

Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Social Services Committee (2016-2017) of  
the Tuen Mun District Council

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Date: 14 March 2017 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:32 a.m.

Venue: Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>		<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
Ms SO Ka-man (Chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSANG Hin-hong (Vice Chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kin-man, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Chairman	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr SO Shiu-shing	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	12:51 p.m.
Mr TO Shek-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	11:02 a.m.
Mr CHAN Yau-hoi, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms LUNG Shui-hing, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHEUNG Hang-fai	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	1:45 p.m.
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	9:30 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.	End of meeting
Ms NG Dip-pui	TMDC Member	9:31 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YU Tai-wai	TMDC Member	9:43 a.m.	12:47 p.m.
Mr CHU Wai-ming	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms TSANG Ka-lai	Co-opted Member	9:35 a.m.	12:15 p.m.
Mr CHAN Ho-ting	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	12:38 p.m.
Mr TSANG Hing-chung	Co-opted Member	9:35 a.m.	End of meeting
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
Ms HO Chui-wan, Ida (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

By Invitation

Dr Terry LAU	Consultant (Accident & Emergency), Tuen Mun Hospital/Pok Oi Hospital & Cluster Co-ordinator (Quality & Safety), Hospital Authority
Dr Steve CHAN	Cluster General Manager (Administrative Services), New Territories West Cluster, Hospital Authority
Dr Jun LIANG	Chief of Service (Family Medicine & Primary Health Care), New Territories West Cluster, Hospital Authority
Ms CHOW Suk-ling, Vera	Housing Manager/TM2, Housing Department
Mr Eddy CHAN	Senior Manager (External Affairs), Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority
Ms NGAI Oi-fong, Jennifer	Manager (External Affairs), Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority

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, Education Bureau
Ms SIU Kin-heung	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tuen Mun)1,
Mr LEE Wai-ming	Neighbourhood Police Coordinator, 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 KONG Fung-yi	TMDC Member
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member

**I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Social Services Committee (“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 TMDC 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.

3. With regard to the agenda items, as the representatives of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (“MFPA”) had to leave for business early, the Chairman suggested allowing the representative of the authority to brief on the part of Agenda (III)(A) MPF Default Investment Strategy first. Members agreed with the above suggestion.

**II. Reporting Items**

**(A) MPF Default Investment Strategy**  
**(SSC Paper No. 17/2017)**

4. The Chairman welcomed Mr Eddy CHAN, Senior Manager (External Affairs) and Ms Jennifer NGAI, Manager (External Affairs) of the MFPA to the meeting.

5. Mr Eddy CHAN of the MFPA briefed Members on the captioned scheme with slides (Annex 1)\*.

\*Only available in Chinese

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

(i) The Default Investment Strategy (“DIS”) had a cap of the administrative fees. It was enquired whether non-DIS funds also had fee caps, and whether the Core Accumulated Fund and Age 65 Plus Fund under the scheme were conservative funds;

(ii) Currently, a lot of employees did not manage their MPF accounts actively. It was suggested that the authority should begin with employers as far as publicity was concerned;

- (iii) It was suggested that the administrative fees of the MPF should go down when employees' age went up. Employees should also be allowed to decide on the amount of withdrawal themselves upon their retirement. They should not be forced to withdraw all the contribution in a lump sum;
- (iv) It was commendable that the DIS had a cap of the administrative fees but the annual fee of 0.75% of the net asset value was still too high. It was suggested that the authority should continue to lower the cap of the administrative fees;
- (v) It was suggested the authority should refer to the practice in Singapore where employees were allowed to use the MPF contribution to meet urgent needs, e.g. going further study or purchasing property. She also said that a lot of employees did not understand the significance of the MPF on their retirement life. It was suggested the authority should enhance community education;
- (vi) Most citizens did not know much about the MPF. It was suggested the authority should enhance publicity; and
- (vii) Citizens were not concerned about the MPF mainly because the MPF contribution was not sufficient enough to meet retirement life. It was suggested the authority should optimize the MPF Scheme so employees would be confident that their retirement life could be protected by the MPF. Then they could be effectively encouraged to attach great importance to the MPF.

7. Mr CHAN of the MPFA responded that the authority knew the administrative fees of the MPF were still high but the authority was not provided by the law to regulate on the fees of the trustees in the past. However, in the past ten years, the authority had seen the average fees of the MPF funds lowered 24% to 1.57% from 2.1% by advising the trustees and other measures. As the authority opined that the fee reduction was still inadequate, the DIS was launched to introduce a fee cap to the funds, which would be reviewed within three years of its implementation.

8. The two funds in the DIS were mixed assets funds, comprising stocks and bonds. Their returns would be affected by their performance in the market. If employees hoped to preserve their contribution capital in the investment portfolio mainly, they could choose the Conservative Funds in the MPF scheme. The Conservative Funds had fee restriction. If the returns were lower than the specified interest rate of savings for that month, the law provided that the trustees should not

charge any fees to the employees.

9. He added that the authority had been optimizing the MPF Scheme. In the long run, it was hoped there would be Full Portability and One Member, one Account. On the issue of “offsetting”, the government was consulting the industry on the specific arrangement of “offsetting”. On Members’ suggestion that the administrative fees of the MPF should go down as the employees’ accrued benefit increased, the representative of the MPFA would reflect it to the department responsible for the policy concerned. Moreover, employees could withdraw the accrued benefit of the MPF by installments according to their personal needs starting in February 2016.

10. He further said that the authority had been doing endeavors to streamline the administrative procedures of the MPF and encourage the trustees to consolidate or cancel the inefficient funds in order to enhance the efficiency of the whole system, thus providing room for the administrative fees to go down further. On Members’ suggestion that employees should be allowed to withdraw their MPF contribution early to meet urgent needs, the representative of the MPFA would reflect it to the department responsible for the policy concerned. The authority would also enhance publicity so the citizens would have a better understanding of the operation of the MPF.

11. Members said that they had suggested to the authority concerned that there should be a public trustee for the MPF to increase the assets and raise the investment returns but the suggestion concerned was not accepted. He also said that the fee cap of 0.75% was still too high and opined that the authority should make a review from time to time.

12. Mr CHAN of the MPFA responded that the authority and the government had studied the feasibility of the establishment of a public trustee. As it would take a long time for the discussion and implementation of the suggestion, the provision of a DIS in their schemes respectively would be a more efficient and feasible plan. He further said that although the authority had set the fee cap at 0.75%, some fund managers in the market had launched schemes of which fees were lower than 0.75%. He believed that the administrative fees of the MPF had a room for going down further in the long run.

13. The Chairman concluded that the MPF were not perfect in many areas at present. It was hoped the authority would continue improvement of the scheme including lowering the administrative fees of the MPF and enhance community publicity education in order to strengthen the MPF’s protection on the retirement life of the citizens. The Chairman thanked the representative of the authority for briefing

Members and encouraged Members to attend the briefing session held by the authority this Thursday to have a further understanding of the details of the DIS.

### **III. Absence from Meeting**

14. The Secretariat received an application by Ms KONG Fung-yi for leave of absence for being unwell.

(Post-meeting note: Ms KONG provided a medical certificate on 15 March 2017. In accordance with Order 42(1) of the TMDC Standing Orders, her absence was approved by the SSC)

### **IV. Confirmation of Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Held on 10 January 2017**

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

### **V. Discussion Items**

16. The Chairman said that as the Agenda (II)(C) “Request for Strengthening of the Disabled-friendly Facilities and Manpower of the Castle Peak Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital” and Agenda (II)(E) “Request for Additional Resources to Resolve the Retention Problem of the Hospitals with a View to Enhancing the Quality of Medical Services” were related to the allocation of medical resources for which the Hospital Authority (“HA”) was responsible, it was suggested these two agendas should be discussed together. Members agreed with the said arrangement.

#### **(A) Invitation for Joining the District Co-ordinating Committees of the Social Welfare Department** **(SSC Paper No. 9/2017)**

17. Ms SIU Kin-heung of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) thanked Members for their support to the District Co-ordinating Committees of the SWD. She added that the Department set up coordinating committees for five working areas and its members comprised organisations, groups and government department representatives and district elites. The tenure would begin in April 2017 and expire in March 2019. It was hoped local welfare services could be planned and promoted together by these committees.

18. The Chairman said that two Members were appointed by the SSC to the five Co-ordinating Committees respectively in the last tenure. She enquired whether Members would like to join the Co-ordinating Committees set out in the paper. After discussion, the list was as follows:

Tuen Mun District Coordinating Committee on Family and Child Welfare Services	Ms NG Dip-pui, Mr SO Wai-luen,
Tuen Mun District Coordinating Committee on Elderly Services	Mr CHAN Man-wah, Mr TSANG Hing-chung
Tuen Mun District Coordinating Committee on Rehabilitation Services	Ms CHAN Man-wah, Mr KAM Man-fung
Tuen Mun District Coordinating Committee on Promotion of Volunteer Service	Mr YU Tai-wai, Ms TSANG Ka-lai
Tuen Mun District Local Committee on Services for Youth People	Mr CHU Wai-ming, Ms LAI Ka-man

19. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to submit the above list to the SWD.

(Post-meeting note: the Secretariat submitted the above list to the SWD on 16 March 2017)

**(B) Air-conditioning Systems Should be Included in the Standard Teaching Facilities**  
**(SSC Paper No. 10/2017)**

20. The proposer of the paper said that a survey had been conducted with 191 secondary and primary schools some time ago. Of them, 187 schools considered that the expenses for the installation and maintenance of air-conditioning facilities had placed a heavy burden on schools. The Education Bureau should respond to the sponsoring bodies' requests. He learned that the Bureau would install air-conditioning facilities for the offices of teaching and administrative staff at some government schools but the support concerned was not provided to subsidised schools. Moreover, the scope of the installation of air-conditioning facilities was restricted to the offices of the teaching and administrative staff, which was unfair to the students and subsidised schools. He further said that if the Bureau did not provide schools with the support concerned, the schools might pass on the expenses to the parents, which would be inconsistent with the government's usual policy and approach of providing parents with children allowance to encourage child births. Therefore, the Bureau was urged to include the air-conditioning systems in the standard teaching facilities.

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

- (i) The request in the paper was reasonable. He said that the weather in Hong Kong was hot and humid. Students attending class in an environment with no air-conditioning facilities could not concentrate. The Bureau was urged to

provide students with a good learning environment;

- (ii) Although air-conditioning facilities were not environmentally-friendly, hot weather would affect the teaching quality of teachers. The Bureau had the responsibility to provide schools with supports;
- (iii) According to statistics of some of the organisations conducting the surveys, schools had to pay about \$728,000 for the installation of air-conditioning facilities at their own expenses and the annual expenditure for the electricity and maintenance was about \$211,000. As the Bureau currently allowed schools to charge about \$300 to parents each month as the fees for special purpose, the schools were indirectly passing the air-conditioning expenses on the parents. He said that if the schools could use the fees for special purpose on teaching, the quality of education would be improved. Therefore, the Bureau was urged to provide schools with support on the installation of air-conditioning facilities;
- (iv) The Bureau's response was inappropriate. Installation of air-conditioning facilities was not equal to not being environmentally-friendly. He suggested that the Bureau should provide schools with guidelines, e.g. setting air-conditioners at 25 degrees or turning them on only when the air temperature was 25 degrees or above in order to ensure a proper use of resources by the schools;
- (v) Air-conditioning had become basic life necessity. With the change of climate, summer in Hong Kong had become longer and longer. It had fallen out of the parents' expectation that the Bureau still regarded air-conditioning systems as noise insulation facilities. She said that some schools passed the air-conditioning expenses on the parents but this would increase the parents' burden. It was agreed that the Bureau should work out guidelines for the proper use of resources to be observed by schools. The Bureau should not refuse the provision of assistance for different reasons; and
- (vi) The Bureau should not focus on saving expenditure only. They should accept the suggestion that air-conditioning systems should be included in standard teaching facilities and schools should be provided with assistance.

22. Mr LEUNG Cheuk-fai of the Education Bureau responded that the Bureau would install air-conditioning systems for the schools and facilities that needed air-conditioning systems badly according to the current policy. However, the Bureau



would review the current policy from time to time and assist schools in improving campus facilities when resources permitted.

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

- (i) The Bureau did not respond to the request properly. For many years, most schools had installed air-conditioning systems at their own expense, proving the necessity of air-conditioning facilities;
- (ii) Temperature and humidity could be changed by air-conditioning facilities, which could help improve the learning environment;
- (iii) If the Bureau did not accept the recommendation in the paper, they should set themselves as an example by not allowing their staff to use air-conditioning facilities at work;
- (iv) The Bureau was asked to reflect Members' views to the authority concerned and report on the progress at the next meeting; and
- (v) Members' concern on the demand of the education circles was appreciated. She said that some schools provided subsidy to the air-conditioning expenses by charging parents \$300 as fees for special purpose. This had made schools being inflexible in the use of resources. She opined that teaching quality did not depend on the teachers' teaching skills only. A good learning environment was also important. It was hoped the representative of the Bureau would reflect the views of the practitioners.

24. The Chairman said that Members agreed with the recommendation in the paper unanimously. The SSC should continue the discussion of this issue. She asked the representative of the Bureau to reflect Members' views to the authority concerned and report on the progress at the next meeting.

(C) **Request for Strengthening of the Disabled-friendly Facilities and Manpower of the Castle Peak Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital**

**(SSC Paper No. 11/2017)**

**(Written reply of Hospital Authority)**

(E) **Request for Additional Resources to Resolve the Retention Problem of the Hospitals with a View to Enhancing the Quality of Medical Services**

**(SSC Paper No. 13/2017)**

**(Written reply of Hospital Authority)**

25. The Chairman welcomed Dr LAU Chu-leung, Consultant in Accident and Emergency of Tuen Mun Hospital/ Pok Oi Hospital and Cluster Co-ordinator, and Dr Steve CHAN, General Manager (Administrative Services) of the New Territories West Cluster (“NTWC”) to the meeting.

26. The Vice-chairman declared that he was a member of the Governing Committee of the Castle Peak Hospital. The Chairman invited Members to comment whether the Vice-chairman had to withdraw from the meeting or might speak at the meeting.

27. Members considered that the function of the Governing Committee of the Castle Peak Hospital was also to reflect citizens’ views, having no conflict with his position as a member of the SSC. Therefore, it was not necessary for him to withdraw from the meeting. Another Member agreed and said that the issue was not related to tender so there was no conflict of interest involved.

28. As Members had no objections, the Chairman announced that the Vice-chairman could continue to participate in the discussion.

29. The proposer of the SSC Paper No. 11/2017 said that a hearing-impaired person had been taken to the Tuen Mun Hospital by the police for family dispute some time ago. Later on, there was a communication problem because no sign language interpretation service was provided at the Tuen Mun Hospital. Then the hearing-impaired person was transferred to the Castle Peak Hospital. After one week, he was discharged with the assistance of a Legco member and other people. He said that the above incident had reflected that support to the disabled was far from being sufficient at public hospitals. The authority was urged to increase manpower and clearly define the duties of Access Officers and medical social workers at the hospital.

30. After the above incident happened, a lot of hearing-impaired people told him that they did not know hospitals could provide sign language interpretation service. The victim of the incident also reflected that the medical and nursing staff on the day in

question did not actively ask him whether he needed sign language interpretation service. He hoped that the authority would respond to the above situation.

31. The proposer of the SSC Paper No, 13/2017 said that two medical blunders had happened at the Tuen Mun Hospital recently. Councillors and residents in Tuen Mun district showed great concern on them. According to the 2015-2016 report of the authority, the Accident and Emergency Department of the Tuen Mun Hospital had an attendance of more than 200,000 while the Pok Oi Hospital was more than 100,000. The proposer also quoted from the report that there were 12 general out-patient clinics in Hong Kong Island East serving 580,000 people only. However, there were eight general out-patients clinics only in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long, which failed to meet the demands of 1.1 million people in the cluster. The medical resources per capita in the New Territories West (“NTW”) were \$6,214 per year, much behind the Kowloon Central and Hong Kong Island West. The authority was urged to show concern on the uneven allocation of medical resources.

32. She further said that the Secretary of the Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) had said some time ago that people aged above 65 had accounted for at less than 20 per cent of the total population in the NTW so the medical resources per capita allocated was fewer than other clusters. However, according to the Population Distribution 2015-2024, people aged above 65 in the New Territories would rise to 20% from the current 12% of the total population. She hoped that the authority would respond to the recent medical blunders, rapid aging of the population in the NTW and the uneven allocation of medical resources.

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

- (i) Starting 2008, the United Nation Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been applicable to China and Hong Kong. The government had legal responsibilities to provide the disabled with fair treatment, which included the provision of suitable channels of communication. He hoped that the government and public bodies could provide guidelines to the front-line staff to protect the rights of the disabled. Moreover, he enquired whether the manpower of medical social workers was adequate. He also asked the authority to provide more information about the implementation of the medical social workers service;
- (ii) The SWD and the Tuen Mun Hospital should strengthen co-operation to provide the disabled with more supports, e.g. arrangement of a special resident social worker. Moreover, with the Tin Shui Wai Hospital going into operation,

she worried that the supply of the medical and nursing staff at the Tuen Mun Hospital would become tighter. The HA was urged to show concern on the situation;

- (iii) The situation of insufficient medical and nursing staff at the Tuen Mun Hospital had not been improved. Although the Pok Oi Hospital was in the neighbourhood, the situation had not been improved. The authority was urged to allocate more resources to the NTW and employ experienced medical and nursing staff to booster citizens' confidence in the Tuen Mun Hospital;
- (iv) Medical resources allocated to the NTW had been fewer than other clusters. The authority was urged to complete the study report on resources as soon as possible and work out an improvement proposal. He said that no importance had been attached to sign language in Hong Kong and studies concerned were much lagging behind the Europe and the U.S. He opined that sign language was also one of the local languages so the government and the whole society should attach great importance to it;
- (v) When the authority arranged follow-up visits for the hearing-impaired people or ethnic minorities, they should be asked whether they needed simultaneous interpretation service. There should also be more publicity so more people in need would know the service concerned. Moreover, she said that the proportion between the medical and nursing staff and the patients was so seriously imbalanced that doctors did not have adequate time to provide patients with accurate diagnosis most of the time. The authority was urged to increase manpower;
- (vi) The authority was asked to increase more medical resources. It was also hoped the SWD would provide more assistance on the support to the disabled, including the provision of more medical social workers and sign language interpreters; and
- (vii) The authority was urged to review the lack of facilities and manpower support to the disabled, enhance publicity on the support services to the disabled, and consider working with the SWD to provide more support to the disabled. Moreover, he said that it was unacceptable that medical resources received by the NTW were almost 100% fewer than other clusters.

34. Dr CHAN of the HA responded that they had attached great importance to the

needs of the disabled and provided the hearing-impaired people with sign language interpretation service, and offered simultaneous interpretation services of 18 languages to the ethnic minorities. The authority currently provided the above service through service providers. When necessary, assistance would also be sought from court interpreters. The service was free of charge with no restriction on the number of uses.

35. On Members' enquiries about the data of the above services, he said that the authority had provided a total of 765 sign language interpretation services between 2014 and November 2016. As far as appointment booking was concerned, interpreters were able to provide interpretation services at the hospital within the specified time. For cases without advanced booking, interpreters could arrive at the scene in ten minutes or one hour. On accessible facilities, the authority had reviewed the situation at its hospitals to see whether they could meet the requirements of accessible environment and worked out improvement proposals. Taking the NTWC as an example, the works concerned included the provision of tactile guide path, more signs, ramps and audio guide systems and replacement of lifts.

36. On Members' concerns about the allocation of medical resources, the HA Review Steering Committee had asked for a review, and expert consultants would develop new models. The current demographic model was used to assess the citizens' demand of medical resources in each district by using the number of population in Hong Kong and age distribution as the basis of calculation. The enhanced model would include more considerations, which would accurately target the service demands in each district. The model was being studied at the present stage and the authority would provide further introductions to the DC timely.

37. He further said that during the period between 2012 and 2016, more than 330 new beds were provided in the NTWC. All the 109 new beds in year 2016/2017 were put into operation. About half of them were provided to the Tuen Mun Hospital. The NTWC continued to provide and enhance different types of medical facilities and services, including 24-hour intravenous stroke thrombolysis service, computer scanning device and cardiac catheterisation room. Consultation quota at its general out-patient clinics was increased in order to satisfy the service needs and shorten the waiting time.

38. Dr LAU of the HA added that the authority had employed 12 more doctors after the Accident and Emergency Department at the Tin Shui Wai Hospital had gone into operation. Other medical and nursing staff had also been employed correspondently and the manpower at the Tuen Mun Hospital had not been cut. The NTWC had been organising activities in collaboration with the ethnic minorities to maintain

communication so they would know more about the service of the hospital.

39. Ms SIU of the SWD added that medical social workers mainly provided patients with professional counselling but not every social worker knew how to use sign language. To go with the development of hospitals, the Department would review the manpower arrangement of medical social workers. Currently, there were about 70 medical social workers at the Tuen Mun Hospital and Castle Peak Hospital. The Department would maintain close co-operation with the HA to provide the people in need with support.

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

- (i) When the hearing-impaired person was taken to the Tuen Mun Hospital, he did not know the hospital could provide sign language interpretation service. If the medical and nursing staff did ask the hearing-impaired person at their own initiative that day, the whole incident could be avoided. He was opined that the medical and nursing staff had not been sensitive enough. Moreover, there was no sign language interpretation or electronic information display provided at its day centre for ear treatment. He said it was ridiculous that the above support had not been provided at clinics for the patients suffering ear disease;
- (ii) According to the data of the Census and Statistics Department, there were about 580,000 disabled people in Hong Kong. Of them, fewer than 10% had jobs. If the society could provide the disabled with timely support to allow them to go into the society, the number of labour force would rise;
- (iii) There should be resident professionals at hospitals to provide the disabled with assistance. Moreover, the authority should enhance publicity on the support service concerned, e.g. putting up posters in hospitals to let the people seeking medical consultations in need know the details concerned;
- (iv) It was enquired whether manpower at the Tuen Mun Hospital was sufficient enough to cover the new beds;
- (v) It was suggested the SWD should enhance publicity on the support service to the disabled;
- (vi) The authority was requested to explain why the hearing-impaired person received wrong diagnosis and was taken to the Castle Peak Hospital on the day in question. If the authority could not find out the reason, the said situation

would happen again; and

- (vii) The authority did not need to do any study on resources. It could just allocate more resources to the NTWC to narrow the gap between the NTWC and other clusters. She also enquired whether the authority increased the beds at the Tuen Mun Hospital by cutting the beds at the Castle Peak Hospital.

41. Dr CHAN of the HA responded that as far as manpower was concerned, the overall increase of the NTWC for 2015-2016 was 6.6%. On Members' views about the model of the resources allocation, the authority would reflect it to the consultant and further report to the DC on the progress of the model timely. He further said that the beds increased at the Tuen Mun Hospital were beds for acute or rehabilitation patients. The beds at the Castle Peak Hospital were for psychiatric patients. The authority did not increase the beds at the Tuen Mun Hospital by cutting the beds at the Castle Peak Hospital.

42. Dr LAU of the HA added that on the suggestion for the arrangement of a resident sign language interpreter at the hospital, the authority needed to review the supply of a sign language interpreter and the demand for the service concerned. Moreover, he said that the performance on emergency operations at the Tuen Mun Hospital had not been satisfactory for the past few years but there had been improvement in this area and it was rated "outstanding".

43. Members' views and enquiries in the third round were summarised as follows:

- (i) Whether the medical and nursing staff increased at the Tuen Mun Hospital were sufficient enough for the increasing number of people seeking medical consultation. She said that the base number of medical and nursing staff at the NTWC was very small. The authority should continue to increase manpower;
- (ii) The authority did not respond why the hearing-impaired person was transferred to the Castle Peak Hospital. The authority was requested to explain in details what happened that day;
- (iii) The HA should work with the SWD and arrange for a resident staff member to provide support to the hearing-impaired people who sought medical consultation in order to prevent recurrence; and
- (iv) It was reiterated that the authority should allocate resources to all clusters evenly.

44. Dr LAU of the HA responded that using regional population as the consideration for resources allocation might not satisfy with the actual needs. For example, liver transplant operation needed more resources than other operations. Therefore, the authority would use the services provided by all clusters as the basis of one of the considerations for resources allocation. On Members' enquiries on details of what happened to the hearing-impaired person, it was not appropriate to discuss it at the meeting as it involved the patient's privacy. He said that no matter whether the person seeking medical consultation had disability, the hospital would arrange for the patient to receive psychiatric observation according to the process if necessary. Whether the patient was disabled would not affect the above process but the authority would learn from such experience.

45. Dr CHAN of the HA added that, on Members' enquiries whether the medical and nursing staff increased could be sufficient enough for the people seeking medical consultations, the new resources study model would use the population proportion of each region as the basis of calculation for resources allocation.

46. The Chairman said that most Members were not satisfied with the authority's responses and they had showed great concern on the interests of the hearing-impaired people when they sought medical consultations. She opined that the SSC should write to the HA and SWD to reflect Members' views and concerns on the case where a hearing-impaired person seeking medical consultation at Tuen Mun Hospital was transferred to the Castle Peak Hospital. They also requested the authority to contact the hearing-impaired person on their own initiative for follow-up action. Moreover, on the allocation of medical resources, the SSC should continue the fight for more resources to the NTW from the HA. The authority was also requested to provide an actual date for the completion of the resources study model.

47. A Member opined that the HA and the SWD should be requested in the letter to respond whether they would arrange for a resident social worker to provide sign language interpretation for the disabled. The Chairman said that Ms SIU of the SWD had explained some time ago that medical social worker might not know sign language. Therefore, the two departments would be requested in the letter to work in collaboration to strengthen the support to the disabled.

48. A Member said that there should be a general out-patient clinic for every one hundred thousand people according to the standard for the Planning Brief. Currently, Tuen Mun had a population of 500,000 but there were only three general out-patient clinics. She suggested that the authority should be requested in the letter to respond



whether there was any plan to open any general out-patient clinic in Tuen Mun.

49. A Member added that although there would be a general out-patient clinic as planned at the construction site for a public housing estate in Area 29 (near the Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool), the completion had yet to be seen. Therefore, it was suggested the SSC should urge the authority to take follow-up action on the progress of the above works in the letter.

50. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to take down Members' suggestions above and reflect them together in the letters to the HA and the SWD.

(Post-meeting note: the above letters were sent on 18 April 2017.)

**(D) Requests for Speedy Conversion of the Vacant Premises of the Salvation Army Sam Shing Chuen Lau Ng Ying School for Special Education Purposes**  
**(SSC Paper No. 12/2017)**  
**(Written reply of Education Bureau)**

51. The Chairman added that the proposer of the paper was absent from the meeting for being unwell so the second proposer of the paper would provide supplementary information.

52. The second proposer of the paper said that in a fair and inclusive society, the right of an individual should not be deprived of receiving education owing to their health, skin complexion or social status. However, a lot of special education facilities in Hong Kong were behind the times. Taking Tuen Mun as an example, the Hong Chi Morninghill School ("Morninghill School") had been facing the problem of being in a crowded and old school premises for a long time. The DC discussed this in 2013 and the Education Bureau said that there would be another premises on the open space near the Morninghill School. Then the Bureau said that in 2015 that the vacant premises of the former Salvation Army Sam Shing Lau Ng Ying School (Lau Ng Ying School) would be converted for special education purposes. He was not satisfied with the Bureau who said that the recommendation concerned would not be implemented at present. It was enquired when the extension works of the Morninghill would be completed and how many special education schools had extension works implemented in Tuen Mun district.

53. Mr LEUNG of the Education Bureau responded that after the meeting, he would provide supplementary information on the progress of the extension of the Morninghill

School and the number of special schools which had extension works. Some time ago, the Bureau planned to convert the Lau Ng Ying School for special education purposes. However, the Bureau decided not to use the school premises for special education purposes after examining the new school places in the district. But the premises would still be reserved to be considered for another school or other education purposes. During the transitional period, the Bureau would issue a list to the policy bureau and departments for the use of the premises for short term purpose so the vacant school premises would be used properly.

54. A Member said that there had been no objection to the extension works of the Morninghill School. At that time, he had distributed three hundred plus questionnaires to the district (Sam Shing) and 91% of the residents objected to the extension works as a security guard sustained injuries when he was attacked with a chopper in the district where there were two kindergartens. Therefore, it was suggested that the Bureau should look for another land for the extension. He was glad that the Bureau would not consider using the vacant premises of Lau Ng Ying School for special education purposes at present and he supported the Bureau looking for other areas for the extension.

55. The second proposer of the paper was not satisfied with the Bureau's response. The Bureau was urged to provide the relevant information as soon as possible, including the completion time of the extension works, and the number of school places upon completion of the works. Moreover, he would like clarifications from the Member about the case in which a security guard was injured when he was attacked with a chopper as it was not related with people with intellectual disabilities.

56. A Member said the Bureau had responded that the conversion and extension works of many special schools in Tuen Mun district would be implemented one by one. He urged the Bureau to provide data for the school places which could be offered to Tuen Mun district by such types of works. He was also not satisfied with the Bureau which had responded that it was not necessary to regularly announce the number of people waiting for admission to special schools and the time required. He opined that it was against the public's right to know and requested that if the representative of the Bureau could not provide the above data at the meeting, the SSC should continue the discussion of this issue at the next meeting.

57. Mr LEUNG of the Bureau said that the relevant data could be provided after the meeting.

58. The Chairman said that the Bureau should provide the relevant data to the public to ensure transparency but opined that SSC might not need to continue the discussion of this issue. She requested the Bureau to reply to Member's question in writing.

59. A Member said that the Bureau proposed the plan of using the vacant premises of Lau Ng Ying School for special education purposes at their own initiative in May 2015. The above plan was still in effect in June 2016. He would like the Bureau to explain in writing why the above plan was suddenly cancelled.

60. The Chairman said the Bureau had explained in their reply that they would not consider using the vacant premises of Lau Ng Ying School for special education purposes. She said that the Education Bureau needed to make a reply on the progress of the extension of the Morninghill School, number of places of special schools in Tuen Mun district and the number and time of waiting for admission.

(Post-meeting note: the Education Bureau said that the extension project of the Morninghill School was designed by the Architectural Services Department and they were now conducting a technical feasibility study. In the academic year of 2016-2017, the schools for children with intellectual disabilities in Tuen Mun district provided a total of 480 school places. Under the current demand and supply, students in need in Tuen Mun district did not need to wait for admission to the day time places at a special school. The Education Bureau would review the demand for places of the special schools from time to time and would increase the supply of the places through plans of relocation, redevelopment, conversion works and construction)

**(F) Request for a Review on the Service Mechanism of the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project**

**(SSC Paper No. 14/2017)**

**(Written reply of SWD)**

61. The proposer of the paper said that the government launched the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project ("Community Nanny Service") in 2008 and the service had been popular among parents. As at December 2015, there were 917 people who used the Community Nanny Service in Tuen Mun district and there were 49 people who used the care service at the centres. However, only 139 nannies provided the service. It showed that there was insufficient supply. She suggested that the Department should revise the hourly pay of the nannies, enhance the payment terms and expand the service network so more organisations would provide service through the project.

62. A Member said that some parents needed nannies to help them on Saturday owing to urgent situations but there might not be any immediate arrangement. She suggested that the Department should revise the nannies' pay to attract more people to join the project. At the same time, publicity should be enhanced to let citizens know the service concerned.

63. A Member said the Department had replied that 1864 nannies participated in the project throughout Hong Kong but there were only 43 nannies in Tuen Mun district. He opined that the population in Tuen Mun was higher than other districts and the number of nannies would be distributed according to the population proportion. It was hoped that the Department could respond to this.

64. Ms SIU of the SWD responded that the project was designed to provide day time support to the parents who had to work for long hours or got an unstable job. The nannies would help to take care of the children who were 9 years old or below. The operators needed to recruit nannies in the form of voluntary work and the Department would provide the volunteer an incentive of \$18 - \$22 per hour. Such amount would be decided by the operators according to the level affordable by the families in the district and the supply of nannies. The incentive in Tuen Mun district was \$22 per hour. The number of nannies would increase or decrease at different time. The operators had to do publicity and recruitment exercise to ensure that the supply of nannies could meet the demands in the district to satisfy with the requirements of the Department.

65. She further said that the operators needed to decide on the amount and the service matching mechanism by themselves to ensure that the users would receive suitable service and avoid a waste of resources when the user suddenly cancelled the service. Moreover, the operators had to provide 39 places for home care and 14 day care places. The Department could increase the subsidies according to demands in individual districts. Currently, there was only one operator in each district. The Department did not have any plan to invite more organisations to join the project at the present stage. However, the Department commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct an analysis and offered views on the day time child care service last year. The study concerned was expected to take at least one year to complete. The Department would continue to closely monitor the service of the operators to ensure that interests of the community nannies and service users would be protected.

66. The Chairman concluded by requesting Ms SIU of the SWD to reflect Members'

SWD

suggestions to the Department.

**(G) Request for a Review on the “Ageing in Place Service”**  
**(SSC Paper No. 15/2017)**  
**(Written reply of SWD)**

67. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHOW Suk-ling, Vera, Housing Manger (Tuen Mun 2) of the Housing Department (“HD”) to the meeting.

68. The proposer of the paper said that with the ageing population, the government should modify services and provide the elderly persons with appropriate arrangements for Ageing in Place Service. Last December, she conducted telephone interviews on the subject matter. Of the elderly persons interviewed, 32% said that they had fallen down or fainted at home suddenly. 38.9% of the elderly persons who were living alone said that they had come across the same conditions. She suggested that the government should develop smart community system for the elderly persons so they could maintain contacts with the outside world. There should also be Smart Home Network System installed for the elderly persons, which could detect any abnormal conditions at the homes of the elderly. If necessary, their family members or organisations concerned could be informed to provide support.

69. A Member said that more and more elderly persons were waiting for the home care service in Tuen Mun. A lot of the elderly persons had been waiting for more than two years. He urged the SWD to increase resources for the provision of the service.

70. A Member said that the SWD did not respond to the suggestion of installing Smart Home Network System mentioned in item No. 4 in the paper. She said that a lot of elderly persons died of accidents at home. Installation of Smart Home Network System could ensure provision of assistance without intruding the privacy of elderly persons. She hoped that the SWD would respond whether they would accept the above suggestion.

71. The Vice-chairman, who was also the convenor of the Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services (“Working Group”), said that he had discussions on the subject matter at the meeting of the working group. He suggested that the SWD should consider promoting the service concerned to different organisations, community centres or neighbourhood centres for elderly persons.

72. Ms SIU of the SWD responded that as at September 2016, about 17,200 elderly persons were benefited from the Integrated Home Care Services provided under the

Ageing in Place Service. The integrated service team could flexibly use the resources provided under the subsidy system for the arrangement of manpower but the service volume had to meet the criteria of the Department. To improve the community care service, the Policy Address recommended that the Community Care Fund should consider allocations to the Pilot Scheme to Support Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (“Pilot Scheme”). Consultations on the recommendation had been made at the Legco’s Panel on Welfare Services. The 3-year long Pilot Scheme was designed to increase support to the elderly persons and the number of target recipients was 4,000. Moreover, as the home facilities were under the management of the HD, she would like the representative of the HD to assist in making a response.

73. Ms CHOW of the HD added that the Department had been committed to providing the tenants with a safe and user-friendly environment. If the unit of the family of the elderly tenants or family members who were 60 years old or above needed conversion to meet the needs of individual elderly persons, the Department would carry out the conversions and bear the construction cost involved. If necessary, the Department would act on the advice of the professionals (such as doctors, occupational therapists, physiotherapists or medical social workers) to carry out conversions or add facilities for the unit concerned, including widening the entrance and providing ramps, removing bath tubs and changing into a shower cubicle, altering and expanding the bathroom and toilets and providing handrails, whenever possible, in order to provide the elderly persons with convenience to their daily lives.

74. Moreover, to take care of the demand of elderly persons living alone or in households with all elderly members for the installation of emergency alarm system, the Department would provide the elderly persons who were not Comprehensive Social Security Assistant recipients with a lump sum of \$2,500 for the installation of Emergency Alarm System (i.e. Safety Alarm) should they meet the related criteria. If the elderly persons had any emergency incidents at home, they could activate the remote control of the Safety Alarm on hand and seek assistance from the staff of the control centre. Considering that the detection device of the Smart Home Network System suggested in the paper might affect the privacy of elderly persons, current resources permitting, the Department would continue to provide allowance for the installation of the Safety Alarm and assist the elderly tenants in obtaining immediate support through the current effective Emergency Alarm System.

75. Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (i) If the tenants of the public housing estates were 60 years old, would the HD carry out conversions for the tenant at their own initiative or should the tenants

apply for the service concerned themselves?

- (ii) Would the HD install smart lighting switch facilities for the tenants?
- (iii) Safety Alarm was not the most effective alarm system. If the elderly persons fainted suddenly, there might not enough time for them to activate the Safety Alarm. She enquired whether the HD would accept the suggestion to install Smart Home Network System for the elderly persons; and
- (iv) It was suggested the SWD should consider to increase promotion for the routine service for elderly persons. Moreover, he learned that the Community Care Fund also planned to allocate funds for the provision of Community Service Vouchers to the elderly persons with moderate and serious impairment. It was hoped the plan could also be further promoted together with the policy of Ageing in Place Service.

76. Ms SIU of the SWD responded that the Community Service Voucher Scheme was designed to provide home or day care service to the elderly persons with moderate or serious impairment, which was exactly one of the important service directions of the policy of Ageing in Place Service.

77. Ms CHOW of the HD responded that as the demands of each elderly person were different, if the tenants were above 60 years old and needed Ageing in Place service, they could apply to the Department. On a Member's suggestion to install smart lighting switch and alarm system for the elderly persons, she said that the Department did not provide the services concerned but the suggestion would be noted down for future reference.

78. A Member suggested that the HD should do more publicity for the above service so more residents would know it.

79. A Member enquired whether the HD would work with private developers and build estates for the elderly persons like the Senior Citizens Residences Scheme. She opined that the Department should provide service according to the demands of the elderly persons. They should not provide support until the elderly persons sought assistance.

80. The Chairman concluded by saying that with the advancement of modern technology, the HD should consider the provision of smart home system as

recommended in the paper, and increased publicity for the service being provided. She requested the representatives of the two departments to reflect Members' views to the departments.

**(H) Request for Strengthening of the Evening Public Out-patient Service in Tuen Mun District**

**(SSC Paper No. 16/2017)**

**(Written reply of Hospital Authority)**

81. The Chairman welcomed Dr LIANG Jun, Department Head, NTWC of the HA to the meeting.

82. The proposer of the paper said that public medical resources had been insufficient and there had been a lot of patients waiting at the Accident & Emergency Departments during day or night time. Currently, there were three general out-patient clinics in Tuen Mun providing day out-patient service. One of them provided both day and evening out-patient services but the service supply was still insufficient. Therefore, it was hoped the authority could increase out-patients quota e.g. provision of evening out-patient service at the other two day out-patient clinics, and setting up a 24-hour out-patient service to ease the waiting at the Accident & Emergency Departments.

83. A Member agreed with the recommendation in the paper. She said that booking an appointment for out-patient service was required at present. If the authority accepted the recommendation in the paper to provide evening out-patient service, patients should be allowed to seek medical consultation without booking an appointment. Moreover, the out-patient service currently opened until 10 pm only. She suggested that the authority should extend the service hours to 12 mid-night and consider the provision of general out-patient service at the Tuen Mun Hospital.

84. A Member said the authority replied that they would increase more than 10,000 quota for the general out-patient service within this year including those for the evening out-patient service. He enquired how many of the quota belonged to Tuen Mun district and whether the Wu Hong Clinic and Yan Oi General Out-patient Clinic in Tuen Mun would provide evening out-patient service.

85. Dr LIANG of the HA responded that the authority had been increasing general out-patient service in the past few years. The major targets of the general out-patient service were elderly persons, low-income people and patients suffering from chronic or episodic diseases. If any patients needed acute care, they should attend the Accident &



Emergency Departments. On a Member's suggestion to provide 24-hour out-patient service at the Tuen Mun Hospital, he said that the authority had provided similar service at the Tuen Mun Hospital many years ago but the service was cancelled because of poor effect. Moreover, as the out-patient service provided consultation for the patients suffering chronic or episodic diseases mainly, and if the patients attended evening out-patient service for acute care, they had better attend the Accident & Emergency Department. On a Member's enquiry about the allocation of the new out-patient quota in Tuen Mun district, he said that supplementary data would be provided after the meeting.

86. A Member said that medical resources allocated to the NTWC had been fewer than other clusters, and the number of general out-patient clinics in Tuen Mun was falling behind the standard of planning at present. She urged the representative of the authority to do endeavours to fight for resources from the headquarters of the HA or the problem could not be solved. Moreover, she said that there was one general out-patient clinic providing evening out-patient service in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai respectively, she enquired about the number of evening out-patient clinics in other clusters.

87. A Member said that the Accident & Emergency Department at the Tuen Mun Hospital was saturated. If there was 24-hour general out-patient service provided at the Tuen Mun Hospital, it was believed patients attending the hospital would be sorted out and allocated to other hospitals to shorten the waiting time. It was hoped the authority would accept the recommendation.

88. A Member suggested that the authority should allocate the quota of the new evening out-patient service evenly to different clinics, e.g. Wu Hong Clinic and Yan Oi General Out-patient Clinic instead of allocating the quota to the Tuen Mun Clinic mainly.

89. Dr LIANG of the HA responded that details of information on the evening clinics in other clusters could be seen from the web page of the authority. At the present stage, the authority did not have any plan to provide 24-hour general out-patient service at the Tuen Mun Hospital but had noted Members' views concerned. Moreover, he said that the new quota for the general day clinic would be allocated to different clinics. However, the quota for evening out-patient service would be limited to the Tuen Mun Clinic as the current evening general out-patient service was mainly provided by the Tuen Mun Clinic.

90. A Member reiterated the hope that the authority should evenly allocate the quota of the new evening out-patient service to the three clinics in the Tuen Mun district.

91. A Member said that the current evening out-patient service was provided by the Tuen Mun Hospital only. It was suggested the authority should consider to expand the evening general out-patient service at the three clinics in the district.

92. Dr LIANG of the HA said that he would reflect Members' suggestions to the authority.

93. A Member said that the representative of the authority should respond whether Members' suggestions were feasible. There would also be a schedule provided for the implementation and the representative should not reflect to the authority only.

94. A Member suggested that the SSC should write to the FHB to reflect Members' concern.

95. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to assist in writing to the FHB and the HA to reflect that there was insufficient quota for the general out-patient clinics (including both day and evening out-patient service) in Tuen Mun district.

(Post-meeting note: the above letter was sent on 21 April 2017)

## **VI. Reporting Items (Continued)**

### **(B) Summary Report on "All for Integrity" Tuen Mun District Project 2016-17 (SSC Paper No. 18/2017)**

96. Members noted the content of the report concerned of the ICAC.

### **(C) Work Reports by Working Groups under SSC (SSC Paper No. 5/2017)**

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

97. The Vice-chairman, who was also the convenor of the Working Group, said that the Working Group planned to do promotion in the coming year to publicise the service for the elderly persons suffering dementia.

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

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

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

99. The convenor of the above Working Group added that the Working Group had held a meeting on the case of Mount Kelly Hill School and invited the Education Bureau, Lands Department and Planning Department to the meeting. After the meeting, a letter was also written to these three departments to reflect Members' views. The replies from the departments were attached to this document for Members' reference.

100. The Chairman announced that the reports by the three working groups were endorsed.

**(D) Report by Tuen Mun District School Development Section of EDB**  
**(SSC Paper No. 20/2017)**

101. A Member said that the representatives of the Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools had shown concern on the enrolment number of the secondary school in Tuen Mun district at the meeting with the Education Bureau on 1 March 2017. He said that there were 38 secondary schools in Tuen Mun district last year but there were only 37 now. Of them, nine secondary schools could provide two SS1 classes only. He hoped that the Bureau could consider to allow district-based management for the secondary schools in Tuen Mun and handle the issue of enrolment number flexibly.

102. A Member added that the representatives of the Association of Heads of Primary Schools enquired the Bureau about the enrolment number of the primary schools in Tuen Mun district in 2018 at the meeting of the Working Group on Education and Youth Services some time ago. He enquired when the Bureau could provide the data concerned.

103. Mr Leung of the Education Bureau said that after the results of the secondary one places were released in July, the Bureau would seek an understanding of the student enrolment and maintain contact and work closely with the Tuen Mun District Secondary School Heads Association. However, according to the current data, the number of primary six pupils in Tuen Mun district had increased, which could help solve the problem of insufficient student enrolment in the district. At the meeting of the Working Group, a Member enquired about the quota and number of students in Tuen Mun district. As the information concerned was still being sorted out, he would provide the data concerned at the next meeting of the Working Group.

104. The Chairman requested the Education Bureau to give a written reply to the SSC and allow Members to know the situation after the above data were sorted out.

(E) **Report by SWD**

**(SSC Paper No. 21/2017)**

105. Members noted the contents of the report by the SWD.

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

**(SSC Paper No. 22/2017)**

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

**VII. Any Other Business**

(A) **Co-operation Scheme with District Councils 2017-2018**

107. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had written to the Tuen Mun Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education after the last SSC meeting for organising joint activities. Later on, the Tuen Mun Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education said that proposals would be submitted to the SSC for consideration by the end of March. Upon receipt of the proposal, the Secretariat would send the proposal to Members by emails. She would like Members to reply to the Secretariat before the specified deadline after receiving the proposal.

(Post-meeting note: On 24 March 2017, the Secretariat sent Members by email the 13 proposals submitted by the Tuen Mun Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education. Members did not offer any views on the above proposals, which were then sent to the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education on 31 March 2017.)

(B) **Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food – Subsidy Scheme on the Promotion of Low Salt and Sugar Food Culture in the District**

108. The Chairman said that the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food wrote to the DC Chairman some time ago, saying that the Subsidy Scheme on the Promotion of Low Salt and Sugar Food Culture in the District would be launched in 2017 – 2018. Each of the district councils would be allocated \$250,000 for organising promotional activities on the food culture of “reduction of salt and sugar” on district level. On its meeting of 7 March 2017, the DC agreed that the SSC would take follow-up action on the matters concerned. She invited Members to advise on the use of the allocation.

109. Members agreed to the establishment of a non-standing working group. Another Member suggested naming the working group as Working Group for the Promotion of Healthy Diet and Members agreed.

110. The Chairman invited Members to nominate a convener of the working group.

111. Mr MO Shing-fung nominated Mr TSANG Hin-hong as convener of the working group. Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo seconded and Mr TSANG Hin-hong accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominations, the Chairman announced that Mr TSANG Hin-hong was elected ipso facto.

112. The Chairman would like the convener of the working group to work out the terms of reference of the working group at its meeting and asked the Secretariat to write letters to Members after the meeting, inviting them to join the working group.

(Post-meeting note: the Secretariat sent letters to Members on 17 March 2017 inviting Members to join the above working group)

**(C) Public Education Activities on Rehabilitation 2017-2018**  
**(Paper No. 1 distributed at the meeting)**

113. The Chairman said that the Labour and Welfare Bureau wrote to the Chairman of the DC some time ago, saying that they would continue the allocation of HK\$53,000 to each of the 18 district councils as subsidy for organising all public education activities on rehabilitation in each district, including the activities celebrating the International Rehabilitation Day 2017 under the main theme of “Promoting the Spirit of the United Nation Committee on Rights of Persons with Disability on all Fronts and Mobilising Various Sectors to Build an All Inclusive Society”. With the DC Chairman’s consent, the SSC would take follow-up action on the matters concerned. She would like Members to consider whether to accept the allocation. If it was accepted, she suggested that the Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services should take follow-up action on the allocation same as the arrangement in the past.

114. As Members had no objections, the SSC endorsed that the Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services would take follow-up action on the allocation for the Public Education Activities on Rehabilitation 2017-2018.

**VIII. Date of Next Meeting**

115. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1:51 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 9 May 2017.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 25 April 2017

File Ref: HAD TM DC/13/25/SSC/17