

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of  
the Social Services Committee (2016-2017) of  
the Tuen Mun District Council

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Date: 13 September 2016 (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 SO Shiu-shing	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	12:42 p.m.
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	11:18 a.m.
Ms KONG Fung-yi	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Yau-hoi, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member	10:32 a.m.	12:02 p.m.
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member	9:50 a.m.	12:03 p.m.
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:38 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LAM Chung-hoi	TMDC Member	9:42 a.m.	11:04 a.m.
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	12:37 p.m.
Ms LUNG Shui-hing, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:32 a.m.	12:11 p.m.
Mr CHEUNG Hang-fai	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	11:48 a.m.
The Hon HO Kwan-yiu, JP	TMDC Member	9:32 a.m.	12:09 p.m.
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	12:44 p.m.
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member	9:35 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	9:32 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YIP Man-pan	TMDC Member	9:31 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	Co-opted Member	9:35 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHU Wai-ming	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms TSANG Ka-lai	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	11:44 a.m.
Mr CHAN Ho-ting	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	12:01 p.m.
Mr TSANG Hing-chung	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms LAI Ka-man	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Miss CHOI Nga-ling, Angela (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

Absent with Apologies:

Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member
Ms NG Dip-pui	Co-opted Member
Mr SO Wai-luen	Co-opted Member

In Invitation:

Dr KO Pat-sing, Tony	Cluster Chief Executive, New Territories West Cluster, Hospital Authority
Mr K M YIU	Cluster Manager (Public Affairs & Donation Management), New Territories West Cluster, Hospital Authority
Mr KWONG Kwok-kwong	Executive Director, Po Oi Hospital
Ms LAI Wai-man	Head of the Institutional Development and Dental Service, Pok Oi Hospital
Mr POON Bong-fai	Associate of the MLA Architects (HK) Ltd

In Attendance:

Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo	TMDC Member
Mr CHAU Ka-nin, Eric	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr LEUNG Cheuk-fai	Senior School Development Officer (Tuen Mun)1, Education Bureau
Ms KWAN Yuen-yuk, Rosemary	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)1, Social Welfare Department
Mr WOO Chi-man, Kenneth	Chief Executive Officer (Subventions/Planning), Social Welfare Department
Ms TSE So-yuk	Social Work Officer 1 (Planning & Coordinating), Social Welfare Department
Mr CHOW Wai-yip	Police Community Relations Officer (Tuen Mun District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Vincent CHEUNG	Senior Community Relations Officer, Independent Commission Against Corruption
Ms HO Chui-wan, Ida	Executive Officer (District Council)1 (Designate), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

## **I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Social Services Committee (“SSC”). On behalf of the SSC, she thanked the Secretary Ms. Choi Nga-ling, Angela, who would be transferred, for the contributions she made to the SSDC in the past and welcomed Ms HO Chui-wan, Ida, who took over her.

2. The Chairman reminded Members that any Member who was aware of a personal interest in a discussion item should declare the interest before the discussion. The Chairman would, in accordance with Order 39(12) of the Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) Standing Orders, decide whether the Member who had declared the interest might speak or vote on the matter, might remain in the meeting as an observer, or should withdraw from the meeting. All cases of declaration of interests would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

## **II. Absence from Meeting**

3. The Secretariat reported that it had not received any applications by Members for leave of absence.

## **III. Confirmation of Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Held on 12 July 2016**

4. The above minutes of meeting of were confirmed.

## **IV. Discussion Items**

### **(A) Plan to Provide Elderly Services and Ancillary Facilities to the East of Fuk Hang Tsuen Road, Lam Tei, Tuen Mun (SSC Paper No. 41/2016)**

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms KWAN Yuen-yuk, Rosemary, Assistant District Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun), Mr WOO Chi-man, Kenneth, Chief Executive Officer (Project Planning) and Ms TSE So-yuk, Social Work Officer 1 (Planning & Co-ordinating) of the Social Welfare Department, Mr KWONG Kwok-kwong, Chief Executive Officer and Ms LAI Wai-man, Head of the Institutional Development and Dental Service of the Pok Oi Hospital and Mr POON Bong-fai, Associate of the MLA Architects (HK) Ltd. to the meeting. She also welcomed Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo to be in attendance, and reminded him that he could speak on the discussion items but not participate in voting.

6. Ms KWAN of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) briefed on the aforesaid plan with slideshow.

7. Members’ views and enquiries in the first round were summarised as follows:

- (i) The plan was supported. The Pok Oi Hospital could manage the facility concerned effectively. It was hoped the SWD could explore the possibility of increasing the plot ratio to provide more places. He also urged the department to look for suitable locations in Tuen Mun for more homes of the aged and asked the units concerned to maintain close contacts with the DC member of the constituency concerned during the period of construction and report on the update;
- (ii) The traffic conditions in Fuk Hang Tsuen Road had not been improved for more than ten years so it was hoped that there would be sufficient parking spaces upon completion of the facility to avoid the traffic congestion in that area from worsening. Besides, as the complex was close to a vehicular flyover, the suspended particulates caused by the traffic might affect human's health. He urged the department to conduct an assessment to see whether the related conditions would affect the health of the elderly who lived there;
- (iii) The plan was supported. It was enquired about the allocation of the 1,400 places provided upon the completion of the facility. For example, whether the district of residence of the elderly would be considered or the elderly would be arranged for admission in phases. She complimented the plan in which child care service would be provided to the staff of the organisation. On the other hand, she enquired whether the department had discussions with the Tuen Mun Hospital about medical support and details of arrangements, and whether the department had consulted the residents near the complex on the traffic conditions;
- (iv) The road usage of Fuk Hang Tsuen Road had almost reached full capacity. The stretch of road might not be able to cope with the conditions if works vehicles relied on Fuk Hang Tsuen Road only for access to the site in one lane during the construction period. Therefore, it was suggested that the works vehicles should consider leaving from the other direction to reduce the loading of Fuk Hang Tsuen Road. Besides, he said he knew the residents nearby expected that the services provided could benefit the residents in that area especially the elderly upon completion of the complex. It was hoped the Pok Oi Hospital could take care of the needs of the residents nearby;
- (v) The plan was supported. It was enquired about the gross floor area. The paper showed the area of the land was about 9,900 square metres and it was expected that the gross floor area would not exceed 35,000 square metres upon completion. However, the gross floor area should be about 99,000 square metres if the complex was 8 to 9 storeys high. Therefore, it was enquired whether the amount of 35,000 square metres stated in the paper was usable area. He also suggested that space should be properly

used by extending the floor area for more places. Besides, he said the representative of the department mentioned during the briefing that there would be appropriate measures (e.g. time of construction) during the period of construction to reduce the impact on the residents nearby. It was hoped that the department would provide specific information on the details of the related measures and traffic assessment;

- (vi) Some senior citizens did not want to live in a home for the aged but their family who lived with them needed to work in the day time and could not take care of them. It was enquired whether this plan would provide day care for the elderly. Besides, the traffic in Fuk Hang Tsuen Road was busy so it was suggested that works vehicles should travel through Wong Kong Wai Road to reduce the loading of Fuk Hang Tsuen Road. Moreover, the location of the works was near the Sherwood so it was suggested that some measures should be taken to reduce the impact on the residents nearby caused by the dust generated during the period of construction;
  - (vii) The demand for day care centres was great so it was hoped that the department could consider the provision of such service. It was also enquired whether priority would be given to the elderly in Tuen Mun and what about local employment arrangements upon completion of the plan, and whether there would be visitors' parking spaces and whether some of the vacant parking spaces would be open to the public upon completion of the complex. Besides, he suggested that another meeting should be arranged for more in-depth discussion;
  - (viii) It was suggested that they should be handled according to their individual conditions when the elderly were arranged for admission. Besides, as the home for the aged was near a vehicular flyover, the suspended particulates caused by the traffic would affect the health of the elderly. The home for the aged should ensure sufficient medications to cope with emergency situations; and
  - (ix) The plan was supported. It was hoped the service provided in future could benefit the residents in Tuen Mun first. On employment, he hoped the Pok Oi Hospital would benefit the residents in Tuen Mun first. He opined that this plan was valuable because the land was donated by a private organisation. It was hoped this trend could be promoted to benefit more citizens.
8. Ms KWAN of the SWD made replies, which were summarised as follows:
- (i) She expressed gratitude for Members' support to the plan and said that Members' views would be considered carefully upon implementation of the plan concerned;

- (ii) It was understood that there was great demand for residential care service. Apart from the above location, the department had been actively seeking out suitable locations for the provision of homes for the aged. On the day care service for the elderly mentioned by Members, she said the department was also actively developing it. She said she had introduced two day care centres for the elderly proposed to be provided in Tuen Mun at the SSC meeting in May 2016, which exactly responded to the demands of the physically weak elderly at home for community care service. In fact, the facility that the department had submitted for discussion would also provide day time or occasional residential places, providing one more option for the physically weak elderly at home who needed temporary residential care service;
- (iii) It was convinced that this plan would benefit the residents in Tuen Mun. She understood that most elderly hoped that the home for the aged could be near their family to facilitate visits by their family, friends and relatives. Therefore, this plan could allow more elderly in Tuen Mun to accept residential care service in Tuen Mun. On employment, the home for the aged provided 24-hour care service so the health care workers hoped that the work location would be near their residence for them working on shifts. It was expected that there would be a lot of job opportunities for the residents in Tuen Mun upon completion of the home for the aged. The Pok Oi Hospital said they would consider such applications;
- (iv) The Pok Oi Hospital had increased special treatment rooms for this plan and would closely co-operate with the Hospital Authority (“HA”) for support by enhancing the community geriatric assessment service of the Tuen Mun Hospital. It was hoped this would support their living at the home for the aged and reduce unnecessary admission to hospitals, thus easing the pressure on the Tuen Mun Hospital;
- (v) The Pok Oi Hospital had listened to the views of different stakeholders during the consultation process and optimised the plan continuously. They would also positively consider the suggestions made by Members; and
- (vi) It was explained that considering the traffic conditions in Fuk Hang Tsuen Road, there was a car park on the basement of the complex which could cope with the needs of service operation and take care of the demands for parking caused by additional vehicles after the complex went into operation. The SWD supported the Pok Oi Hospital in their reservation of 30 private car parking spaces for visitors after referring to the number of parking spaces provided by the homes for the aged of the same type. There would also be parking spaces for their own vehicles supporting the daily operation of the home for the aged.

9. Mr POON of the MLA Architect (HK) Ltd made replies, which were summarised as follows:

- (i) The feasibility study had included traffic assessment e.g. pedestrian flow, car flow and the number of parking spaces. On the number of parking spaces, the plan had referred to the actual flow of the same type of facility of the Pok Oi Hospital and the views of the Transport Department (“TD”) to ensure sufficient parking spaces upon completion of the facility;
- (ii) There had been close contacts with the TD and it was understood that there would be road widening works in future. Therefore, there were spaces reserved for the road widening works when the building plan was designed. It was believed this could ease the traffic flow; and
- (iii) The feasibility study also included environmental impact assessment e.g. air quality and noise control. The complex was designed with an inner garden in order to distance the windows from the adjacent elevated flyover. Moreover, considering that the flyover might affect the green sitting-out area on the roof, there would be greening in the area near Fuk Hang Tsuen Road with trees planted to reduce the impact brought by the flyover.

10. Mr KWONG, Chief Executive Officer of the Pok Oi Hospital replied that there was an environmental impact assessment when the complex was designed as the location of the complex was near the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Flyover. A corridor was built by using the area nearer the flyover and all the windows of the rooms were designed to face the inner garden to reduce the noise and air pollution caused by the flyover. The whole home for the aged was designed with more flexibility and equipped with windows that could be opened in line with the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance. At the same time, there was air-conditioning for optional uses. He emphasised that the above design had satisfied the requirements of the Environmental Protection Department. In future, all the design plans would be given to the department concerned for examination and approval before the works commenced in order to comply with the provisions concerned.

11. Mr WOO, Chief Executive Officer (Project Planning) of the SWD made replies, which were summarised as follows:

- (i) He explained that on the plot ratio, there was consultation on the proposed amendment to the Outline Zoning Plan at the Tuen Mun District Council in September 2014. At the time, the proposal provided that the gross floor area of the development should not exceed 35,000 square metres after the user was revised. The related amendment was

examined and approved by the Town Planning Board in September 2015; and

- (ii) The Pok Oi Hospital conducted a technical feasibility study on the plan. The government departments concerned were examining the study report. The department and the Pok Oi Hospital would try to optimise this plan and it was expected that a report on this plan would be made to the Panel on Welfare Services of the Legislative Council at the beginning of 2017, and there would be an official application for funding from the Lottery Fund in respect of this project. If everything went well, the works were expected to be completed in 2019/2020.
12. Members' enquiries and views in the second round were summarised as follows:
- (i) The supply of places of homes for the aged was tight so the plan was supported. He said that provision of treatment at large open space was good for the senior citizens. It was suggested that the enclosed design of the complex should be improved;
  - (ii) Fu Hang Tsuen Road was too narrow and there was a need for road widening works. Besides, it was opined that the provision of 30 visitor' parking spaces was not enough to meet the demands;
  - (iii) A property developer applied to change the user of the land to low-density residential development many years ago but it was opposed by local people. The property developer then donated the land at last. He queried the real intention of the property developer's donation of the land. Besides, the department was urged to reflect to the TD that road widening works in Fu Hang Tsuen Road should commence as soon as possible;
  - (iv) There was dissatisfaction that the government had ignored the demand for the provision of facilities for the aged. It was opined that the government should build homes for the aged on its own initiative and not rely on private sectors' donation of land;
  - (v) It was suggested that the SWD and the Pok Oi Hospital should communicate more with the DC member of the constituency concerned because district councillors understood local needs and could give advice;
  - (vi) Provision of long-term day care should be considered in the plan to take care of the needs of different senior citizens;
  - (vii) It was enquired whether the 1,400 places provided by the plan were all subvented ones; and



(viii) The congestion in Fuk Hang Tsuen Road during peak hours was serious. The SWD was urged to discuss with the TD for a proper arrangement.

13. Ms Kwan of the SWD made replies, which were summarised as follows:

(i) The Pok Oi Hospital had completed the traffic assessment and submitted the report to the TD for scrutiny. She thanked Members for their views and would reflect them to the authorities concerned;

(ii) The department would review the demands for visitors parking spaces and would make corresponding arrangement properly;

(iii) The demand for day care centre of some senior citizens was understood. However, this plan was designed mainly to provide residential service. The department would continue looking for suitable locations for the provision of day care centres;

(iv) It was explained that senior citizens would be arranged for admission to the home for the aged in phases according to the Central Waiting List in order to help the senior citizens to settle down. The senior citizens who would be admitted were primarily 65 years old or above. Senior citizens of 60 to 64 could apply if they had special needs;

(v) Of the 1,400 places provided in the plan, about 60 per cent were subvented places while the rest were self-financing places. The senior citizens who applied for admission to self-financing places did not need to make arrangement through the Central Waiting List. The Pok Oi Hospital would consider the affordability of the senior citizens when deciding on the fees of the self-financing places; and

(vi) The department would make a timely report on the update.

14. Mr KWONG, Chief Executive Officer of the Pok Oi Hospital made replies, which were summarised as follows:

(i) The Pok Oi Hospital would run the non-profit making home for the aged with the general public being the service recipients. There were no VIP places or single-room places; and

(ii) If the plan was approved in future, the area of the roof would come up to 10,000 square feet of greening sitting-out area. The senior citizens who were admitted would enjoy the sitting-out area apart from the standard facilities required by the SWD.

15. The Chairman concluded by saying that most Members supported this plan. The demand of the senior citizens in the district for nursing care service was so huge that the SWD should increase the service supply in Tuen Mun district and shorten the waiting time. Besides, it was requested that the SWD and the Pok Oi Hospital should report to Members on the update timely and maintain close contacts with the DC Member of the constituency concerned and the villagers.

16. A Member would like to enquire whether there would be any vehicles travelling on the 10,000-feet sitting-out area mentioned above as she was worried that the suspended particulates would affect the health of senior citizens.

17. Mr KWONG, Chief Executive Officer of the Pok Oi Hospital clarified that the 10,000-feet sitting-out area was a roof garden. The area concerned would not be included in the 35,000 square feet only gross floor area but the design was pending approval from the SWD.

18. Ms KWAN of the SWD said the department learned that the Pok Oi Hospital would green the 10,000-feet sitting-out area on the roof. The development concerned was being examined and approved according to normal process.

## **V. Reporting Items**

### **(A) New Territories West Cluster 2016-17 Annual Plan** **(SSC Paper No. 42/2016)**

19. The Chairman welcomed Dr KO Pat-sing, Tony, Cluster Chief Executive, New Territories West Cluster and Mr YIU Kin-man, Cluster Manager (Public Affairs) of the HA to the meeting.

20. Dr KO of the HA briefed on the aforesaid plan with slideshow.

21. Members' views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (i) Citizens used the service of the Accident & Emergency Department mostly at night or when there was no private out-patient service. Of them, most were not emergency cases and the waiting time exceeded 6 to 8 hours. Quite a few citizens' conditions would aggravate during the waiting time. She enquired whether the authority could provide an indication on the waiting time and reduce the problem of staff shortage, and whether the three hospitals in the New Territories including the Tuen Mun Hospital, Pok Oi Hospital, and the Tin Shui Wai Hospital which would go into operation later, would have the patients diverted according to the seriousness of illness;

- (ii) There was a serious shortage of medical and nursing staff at the Tuen Mun Hospital. This plan did not explore how to increase manpower and reduce staff wastage but there was an increase of hospital beds. He would like to enquire how the HA would ease the problem of manpower. Besides, the Tin Shui Wai Hospital would go into operation soon. He enquired whether the medical and nursing staff of the Tuen Mun Hospital would be transferred to Tin Shui Wai Hospital, thus worsening the problem of staff shortage at Tuen Mun Hospital. The government cut the medical expenditure in this financial year. He enquired how the authority would tackle the problem of staff shortage without any new resources. He also noted that the report mentioned the addition of a position of associate consultant but this would not help resolve the problem of staff shortage. The authority should take this situation seriously;

(Post-meeting note: the HA added that there was not only the addition of one associate consultant in 2016/2017. The authority would increase the number of doctors of different grades according to the demand for service and the new service)

- (iii) Some pregnant women reflected to her that they needed to undergo check-ups at maternal and child health centres. They would not receive more thorough check-ups unless they were confirmed to be critical cases. Pregnant women in other districts could go to a hospital for check-ups directly. She hoped to know the data of the Tuen Mun Hospital on the handling of pregnant women in the New Territories West. If it was confirmed that pregnant women in Tuen Mun did not receive the corresponding service after the related data were compared with those in Kowloon, the HA should review the conditions concerned and make arrangements;
- (iv) The plan mentioned that there would be an increase of 11,000 general out-patient quotas. She enquired how these quotas would be allocated to the three general out-patient clinics in Tuen Mun. It was also hoped that the works on the extension of the operation complex could be completed as soon as possible to ease the inadequate medical service in Tuen Mun;
- (v) It was learned that there would be nursing graduates to join the nursing profession gradually in the coming few years. It was hoped that the HA would provide related data for reference. Besides, he pointed out that the child and adolescent psychiatric service would have an increase of 188 quotas but the community's demand for the service also rose. It was hoped that the HA would review and consider whether there was a need to increase new quotas. If the Tin Shui Wai Hospital would commence operation in 2016/17 successfully, he hoped that the HA would arrange for Members to pay a site visit at that time;

- (vi) Patients needed to wait an exceedingly long period of time at the Tuen Mun Eye Clinic and sometimes they had to wait in the outdoor area of the hospital. Therefore, the HA was urged to have an understanding of the situation and make improvements as soon as possible;
- (vii) It was requested that there should be more medical and nursing staff as soon as possible. The paper did not mention day time specialist out-patient service. Currently, the waiting time for specialist out-patient service exceeded one year mostly. The authority should increase manpower to shorten the waiting time. Besides, the paper showed that the Accident and Emergency Department would increase time slots to handle less-urgent or non-urgent cases. She hoped that the authority could set an actual target for the waiting time and increase more staff at the information counter during visiting hours;
- (viii) The paper did not mention whether there would be an increase of manpower in the next year. In the past two years, the number of attending patients and in-patients of the Tuen Mun Hospital had increased. He hoped that the HA would provide the data on the number of medical and nursing staff in the past two years so he could understand whether the authority had increased manpower in light of the rise of patients. Besides, he said the government should not cut the resources of the HA. It was hoped that the representative of the authority would reflect this to the government;
- (ix) It was enquired when the Tin Shui Wai Hospital could go into full operation after it was completed. The report did not specify the measures that could ease the problem of staff shortage;
- (x) The report failed to provide specific figures for the shortage of doctors. It was hoped that the authority would provide the information concerned; and
- (xi) It was enquired about the allocation of the 188 new quotas of the child and adolescent psychiatric service. It was indicated that the font of the Chinese characters on the Chinese notice posted in the Tuen Mun Eye Clinic was so small that the senior citizens would find it difficult to read. It was asked when the HA would respond and make improvement.

22. Dr KO of the HA made replies, which were summarised as follows:

- (i) There would be an increase of resources and manpower to go with the new services mentioned in the report. As far as the whole New Territories West Cluster was concerned, there was an increase of 600 medical and nursing staff and other professionals in 2015/16 than 2014/15. On doctors, there were 779 in 2015/16 compared with 727 in 2013/14 so there was a net growth of about 20 each year. He said that there might be difficulties in the recruitment of doctors so new services would be launched in phases to go with the arrangement of manpower;
- (ii) It was explained that there would be difference in the waiting time of category IV and category V cases in the Accident and Emergency Department in light of seasonal factors (e.g. the waiting time at the height of influenza season would be longer). There was a display panel in the hospital which would show the waiting time to patients. The authority was considering other ways to let patients know the waiting time, e.g. mobile applications;
- (iii) The cluster had discussed the manpower arrangement of the Tin Shui Wai Hospital and the Tuen Mun Hospital, and the hospitals would try to suggest that patients should consult doctors in their own district. However, individual diseases (e.g. severe trauma and brain surgeries) would be treated mainly at certain hospital;
- (iv) The usage of beds in the Tuen Mun Hospital had been very high so patients would be diverted to other hospitals within the cluster as far as possible to ease the related conditions;
- (v) It was explained that there were about some 5,000 cases of pregnant women handled by the New Territories West Cluster every year. The maternal and child clinics assisted with the pre-natal check-ups of ordinary cases while the more serious cases would be handled by hospitals. Other clusters also had the similar arrangement. Currently, the situation of gynaecologists in government hospitals joining the private markets was very serious thus the manpower was tight. However, cases of obstetrics had time limits so they would be given priority. The figures of the follow-up cases of obstetrics handled by the Tuen Mun Hospital would be provided by the cluster later;
- (vi) It was added that the new 11,000 out-patient quotas mentioned in the plan were general out-patients. Some would be allocated among the Yan Oi General Out-patient Clinic in Tuen Mun district, Tuen Mun Wu Hong Clinic and Tuen Mun Clinic;
- (vii) There was not much floor area which was unused and the area of the open space was large. It was hoped that there would be more open space to accommodate hardware

facilities upon completion of the new operation building;

- (viii) The cluster had encountered difficulties in the recruitment of nurses in the past. Hospitals would ease the problem of tight manpower by offering overtime allowance and employing part-time nurses. As the Tuen Mun Hospital had a nursing school, it was expected the hospital had an edge in retaining graduates;
  - (ix) The 188 new quotas of the child and adolescent psychiatric service were provided by the Castle Peak Hospital. The authority was pleased to arrange for Members to visit the Tin Shui Wai Hospital;
  - (x) The authority had been increasing manpower for the eye service of the Tuen Mun Hospital and had erected a canopy at the perimeter of the hospital. He knew that the patients' waiting time for consultation was not satisfactory. There would be follow-up action taken on this as well as the small characters of the Chinese notice in the clinic;
  - (xi) The authority also showed concerns about the exceedingly long waiting time for the specialist clinic and had uploaded all the information of the waiting time for the major specialist clinics of all clusters onto the web page of the HA to let the public know the situation. The waiting time for the specialist clinics in the New Territories West was similar with the average figure of the HA. The authority would continue showing concerns about the conditions;
  - (xii) The authority would review the manpower arrangement of the information counter;
  - (xiii) The authority also hoped the Tin Shui Wai Hospital could go into operation as soon as possible but there needed to be sufficient manpower to ensure the provision of safe and reliable medical services. Therefore, the Tin Shui Wai Hospital had to provide service in phases.
23. Members' enquiries and views in the second round were summarised as follows:
- (i) The per capita resources obtained by the New Territories West Cluster were fewer than other districts. For example, comparing with the Hong Kong Island, there were more grassroots in the New Territories West but the per capita resources allocated were much fewer. Therefore, it was hoped that the representative of the HA would reflect this unsatisfactory condition to the authority. With the intake of Hung Fuk Estate and Yan Tin Estate, the population in Tuen Mun and Tin Shui Wai would rise drastically and the demands for medical services would be greater;

- (ii) The efforts paid by the New Territories West Cluster was complimented and it was suggested that Members should write to the HA to reflect the problem of unfair allocation of resources;
- (iii) The allocation of medical resources to the New Territories West had always been less than other districts. For each 1000 people, the ratio between population and beds was 1000 : 4 but it was 1000 : 3 in Tuen Mun. Even though there would be an increase of beds upon the completion of the Tin Shui Wai Hospital, it was still lower than other districts. Therefore, the authority should seriously review the situation and provide an indicator so the Tuen Mun district could catch up with the overall progress as soon as possible;
- (iv) It was enquired about the figures of eye specialists. It was also pointed out that psychiatric patients were asked to discharge on the same day when they sought medical consultation at the Castle Peak Hospital. It was hoped to know whether there were insufficient beds at the Castle Peak Hospital;
- (v) It was agreed that a letter should be written to the HA to fight for more resources. The HA was also asked to provide an actual schedule about the full operation of the Tin Shui Wai Hospital;
- (vi) It was agreed that a letter should be written to the HA. Besides, he noticed that some services of the authority would co-operate with private hospitals. It was suggested that the problem of tight manpower could be explored in this direction. He also suggested that the places of medical students should be increased and it should be explored whether a private hospital would be built in Tuen Mun;
- (vii) The SSC had written many times to the HA to reflect the situations but it did not work unfortunately. Therefore, it was enquired whether the authority could assign a more senior representative to attend the SSC to respond to the views concerned. Moreover, it was a common problem in all districts that gynaecologists joined the private market. However, only the pregnant women in Tuen Mun needed to undergo check-ups at maternal and child health clinics. She urged the SSC to consider a more specific action to assist the New Territories West Cluster to fight for more resources; and
- (viii) There was an imbalanced allocation of resources between the New Territories West and the Hong Kong Island. With the rapid growth of population in the New Territories West, it should obtain more resources. She opined that the SSC should ask the authority to explain the mechanism of resources allocation when writing to the HA.

24. Dr KO of the HA made replies, which were summarised as follows:
- (i) The figures on the number of eye specialists could not be provided immediately and would be provided later. It was pointed out that beds in the Castle Peak Hospital were sufficient and doctors would decide whether patients needed hospitalisation according to patients' clinical performance;
  - (ii) The process of pre-natal check-ups was generally the same in each district but there would be difference in light of the conditions of individual pregnant women;
  - (iii) The Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") had conducted a study on the arrangement of co-operation between the public hospitals and private sector. There was also a steering committee formed for the situation of medical graduates;
  - (iv) The HA had taken resources allocation seriously. Later, there would be a review on the current situations to be scrutinised and followed up by the FHB; and
  - (v) Shortage of manpower was the main reason for failure to increase service.

Hospital  
Authority

25. The Chairman hoped the HA would arrange for Members to pay a site visit of the Tin Shui Wai Hospital upon its completion. It was requested that the representative of the HA should respond to Members' questions through the Secretariat after the meeting so Members would have an in-depth understanding of the operation of the cluster. Besides, if there was any progress on the mobile applications showing the waiting time for the Accident and Emergency Department, a report should be made to Members timely.

26. The Chairman said the SSC approved that Members would write to the HA to reflect the current imbalanced allocation of resources and enquire about the schedule of full operation of the Tin Shui Wai Hospital. Besides, the SSC would write to the FHB inviting them to have a meeting with the SSC and respond to Members' questions in order to tackle the problem of resource allocation.

Secretariat

(Post-meeting note: The above letter was sent on 27th October 2016.)

27. A Member further enquired about the arrangement for pre-natal check-ups of the pregnant women in Tuen Mun. The remark that pre-natal check-ups in all districts were the same was queried because she had received complaints from pregnant women in Tuen Mun on this aspect.



28. Dr KO of the HA replied the maternal and child health clinics and hospitals had a division of labour on pre-natal check-ups and simple examination would be carried out in health clinics. However, as the manpower of obstetricians and gynaecologists was tight in Tuen Mun, the waiting time of individual pregnant women might be different.

**(B) Work Reports by the Working Groups under the Social Services Committee**  
**(SSC Paper No. 43/2016)**

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

29. Members noted all the contents of the working group's report.

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

30. Members noted all the contents of the working group's report.

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

31. Members noted all the contents of the working group's report.

32. The Chairman announced that the three working groups' reports were endorsed.

**(C) Report by the Tuen Mun District School Development Section of the Education Bureau**  
**(SSC Paper No. 44/2016)**

33. Members' enquiries and views in the first round were summarised as follows:

(i) The report mentioned about the applications for school registrations. At last SSC meeting, she enquired the bureau about an organisation which had applied for school registration in So Kwun Wat but held a press release and placed advertisements before obtaining an education licence. At the time, the bureau said they had learned of the situation. She enquired whether the bureau had taken follow-up action on the matter;

(ii) The remaining secondary one places this year in Tuen Mun district were 950. Of the 37 secondary schools, 25 offered four classes of secondary one and 12 offered three classes or below. After the allocation of places in July 2016, 7 secondary schools had one class only and some even were allocated with students of single digit only. The school which was allocated with one class only could not continue the operation with the resources allocated. In view of this, schools in the district had made co-ordinations, hoping that each school could maintain offering at least two classes at last. As the population in Tuen Mun would rise in the future ten years, it was necessary to maintain the number of current schools to cope with the future needs. Some time ago, he discussed two proposals with the Education Bureau (including district-based allocation reduction, increasing the teacher and student ratio by reducing the number of students in

each class) but they were not accepted by the bureau. He hoped that the SSC would consider the proposal concerned to improve the situation of insufficient student intake in Tuen Mun district;

- (iii) The number of schools in Tuen Mun was higher than other districts but the number of students was fewer. It was hoped that the bureau and the DC would consider the proposal of the Tuen Mun District Secondary Schools Heads Association (“Heads Association”) and make special arrangements so the schools in Tuen Mun could go through the transition period smoothly in the coming two years; and
  - (iv) The situation of insufficient student intake in Tuen Mun was worrying. It was suggested that the secondary school which had been allocated four classes should transfer the students to the schools which had insufficient students to ensure that all the secondary schools could go through the transitional period smoothly in the coming two years. She understood students had their own choice for a secondary school but it was hoped that the Heads Association and the Education Bureau would consider and explore the feasibility of other proposals.
34. Mr LEUNG of the Education Bureau made replies, which were summarised as follows:
- (i) On the application for school registration by an organisation which wanted to open a school in So Kwun Wat, the applicant had informed the Education Bureau of the cancellation of the application. He said that as long as the school declared that they had not obtained registration when placing advertisements and did not misrepresent, they could place advertisements before the completion of registration;
  - (ii) It was noted that the Heads Association had been making active co-ordinations on the arrangement of admitting secondary one self-initiative walk-in students. Most schools had overcome the problem in the past few academic years. The number of students for this year would be counted this week and the margin of decline of the secondary one students this year had decreased. It was expected that the number of secondary one students would increase gradually in the academic year of 2017/18 and onwards. On the proposal raised by the Heads Association, the bureau had made response during the meeting with the association. As the proposal concerned would bring a certain impact on all districts throughout Hong Kong and involved additional expenditure from the government, the bureau needed to consider it carefully so it would not be considered for the time being; and
  - (iii) To promote the sustainable development of secondary schools under the new senior secondary system, the bureau had launched the Enhanced Measures of the Voluntary

Optimisation of Class Structure Scheme. At the time, schools which had five secondary one classes or above were invited to consider voluntary reduction of the number of classes for the optimisation of class structure.

35. Members' enquiries and views in the second round were summarised as follows:
- (i) A Member who was an advisor of a Parent-Teacher Association paid special attention to the situation of insufficient student intake. It was understood the worst situation had passed and it was expected the problem would be reduced in the future;
  - (ii) It was emphasised that any school which could not enrol two classes of students would be closed down. The district-based allocation reduction raised by the Heads Association was designed to lower the number of students in each class. This would not only allow the schools to continue operation, but the teachers would also have more room to take care of the students in need;
  - (iii) The bureau's reply was disappointing. It was opined that the bureau should examine the teacher-student ratio and consider and respond to the proposals of the Heads Association so the schools in Tuen Mun district could have smooth operation;
  - (iv) Principals and teachers faced huge pressure on the problem of schools being closed down. The bureau's ignorance of the feeling of the teaching staff was disappointing; and
  - (v) It was requested that the Education Bureau should respond whether it would, on its own initiative, contact the institution which had planned to open a school in So Kwun Wat for follow-up action. She opined that there would be great impact on the students and their parents when the institution held a press conference and placed advertisements for student enrolment before obtaining an education licence. The Education Bureau should monitor the situation on its own initiative.
36. The Chairman said the Working Group on Education and Youth Services under the SSC would continue the discussion about insufficient student intake.

Secretariat

(Post-meeting notes: The above meeting was arranged on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016.)

37. Mr LEUNG of the Education Bureau made replies, which were summarised as follows:
- (i) In mid-September every year, the bureau would count the number of students at schools for the statistics on student numbers every academic year. Since the academic year of 2013/14, the bureau had implemented a series of targeted measures ("Three Policies"),

including extending the measure on surplus teachers' retention period to promote sustainable development of schools, stabilising teaching team and maintaining the quality of education. He emphasised that the bureau did not have a policy of school integration (i.e. did not have a policy of closing down schools); and

- (ii) It was promised to reflect Members' concerns to the bureau about an institution holding a press conference and placing advertisements for student enrolment before completion of school registration, and to report to Members.

(Post-meeting note: in processing the application for the registration of a school at So Kwun Wat or other locations, the bureau had reminded the applicant of the provisions on the Control of False Advertising by Unregistered Schools, Section 86A of the Education Ordinance. All the publicity materials should clearly state that the school was applying for registration to avoid misleading the parents)

Education  
Bureau

38. The Chairman concluded by saying that the Working Group on Education and Youth Services would take follow-up action on the suggestions of the Heads Association together. She requested that the Education Bureau should send a representative concerned to the meeting and provide more information on the Three Policies so Members would know more about the details.

Secretariat

Education  
Bureau

(Post-meeting notes: The above meeting was arranged on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016.)

**(D) Report by the Social Welfare Department**  
**(SSC Paper No. 45/2016)**

39. Members noted all the contents of the SWD's report.

**(E) Report on Crime Figures in the Tuen Mun District**  
**(SSC Paper No. 46/2016)**

40. Members noted all the contents of the Hong Kong Police's report.

**VI. Any Other Business**

**(A) Visit to the Chu Hai College of Higher Education**

41. The Chairman said that she knew Members hoped to pay a visit to the Chu Hai College of Higher Education. She would like the Education Bureau to make arrangements for the SSC.

(Post-meeting notes: The above visit was arranged on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016.)

**VII. Date of Next Meeting**

42. There being no other business, the Chairman announced that the meeting closed at 12:46 pm. Date of next meeting would be 8 November 2016.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 19 October 2016

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