

(Translation)

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of
Social Services and Community Development Committee (1/22-23)

Date : 30 June 2022
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Members

Mr WONG Ka-wa (Chairman)
Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH
Mr CHAN Sung-ip, BBS, MH
Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly
Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio
Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH
Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

Government Representatives

Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) ³ , Social Welfare Department
Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) ¹ , Education Bureau
Ms LIM Merry	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TSE Sai-lin, Jasmine	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) ¹ , Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr YIM Hong-yue, Owen (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr NG Cheuk-pong, James	Executive Officer (District Council) 4, Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 3

Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita
Assistant District Social Welfare Officer
(Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)³, Social Welfare
Department

For discussion of item 4

Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita
Assistant District Social Welfare Officer
(Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)³, Social Welfare
Department

Dr Stephen MANN
Acting Director, Hong Kong Institute of
Construction, Construction Industry
Council

Mr Daniel CHIU
Acting Principal, School of Professional
Development in Construction,
Construction Industry Council

Mr Kevin WONG
Acting Principal, Hong Kong Institute of
Construction - Kwai Chung Campus,
Construction Industry Council

Absent:

Member

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from the government departments to the 10th meeting of the Social Services and Community Development Committee (SSCDC), and introduced:

- (1) Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)³ (ADSWO (TW/KwT)³), Social Welfare Department (SWD), who replaced Ms LUI Ka-wing as the representative for the meeting;
- (2) Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy, Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)¹ (SSDO(TW)¹), Education Bureau (EDB), who replaced Ms WONG Sau-man, Samantha as the representative for the meeting;
- (3) Ms LIM Merry, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion (SM(NTS)P), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), who replaced Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine as the representative for the meeting; and
- (4) Ms TSE Sai-lin, Jasmine, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan)¹ (DDLMTW)¹, LCSD, who replaced Ms SIU Yuen-ching, Sara as the representative for the meeting.

2. The Chairman said that for Members' information, Mr MAN Yu-ming was absent with apologies.

3. The Chairman reminded Members that according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”), unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, each Member might speak for each agenda item once at the meeting. For each agenda item, a maximum of four Members might speak and each of them might speak up to 1.5 minutes. Each Member who submitted a paper might have up to three minutes to introduce the paper and speak. Each representative from government departments might have up to three minutes for giving response.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 9th Meeting held on 18.6.2021 and the Minutes of the 9th Meeting of Recreation, Sports, Arts and Culture For All Committee held on 24.6.2021

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had distributed to Members earlier the minutes of the 9th meeting of the SSCDC held on 18 June 2021 and the minutes of the 9th meeting of the Recreation, Sports, Arts and Culture For All Committee held on 24 June 2021. The Secretariat did not receive any proposed amendments prior to this meeting. The captioned minutes were confirmed without amendment.

III Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. The Chairman said that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

IV Item 3: Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Social Welfare Office 2022-23 District Welfare Work Plan
(SSCDC Paper No. 1/22-23)

6. The Chairman said that the representative responsible for briefing Members on this year’s District Welfare Work Plan was Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita, ADSWO (TW/KwT)3, SWD.

(Note: Mr KOT Siu-yuen joined the meeting at 2:36 p.m.)

7. ADSWO (TW/KwT)3 of the SWD introduced the paper.

8. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) to tackle youth problems such as autism, slow learning and dyslexia, a substantial amount of family services, as well as centre-based and youth service social workers was required. He enquired whether the SWD would provide some buffer in the calculation of manpower such that focus could be placed on the preparation of relevant activities. In respect of care for the carers, he hoped that people looking after elderly persons and youths would be offered care regularly. Regarding the care for the residential care homes for elderly persons and persons with disabilities, he wished that the Government would proactively allocate additional manpower, land and resources to provide the carers with appropriate support and relieve their burden (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);

- (2) regarding the family and children welfare services, he enquired of the SWD about the way of building a “Loving, Inclusive and Neighbourhood-caring” community that it had proposed and the definition of such a community. With respect to the knife attack provoked by conflicts over noise nuisance in the neighbourhood at Ho Pui Street that took place on 18 June 2022, he enquired of the SWD whether there were better approaches for handling relevant incidents. He asked, for instance, whether the department would deploy officers for home visits, invite non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to distribute publicity leaflets to educate the public on handling problems such as noise issues, and conduct outreach activities to learn about the current situations of the tenants of subdivided units. He also enquired of the SWD about the definition and examples of “small districts” as in the “resourced-based support network for small districts”. Overall speaking, he opined that the SWD should draw up quantifiable performance indicators for different service areas as far as possible for comparison of the figures at different hours (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (3) in his opinion, all age groups were affected by the epidemic. The situation was particularly difficult due to the economy downturn and lack of support and resources. He wished that the new-term Government would allocate more resources in planning of district development for the provision of additional supporting measures, such as providing more youth, elderly and child care services. Members could contact the SWD after the meeting to follow up on related matters (the Chairman).

9. ADSWO (TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded as follows:

- (1) on service planning, population-based planning ratios for a number of rehabilitation services had been included in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG). The SWD would draw reference from the HKPSG and identify suitable sites or premises in new development projects for provision of additional welfare facilities. It would also follow up with relevant government departments proactively to cater for community needs through the provision of additional welfare facilities;
- (2) regarding the Member’s concern over the carers, the Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing District Social Welfare Office (TW & KwT DSWO) under the SWD had, through promoting co-operation across sectors and services, liaised with various social welfare organisations last year to plan and implement more than ten projects jointly to support the carers. It would continue to strengthen the relevant partnership schemes this year;
- (3) with respect to the assault case mentioned by the Member, social workers in general would provide appropriate support and assistance if any persons had welfare needs or when there was a referral from the

Police;

- (4) she would relay Members' suggestions on how to build a "Loving, Inclusive and Neighbourhood-caring" community to the working group concerned; and
- (5) the TW & KwT DSWO had launched a "Small District Platform Scheme" in recent years, and liaised with different service units in the district, such as elderly, family and youth service units, to establish a total of 15 small district platforms. Each of these small district platforms would develop service schemes with unique characteristics according to the situation of their respective areas to facilitate cross-service co-operation and provide support for the small districts, hence satisfying the specific needs of the respective small districts.

V Item 4: Provision of Better Services and Support for Unemployed Persons in Tsuen Wan District

(SSCDC Paper No. 2/22-23)

10. The Chairman said that the representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita, ADSWO (TW/KwT)3, SWD;
- (2) Dr Stephen MANN, Acting Director, Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC), Construction Industry Council (CIC);
- (3) Mr Daniel CHIU, Acting Principal, School of Professional Development in Construction (SPDC), CIC; and
- (4) Mr Kevin WONG, Acting Principal, Hong Kong Institute of Construction - Kwai Chung Campus (HKIC-KCC), CIC.

Besides, the written replies of the Labour Department (LD) and Employees Retraining Board (ERB) were submitted prior to the meeting for Members' perusal.

11. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio introduced the paper. He added that the unemployment rate for March to May 2022 was 5.1%, representing a slight decrease from 5.4% as mentioned in the paper. The underemployment rate decreased from 3.8% to 3.5% in March to May 2022. On the whole, the economy situation was relatively abnormal. He hoped that the Government Economist for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region could be invited to the meeting to explain on the current situation. He noticed that in the light of the impact from the emigration tide, the number of tax returns issued this year recorded a decrease of 300 000, according to the data of the Inland Revenue Department. Due to the outflow of working population, there was a lack of professionals. At the same time, however, the labour supply in the low-skilled labour market far exceeded its demand. He also noticed the fierce competition among low-skilled workers in the district and the increase in the applications for the Temporary Unemployment Relief Scheme. In this connection, he hoped that various organisations and related government departments would render additional support to the unemployed persons and provide employment and counselling services as well as training opportunities in a more proactive manner. He considered the ERB's response rather mechanical, and had reservations about the effectiveness of its publicity efforts.

12. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he pointed out that youths, fresh graduates, middle-aged persons over 50 years old and low-skilled workers all had difficulties in securing a job. He hoped that the Government or other organisations would render assistance. Besides, some youths remarked to him that they wished the organisations providing employment services and support could keep abreast with the times and address the current needs, so that the unemployed persons could find a job that was truly suitable for them. He encouraged such organisations to make applications to the Government for resources that they required. Besides, he noticed that middle-aged persons could hardly get any replies after an interview in many cases. He enquired whether the Government or social welfare organisations could take the lead in rendering assistance, such as enhancing insurance-related supporting measures for persons aged over 60 who were still capable to work (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly); and
 - (2) there were basic requirements to meet in order to obtain licences for taking on blue-collar jobs at elementary level. He hoped that organisations providing employment services and support would step up their publicity efforts to attract more people to engage in the blue-collar field and make contributions to Hong Kong's infrastructure (the Chairman).
13. ADSWO (TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded as follows:
- (1) the SWD had all along been attaching importance to matters in relation to welfares, and was dedicated to assisting individuals and families who were in need in the society;
 - (2) the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme of the SWD provided a safety net for financially vulnerable persons to help them meet their basic daily needs. The CSSA Scheme would also render assistance to unemployed persons who suffered from temporary financial hardship; and
 - (3) since January 2013, the SWD had launched the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) and commissioned NGOs to run employment assistance projects. The aim of the IEAPS was to assist the able-bodied CSSA applicants/recipients in enhancing their employability and hence the chance to secure employment. The organisations concerned would provide information on the labour market, job vacancies and retraining courses as well as face-to-face consultation services rendered by social workers to assist the service users to draw up job search plans, and would arrange such employment assistance services as job matching for them.
14. Acting Director of the HKIC, CIC responded as follows:
- (1) the HKIC, formerly the Construction Industry Training Authority, was

established in 2017. An amount of HK\$400 million had been spent on redeveloping the school premise;

- (2) the Government had increased its construction output of infrastructure projects in recent years, with an annual value reaching \$300 billion. This showed that a large number of construction workers were needed in the market;
- (3) on publicity, the mobile recruitment truck of the HKIC would be parked outside KOLOUR Tsuen Wan on 17 July 2022 for promotion and on-site recruitment. The HKIC provided full-time short courses covering 23 categories in the daytime specifically for persons who were unemployed and wished to change their career. These courses included renovation courses and innovative technology courses that met the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework standards. Trainees could receive a monthly allowance of \$10,200 upon graduation;
- (4) the HKIC liaised with various contractors and subcontractors to launch collaborative training schemes. Unemployed persons could make applications to the CIC, and would be offered a job immediately. Trainees would subsequently receive on-the-job training of various work trades as provided by the CIC and employer organisations for six months to one year, with a monthly salary at \$13,400 on average; and
- (5) the HKIC would also help trainees to seize job opportunities. The successful placement rate had been as high as 70 to 90 percent in recent years. This year, the HKIC had doubled the training quotas to more than 10 000 to cope with the manpower demand in the labour market.

15. Acting Principal of the HKIC-KCC, CIC added that the mobile recruitment truck of the HKIC would be parked outside KOLOUR Tsuen Wan from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 17 July 2022 for promotion and on-site recruitment.

16. Acting Principal of the SPDC, CIC responded as follows:

- (1) the SPDC had also introduced collaborative schemes, in which the approach of “first-hire-then-train” was adopted. Persons in need would first be offered a job and then receive training at the SPDC within six months, followed by internships at construction sites, to enhance their employability;
- (2) the SPDC reached out to persons from different sectors for promotion through various channels. For example, recruitment days were organised at the Kowloon Bay Campus from May to July 2022. Any interested persons were welcome to participate in such activities. The recruitment day with on-the-spot interviews available for the Intermediate Tradesman Collaborative Training Scheme would be held at the Kowloon Bay Campus in the morning of 16 July 2022 and afternoon of 22 July 2022; and
- (3) the salary offered by the employers under the SPDC’s collaborative training scheme was no less than \$13,400, and was subject to adjustment so as to attract more residents for participation.

17. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio concluded that the residents wished to be self-reliant, and most of them refused to receive the assistance under the SWD's social safety net or CSSA. He therefore wished that the SWD would enhance its personalised employment support services to assist the unemployed persons in developing a positive attitude towards life. Apart from employment services, he hoped that the organisations rendering support could also provide psychological assistance and educate the service users on industrial safety knowledge. He was discontented with the LD's failure to send its representatives to attend the meeting, in particular the representatives from its Operations Divisions of the Occupational Safety Division, which were primarily responsible for law enforcement, publicity and education related duties. Citing the incident involving a malfunctioned suspended working platform at Mid-levels West on 13 June 2022, he pointed out that pictures featuring deaths and injuries in industrial accidents often deterred job seekers from engaging in the industry. To help job seekers to overcome their psychological barriers against the construction industry, relevant departments should perform supervisory work (for example, stepping up inspection) properly with a view to reducing the occurrence of accidents as far as possible. He hoped that the employment service providers and HKIC could put in more efforts on psychological assistance in order to attract the unemployed persons to engage in relevant sectors.

(Note: Mr KOT Siu-yuen left the meeting at 3:19 p.m.)

VI Item 5: Information Papers

18. Members noted the contents of the following information paper:

- (1) Items Endorsed by Circulation by the Social Services and Community Development Committee during the Period from 10 June 2021 to 22 June 2022
(SSCDC Paper No. 3/22-23).

VII Item 6: Any Other Business

19. The Chairman said that the Occupational Safety and Health Council would provide a funding of \$40,000 this year to support the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and district organisations in organising promotional activities on occupational safety and health. The SSCDC had been tasked with following up the abovementioned subsidy scheme as endorsed by the TWDC at the meeting held on 31 May 2022. The Chairman asked Members to contact him or the Secretary for proposing the organisations to be invited before 4 July 2022 for follow-up.

20. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly said that due to limited time, he suggested authorising the Chairman to select two district organisations on behalf of the SSCDC and invite them to make relevant applications for organising activities in compliance with the specific themes requested by the organiser. Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat sent invitation letters to the two organisations recommended by the Chairman on 11 July 2022.)

(A) Date of Next Meeting

21. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled on 25 August 2022 and the deadline for submission of papers was 10 August 2022.

VIII Adjournment of Meeting

22. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
8 July 2022