

(Translation)

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of
Social Welfare Committee (2/25-26)

Date : 25 June 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
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-jee

Government Representatives

Mr KWAN Chun-kit, Eric	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
Miss CHONG Yin-fai	Social Work Officer 3 (Planning & Coordinating), Social Welfare Department

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

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

In Attendance:

For discussion of item 5

Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy

Senior School Development Officer
(Tsuen Wan)1, Education Bureau

Mr CHAN Pak-woon

Senior School Development Officer
(Tsuen Wan)2, Education Bureau

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 9th 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 8th Meeting held on 23.4.2025

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: Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Social Welfare Office 2025-26 District Welfare Work Plan

(TWDC SWC Paper No. 3/25-26)

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

- (1) Miss CHAN Shuk-ying, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)3 (ADSWO(TW/KwT)3), SWD; and
- (2) Miss CHONG Yin-fai, Social Work Officer 3 (Planning & Coordinating) (SWO3(P&C)), SWD.

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

Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing District Social Welfare Office under the SWD, the Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Welfare Work Plan aimed to actively involve local non-governmental organisations, the healthcare sector, the education sector, the business sector and various stakeholders through district-level planning and co-ordination. Through cross-sectoral and cross-service collaboration, these partakers would jointly take forward various welfare services in response to local welfare needs besides providing regular services. The 2025-26 Welfare Work Plan covered a wide range of areas, including family and child welfare services, services for the elderly, rehabilitation services, youth services and volunteer services.

8. Members noted the content of the captioned paper.

V Item 4: Expanding the Scope of Recruitment of Volunteers to Promote Volunteerism among Tsuen Wan Residents
(TWDC SWC Paper No. 4/25-26)

9. The Chairman said that Mr MOK Yuen-kwan, Mr KOO Yeung-pong, Mr TSANG Tai, Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker, Ms WAH Mei-ling, Mr CHENG Chit-pun, Mr CHOW Sum-ming, Mr LAU Chung-kong, Mr CHAN Chun-chung and Mr KOT Siu-yuen submitted the paper. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Miss CHAN Shuk-ying, ADSWO(TW/KwT)3, SWD; and
- (2) Miss CHONG Yin-fai, SWO3(P&C), SWD.

Besides, the written reply of the SWD was tabled at the meeting.

10. Mr MOK Yuen-kwan introduced the paper.

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

- (1) the Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Co-ordinating Committee on Promotion of Volunteer Service (the “Co-ordinating Committee”) accessed the needs of volunteer work as well as reviewed the situation of services in the district annually, and put forth views on strategies to promote volunteer work in the district in accordance to the current service policies. In the meantime, the Co-ordinating Committee actively fostered cooperation among social welfare organisations, government departments and local groups to ensure full implementation and promotion of volunteerism in the district;
- (2) the Co-ordinating Committee had motivated local organisations to recruit and train volunteers through the “Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing University of Volunteer” (the “University of Volunteer”) volunteer training programme since 1999. Participants who successfully completed the programme were commended through the platform of the University of Volunteer, thereby encouraging volunteers to continue to take part in volunteer work in the district. Every term, the University of Volunteer recruited volunteer trainees from different sectors, and it had already nurtured over 3 800 volunteers for Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing districts;

- (3) in support of the Care the Carers Campaign launched by the SWD, the University of Volunteer had provided carers in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing districts (including carers of elderly persons, persons with disabilities, students with special educational needs and families) with support under the theme of “Yes ‘V’ Companion” since 2023;
- (4) the Co-ordinating Committee had all along been encouraging social welfare organisations to cooperate with various local groups in forming joint teams to recruit and train volunteers, as well as to serve people in need in the district together. In recent years, in addition to social welfare organisations and educational groups, groups participating in the volunteer training programme had also extended to the business sector, the healthcare sector and local organisations (including religious groups). In the coming years, the Co-ordinating Committee would continue to foster cross-sectoral collaboration among various groups and encourage all age groups to take part in volunteer services, particularly to support carers and the underprivileged in the district, through the volunteer training programme; and
- (5) as far as the SWD knew, apart from the award scheme offered by the University of Volunteer, various groups and enterprises in the district had also established their own volunteer award schemes. The SWD had all along been encouraging various groups to persistently promote volunteer services and commend volunteers.

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

- (1) a Member enquired what organisations had joined the volunteer training programme of the University of Volunteer. Moreover, the Member enquired whether the Care Teams or DC Members’ ward offices could participate in the aforesaid training programme;
- (2) a Member pointed out that the SWD currently lacked sufficient manpower to answer the Designated Hotline for Carer Support, making it difficult for members of the public to seek for assistance through the hotline;
- (3) a Member suggested that the University of Volunteer should encourage graduates to join the Care Teams. Besides, the Member hoped to recommend volunteer members of the Care Teams to participate in the training programme concerned; and
- (4) a Member commended the Community Emergency Responder Scheme of the Hong Kong Fire Services Department (HKFSD), and suggested that the University of Volunteer should draw reference from the aforesaid scheme to attract participation from experienced individuals.

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

- (1) organisations participating in the volunteer training programme of the University of Volunteer included social welfare organisations, hospitals, parent-teacher associations (PTAs), religious groups and business organisations, with some groups participating in the form of joint teams. The current term of the University of Volunteer had a total of 26 participating organisations, and 21 volunteer teams had been formed. The SWD would

- continue to encourage different groups to participate in the programme;
- (2) the SWD noted Members' views, and would explore the cooperation between volunteers of the Care Teams and participating organisations of the University of Volunteer with the Co-ordinating Committee;
 - (3) the SWD noted the Member's views on the Designated Hotline for Carer Support; and
 - (4) currently, a registered social worker was required in each volunteer team to assist in implementing volunteer training and service planning throughout the year. Other local groups might consider cooperating with the welfare service units in the district to participate in the volunteer training programme of the University of Volunteer in the form of joint teams. Therefore, the Care Teams interested in pairing up with local welfare teams could contact the Planning and Co-ordinating Team of the Welfare Office under the SWD for co-ordination.

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

- (1) a Member suggested that the SWD should encourage public organisations and different religious groups to take part in local volunteer services;
- (2) a Member enquired whether the alumni association of the University of Volunteer was still in operation; and
- (3) a Member proposed inviting the Care Teams to join the University of Volunteer directly.

15. The Chairman said that Yan Chai Hospital had set up a volunteer team that welcomed both individual volunteers and group enrolments. In addition, many government departments had set up their own volunteer teams, such as the Junior Police Call of the Hong Kong Police Force and the Community Emergency Responder of the HKFSD. The Chairman suggested that the Government should encourage different departments to actively promote volunteer services.

16. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD said that the SWD had all along been supporting and encouraging the public and members of all sectors in the community to participate in volunteer services. It had been making dedicated efforts in promoting volunteerism together with various non-governmental organisations and members from different sectors, as well as continuously encouraging diversified volunteer services. Members' views regarding the University of Volunteer would be forwarded to the Co-ordinating Committee for reference.

VI Item 5: Concern about the Mental Health of and Emotional Support for Students in Tsuen Wan

(TWDC SWC Paper No. 5/25-26)

17. The Chairman said that Dr CHEUNG Man-ka, Ms WONG Shuk-fan and Ms LAM Yuen-pun submitted the paper. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Miss CHAN Shuk-ying, ADSWO(TW/KwT)3, SWD;
- (2) Miss CHONG Yin-fai, SWO3(P&C), SWD;

- (3) Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy, Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)¹, Education Bureau (EDB); and
- (4) Mr CHAN Pak-woon, Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)² (SSDO(TW)²), EDB.

Besides, the written replies of the SWD and EDB were tabled at the meeting.

18. Dr CHEUNG Man-ka, Ms WONG Shuk-fan and Ms LAM Yuen-pun introduced the paper.

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

- (1) in regard to the mental health and emotional support for youths, the SWD had implemented the measure of “two school social workers for each school” in secondary schools and jointly established the Three-tier School-based Emergency Mechanism with the EDB and Health Bureau (HB) at present. Under the second-tier mechanism of the said mechanism, the SWD had commissioned five non-governmental organisations to form the off-campus support network teams to provide assistance for schools with insufficient manpower. In addition, ADSWO(TW/KwT)³ of the SWD introduced to Members the Cyber Youth Support Teams and the implementation of the Accommodation · Inclusion programme in the district, through which the SWD had supported the psychological and developmental needs of school children and youths inside and outside schools on various fronts; and
- (2) regarding the mental health and emotional support for primary school students, school social workers or teachers of primary schools could refer students in need to the Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) in the district (for issues including parental pressure, disciplinary problems and school children behavioural concerns, etc.). The IFSCs would intervene and follow up at the case level so as to provide relevant assistance.

20. SSDO(TW)² of the EDB responded as follows:

- (1) with a view to supporting students with mental health needs, the education, healthcare and social welfare sectors had all along been working together closely and endeavoured to provide appropriate support services. In particular, the HB, together with the EDB, Hospital Authority (HA) and SWD, had jointly launched the Student Mental Health Support Scheme (SMHSS) to provide support services and multi-disciplinary intervention services to students with mental health needs in schools through the collaborative mode of medical, educational and social disciplines. Moreover, the EDB would further enhance the co-ordination and cooperation with the HB, Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB), Department of Health, SWD, HA, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in the community through the platform of the Advisory Committee on Mental Health to provide students with mental health needs with cross-departmental, multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral integrated services; and
- (2) regarding the support provided by schools to students, the Three-tier School-

based Emergency Mechanism integrated multi-disciplinary teams inside schools and support network as well as medical services outside schools to identify students with high suicidal risks as early as possible. The EDB had provided comprehensive student counselling and support services at public schools (including schools in Tsuen Wan district) through implementing the Whole School Approach and multi-disciplinary collaboration. Under the Whole School Approach, professionals from various disciplines inside schools (including teachers, school social workers, student guidance personnel and school-based educational psychologists, etc.) would cooperate to provide students with services and support students in need. Schools might flexibly utilise the subsidies provided by the Government or consolidate other internal resources based on students' needs to hire additional student guidance personnel or purchase relevant services from other organisations, with a view to strengthening the assistance for students. Since the counselling and social worker services required by each school were not entirely the same, the EDB offered a diverse range of resources that schools could flexibly utilise based on the context of the school and the unique needs of students, so that students could receive the most appropriate support to foster their all-round development.

21. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
 - (1) a Member suggested that schools should identify students with higher risks of having mental health problems as early as possible for the SWD and EDB to render continuous and effective assistance;
 - (2) in addition to regular support, a Member suggested that the EDB and SWD should provide students with additional assistance during periods when students were particularly vulnerable to suicidal risks (such as during examination months and before school commencement);
 - (3) a Member proposed addressing family issues through family education, thereby reducing the family pressure on students and helping children instill proper values as well as enhancing their resilience to pressure during the toddler and pre-primary stages; and
 - (4) a Member suggested that the EDB should carry out publicity targeted at parents (such as through media and promotional slogan, etc.) to remind them the importance of prioritising the physical and mental well-being of their children and to avoid forcing their kids into excessive tutorial and hobby classes driven by a competitive mindset.

22. SSDO(TW)2) of the EDB responded as follows:
 - (1) the EDB had all along been attaching great importance to the mental health of students and endeavoured to assist schools in adopting the Whole School Approach at three levels (namely Universal, Selective and Indicated) to promote the mental health of students. At the Universal level, establishing a healthy lifestyle was one of the seven learning goals of the school curriculum, with relevant learning elements integrated into a part of the subjects. Apart from disseminating information and online resources

promoting students' mental health to schools and parents, the EDB had continued to promote a range of growth programmes actively, enabling students to embrace challenges with an optimistic and positive attitude through adventure-based, team-building and problem-solving training. The EDB had also established the "Mental Health@School" Teacher Professional Network to share the latest information and resources on a regular basis. The EDB had introduced the Mental Health Literacy Resource Packages for students at upper primary and junior secondary levels in the 2023/24 school year, and the resource packages for students at senior secondary and lower primary levels would also be introduced in the 2024/25 school year. Moreover, the EDB had provided secondary schools with videos and lesson plans related to improving students' mental health in the 2024/25 school year, assisting teachers in facilitating discussions and sharing with students in class. In addition, the EDB had taken forward the 4Rs Mental Health Charter in the 2024/25 school year, encouraging participation from schools across the territory to set goals and take concrete actions to promote the physical and mental health of students. Meanwhile, the EDB provided schools with more services, activities and courses through cross-departmental and cross-sectoral cooperation. With a view to assisting parents in mastering the knowledge and skills about supporting the healthy growth of their children and taking care of their children's mental health, the EDB would increase the number of thematic courses on parent education, promoting positive parent education and raising parents' awareness on children's mental health care through diversified approaches (such as district-based film gala presentations);

- (2) at the Selective level, the EDB provided teachers, parents and students with multiple training, including the "gatekeeper" training and thematic courses on "Focusing on Students with Mental Illness" for teachers. Moreover, it had launched the Peer Power – Student Gatekeeper Training Programme for secondary school students to help identify students in need of mental health support as early as possible. The EDB had also organised a number of training workshops for teachers and school guidance personnel in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 school years, enhancing teachers' capacity to identify and support students with mental health needs as early as possible;
- (3) at the Indicated level, the EDB provided public sector ordinary schools with the Learning Support Grant which specifically aimed at supporting students with mental illness. Schools might utilise additional resources to strengthen their care for the needs of such students. The EDB had also launched the SMHSS together with the HB, HA and SWD to provide support services and multi-disciplinary intervention services for students with mental health needs;
- (4) the EDB had provided the One-off Grant for Mental Health at School and One-off Grant for Mental Health of Parents and Students to all publicly-funded secondary and primary schools and their PTAs in December 2023, assisting them in organising activities that promoted students' mental health and purchasing services or supplies. Schools might utilise the grants concerned in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 school years to organise various

activities and programmes that would promote the mental health of students and teachers; and

- (5) in regard to parent education, the EDB had launched the Positive Parent Campaign in June 2020 to promote positive parent education. The campaign aimed to help parents develop a positive mindset and advocate proper approaches and attitudes to child-rearing through extensive and diversified promotional channels. The EDB had also introduced the Curriculum Framework on Parent Education to foster the health, happiness and balanced development of children and youngsters. Besides, to complement the launch of the Curriculum Framework on Parent Education, the EDB had provided one-off additional subsidies to kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, assisting schools in implementing systematic school-based programmes and activities on parent education and fostering a culture of positive parent education. In the 2024/25 school year, with a view to enhancing positive parent education as well as enhancing parents' knowledge and skills on nurturing children, the EDB had worked with the Committee on Home-School Co-operation and Jockey Club "Peace and Awareness" Mindfulness Culture in Schools Initiative to organise the Positive Parent Education Film Gala Presentation. Educational psychologists had been invited to share with parents the keys to improve the emotional health of families and the ways to listen to children's thoughts and feelings as well as to strengthen the parent-child relationship. To equip parents with the knowledge and skills on supporting the healthy growth of children and caring for their mental health, the EDB had entrusted non-governmental organisations to organise the "Caring for Their Heart and Soul, Growing along with Your Children" Parent Education Talk Series for parents of primary and secondary school students in the 2024/25 school year. The content covered topics on children's mental health, including supporting children to develop a healthy lifestyle, handling conflicts, using digital devices smartly, strengthening adaptability and resilience, managing stress, understanding and caring for children with mental health needs, etc. The EDB had also disseminated a wide range of information concerning students' mental health and supporting students' physical and mental development to students and parents through online platforms (such as Mental Health@School and Smart Parent Net) and social media (including Facebook, Instagram pages and YouTube channels, etc.).

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

- (1) the SWD accorded a high priority to parental work. The Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Local Committee on Services for Young People had been committed to promoting the cooperation between social welfare organisations and schools, so as to enhance parent education and support. For instance, it encouraged social welfare organisations to proactively approach parents on the Parents' Day and parents' talks, provided consultation on issues such as children education and communication, as well as distributed relevant information;

- (2) besides, the Clinical Psychological Service Branch under the SWD had released multiple thematic short videos on its YouTube channel. Such videos covered topics such as healthy communication between parents and children, managing parenting challenges and addressing children's emotional problems, etc. The SWD also encouraged youth service and family service units to utilise those videos for publicity purposes; and
 - (3) at the same time, the SWD had held cross-sectoral collaborative activities in the district, with a view to enhancing parent education and improving the mental health of parents, thereby bringing positive influence to the mental health of their children.
24. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) a Member opined that cross-sectoral cooperation on various fronts (such as schools, teachers, social workers, the Government and parents, etc.) was required to handle school children's mental health problems. The Member was pleased to see that the SMHSS comprised teams formed by professionals including doctors, nurses, teachers and social workers. The Member enquired about the numbers of schools participating in the SMHSS and its effectiveness; and
 - (2) a Member suggested that the EDB should allocate additional resources to implement the measure of "two school social workers for each school" in primary schools.
25. SSDO(TW)2) of the EDB responded as follows:
- (1) the EDB would convey the suggestion on implementing the measure of "two school social workers for each school" in primary schools to the departments concerned. Given the unique contexts of each school as well as the varied learning and developmental needs of students, the EDB would provide schools with diversified resources so that schools could flexibly utilise and integrate different resources to provide appropriate support for students in need; and
 - (2) the EDB currently did not have the data on the number of participating schools in the SMHSS and its effectiveness. The information would be provided after the meeting.
(Post-meeting supplementary information: the number of participating schools was 210 in the 2024/25 school year. The schools participating in the SMHSS held that the scheme had effectively assisted them in supporting students with mental health needs.)
26. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded that the frontline social workers of the SWD would join the meetings of the SMHSS based on the needs of individual cases, providing assistance for school children with mental health problems as well as their families.
27. A Member opined that parents who seldom participated in school or PTA activities might be at a higher risk of having family problems. The Member suggested that the

EDB should allocate additional resources for schools to approach and support such kind of parents.

28. The Chairman said that compared with primary school students, secondary school students tended to have closer interactions with teachers, therefore it was relatively easier to identify students with mental health problems. He opined that primary schools had a higher demand for social workers and it was more necessary for them to implement the measure of “two school social workers for each school”. As the School Supervisor for both secondary and primary schools, he would also encourage teachers to take the initiative in conducting preliminary identification.

29. SSDO(TW)2 of the EDB responded that the EDB had provided teachers with various training on identifying students with mental health needs (such as the “gatekeeper” training), and encouraged teachers to proactively reach out to students and parents.

VII Item 6: Any Other Business

30. Mr MOK Yuen-kwan gave a brief account on the matters discussed in the first meeting of the Organising Committee for International Day of Persons with Disabilities under the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities (HKJCPD). The International Day of Persons with Disabilities had been held on 3 December every year in the past, yet this year’s event would be held on 14 November 2025 at Discovery Park due to venue issue. The HKJCPD encouraged DC Members and members of the community to promote the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to various sectors. In addition, the HKJCPD had prepared about 500 complimentary tickets for admission to a theme park and planned to distribute them to persons with disabilities as well as their carers. Besides, the date of the Free Ride Day was pending confirmation. Lastly, funding arrangements for district services on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities were in place, with grants generally ranging from \$40,000 to \$50,000. The funding was provided by the LWB. Upon finalisation of the detailed arrangements, the HKJCPD would invite applications from non-government organisations in the district.

VIII Adjournment of Meeting

31. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 27 August 2025 (Wednesday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 12 August 2025 (Tuesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
15 July 2025