of indecent assault cases this year, a Member was concerned that there might be repeat offenders and hoped that the Police would step up detection work.

25. A Member said that there were prostitutes lingering in the vicinity of San Hui and the situation was worrying. She suggested that the Police consider conducting decoy operations for investigations.

26. Mr LEE Wai-ming of the HKPF thanked Members for their comments and information. He would report to the HKPF and arrange for police officers to take follow-up action.

VI. Any Other Business

(A) Visit to Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School cum Island Hostel in Area 2B, Tuen Mun

27. The Vice-chairman said that the SSC would visit Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School cum Island Hostel in Area 2B, Tuen Mun on 23 September 2019 in the afternoon.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

28. There being no other business, the Vice-chairman closed the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Since it was the last SSC meeting of the current DC term, the Vice-chairman thanked Members and department representatives for their active participation in the SSC affairs during their terms of office.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: September 2019

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