

Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Social Services Committee (2018-2019) of  
the Tuen Mun District Council

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Date: 15 May 2018 (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	9:31 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:32 a.m.	10:52 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	9:35 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.	End of meeting
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 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.	11:58 a.m.
Mr YU Tai-wai	Co-opted Member	9:36 a.m.	10:58 a.m.
Mr CHU Wai-ming	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	11:08 a.m.
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
Ms HO Chui-wan, Ida (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

By Invitation

Dr MOK Chun-keung, Francis

Deputy Hospital Chief Executive, Tuen Mun Hospital,  
Hospital Authority

Mr K M YIU

Cluster Manager (Public Affairs & Donation  
Management),

Miss YING Hor-ching

New Territories West Cluster, Hospital Authority

Ms CHIU Lai-chun, Kitty

Housing Manager/Tuen Mun 2, Housing Department

Ms CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP

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

Mrs CHAN WONG Kit-ming, Annie

Chairperson, Women's Commission

Chief Executive Officer (Welfare),

Labour and Welfare Bureau

In Attendance

Mr CHAU Ka-nin, Eric

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

Mr LAM Man-kwong

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

Mrs NG NG Lai-chun

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 KAM Man-fung

TMDC Member

Ms TSANG Ka-lai

Co-opted Member

**I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Social Services Committee (“SSC”).

2. The Chairman reminded Members 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 said that since representatives of the Hospital Authority (“HA”) had other commitments afterwards, they hoped to advance discussions on agenda item II(C) “Concern about the Problem of Insufficient Training and Rehabilitation Facilities for Cerebral Palsied Children” and agenda item III(B) “Enhancement in NTWC Community Healthcare Services”. Members agreed to this arrangement.

**II. Absence from Meeting**

4. The Secretary reported that a notification for leave of absence had been received from Ms TSANG Ka-lai.

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

5. As Members proposed no amendments to the minutes, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SSC (2018-2019) were confirmed.

6. At the request of the Chairman, the Secretary reported that the SSC had, at the last meeting, decided to write to the five policy bureaux and departments in regard to the arrangement for relocating Fu Hong Society Yau Chong Home (“Yau Chong Home”) to King Tai Court in San Po Kong, asking the Government to preserve Yau Chong Home in-situ. At the end of March 2018, the Development Bureau had confirmed the removal of Yau Chong Home from the proposed public housing development plan on Hin Fat Lane, Tuen Mun. Therefore, when writing to the relevant policy bureaux and departments, there

had been no need to raise the above demand but extracts from minutes of the meeting had still been enclosed with the letters.

#### **IV. Matters Arising**

##### **(C) Concern about the Problem of Insufficient Training and Rehabilitation Facilities for Cerebral Palsied Children**

**(SSC Paper No. 18/2018)**

**(Paragraphs 53-56 of the Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of SSC (2018-2019))**

**(Written response of Department of Health)**

**(Written response of HA)**

7. The Chairman welcomed Dr Francis MOK, Deputy Hospital Chief Executive of Tuen Mun Hospital, and Mr K M YIU, Cluster Manager (Public Affairs & Donation Management) of the New Territories West Cluster, of the HA, and Ms Kitty CHIU, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)<sup>1</sup> of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”), to the meeting.

8. The Chairman said that the first proposer of the paper had mentioned at the last meeting that a group of cerebral palsied babies in Tuen Mun district had to use the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home for muscle training but that facility would soon be converted into a day care centre for the elderly. Since there were no other similar facilities in the district for their use, parents of the group of cerebral palsied babies were very worried. In this regard, she asked the HA to give a response on the current arrangement for cerebral palsied babies waiting for treatment.

9. Dr Francis MOK of the HA said that cerebral palsied babies were in general followed up by paediatric departments. The authority had established a dedicated medical team (comprising physiotherapists, occupational therapists, orthopaedists, speech therapists, medical social workers and others) to follow up on cases of this group of patients, and healthcare personnel from neurosurgery would also participate in the follow-up work when necessary. If patients needed to receive hydrotherapy, physiotherapists would arrange for the patients to use the hydrotherapy pool in Pok Oi Hospital.

10. Members made different comments and enquiries on the HA’s response, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member said that treatment for cerebral palsied babies could be divided into two stages, namely before the age of six and after the age of six. If babies were not diagnosed at birth, they had to wait for about one year for assessment. If the babies were assessed and diagnosed of cerebral palsy, they had to wait for another two years for treatment. To enable their children to receive early treatment, parents would spontaneously bring those babies to the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home for training. Those patients with cerebral palsy would only have an opportunity to be allocated to special schools upon reaching the age of six. Some patients were allocated to general schools and most of them were bullied at school;
- (ii) A Member pointed out that families and carers of patients with cerebral palsy often bore great pressure and the assessment services provided by the private sector were costly. Therefore, the Member asked the SWD whether there were measures to support carers and families of cerebral palsied babies;
- (iii) A Member said that after the conversion of the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home, there would be no similar facilities in Tuen Mun district for use by patients with cerebral palsy. Also, department representatives who had attended meetings could not give a response on whether other support could be provided so the Member opined that the Department of Health should send representatives to the meeting;
- (iv) A Member reckoned that the effectiveness of the treatment would be undermined when cerebral palsied babies had to wait for one year for treatment;
- (v) A Member opined that even though there were not many patients with cerebral palsy in Hong Kong, the support provided to them was inadequate and urged the Government to respond proactively;
- (vi) A Member said that the Government should build a hydrotherapy pool in Tuen Mun to cater for the needs of patients with cerebral palsy in the district;

- (vii) A Member asked why cerebral palsied babies had to wait for as long as three years to receive treatment; whether such long waiting time would hinder patients' rehabilitation progress; the number of new patients with cerebral palsy each year; and whether the SWD would provide alternative facilities for use by patients with cerebral palsy; and
- (viii) A Member enquired about the average time needed for the medical team treating cerebral palsy to handle one case and opined that the authority should provide more support to carers of patients with cerebral palsy.

11. Dr Francis MOK of the HA responded that some patients with cerebral palsy had been diagnosed at birth and thus did not have to wait for assessment. This type of cases was generally handled by paediatric departments. The waiting time at the paediatric department was about 30 weeks at the moment and it could be shortened to two to eight weeks for emergency cases. Hydrotherapy was only one of the treatment plans for patients with cerebral palsy and it might not be applicable to all patients. The dedicated medical team would devise suitable treatment plans for patients. Currently, under the New Territories West Cluster, only Tuen Mun Hospital had set up a paediatric department. Although the hydrotherapy pool of Pok Oi Hospital was not located in Tuen Mun, it could still be used by patients from the New Territories West Cluster. The hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home, however, was not a facility under the HA. Given the advanced medical facilities nowadays, pregnant women could learn more about babies' health status through antenatal check-ups during pregnancy. Therefore, cerebral palsy was not prevalent. Regarding the Member's enquiry about the number of new cases of cerebral palsy each year, he said he would provide supplementary information after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: Please refer to Annex 3 (only available in Chinese version) for the number of new cases of cerebral palsy each year.]

12. The Chairman asked whether under the New Territories West Cluster, only Pok Oi Hospital was equipped with a hydrotherapy pool.

13. Dr Francis MOK of the HA responded that under the New Territories

West Cluster, only Pok Oi Hospital was equipped with a hydrotherapy pool at the moment and that facility would be used by patients from the New Territories West Cluster.

14. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD responded that the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home was not a facility subsidised by the department and hydrotherapy was not the main treatment plan for patients with cerebral palsy. Healthcare personnel would refer patients with cerebral palsy to suitable hospitals for follow-ups after studying their cases and thus hydrotherapy facilities were not standard facilities under rehabilitation services. Since some patients with cerebral palsy would use the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home, the home had arranged for users to continue using its hydrotherapy pool during summer holiday and would notify users' families before the commencement of the works. In addition to Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home, Caritas Harold H. W. Lee Care and Attention Home in Sha Tin was also equipped with a hydrotherapy pool for people in need to hire.

15. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD continued that a primary school under Direct Subsidy Scheme in Tuen Mun district was equipped with a swimming pool block. If patients with cerebral palsy needed, the department could try and help contacting that school to discuss the possibility of opening up the relevant facility for rehabilitation service units in the district to borrow. Regarding pre-school rehabilitation services, the Government currently offered treatment and training to children with special needs (including those with cerebral palsy) from birth to six years old by providing subvented pre-school rehabilitation services, including Early Education and Training Centre, Special Child Care Centre and Integrated Programme in Kindergarten-cum-Child Care Centre. The aim was to facilitate their development and growth and subsequently increase their chances of enrolling into ordinary schools and participating in daily activities. In the Budget of 2018, the Government had regularised the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services. The number of service places would be increased from 3 000 at the moment to 5 000 in the school year 2018/19 and to 7 000 in the school year 2019/20.

16. Members made different comments and enquiries on the responses of the HA and the SWD, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member asked whether other types of physiotherapy could replace hydrotherapy for patients with cerebral palsy and whether the authority would provide other forms of physiotherapy to patients receiving hydrotherapy additionally;
- (ii) A Member pointed out that some babies had not been diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth and thus had to wait for one year for assessment. Those parents could not benefit from the treatment arrangements mentioned by the HA earlier and had resorted to seeking appropriate treatment plans for their children at their own expenses before diagnosis. Therefore, the Member hoped that relevant departments could provide support in this regard; and
- (iii) A Member said that early treatment was very important to patients with cerebral palsy and the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home would be closed after summer holiday. Therefore, the Member suggested the SWD help contacting the school concerned and ask it to consider opening up the relevant facility for use by patients in need.

17. Dr Francis MOK of the HA responded that hydrotherapy was not the only treatment plan or a prevalent treatment plan for patients with cerebral palsy. Patients could also boost the effectiveness of treatment through land sports so the authority did not think that the temporary closure of the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home would severely affect the treatment arrangements for patients with cerebral palsy. In regard to the Member's enquiry about the number of patients with cerebral palsy and their waiting time for treatment, Dr MOK would provide supplementary information after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: Please refer to Annex 3 (only available in Chinese version) for the waiting time for treatment for patients with cerebral palsy.]

18. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD responded that the department was willing to try and help parents in need to contact the relevant organisation and school for support. Also, Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home would continue to open its hydrotherapy pool for use by people in need during summer holiday.

19. A Member opined that in the long run, the HA should build a hydrotherapy pool in Tuen Mun to make it more convenient for patients with cerebral palsy to receive treatment. The first proposer of the paper said that some parents of patients with cerebral palsy had relayed to her earlier that there were only six remaining time slots for using the hydrotherapy pool in Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home. Therefore, they hoped that the SWD could confirm that the home would open its hydrotherapy pool during summer holiday, and if the home would not, the department would help contacting the school with swimming pool facilities and ask the school to consider opening up the relevant facility for use by patients.

20. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD responded that the department would contact Caritas Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home and the school concerned to gain an understanding of and follow up on the relevant situation.

21. Dr Francis MOK of the HA said that he would reflect Members' suggestions to the authority.

22. The Chairman asked the HA and the SWD to actively consider Members' views.

## **V. Discussion Items**

### **(B) Enhancement in NTWC Community Healthcare Services** **(SSC Paper No. 27/2018)**

23. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (Annex 1)\*, Dr Francis MOK of the HA briefed Members on the captioned paper.

\*(Only available in Chinese version)

24. Members made different comments and enquiries on the HA's briefing, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member enquired about the time needed for the authority to assess whether it was necessary to readmit the elderly people into the hospitals;
- (ii) A Member said that elderly people needed different support after discharge. Nonetheless, some elderly people were ineligible for meal delivery services or home care services because they lived with family

members who were often unable to take care of them due to work. Therefore, the Member opined that the authority should refer this kind of cases to relevant social welfare organisations for follow-ups;

- (iii) A Member opined that redeploying five priority discs for civil servants from day sessions to evening sessions at general out-patient clinics might affect services for the public and suggested adding five priority discs for civil servants to evening sessions directly;
- (iv) While not opposing to the authority's proposal to redeploy five priority discs for civil servants from day sessions to evening sessions at general out-patient clinics, a Member opined that the relevant redeployment should not affect quotas for the public and that the authority should, in the long run, build a general out-patient clinic in Tuen Mun Area 3 to satisfy residents' needs;
- (v) While agreeing that the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment could provide more support to elderly people discharged from hospitals, a Member worried that given the insufficiency of medical resources, some elderly people might be arranged to be discharged earlier because of the scheme;
- (vi) A Member enquired about the definition of "primary care" since the Under Secretary for Food and Health had said at the TMDC meeting earlier that the target groups of primary care and the income of patients were not directly related;
- (vii) A Member asked about the expected number of beneficiaries of the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment and whether the authority had any plans to set up more general out-patient clinics in Tuen Mun district;
- (viii) A Member suggested strengthening the training for staff of dementia centres to enable elderly people with dementia to receive appropriate services and proposed that the authority provide priority discs for the elderly for their priority use of general out-patient services;

- (ix) A Member said that the result of Dementia Community Support Scheme had been satisfactory last year and asked whether the authority would strengthen the services of the scheme. The Member also hoped that the authority would, after completing the new resource allocation model, report to the SSC when appropriate;
- (x) A Member opined that the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment could strengthen the community support for elderly people. Also, many elderly people with dementia made significant improvements after receiving training so the Member enquired about the service distribution of Dementia Community Support Scheme; and
- (xi) A Member asked the authority whether it would call the elderly to remind them of the follow-up consultations, arrange medical vehicles for elderly people with impaired mobility travelling to hospitals, and provide support to patients requiring regular haemodialysis. Also, the Member pointed out that words printed on packaging bags of medications prescribed by hospitals and general out-patient clinics were too small and the elderly could not read clearly.

25. In addition to the above, the Chairman enquired about the respective numbers of priority discs for civil servants and public discs in day sessions and evening sessions at general out-patient clinics as well as their utilisation.

26. Dr Francis MOK of the HA responded to Members' comments and enquiries, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) Dr MOK said that starting from 2018, the authority had made new arrangements for the allocation of medical resources. Resources allocated to each cluster would be pegged to the population of the area. The authority would provide more information when introducing the Annual Plan to Members at the next meeting;
- (ii) The Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment had served about 4 000 elderly people since its launch. Since whether a patient was ready for discharge was decided by an individual doctor, elderly people would not be arranged to be

discharged earlier because of the scheme. If healthcare personnel were aware that elderly people would not be taken care of by their families after discharge, they would make arrangements for the elderly accordingly;

- (iii) Currently, there were altogether four elderly centres providing training to elderly people with dementia in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. In the long run, the authority also hoped to expand the scope of service to support patients with other chronic illnesses;
- (iv) The utilisation rate of day sessions at general out-patient clinics in Tuen Mun was close to maximum and that of evening sessions was around 94%. The utilisation rate of priority discs for civil servants was about 80% (with 20 quotas in the morning and 10 in the afternoon). After redeploying the priority discs for civil servants to evening sessions, the quotas for morning, afternoon and evening sessions would change to 15, 10 and 5 respectively. Since the authority would increase the quotas for general out-patient services to 16 500 this year, the above redeployment would not affect services for the public. The distribution of the quotas for public discs was as follows:

	Mondays to Fridays	Saturdays
Morning sessions	206	164
Afternoon sessions	147	Not applicable
	Mondays and Tuesdays	Wednesdays to Fridays
Evening sessions	190	152

- (v) “E-FILL” Drug Refill Services Pilot Programme could improve the situation where elderly people were prescribed many medications at follow-up consultations. Pharmacists would follow up on the elderly people’s conditions of taking medications and render appropriate assistance. Tuen Mun Hospital would soon, on a trial basis, print on paper the names of medications and information about their side effects for the reference of elderly people and their carers, so as to prevent the situation where some elderly people were unable to read the instructions printed on packaging bags of medications clearly;

- (vi) Treating nephrosis was complicated so it would be followed up by medical teams which comprised internists. If patients receiving treatment faced any difficulties in their daily lives, medical social workers would provide assistance;
- (vii) After the completion of the general out-patient clinic in Tuen Mun Area 29, it was expected that about 40 consultation rooms could be provided upon its full commissioning. In addition, the authority was planning to redevelop Tuen Mun Clinic. After the completion of the two aforesaid plans, the supply of general out-patient services could be increased significantly. Further report would be made during the briefing on the Annual Plan at the TMDC meeting;
- (viii) The target groups of primary care were elderly people and people with chronic illnesses; and
- (ix) Follow-up consultations for people with chronic illnesses, if needed, were arranged by hospitals. If elderly people needed consultations even when quotas at general out-patient clinics were full, duty officers would make special arrangements in view of circumstances and would advise them to use accident and emergency service in case of emergency.

27. A Member said that the authority should report to the SSC as soon as possible on any progress of the plan to build a general out-patient clinic in Tuen Mun Area 29.

28. The Chairman thanked the HA representatives for attending the meeting to brief Members on the captioned plan and asked them to relay Members' views to the authority.

**VI. Matters Arising (Continued)****(A) Request the Education Bureau to Amend the Service Agreement with the Harrow International School****(SSC Paper No. 5/2018)****(Paragraphs 48-63 of the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SSC (2018-2019) and Paragraphs 15-19 of the Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of SSC (2018-2019))**

29. The Chairman said that at the last meeting, the SSC had proposed that the Education Bureau (“EDB”), in the negotiation for the service agreement with Harrow International School Hong Kong (“Harrow HK”), request the school to open up more facilities for use by Tuen Mun residents at affordable prices and suggest its students to commute to and from the school by school buses. She asked the EDB to provide supplementary information in this regard.

30. Mr LAM Man-kwong of the EDB responded that the bureau had held a meeting with the Hong Kong Police Force, the Transport Department (“TD”) and Harrow HK on 24 April 2018 and had put forward the relevant proposals which Harrow HK had said it would consider. After reaching a further consensus on the discussion between the bureau and Harrow HK, the person-in-charge of the relevant section would attend SSC meetings to brief Members on the relevant progress.

31. The first proposer of the paper pointed out that at the meeting mentioned by the EDB, only the arrangement for school buses of Harrow HK had been discussed and the bureau had not suggested the school open up more facilities for public use. She said that the SSC had discussed multiple issues at the last meeting, including Harrow HK not giving a specific account of information about leasing school facilities to other organisations, the EDB not specifying what other organisations were, and whether the bureau had any measures to encourage Harrow HK to open up facilities for public use.

32. The Chairman said that the SSC expected the EDB to actively request Harrow HK to open up more facilities for public use but the bureau had given Harrow HK the lead in amending the service agreement so she asked the EDB to give a response in this regard.

33. Mr LAM Man-kwong of the EDB responded that the bureau understood

the concern of the SSC. Since Harrow HK and the TD adopted different statistical methods, the bureau had suggested at the above meeting that the school use the new statistical method adopted by the TD for re-estimation. Harrow HK had said it would consider the relevant suggestion. Regarding information about Harrow HK opening up its facilities for public use, the school had lent its facilities to the public for 288 times, or about 495 hours in total, in 2016-17. Of which, 31% were schools, 19% were members of the public and 50% were other organisations.

34. Members made different comments and enquiries on the EDB's response, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member said that other estates in the vicinity of Harrow HK would be completed one by one. If the school still could not reach a consensus with the TD on the method of compiling statistics on vehicles, traffic at that site would be severely affected. Therefore, the Member suggested the EDB coordinate with the school as soon as possible;
- (ii) A Member requested the EDB to provide SSC with the methods of compiling statistics on vehicles adopted by the TD and Harrow HK so that Members could determine which approach was more reasonable;
- (iii) A Member said that he did not understand the difference between members of the public and other organisations and requested the EDB to explain definitions of the two and to provide a list of hirers for Members' reference; and
- (iv) A Member found the information supplemented by the EDB still not specific enough and requested the bureau to provide supplementary information again at the next meeting. Also, the Member remarked that she had all along been concerned about the number of private cars travelling to Harrow HK via Tsing Ying Road during morning rush hours and the number concluded from the Member's survey differed significantly from the estimation of Harrow HK so the Member urged the EDB to follow up on the situation concerned.

35. Mr LAM Man-kwong of the EDB responded that at the meeting on 24 April 2018, Harrow HK had not refused to adopt the new statistical method

suggested by the TD and had said then it would consider the relevant suggestion. The bureau also understood Members' expectation. If it was confirmed that traffic congestion was caused solely by students travelling to and from the school by private car, the bureau would consider including the requirement of requesting the students to commute to and from the school by school buses in the service agreement. Regarding the aforementioned information about hiring facilities of Harrow HK, members of the public referred to non-Harrow HK students and the majority of organisations were charitable organisations. If Members wished to obtain more detailed information, he could provide it at the next meeting.

36. The Chairman said that since this matter had a severe impact on traffic, Members hoped to continue to follow up on it at the next meeting. In addition, she opined that the EDB should follow up on the progress on making amendments to the service agreement more actively as well as provide the SSC with methods of compiling statistics on vehicles adopted by Harrow HK and the TD and information about hirers of school facilities for further discussion.

37. A Member said that a judicial review had earlier been lodged against the road widening works on Castle Peak Road. He pointed out that the roundabout at that site was totally not up to standard. He also opined that without carrying out the road widening works, even if the EDB made it mandatory for students of Harrow HK to commute to and from the school by school buses, traffic congestion at that site would not be eased. In addition, he reckoned that the SSC should not further discuss this matter continuously in case Members did not have enough time to discuss new matters.

38. A Member opined that given the profound impact of traffic problems, it was necessary to further discuss the matter until it was resolved. Sharing the same view, the first proposer of the paper pointed out that Harrow HK counted the number of vehicles mainly on the basis of the number of parking permits it had issued. Nonetheless, many vehicles entered the school without parking permits. The proposer reckoned that the EDB should pay attention to the response of Harrow HK.

39. The Chairman concluded that the SSC would continue the discussion on this matter. If there were no solutions at the next meeting, Members could consider other ways to follow up on the matter, for instance, passing it to the

TMDC or working groups under the SSC for discussion. She suggested the EDB representatives ask, before the next meeting, the proposer of the paper and other relevant Members about information they needed so as to facilitate further discussion.

EDB

**(B) Request for Speedy Conversion of the Vacant School Premises of the Ex-CCC Kei Leung Primary School into Facilities for the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Etc**

**(SSC Paper No. 16/2018)**

**(Paragraphs 40-45 of the Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of SSC (2018-2019))**

**(Written response of SWD)**

**(Written response of Housing Department)**

40. The Chairman welcomed Miss YING Hor-ching, Housing Manager/Tuen Mun 2 of the Housing Department (“HD”), to the meeting.

41. The Chairman said that at the last meeting, the SSC had made a number of enquiries on the matter, including which department was responsible for lending the premises of the former CCC Kei Leung Primary School (“Kei Leung Primary School”) for film shooting and why the department still had not submitted the application for change in land use for the conversion plan. She asked the HD to provide supplementary information in this regard.

42. Miss YING Hor-ching of the HD responded that the department had submitted the plan to the Lands Department (“LandsD”) on 14 March 2018. The department had consulted the Owners’ Corporation of Leung King Estate three times in the past and had endorsed the report submitted by the SWD on 16 January 2018. Since the application for the conversion of the premises of the former Kei Leung Primary School was yet to be approved, the department was still responsible for its management and maintenance. To make good use of public resources, the department had lent the above site for temporary use by other departments or for film shooting.

43. Members made different comments and enquiries on the responses of the HD and the SWD, which are summarised as follows:

(i) A Member pointed out that the premises of the former Kei Leung Primary School had been vacant for as long as 10 years since 2008 but the HD had

only submitted the application for change in land use to the LandsD on 14 March 2018. The Member opined that both the HD and the SWD should review the efficiency of the works;

- (ii) A Member pointed out that the SWD expected the works to be completed in 2022 at the earliest and asked whether the relevant date referred to when the facility would be completed or when the relevant facility could provide services;
- (iii) A Member said that the Owners' Corporation of Leung King Estate and mutual aids committees of the nearby estates supported the works. Nonetheless, the SWD had earlier proposed to set up a passenger/cargo loading and unloading area within the emergency vehicular access in Leung King Estate and attributed the inability to commence the conversion works to the pending consent of the Owners' Corporation of Leung King Estate, thus creating an impression that the Owners' Corporation of Leung King Estate obstructed the relevant works; and
- (iv) A Member pointed out that the EDB had handed over the premises of the former Kei Leung Primary School in 2008 but the SWD had all along not submitted the application for change in land use to the LandsD, and opined that the SWD should bear the greatest responsibility for the delay of the works. Since Leung King Estate was sold to residents in 2011 and all common areas were included in the Deed of Mutual Covenant, the Owners' Corporation did not agree to the SWD's proposal to set up a passenger/cargo loading and unloading area within the emergency vehicular access.

44. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD responded that the department had never shifted the responsibility for the progress of the works to the Owners' Corporation of Leung King Estate. The captioned plan had gained local support in 2013. The department had subsequently sought funding from Lotteries Fund in 2014 to conduct technical assessments, completed the assessment report in March 2016 and consulted government departments concerned on relevant contents. Taking into consideration, among others, the need for passenger/cargo loading and unloading, the department had suggested the possibility of setting up a passenger/cargo loading and unloading area at the main gate of the school

premises. As Leung King Estate was under the Tenants Purchase Scheme and the proposed passenger/cargo loading and unloading area was within the common areas of the estate, the Owners' Corporation of Leung King Estate needed to be consulted on the relevant matter. The department had thus consulted the Owners' Corporation about the relevant arrangement in July 2017. After considering different alternative plans and ensuring that the service quotas of the plan would not be affected, the department had eventually decided to set up the passenger/cargo loading and unloading area within the school premises and thus the time needed to implement the plan was longer than expected.

45. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD continued that after the Owners' Corporation of Leung King Estate had agreed on the details of the plan, the department had, in January 2018, passed the necessary information and papers to the HD who had applied to the LandsD for change in land use on behalf of the SWD. She understood that Members were very concerned over the progress of the works but the department indeed needed time to respond to comments from various departments one by one. Hopefully, the works would not take too long as the conversion plan did not involve the demolition of the school premises. She thanked Members for their comments and concern and said that the department would proactively follow up on the progress of the works.

46. Miss YING Hor-ching of the HD responded that the department would endeavour to tie in with the work of the SWD and facilitate the coordination between the SWD and the Owners' Corporation of Leung King Estate. After compiling relevant information and clarifying the rights and obligations of all sides, the department had, on 14 March 2018, submitted to the LandsD the application for change in land use for the above site.

47. Mrs NG NG Lai-chun of the SWD added that in the past, she had continuously received enquiries about the progress of the conversion works from different Members so she fully understood Members' concern and said that the department would proactively follow up on future work so as to keep up with the progress.

48. Members made different comments and enquiries on the responses of the SWD and the HD, which are summarised as follows:

(i) A Member pointed out that the SWD had only commenced the majority of

the follow-up actions related to the works a few years after the premises of the former Kei Leung Primary School had become vacant and opined that respective government departments should conduct reviews in this regard. In addition, the Member pointed out that it had taken only two years to complete technical assessments of large-scale works such as Tuen Mun Western Bypass so it should take less time for this kind of smaller-scale works;

- (ii) A Member asked whether the premises of the former Kei Leung Primary School would still be managed by the HD after the application for change in land use in respect of the site had been approved and reiterated that the relevant departments should follow up on the progress of the works as soon as possible;
- (iii) A Member reckoned that the LandsD would not reject the relevant application for change in land use and urged the SWD to follow up on the work concerned as soon as possible;
- (iv) A Member said that the SSC had enquired about the progress of the works at the meeting on 13 March 2018 and the HD had only submitted the application for change in land use to the LandsD on 14 March 2018. In this regard, the Member asked whether the above arrangement was a coincidence or the department had only commenced the work after the TMDC had made the enquiry, and whether the HD was able to confirm that the works could be completed in 2022;
- (v) A Member said that upon the closure of Kei Leung Primary School, the department had been asked how to utilise the premises but the plan had remained unfinished so far and opined that the situation should be relayed to the Audit Commission; and
- (vi) A Member opined that the SWD should spontaneously report to the SSC on any progress of the works.

49. Mrs NG NG Lai-chun of the SWD responded that the department had had the application for change in land use ready before the last SSC meeting and understood that the progress of the works was not satisfactory. Therefore, the

department would grasp the remaining time to work hard on the follow-up work and relay Members' views to the relevant section.

50. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD added that the department would review the unsatisfactory situations in the past and proactively follow up on the progress of the relevant works. The department would update the SSC on any progress of the works.

51. Miss YING Hor-ching of the HD responded that school premises within public housing estates were government buildings so they were not properties of the Hong Kong Housing Authority, which would not determine the future use of the premises of the former Kei Leung Primary School.

52. The Chairman concluded that the department's progress of the follow-up work on the captioned works was not satisfactory. She expected the SWD to honour its pledge to seize the time for follow-ups and update the SSC on the progress when appropriate. She also hoped that the relevant representatives would relay Members' views to the department.

## **VII. Discussion Items (Continued)**

### **(A) An Outline of the Topics to be Covered in the Fourth Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (SSC Paper No. 26/2018)**

53. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHAN Yuen-han, Chairperson of the Women's Commission ("WoC"), and Mrs Annie CHAN, Chief Executive Officer (Welfare) of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, to the meeting.

54. Ms CHAN Yuen-han, the Chairperson of the WoC, briefed Members on the contents of the paper. She said that the Government was preparing for the submission of the fourth report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ("the Convention"). It would form part of the ninth report of the People's Republic of China under the Convention. The HKSAR Government had prepared an outline of the report, setting out the broad subject headings and individual topics that were planned to be covered in the report. She invited Members to express their views on the implementation of

the Convention in respect of those topics, and to suggest any additional topics that should be included in the report.

55. Members made different comments and enquiries on the WoC's briefing, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member said that many women could not enter the job market because they needed to take care of their children and opined that the Government should increase the supply of childminding services, extend maternity leave from 10 weeks at the moment to 14 weeks, raise the relevant wage from four-fifth of the pay to full pay and extend paternity leave from three days to seven days or more so as to attract women to work;
- (ii) A Member opined that resources allocated by the Government to promote equal rights for women were limited and reckoned that the report could give an account of whether the Government had provided additional resources to relevant organisations (e.g. WoC or Equal Opportunities Commission) to support and promote the relevant work;
- (iii) A Member pointed out that the previous report had mentioned legislation protecting women and children from violence and said that the Government should translate the contents of the Convention into local laws to protect women and prevent cases of domestic violence. Therefore, the Member opined that this report could give an account of the progress on the above legislative procedure;
- (iv) A Member pointed out that there were many circumstances adverse to women's employment in Hong Kong. For instance, for the same type of work, the wage of female employees was, on average, only around 70% of that of their male counterparts. In addition, it was stipulated in international labour conventions that women were entitled to maternity leave of 18 weeks and the Member opined that the Government should review the above situation;
- (v) A Member pointed out that some women could not work because they needed to take care of the family. Therefore, they did not have Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") accounts and could not prepare for retirement. The Member reckoned that the MPF policy discriminated

against housewives. Moreover, the Member opined that relevant parties should provide tax concessions to housewives;

- (vi) A Member opined that Hong Kong needed to put more effort into the promotion of equality between men and women and the elimination of discrimination against women and pointed out that the Government often did not implement relevant policies (e.g. full-pay maternity leave) on the grounds of opposition from the business sector. The Member suggested that when financial situation permitted, the Government launch more policies beneficial to women (e.g. tax concessions);
- (vii) A Member opined that many welfare policies in Hong Kong lagged behind international standards and that led to the decline in birth rate where the number of births in Hong Kong had dropped from 60 900 in 2016 to 56 000 in 2017. The Member reckoned that the Government should improve the relevant welfare policies to encourage women to give birth;
- (viii) A Member suggested adjusting the rates of the incentive payments received by home-based child carers on a par with the rates of minimum wage in a bid to encourage more people to become home-based child carers and subsequently unleash the working potential of women. The Member also proposed to make laws to protect women who could not work because they needed to take care of the family;
- (ix) A Member opined that labour legislation could not adequately protect women from possible unfavourable treatment during pregnancy and maternity leave and that since giving birth was not an illness, women should not receive only four-fifth of their pay. The Member also pointed out that civil servants had been entitled to full-pay maternity leave since 1981 and reckoned that the Government should review relevant labour legislation;
- (x) A Member opined that the Government should strengthen the protection for women to prevent them from violence or engaging in prostitution due to financial difficulties. Also, the Government should allocate more resources to improve medical support for women;

- (xi) A Member proposed to amend legislation and impose heavier penalties on abusers in domestic violence cases so as to strengthen the protection for women; and
- (xii) A Member opined that the Government should promote breastfeeding. This included the provision of baby care rooms or lactation rooms in newly built facilities and the conversion of existing facilities.

56. Ms CHAN Yuen-han, the Chairperson of the WoC, thanked Members for expressing their views enthusiastically. In terms of strengthening childminding services, the WoC proposed that the Planning Department include the requirement for childminding facilities into Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. Also, the WoC suggested the Government request, in the conditions of sale, developers to set up childminding facilities in housing estates in a bid to increase the supply of childminding services. She said that the WoC would relay Members' views to the Government. In addition, the consultation would end at the end of May this year and she welcomed Members' further comments.

57. The Chairman thanked representatives from the WoC and the Labour and Welfare Bureau for giving Members a briefing at the meeting. She said that Members could give any further comments to the WoC directly.

**(C) Tuen Mun District Welfare Office Business Plan 2018 -19**  
**(SSC Paper No. 28/2018)**

58. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (Annex 2)\*, Mrs NG NG Lai-chun and Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD briefed Members on the business plan of the department.

\*(Only available in Chinese version)

59. Members made different comments and enquiries on the SWD's briefing, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member asked whether the department would consider providing support to children diagnosed with development delay, for instance, extending their examination time in public examinations;

- (ii) A Member pointed out that in the application form for Higher Old Age Living Allowance, the applicant was required to provide a copy of the identity card of his/her spouse but many applicants had missed the requirement because the font size was too small. The Member also suggested enclosing reply envelopes with application forms;
- (iii) A Member said that the demand for medical social workers in the society was rising gradually and asked whether the department would increase the manpower of medical social workers; and
- (iv) A Member asked whether there were specific policies to prevent family tragedies, for example, establishing a mechanism to identify families at risk.

60. Ms Kitty CHIU of the SWD responded that in response to the service demand, the department would, in this financial year, increase the manpower of medical social workers under medical social service units but the exact number of new medical social workers was pending confirmation of the headquarters. In terms of support services for children with development delay, the department planned to regularise the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services, through which non-governmental organisations offered support at schools to cater for the developmental needs of the relevant children. In addition, the department also recognised the significance of identifying families at risk. For instance, the department had organised activities to visit elderly singletons in Tai Hing Estate in Tuen Mun in March this year. Upon obtaining the consent from the elderly or their families, the department would pass their information to non-governmental organisations in the district after the visit and build them a community support network.

61. Mrs NG NG Lai-chun of the SWD added that the department understood that Members hoped the mechanism to identify families at risk could be implemented as soon as possible and had relayed the view to relevant section of the department. At the current stage, the department would, through different types of visits and cooperation with local non-governmental organisations, build a community database to facilitate the provision of relevant service information to people in need. Regarding Members' proposal to enlarge the font size of the application form for Higher Old Age Living Allowance and to provide reply

envelopes, she would relay the views concerned to relevant section.

62. The Chairman thanked the SWD representatives for briefing Members at the meeting. She said that it was the last meeting before the retirement of Mrs NG NG Lai-chun of the SWD and expressed gratitude for her unfailing contributions.

### **VIII. Reporting Items**

#### **(A) “All for Integrity” Tuen Mun District Project 2018/19** **(SSC Paper No. 29/2018)**

63. Ms Winnie WA of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (“ICAC”) thanked the TMDC for becoming the co-organiser of the above project. The ICAC would organise activities according to the proposal and report to the SSC on their progress when appropriate.

64. Members noted the contents of the report by the ICAC.

#### **(B) Work Reports by the Working Groups under the SSC** **(SSC Paper No. 30/2018)**

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

65. The Convenor of the above working group said that together with The Wellness Centre (Tuen Mun) (“TWC”) of the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, the working group had jointly organised an activity called “Relax with Picture Books” in 2017-18 and produced a picture book titled “Living till this Moment” to distribute to all participants. The working group had asked the TWC to reserve a copy for each Member and hoped that the copies could be distributed at the meeting. The Chairman agreed to the relevant arrangement.

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

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

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

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

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

**(iv) Working Group on Promotion of Healthy Diet**

69. The Vice-chairman, who was also the Convenor of the above working group, said that the captioned activity had ended and the working group and the partner organisation had printed the recipes for the activity which would later be distributed through the Secretariat for Members' perusal.

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

71. The Chairman announced that the above four working group reports were endorsed.

**(C) Report by the Tuen Mun District School Development Section of the EDB**

**(SSC Paper No. 31/2018)**

72. A Member said that some secondary schools in Tuen Mun district had faced the problem of under-enrolment last school year and they believed that similar situation might still arise this year. Therefore, the Member asked the EDB whether there were measures to help schools cope with the problem of under-enrolment.

73. Mr LAM Man-kwong of the EDB responded that according to the statistics of the bureau, the population of secondary school students was the smallest last school year so the situation would improve this year.

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

**(D) Report by the SWD**

**(SSC Paper No. 32/2018)**

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

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

**(SSC Paper No. 33/2018)**

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

**IX. Any Other Business**

**(A) Funding Scheme For Women's Development**  
**(Paper No. 1 Distributed At the Meeting)**

77. The Chairman said that the WoC had earlier written to the TMDC Chairman indicating that the Funding Scheme for Women's Development would be continued in 2018-2019, under which funding of \$53,000 would be allocated to each of the 18 districts to subsidise women's development promotion activities. With the consent of the TMDC Chairman, the matter concerned was passed to the SSC for follow-up. She asked Members to consider whether to accept such funding and whether, based on previous arrangement, to pass the funding to the Working Group on Community Care for further action.

78. As Members had no objection, the SSC decided that the funding concerned be passed to the Working Group on Community Care for further action.

Working  
Group on  
Community  
Care

**X. Date of Next Meeting**

79. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1:10 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 10 July 2018.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 28 June 2018

File Ref: HAD TM DC/13/25/SSC/18