

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of  
the Social Services Committee (2016-2017) of  
the Tuen Mun District Council

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Date : 8 November 2016 (Tuesday)

Time : 9:35 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	9:47 a.m.	12:50 p.m.
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:33 a.m.	10:01 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.	10:29 a.m.
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	10:58 a.m.
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member	9:33 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:34 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member	9:34 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	9:48 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YIP Man-pan	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.	12:50 p.m.
Ms NG Dip-pui	Co-opted Member	9:33 a.m.	10:56 a.m.
Mr YU Tai-wai	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	11:17 a.m.
Ms TSANG Ka-lai	Co-opted Member	9:39 a.m.	12:22 p.m.
Mr CHAN Ho-ting	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	12:07 p.m.
Ms LAI Ka-man	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr SO Wai-luen	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		

By Invitation

Ms CHAN Lai-hung

Chairman of the Working Group on Specialist Outpatient  
Clinic Operation, Hospital Authority

Ms Circle Lo

Manager of External Relations, Hospital Authority

Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron

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

In Attendance

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, School  
Development Division, Education Bureau

Ms KWAN Yuen-yuk, Rosemary

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

Mr SIU Kim-wai

Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Police Community  
Relations Office (Tuen Mun District), Hong Kong Police  
Force

Mr Vincent CHEUNG

Senior Community Relations Officer, Independent  
Commission Against Corruption

Absent with Apologies

Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine

TMDC Member

Ms LUNG Shui-hing, MH

TMDC Member

Mr CHEUNG Hang-fai

TMDC Member

Mr CHU Wai-ming

Co-opted Member

Mr TSANG Hing-chung

Co-opted Member

## **I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Social Services Committee (“SSC”). She would like Members to note that Mr. HO Kwan-yiu and Mr. LAM Chung-hoi had informed the Secretariat before the meeting that they would resign from the SSC.

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 Standing Orders (“Standing Orders”), decide whether the Member who had declared an 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 5th Meeting of SSC (2016-2017)**

4. The above minutes were unanimously confirmed by the SSC.

## **IV. Matters Arising**

### **(A) New Territories West Cluster 2016-17 Annual Plan (Paragraphs 19 to 28 of Minutes of Last Meeting) (Reply from the Food and Health Bureau)**

5. The Chairman said SSC had discussions about the long-term shortage of manpower in hospitals in Tuen Mun district at last meeting, and wrote to the Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) and the Hospital Authority (“HA”) to reflect the shortage of medical services and resources. Later, she was informed by the HA that the bureau would complete the study on the allocation of resources in the next year. Then they would report to the SSC on the finding of the study.

6. Members’ views were summarised as follows:

- (i) In light of the population increase in the New Territories West, the HA needed to revise its ratio of resources allocation to increase the manpower of the medical and nursing staff in the New Territories West;
- (ii) The FHB did not specify in the reply that the HA would report to the SSC upon completion of the study. It was hoped that the SSC would take

follow-up action at that time;

- (iii) There was concern as to how the completion of the Tin Shui Wai Hospital would effectively divert the patients of the Tuen Mun Hospital so medical resources could be fully used. He said it took many years for the Pok Hoi Hospital to go into full operation after completion. Therefore, it was expected the SSC could supervise the effective allocation of resources in the New Territories West Cluster to enhance the medical services in the New Territories West;
- (iv) It was concurred that there was a need to increase manpower of medical and nursing staff;
- (v) The major point of the issue was that the allocation of resources was not proportional to the population. She learned that the study report of the HA had considered the population of the elderly and economic factors. However, there was no private hospital in Tuen Mun to assist with the diversion. It was hoped that the HA would consider this together in the study on the allocation of resources;
- (vi) There was a serious shortage of allocation of resources in the New Territories West. She pointed out that currently HA staff could freely choose the hospital they wanted to serve when they started working for the HA. Therefore, the hospitals in the remote area could not recruit sufficient manpower. She hoped that the HA's study report would provide a solution proposal;
- (vii) It was hoped that the SSC would arrange for a visit to the Tin Shui Wai Hospital as soon as possible so Members could have further understanding of the situation;

[Post-meeting note: The above site visit was arranged to be held on 4 January 2017.]

- (viii) According to the annual report of the HA, the New Territories West was allocated with \$630 million and the Hong Kong Island had \$560 million. If it was calculated according to the ratio of population, each person in the New Territories West was allocated \$573 while that on the Hong Kong Island was allocated \$1077 on average. There was obviously an unfair allocation of resources. She added that the HA had ignored the needs in the New Territories West. It was expected that the bureau's study report

could examine the situation concerned to improve the medical services in the New Territories West;

- (ix) The HA's study report should make a review on the condition of insufficient medical resources in Tuen Mun;
- (x) It was expected that the study report would consider population growth, resources reallocation and measures to recruit more medical and nursing staff; and
- (xi) Apart from requesting that the HA should explain the problem of resource allocation, the Bureau needed to review whether the usage of Tuen Mun Hospital had reached its capacity.

7. The Chairman said the study report by the HA and the Chinese University of Hong Kong would be completed in the next year. The Secretariat was asked to invite the HA to arrange for a representative to attend a meeting and report to Members. She enquired Members whether this issue should be further discussed in the next meeting.

8. A Member suggested that this issue should be followed up again upon completion of the study report. As there was no objection from Members, the Chairman concluded by saying that a letter would be sent to the FHB, HA and the New Territories West Cluster to reflect Members' views. Secretariat

[Post-meeting note: The above letters were sent on 29 December 2016.]

## **V. Discussion Items**

### **(A) Request for Strengthening the Electronic Medical Booking Service and Mobile Application** **(SSC Paper No. 47/2016)** **(Reply from the Hospital Authority)**

9. The Chairman welcomed Ms. CHAN Lai-hung, Chairman of the Working Group on Specialist Outpatient Operations and Ms. LO Chung-suen, External Affairs Manager of the HA to the meeting.

10. Ms. CHAN of the HA briefed Members on the development of the bureau's first interactive mobile application "BookHA" with slideshow.

11. The proposer of the paper said the HA's BookHA was applicable to the people referred by doctors. It was expected that more citizens would be benefited especially

the elderly. It was hoped that the bureau could strengthen education and publicity. Besides, the bureau had taught citizens how to use the app at different organisations and clinics. She wished to know the type of organisations and the quantity, and whether the app would accept private doctors' referrals.

12. A Member hoped that the bureau could strengthen publicity, and send an officer to the centre of the elderly and teach the elderly how to use the app for booking. She also enquired whether the app had the function of changing the date of consultation.

13. A Member opined that the bureau should brief the DC before the launch of the app, and strengthen local publicity so more citizens could know more methods.

14. Mr. CHAN of the HA thanked Members for their views and questions, and explained the specialist outpatient clinics accepted referrals of all registered doctors. As the app would first accept new case bookings in gynaecology when it was launched, the bureau had visited the Family Planning Association and the Woman Health Centre of the Department of Health to contact more target women. When the bureau launched new speciality bookings, it would first inform the doctors at the public hospital and the related academy colleges and their members. At the present stage, the app did not accept the change of date of consultation but the bureau would consider its feasibility. Starting November, all the referrals issued by the clinics under the HA would bear a remark reminding citizens that they could use the BookHA for bookings.

15. The proposer of the paper said a lot of elderly had not known of the app. It was suggested that the bureau provided a publicity station at outpatient clinics. She also enquired whether citizens could make the HA specialist bookings with the referrals of a private doctor, and whether the bureau would plan to extend the app to cover other specialist outpatient clinics.

16. Ms. CHAN of the HA explained that if the referral of a private doctor had specified the type of speciality, citizens could make the HA specialist outpatient booking with the referral directly. The bureau was considering extending the app to cover other speciality outpatient services, including Cardiothoracic Surgery, Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics and Obstetrics, and was consulting other specialist committees. Besides, the bureau was producing a short film on publicity education which would be arranged for broadcasting at the outpatient clinics and on the internet after it was completed.

17. The Chairman thanked HA for their response, and hoped that the bureau could accept Members' views and strengthen publicity so more people in need would be

benefited by the app.

**(B) Strongly request the Government to Actively Reinforce the Poverty Alleviation Policies and Measures**  
**(SSC Paper No. 48/2016)**  
**(Reply from the Labour and Welfare Bureau)**

18. The proposer of the paper said the reply from the Labour and Welfare Bureau (“LWB”) was generally the same with the information released by the Chief Secretary for Administration at the Commission on Poverty some time earlier. He pointed out that the number of sub-divided flats had been rising but the rent did not fall but increased. Although the Housing Authority would provide some one-off measures every year but the government should consider the provision of long-term measures. It might also consider the introduction of progressive tax system charging the organisation with earnings exceeding \$100 million a higher rate of tax. Besides, he opined that other department concerns apart from the LWB should also be invited to make response to the recommendation in the paper.

19. Ms. KWAN Yuen-yuk of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) thanked Members for their views and said she would reflect Members’ suggestions to the LWB.

20. A Member said most of the poverty alleviation measures were paying allowances to the needy. He opined that poverty alleviation did not cover payment of money only. Currently, most of the university graduates had nothing much left to meet the daily necessities after making payment for rent, repayment of loan on tuition fees and payment for supporting their parents. However, these people were not protected by a safety net. He urged the government department concerned should take their demand for expenditure seriously. Besides, the government should consider launching long-term poverty alleviation measures and buying back the LINK REIT.

21. A Member said the Government had expected that around some 400,000 people would apply for low-income family allowances. Currently, however, only some 10,000 people had applied. It was suggested that the department concerned should review the application procedure and launch the Living Subsidy for Non-Public Housing and Non-CSSA Households funded by the Community Care Fund. He said the Oxfam Hong Kong conducted an analysis according to the General Household Survey on Income of the Census and Statistics Department last month. It showed women were new poor population. Some of the women could not join the work force because they had to take care of her children. It was suggested that the DC could push for the establishment of open markets to create more employment opportunities. He also suggested that the Labour Department should review the current Labour Ordinance

to protect part-time employees.

22. The Chairman asked the representatives of the SWD to reflect Members' views to the departments concerned.

SWD

(C) **Request for Increasing the Amount of Health Care Vouchers and Lowering the Eligibility Age for Such Vouchers**  
**(SSC Paper No. 49/2016)**

23. The Chairman welcomed Dr. LOH Lai-ting, Taron, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Community Liaison) of the Department of Health to the meeting.

24. The proposer of the paper suggested that the department should lower the eligibility age for the Health Care Vouchers to 65 and increase the amount of the Health Care Vouchers (currently \$2,000), dental voucher and increase the ceiling of the accumulated amount (currently \$4,000) so more elderly would be benefited. Besides, he opined that the department should enhance publicity as a lot of elderly had not known the details on the use of the Health Care Vouchers.

25. A Member said currently the Health Care Vouchers were not applicable to the purchase of medical equipment. It was suggested that the department should consider widening the scope of applicability. Moreover, the number of the elderly will account for 30% of the total population in tens of years. In view of this, he hoped that the department would consider lowering the eligibility age for the Health Care Vouchers.

26. Dr LOH of the Department of Health explained that the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme was launched in 2009 to subsidise the elderly aged 70 or above in using the grass-root medical services provided by the private market. The pilot scheme changed to a regular scheme in 2004. The amount of vouchers provided to the eligible elderly was changed from \$500 to the current \$2,000 and the face value of each voucher was changed from \$1 to \$50 so the elderly can use them flexibly. According to the population projection of the Census and Statistics Department, the number of the elderly aged 70 and 65 would reach 930,000 and 1.4 million. If the amount of the health care vouchers was increased and the eligibility age was lowered to 65, the government's financial commitment would soar. When considering how to further optimise the health care vouchers, the department needed to examine the effectiveness of subsidising grass-root medical services by health care vouchers and make in depth assessment on the long-term financial impact on the government. Besides, the department had been actively conduct publicity through different channels, including television and radio commercials, and promotion at the homes for the elderly together



with the Social Welfare Department. Currently, the Health Care Vouchers were not applicable to the purchase of medical equipment or medicine alone. However, they could be used for medical services on different levels, including preventive, therapeutic or rehabilitation services.

27. Members' views and enquiries in the second round were summarised as follows:

- (i) The department should not focus on the medical expenditure caused by the aging population, and should consider putting in more resources to allow more elderly to be benefited;
- (ii) The accountable mode of the Health Care Vouchers could reduce the situations of some of the elderly not willing to see a private doctor in order to save expense. At the same time, the pressure on the public medical system could be eased. As the Health Care Vouchers were accountable, even though the department lowered the eligibility age, it did not mean all the eligible people would use them. On this, he enquired how much additional expenditure would be involved if the department lowered the eligibility age of the Health Care Vouchers.
- (iii) The eligibility age of the Senior Citizen Card issued by the SWD was 65, reflecting that the government departments had different definitions of senior citizens during policy making. Population aging was a big trend and the government should use a positive attitude to reduce the problem concerned but not refuse putting in more resources because of population aging;
- (iv) Prevention was better than cure. If preventive work was properly done, medical expenditure could be reduced in the long term. It was expected that the department could consider lowering the eligibility age to 65; and
- (v) Most of the elderly relied on public medical services. If the eligibility age was lowered to 65, some of the people seeking medical consultation would be diverted to the private medical services and the public medical expenditure could be reduced. She suggested that the department should consider the situation concerned when calculating expenditure.

28. Dr LOH of the Department of Health explained that the department had examined the usage and made optimising measures since the launch of the Health Care Vouchers. Currently, the department was working with the Faculty of Medicine of the

Chinese University of Hong Kong for a review of the scheme, including the collection of the views of the users and service providers. The department would consider appropriate optimising measures in light of the findings of the review and the overall financial situations. On the lowering of the eligibility age of the Health Care Vouchers and the additional expenditure involved, she did not have such information for the time being. However, the number of elderly who used the Health Care Vouchers would double in 2020 so it was estimated the government's financial commitment would skyrocket. She thanked Members for the views on the scheme and would reflect to the department and the policy bureau concerned.

29. The Chairman concluded by saying that it was hoped that the government would be committed to the medical demands of the citizens. Dr LOH was requested to reflect to the department and positively consider Members' suggestions.

**(D) Request for a Review on the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance**  
**(SSC Paper No. 50/2016)**  
**(Reply from the Social Welfare Department)**

30. The proposer of the paper said the incident of the Bridge of Rehabilitation was shocking. It was believed that it was not a single incident. Other cases were not disclosed because persons with intellectual disabilities did not know how to express themselves. The SWD was urged to step up monitoring. She also opined that there was a serious shortage of residential care homes for persons with disabilities. She suggested that the government should increase resources to for the provision of more residential care homes and consider the launch of a subsidy scheme like the Health Care Vouchers so the persons with disabilities could have more choices. Besides, the department should make a review on the current notification mechanism to strengthen the effectiveness of monitoring.

31. Other Members offered their views and made enquiries on this issue, which were summarised as follows:

- (i) In 1998, the Ordinance provided that a residential care home which could accommodate 30 to 40 persons with serious disabilities should have 35 nurses but now only 7 were required. Before 2008, it was provided that there needed at least 1 social worker and 1 nurse in each residential care home but currently there was only 1 social worker or 1 nurse. At present, there were some 300 residential care homes for persons with disabilities but only 40 were licensed while the rest had certificates of exemption only. He opined that the department should be responsible for inspections. Besides, he enquired about the number of inspections of

the residential care homes for persons with disabilities in Tuen Mun district and the number of warnings and persecutions during the some 5000 inspections in the past year. He opined that the residential care homes for persons with disabilities should not be operated by private sectors. The government should consider acquiring these residential care homes and provide public services;

- (ii) Apart from the shortage of residential care homes, the quality of nurses was very important so the department should step up monitoring. The department should not encourage the trend of development of private residential care homes. On the contrary, it should consider putting in more resources on the provision of public residential care homes;
- (iii) It was enquired about the data on the residential care homes in Tuen Mun district, including the number of residential care homes operated by different modes (government-subsidized, self-financing and private), the number of residential care homes which obtained licences and certificates of exemption, and the validity of the certificates of exemption; and whether the department would request that the residential care homes which obtained certificates of exemption should complete the application for a licence within the specified period of time. He learned that the Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance was officially implemented in 2013. It was hoped that the department could explain on the follow-up action if there was any contravention found during inspections. It was also enquired whether the department had planned to step up inspections of the residential care homes;
- (iv) There were advantages and disadvantages in public and private residential care homes. It was hoped that details of the complaint cases would be understood. It was suggested that the government should consider putting in resources for the provision of public residential care homes so the needy could receive appropriate care;
- (v) The places for persons with disabilities increased from 6,400 to the current 12,931. It was enquired why there was an increase of some 6000 places only during the past 20 years. She also pointed out that relying on inspections only could not overcome any incident similar to the Bridge of Rehabilitation. It was enquired whether the department would seek an understanding from the inmates on its own initiative through other channels. Besides, she opined that the department should work out

specific guidelines for the private residential care homes for their compliance to ensure that these residential care homes would meet the provisions concerned; and

- (vi) Public residential care homes would involve huge expenditure. Apart from saving and cutting expenses, the department should explore more sources of income to meet increasing expenditure on welfare.

32. Ms. KWAN of the SWD made replies, which were summarised as follows:

- (i) There were 36 residential care homes for persons with disabilities in Tuen Mun district. Of them, 23 were subvented residential care homes, 7 were non-profit making self-financing residential care homes run by non-government organisations, and 6 were private residential care homes. Besides, 6 of them were licensed (3 were subvented residential care homes, 2 were self-financing residential care homes and 1 was private residential care home) while the rest had certificates of exemption;
- (ii) The department had been increasing the supply of the places of government-subvented residential care homes. Therefore, it had launched the Bought Place Scheme for Private Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities. Currently, there were about 13,000 places of the government-subvented residential care homes throughout Hong Kong and 450 were bought places.
- (iii) The Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance was fully implemented in 2013 but the operators of the residential care homes for persons with disabilities which could not fully satisfy the requirements of the law could apply for certificates of exemption, allowing enough time for the residential care homes to carry out improvement works to meet the provisions and criteria of the licence. On 1 November 2016, the Secretary for LHB had provided explanations to the Legco Panel on Welfare Services on the matter concerned. The department expected that residential care homes which obtained certificates of exemption could be licensed within three years.
- (iv) It was understood that the government had shown concerns on the service quality of the residential care homes for persons with disabilities. The department would actively consider Members' views, step up monitoring and enhance transparency. If there was any contravention found in the residential care homes, the department would issue an advisory letter or

warning letter in light of the severity of the incident, or issue a written remedial instruction in accordance with the law. If the situation persisted without any improvement, the department would gather evidence and make prosecution. The residential care homes which had serious contraventions would have their licences or certificates of exemption disqualified;

- (v) Of the 36 residential care homes for persons with disabilities in Tuen Mun district, there was one residential care home for persons with disabilities which had been issued with two warning letters, and the department would continue close monitoring;
- (vi) The department would make more inspections upon receipt of complaints. For each residential care homes, there would be seven ad hoc inspections. During the inspections, the department would directly communicate with the inmates and their family apart from examining the papers of the residential care homes to know more about the situations and information of the service of the residential care homes;
- (vii) The amendment to the law would take some time. Therefore, the residential care homes would be required to make improvement through administrative measures. The department would enforce the law vigorously to ensure the residential care homes would comply with the requirements. At the same time, the department would seek legal advice to see whether the complaint case could be released to the public to increase transparency;
- (viii) There was a Service Quality Group on Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities in Tuen Mun district. There were five Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities which participated in the scheme, including subvented, bought-place, private and self-financing residential care homes. There were 6 members in the service quality group;
- (ix) The training of the staff and workers of the residential care homes was very important. No matter whether they were front line staff or managers, they should be caring about the persons with disabilities. The department would continue strengthening training;
- (x) It was agreed that the department should step up the provision of

residential care homes. After the former premises of the Siu Lam Hospital in Tuen Mun were turned into a rehabilitation facility, it would provide 1,150 places. The department would continue seeking out lands to increase supply.

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

- (i) Apart from monitoring, it was suggested the department should consider commending some residential care homes which offered good service to set good examples;
- (ii) It was unacceptable that it took eight years to wait for a place. The waiting time should be reduced to one year. She pointed out that some young persons with disabilities were admitted to the home for the elderly because there were not enough places. It was suggested that the department should try to conduct statistics on the number of the persons with disabilities and increase the supply of the places for the persons with disabilities so the persons with disabilities would be allocated places in one year. She understood that private residential care homes might not be the best option. However, as there was insufficient supply of places, subsidising person with disabilities to be admitted to private residential care homes was a transit arrangement. The government should have the residential care homes for persons with disabilities publicly run in the long term; and
- (iii) There were no elements of rehabilitation in the current Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance. Therefore, there was a need for amendment. Besides, apart from strengthening training, the department should ensure that staff did not have any record of sex offence. If there was any contravention in the residential care homes, the department should consider directly taking over the residential care homes.

34. Ms. KWAN of the SWD thanked Members for their views. She said the department would continue actively increase the supply of places of the residential care homes for persons with disabilities. It was expected that the waiting time would be reduced.

35. The Chairman concluded by requesting that the representative of the SWD should reflect Members' suggestion to the department and the departments concerned.

SWD

**VI. Reporting Items**

**(A) Progress Report on “All for Integrity” Tuen Mun District Project 2016/17**  
**(SSC Paper No. 51/2016)**

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

**(B) Work Reports by Working Groups under SSC**  
**(SSC Paper No. 51/2016)**

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

37. Members noted the contents of the report of the above working group.

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

38. Members noted the contents of the report of the above working group.

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

39. Members noted the contents of the report of the above working group.

40. The Chairman announced that the three working groups' reports contained in the paper were endorsed.

**(C) Report by Tuen Mun District School Development Section of EDB**  
**(SSC Paper No. 53/2016)**

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

(i) At the meeting of the SSC in July, she started the request for the Education Bureau to take follow-up action on the matter related to the Mount Kelly International School. She learned that the bureau had recently issued a warning letter to the sponsoring body but the body still said they would commence operation in the next September. She asked the Education Bureau to reply how long it took for an average school to apply for a school licence;

(ii) It was disappointing that Mount Kelly commenced ground breaking works without consulting the district council and before completion of the change of land planning. It was enquired why the Education Bureau did not consult the DC on the situation. Besides, the body issued debenture before completion of the licence application. It was opined the trend should not be encouraged and the Education Bureau should take a stronger follow-up action;

- (iii) Warning letter had no deterrent effect. It was impossible for the sponsoring body to commence operation by the next September without obtaining a school licence and before completion of the school premises. However, they had started student recruitment and sold debenture. She urged the Education Bureau to take follow-up action as soon as possible; and
- (iv) It was believed that the Education Bureau had learned of the situation of the Mount Kelly International School but it only did not take any action. It was suggested forming a working group to take follow-up action.

42. The Chairman asked Members to offer their views on whether to form a non-standing working group on the matter of the Mount Kelly International School or continue the discussion about this issue.

43. A Member opined that a working group should be formed if necessary upon receipt of the reply from the Education Bureau.

44. Mr. LEUNG of the Education Bureau made replies, which were summarised as follows:

- (i) The certificate of provisional registration of a school would normally be issued within ten working days after the bureau had received all the information and documents required and they were verified correct. According to current policy, the Education Bureau would consult the government department concerned on the application for the registration of a school, including the Planning Department, Lands Department, Buildings Department and Fire Service Department;
- (ii) On the school premises which were built on land not granted by the government, the school needed to apply to the Education Bureau for the registration of a school only;
- (iii) As far as the school registered under Section 13 or 15 of the Education Ordinance was concerned, Section 60A(1)(i)(c) of the Education Regulations provided that the Permanent Secretary of the Education Bureau would arrange for the particulars of the inclusive fees to be printed on a certificate in a specified form after the school was registered;
- (iv) It was suggested that parents could search the list of registered schools from the web page of the Education Bureau or call the hotline of the



School Registration and Compliance Section. At the same time, they should understand whether the organisation had registered under the law to avoid incurring any loss; and

- (v) The control on any unregistered or provisionally registered school making fake publicity by placing advertisement was reiterated. If any organisation was not registered or provisionally registered under the ordinance before placing any advertisement, nobody should place any advertisement claiming the organisation was so registered or provisionally registered.

45. Members' enquiries and views in the second round were summarised as follows:

- (i) The bureau's reply was disappointing. It was reiterated that the organisation still claimed to the parents that classes could commence in September. The bureau was urged to clarify this to the public, and should not allow the sponsoring body to collect any fees at the current stage;
- (ii) It was enquired whether a private school needed not consult the DC. It was suggested again that a working group should be formed;
- (iii) The bureau had the responsibility of monitoring. It was expected that the bureau should inform the SSC upon receipt of the application for registration of a school from the sponsoring body. It was opined that it was not necessary to form a working group for follow-up action;
- (iv) It was suggested that an inter-department special meeting should be convened to take follow-up action on the Mount Kelly International School;
- (v) The sponsoring body had not applied for the registration of a school. It was suggested that the discussion of this issue would continue at the next meeting of the SSC, or the Working Group on Education and Youth Services under the SSC would take follow-up action;
- (vi) The matter of Mount Kelly International School involved the Lands Department and the Planning Department but there were no representatives of the departments concerned at the meeting. It was suggested that Members submitted a paper for follow-up action or raised it at the meeting of the DC for follow-up;

- (vii) The discussion should be divided into two parts: the sponsoring body recruited students and collected fees before registration, and would the building of a school in Tuen Mun cause any impact to the traffic in the district. He urged the bureau to take follow-up action on the matter of student recruitment as soon as possible;
- (viii) It was enquired about the information to be submitted for the registration application by the sponsoring body, whether the bureau took any follow-up action on the matter of the organisation collecting fees and the number of the Bureau's hotline. She suggested that the bureau should set up a helpline for citizens to make enquiries;
- (ix) The Education Bureau's reply was disappointing. It was opined that action needed to be taken as soon as possible.
- (x) The bureau could use the Education Ordinance to stop the organisation's student recruitment and collection of fees;
- (xi) It was enquired whether the sponsoring body's collection of fees was a contravention; and
- (xii) It was enquired whether the bureau had contacted the sponsoring body on its own initiative for follow-up action. It was opined that the Lands Department and the Planning Department should take follow-up action on their own initiative too.

46. The Chairman agreed that the matter of the Mount Kelly International School was related to the Education Bureau, Planning Department and Lands Department. However, the departments often did not send representatives to attend the meeting of the SSC. Therefore, it was opined that the issue should be submitted to the DC for follow-up action. She invited Members to offer their views.

47. Mr. LEUNG of the Education Bureau clarified that the bureau had received a written request for the withdrawal of an application for registration of a school proposed to be Mount Kelly International School and there had been no new application received from the registration of the school ever since. The hotline of the School Registration and Compliance Section was 2892 5461. He added that the bureau would continue monitoring the matter and take appropriate follow-up action in accordance with the Education Ordinance.

48. Members' enquiries and views in the third round were summarised as follows:
- (i) The bureau's reply was vague. It was requested that the details of the follow-up should be explained;
  - (ii) It was enquired whether the case would be referred to the police if it was confirmed that no fees should be collected at this stage;
  - (iii) It was reiterated that the bureau should take follow-up action on its own initiative. It was suggested that it could be considered following up at the meeting of the DC; and
  - (iv) It was enquired how the Education Bureau would take follow-up action and whether a report would be made to the police.
49. Mr. LEUNG of the Education Bureau would reflect Members' views to the bureau.
50. The Vice-chairman enquired whether the bureau would make public announcement on the matter of the Mount Kelly International School, and whether Members could follow up on the situation with the bureau from other channels before the next meeting;
51. A Member enquired what follow-up action the bureau would take if the organisation did not make any improvement upon receipt of the warning letter from the bureau;
52. A Member enquired whether the organisation had contravened the provisions of the Education Ordinance;
53. Mr. LEUNG of the Education Bureau said he could not reply to Members' enquiries immediately. He would reflect to the bureau after the meeting;
54. A Member was disappointed that the bureau could not reply immediately. It was enquired whether the bureau could submit a written reply within seven days;
55. A Member said an unofficial meeting could be convened or follow-up action could be taken by a working group if SSC would follow up on some urgent matters. If any Member wanted to seek discussions at the DC, a discussion paper could be submitted on their own initiative;

56. Mr. LEUNG of the Education Bureau said the application documents for registration of a school should include the plan of the premises proposed to be used as a school and the certificate of assignment/occupation permit/notice of school allocation, etc. Besides, the applicant should submit the information on the courses, curriculum and fees. Etc. According to the current policy, the Education Bureau would consult the government departments concerned on the application for the registration of a school, including the Planning Department, Lands Department, Buildings Department and Fire Service Department. He said he would reflect Members' views to the bureau and would make a written reply.

Education  
Bureau

[Post-meeting note: The Education Bureau made a written reply on 24 November 2016.]

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

- (i) It was enquired whether they would handle the application for registration of a school upon completion of the school premises;
- (ii) The bureau's remark that the application for registration of a school could be completed in 10 days was tricky. It was suggested that an unofficial meeting could be convened to invite the representatives of the Education Bureau and the Development Bureau and the person in charge of the Mount Kelly International School to attend the meeting. Members who were interested could participate in the discussions at their own free will;
- (iii) It was stressed that this issue should be raised to the DC. It was not agreed that there needed to be a paper submitted to the DC before this issue could be further discussed; and
- (iv) It was suggested that Members could submit a paper to the DC or SSC for follow-up. Otherwise, the issue could be followed up by the working group under the SSC.

59. Mr. LEUNG replied that there were two types of school registrations. The bureau could respectively vet the applications of registration as a school in purpose-built premises or non-purpose built premises, i.e. commercial or commercial-residential premises. The time required for the school registration would be different subject to the situations of individual applications. It took several months for the procedures of an average school registration.

60. The Chairman concluded by saying that the issue of the Mount Kelly Secretariat

International School would be passed to the Working Group on Education and Youth Services under the SSC for follow-up. She asked the Secretariat to invite other Members to the meeting in attendance. Besides, the SSC had endorsed writing to the Education Bureau, Lands Department and the Planning Department to reflect the matter related to the organisation's recruitment of students before registration.

[Post-meeting note: The meeting of the working group above was convened on 1 December 2016.]

**(D) Report by SWD**

**(SSC Paper No. 54/2016)**

61. Members noted all the contents of the report by the SWD.

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

**(SSC Paper No. 35/2016)**

62. Members noted all the contents of the report by the Hong Kong Police Force.

**VII. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**

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

**(Paragraphs 51 of Minutes of Last Meeting)**

63. The Chairman said the SSC endorsed the visit to the Chu Hai College of Higher Education at last meeting. The activity concerned was arranged on 14 November 2016. Apart from the Members of the SSC, other Members of the Tuen Mun District Council were invited to join the visit.

**VIII. Date of Next Meeting**

64. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1:13 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 10 January 2017.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 29 December 2016

File Ref: HAD TM DC/13/25/SSC/16