

(Translation)

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of
Social Welfare Committee (3/25-26)

Date : 27 August 2025
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr CHU Tak-wing, MH (Chairman)
Ms LAM Yuen-pun (Vice Chairlady)
Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker
Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH
Mr NG Chun-yu
Mr CHOW Sum-ming
Dr CHEUNG Man-ka, MH
Mr CHAN Chun-chung
Ms CHAN Shun-shun
Mr MOK Yuen-kwan
Mr TSANG Tai
Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum
Ms WAH Mei-ling
Mr WONG Kai-chun
Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH
Mr CHENG Chit-pun
Mr LAU Chung-kong
Mr CHAN Shing-gee

Government Representatives

Mr CHEUNG Chak-ho, Alex	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss CHAN Shuk-ying	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)3, Social Welfare Department
Ms CHEUNG Mei-yee	Social Work Officer 1 (Planning & Coordinating), Social Welfare Department
Mr YUNG Ho-wai, Anthony	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Tsuen Wan District Office

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Mr LIM Kuen	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
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Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine Executive Officer (District Council)1,
(Secretary) Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss WONG Yuen-chee, Connie Executive Assistant (Community
Involvement)5, Tsuen Wan District Office

In Attendance:

For discussion of item 3

Ms LAU Wing-sze, Serena

Social Worker, The Hong Kong Society
for the Aged Tsuen Wan District Elderly
Community Centre

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 10th meeting of the Social Welfare Committee.

2. The Chairman said that no Member had submitted an application for absence from this meeting.

3. The Chairman stated that according to the requirements stipulated in the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, if a District Council (DC) Member found that he/she had any direct personal or pecuniary interests in a discussion item or relevant matters when attending a meeting of the Council or dealing with matters related to the Council, the DC Member should declare the interests. The Secretariat had not received any declaration of interests prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to make declarations of interests immediately. No Member made a declaration of interests immediately.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 9th Meeting held on 25.6.2025

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendment prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to put forth proposed amendments immediately. No Member put forth a proposed amendment immediately. Members unanimously endorsed the captioned minutes.

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

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

IV Item 3: Services Provided to Elderly Persons with Dementia and Their Carers by District Elderly Community Centres

(TWDC SWC Paper No. 6/25-26)

6. The Chairman said that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) submitted the paper. The representatives from the department and organisation attending the meeting were:

- (1) Miss CHAN Shuk-ying, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)3 (ADSWO(TW/KwT)3), SWD;
- (2) Ms CHEUNG Mei-yee, Social Work Officer 1 (Planning & Coordinating),

SWD; and

- (3) Ms LAU Wing-sze, Serena, Social Worker (SW), The Hong Kong Society for the Aged (SAGE) Tsuen Wan District Elderly Community Centre (TWDECC).

7. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD introduced the paper. SW of the SAGE TWDECC introduced the three service objectives of the SAGE TWDECC, as well as the services provided for elderly persons with dementia and their carers.

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

- (1) a Member was concerned about singleton elders who suffered from dementia but lacked support from their families and relatives. The Member enquired how the SAGE TWDECC assisted such elders at present, for instance what were the procedures and arrangements for managing situations where these elders wandered off or became lost;
- (2) a Member enquired whether the SAGE cooperated with housing estates and property management companies currently to provide security personnel with relevant trainings on identifying and assisting elderly persons with dementia;
- (3) a Member was aware that the training content of the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Elderly Care (the “Pilot Scheme”) included caregiving skills for elderly persons with dementia, and wished to learn more details; and
- (4) a Member was concerned about the application of gerontechnology, and suggested stepping up efforts in promoting relevant technologies, such as GPS positioning and tracking, the utilisation of Octopus cards to locate missing persons and the mobile application “CHEERS”, etc. Moreover, the Member enquired about the acceptance of gerontechnology among elderly persons, and raised pertinent concerns regarding whether technologies such as electronic geofencing or fall detection devices equipped with cameras might cause elderly persons to worry about the potential restrictions on their freedom and privacy. The Member hoped that relevant departments would draw upon the successful experience of implementing gerontechnology so as to enhance the effectiveness of the Care Teams in supporting the elderly.

9. SW of the SAGE TWDECC responded as follows:

- (1) the SAGE TWDECC actively provided support services for elderly persons with dementia, and had set up an elderly support service unit to specially address the needs of singleton elders. In addition to providing regular services, the SAGE TWDECC also referred elderly persons in need to home care services (such as meal delivery and drug management, etc.) and arranged for teams consisted of nurses and social workers to follow up on their living conditions, with a view to supporting the elderly persons to age in place according to their wishes;
- (2) the SAGE TWDECC endeavoured to build a dementia-friendly community.

It had planned to cooperate with housing estates and property management companies to provide security personnel with training on identifying and assisting elderly persons with dementia, as well as to organise district-based activities and talks on a regular basis, so as to strengthen collaboration in the community;

- (3) the SAGE TWDECC took forward the Pilot Scheme every year. Its curriculum covered basic caregiving skills for the elderly (such as lifting techniques and nutrition management) alongside specialised content on dementia. The courses were taught by professionals (such as nurses, physiotherapists and nutritionists, etc.) and interpretation services were offered to help foreign domestic helpers better understand the behaviours and emotions of elderly persons, thereby enhancing their abilities and service quality in terms of caring for the elders;
- (4) the SAGE TWDECC actively promoted gerontechnology, including GPS positioning and tracking, the utilisation of Octopus Cards to locate missing persons and door sensors, etc. In the meantime, the SAGE TWDECC was concerned about the acceptance of gerontechnology by elderly persons, such as privacy concerns arising from the installation of cameras and considerations to the cost of application, etc. The SAGE TWDECC advised carers to proactively assist in installing the relevant devices and explain their functions to the elders patiently so as to increase the utilisation rate of the devices concerned;
- (5) the service area of the Support Team for the Elderly covered the entire Tsuen Wan district. It set up on-street booths to introduce the services of the SAGE TWDECC to residents on a regular basis, with a view to ensuring that more elders and their family members become aware of the relevant resources; and
- (6) since the implementation of the “Reach to Bridge” Community Elderly Support Project (the “Support Project”) subsidised by the Hong Kong Jockey Club in 2025, the SAGE TWDECC had proactively reached out to singleton and doubleton elderly households, as well as elderly persons who had not previously received elderly services subvented by the Government. The Support Project specifically targeted elderly persons receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or Disability Allowance, providing them with simple home fixes and support for replacing electrical appliances or assistive devices, thereby improving their quality of life. The Support Project also included the organisation of diversified community activities to encourage elderly persons to gradually integrate into the community. It adopted a “member referral” approach, in which existing service users would invite other elderly persons who had not yet received services to join the Support Project together, further expanding its coverage by such means. The SAGE TWDECC hoped to establish initial connections with the elderly through the Support Project and build a robust community support network as early as possible for elderly persons who might need assistance due to physical or cognitive decline in the future.

10. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded as follows:
- (1) some singleton elders resisted receiving elderly support services, partly because they might be unaware of their gradually declining abilities. Therefore, they should be encouraged to establish initial connections with local groups so as to enhance the support network and ensure that they would receive appropriate assistance when necessary; and
 - (2) it was also advised that family and friends, neighbours and other members of the local community who were acquaintances of singleton elders should observe and learn about their living conditions through visits and contact. In this way, timely assistance could be provided when necessary. Support at community-level not only aided the identification of potential dangers faced by singleton elders as early as possible but also facilitated future service intervention.
11. The views and enquiries of Members were further summarised as follows:
- (1) a Member suggested that the SWD should collect relevant information on elderly services provided in Tsuen Wan district (including the service items provided by each organisation), then compile the information and send it to various DC Members' ward offices. It would facilitate the promotion and publicity of relevant services to elders or persons in need by DC Members, and would also enhance the efficiency of information dissemination; and
 - (2) a Member enquired about the coordination and division of labour on the services provided in Tsuen Wan district between the SAGE and Yan Chai Hospital Fong Yock Yee Neighbourhood Elderly Centre, and whether the cases of dementia were uniformly handled by the SAGE while other general elderly services were undertaken by different elderly centres according to their geographical locations. The Member suggested that the SAGE should enhance cooperation with the Tsuen Wan Care Teams to hold more cross-organisational community activities and make concerted efforts with other organisations to raise residents' awareness on elderly services as well as to expand the scope of services.
12. SW of the SAGE TWDECC responded as follows:
- (1) the follow-up work for elderly cases in the district (such as applying for residential care homes for the elderly or day care centres) were handled by various elderly centres based on geographical divisions, details of which could be found on the online list of service areas. The support and service promotion related to dementia were jointly undertaken by various elderly centres in the district. A total of seven neighbourhood elderly centres (NECs) and one district elderly community centre (DECC) provided relevant services (including group activities and check-ups on dementia) in Tsuen Wan district, bringing convenience to residents by allowing them to choose a nearby centre to receive services; and
 - (2) the SAGE was responsible for coordinating the publicity strategies for dementia services across 21 elderly centres in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing districts. Through integrating resources and facilitating collaboration

across various centres, it was ensured that elderly persons would receive the services they needed regardless of which centre they visited.

13. The SW of the SAGE TWDECC introduced the district services provided by the SAGE TWDECC regarding dementia.

14. A Member pointed out that some elders might be misdiagnosed as having dementia because of their low education level when undergoing preliminary testing at on-street booths. The Member therefore enquired about the specific details of the testing methods.

15. SW of the SAGE TWDECC responded that having regard to the limited testing time and high footfall at on-street booths, the SAGE TWDECC adopted the approach of “clock drawing” for preliminary screening. Elders were required to draw a clock indicating a specific time based on the instructions. Those who failed the test would be invited to the SAGE TWDECC for a more detailed cognitive assessment, known as MoCA. MoCA was an internationally recognised cognitive function assessment tool widely used in hospitals and communities at present. Its scoring criteria would be adjusted based on factors such as the test-taker’s education level and age. In addition, the SAGE TWDECC would also take in account other factors affecting the accuracy of the test (including hearing ability, etc.) as well as inquire whether the elders had experienced relevant symptoms (such as difficulty in recognising dates or getting lost, etc.). It would refer the elderly persons to healthcare institutions for treatment based on the results of the tests.

16. SW of the SAGE TWDECC introduced the “Dementia Awareness Kit”.

17. The Chairman said that a growing trend of dementia cases among younger people had been observed in recent years. Many DC Members had received relevant requests for assistance (such as elderly persons had forgotten to pay while shopping), and there had been a certain number of cases where the patients had been found wandering in the community. He asked the SWD to introduce service units which provided support related to dementia.

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

- (1) early identification of elderly persons with dementia was conducive to reducing their risk of wandering off;
- (2) regarding the follow-up actions on cases of elderly persons wandering off, the Police would refer the cases to the relevant integrated family service centres (IFSCs) for follow up based on the individual circumstances and needs of the cases upon obtaining the consent from the family members of the elderly persons. Social workers of the IFSCs would learn about the conditions of the elderly persons and their families, including whether the family members encountered any difficulties in caregiving, whether the elderly person was receiving treatment for dementia and whether the elderly

person had emotional or behavioural problems, etc. Appropriate support would then be provided for them, such as referring them to relevant service units or applying for residential care services for elderly persons; and

- (3) elders could also use the Community Care Service Voucher (CCSV) for the Elderly to purchase services supporting patients with dementia in Tsuen Wan district from relevant service units. In addition to the SAGE, units that provided relevant services in the district included Yan Chai Hospital Yim Tsui Yuk Shan Active Mind Centre, Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Gene Hwa Lee Centre as well as Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Yee Chi Home-based Cognitive Training and Day Care Centre. Elders could choose to participate in activities and/or receive home-based support services at the aforementioned centres according to their needs. Members could approach these centres for further details.

19. SW of the SAGE TWDECC responded that since there was a trend indicating that the age of individuals suffering from dementia was getting younger, many patients still maintained good mobility despite the fact that impairment of partial brain function had led to memory decline as well as changes in personality and emotions. As a result, they were prone to wander off. Common scenarios included recent retirees mistakenly believing that they still needed to work, elderly persons recently discharged from hospital being unable to recognise their own residence, some who had just moved forgetting how to return to their new home, and some going out due to disrupted sleep-wake cycles, etc. As these elders were often reluctant to acknowledge their illness, therefore their family members would experience greater stress during the caregiving process.

20. A Member pointed out that some elders were not eligible to apply for the CCSV because their personal assets had exceeded the stipulated limits. The Member enquired how they should assist the elderly persons concerned.

21. SW of the SAGE TWDECC responded as follows:

- (1) the means test for the CCSV was based on the incomes of the applicant and his/her family members residing in the same premises, but the Old Age Living Allowance was not included in the calculation. It also drew reference from the median month domestic household income updated quarterly by the Census and Statistics Department to determine the co-payment category of the elderly persons; and
- (2) for elderly persons who did not wish to undergo the means test, they might consider choosing the long-term care services, such as day care centre services and home care services under the SWD. Even though the services concerned were not specifically targeted at patients with dementia, service units would still provide elders with various training (including cognitive training) based on their needs. It was comparable to the services subvented by the CCSV. Elderly persons could contact the DECCs or NECs in their districts to seek for assistance in applying for the services in need. While waiting for their applications to be processed, elders might consider using

other support services available at the centres until they received approval for getting long-term care services.

V Adjournment of Meeting

22. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 5 November 2025 (Wednesday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 20 October 2025 (Monday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

18 September 2025