

(Translation)

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
Social Welfare Committee (4/24-25)

Date : 4 November 2024
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
Ms 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
Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita	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 3

Mr LAI Wai-shing, Daniel

Senior Social Work Supervisor,
Caritas Joyous Link District Support
Centre, Caritas Hong Kong

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 5th meeting of the Social Welfare Committee (SWC).

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 4th Meeting held on 2.9.2024

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: Discussion on the Services Provided by the District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC SWC Paper No. 7/24-25)

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

- (1) Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)3 (ADSWO(TW/KwT)3), SWD;
- (2) Miss CHONG Yin-fai, Social Work Officer 3 (Planning & Coordinating), SWD; and
- (3) Mr LAI Wai-shing, Daniel, Senior Social Work Supervisor (SSWS), Caritas Joyous Link District Support Centre (CJL), Caritas Hong Kong.

7. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD and SSWS of the CJL, Caritas Hong Kong introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member enquired about the number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Tsuen Wan district and the number of PWDs from Tsuen Wan district among the 433 members of the CJL;
- (2) a Member enquired whether PWDs were required to pay any other extra fees in addition to the membership fee of \$21 when participating in activities;
- (3) a Member asked about the procedures of referring cases involving PWDs to the CJL, and whether the membership form was in Chinese;
- (4) a Member enquired about the number of places of day care service for persons with severe disabilities provided by the CJL, and whether the places were sufficient to meet the demand in the district;
- (5) a Member enquired of the SWD whether it had set any key performance indicators (KPIs) for the services provided by the CJL, and if yes, whether such KPIs were applicable to all District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities (DSCs);
- (6) a Member asked whether elderly persons with disabilities aged 60 or above were allowed to use both the services provided by the DSCs and elderly centres;
- (7) a Member reflected local parents' concern over the designated team for special school leavers, including the handover of cases between different DSCs and the co-ordination between the DSCs and school social workers. In addition, the Member enquired about the age groups of these school leavers and their reasons for leaving schools; and
- (8) a Member enquired how the SWD determined the number of places of day respite service for PWDs provided by each DSC. The Member also asked about the reasons for the CJL to charge its members, the amount of subvention allocated to the CJL by the SWD, and the service period as well as the staffing establishment of the CJL.

9. SSWS of the CJL, Caritas Hong Kong responded as follows:

- (1) among the existing 433 members of the CJL, about half of them were from Tsuen Wan district;
- (2) PWDs could contact the staff of the CJL through channels such as visiting the centre in person, making phone calls or being referred by social workers, etc. The staff of the CJL was happy to assist in completing the membership forms, and would register members' basic personal information on computers for record keeping;
- (3) in addition to the membership fee of \$21, members were required to pay corresponding fees in order to join different activities. Such fees were effective in encouraging members to participate in the activities more actively and reduce the likelihood of absence by members after registration. The CJL would consider the affordability of members when setting the fees

concerned. According to the CJL's observation, members were willing to pay for the membership fee and other relevant fees in general. However, the CJL had also established a fee remission/waiving mechanism for persons in need;

- (4) the general services of the CJL also covered PWDs aged 60 or above. The day care service for persons with severe disabilities targeted PWDs aged between 15 to 59, and persons with severe disabilities aged 60 or above could make use of the services provided by the Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly;
- (5) the CJL would support and assist school leavers who had left special schools within 18 months as well as their families/carers in different ways, so as to facilitate the smooth transition from school to community living by school leavers. The CJL would also assist school leavers in their admission and adaptation to sheltered workshops, day activity centres and/or residential services, etc.;
- (6) most school leavers left school owing to graduation, and a few quit because they were physically unfit to continue their studies. The CJL would work closely with school social workers in regard to assisting school leavers, and would help special school leavers aged 15 or above to bridge over to adult services. Moreover, if parents or carers had any enquiries about the services provided by the designated team for special school leavers, they could contact the person-in-charge of the designated team at the CJL directly;
- (7) the CJL provided two places of day respite service for PWDs at present. It would also provide extra places of such service to meet the demand during holidays in response to local needs;
- (8) the SWD had provided adequate subvention to the CJL to ensure that it had sufficient manpower and resources to offer various services; and
- (9) the CJL currently had a total of 40-odd staff (including professional and frontline staff), among which ten were registered social workers, including two dedicated social workers who were newly assigned to provide services for school leavers. The CJL would deploy its manpower in a flexible manner to meet the needs of the community.

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

- (1) in addition to the day care service for persons with severe disabilities, the CJL also offered respite services. Persons in need could approach the CJL directly to make enquiries. Members and/or the Care Teams could also introduce the services concerned to residents in the district, and refer the cases in need to the CJL by using the relevant referral forms in Chinese. Moreover, persons in need could search for the vacancies of residential and day respite services through the "Vacancy Enquiry System for Respite Services/Emergency Placement" of the SWD and contact the service unit concerned for service arrangement;
- (2) the number of places of day care service for persons with severe disabilities and that of day respite service provided by each DSC might be different. The SWD had uploaded the Funding and Service Agreements of the DSCs

on its website, in which the performance standards on various services were set out for perusal by the public;

- (3) the SWD would determine the number of places of day respite service by taking into account various factors such as the size and ancillary facilities of each DSC. Besides, there was no locality restriction on the use of day respite service for PWDs. Persons in need in Tsuen Wan district could search for vacancies through the “Vacancy Enquiry System for Respite Services/Emergency Placement” and contact the service units with vacant places within or outside the district for arranging respite services;
- (4) the membership fee concerned was effective in enhancing members’ motivation to participate in the activities. Persons facing economic hardship could approach the DSC concerned to apply for fee waiving; and
- (5) the information on the amount of subvention provided to the CJL would be supplemented after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: Under the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, the Government provided subvention on a per organisation basis every year. The subvention provided to organisations was mainly used to cover the cost of personal emoluments and other fees, less income from charges that were recognised by the SWD. More details could be found on the website of the SWD:

<https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/ngo/subventions/suballoc/lsgmanual/>)

11. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
 - (1) a Member pointed out that some carers of adult PWDs hoped that more care services could be provided to PWDs, so that they could have a day or two of rest every week to ease their mental pressure;
 - (2) a Member said that school leavers with disabilities might face the problem of change of carers, and suggested that the DSCs should follow up on the situation of these members half-yearly or yearly; and
 - (3) a Member enquired whether the services provided by the Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly included caring for persons with severe disabilities aged 60 or above.
12. SSWS of the CJL, Caritas Hong Kong responded as follows:
 - (1) members of the public could use respite services provided by the DSCs in their districts of residence. They could also apply for services at other DSCs/service units. The CJL would provide relevant assistance in this regard;
 - (2) the CJL provided respite services during holidays. The number of service places would also increase according to the actual needs of members; and
 - (3) the casework counselling of the CJL included arranging for counselling services provided by clinical psychologists. In addition, the casework of the CJL would support PWDs and their carers, which included providing household cleaning and tidying services for singleton PWDs with special needs, and referring cases in need to the Integrated Family Service Centres

for follow-up, etc.

13. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded that frail elderly persons aged 60 or above who had been assessed to be suitable for receiving community care services or residential care services under the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services could apply for services provided by the Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly.

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

- (1) regarding the services for special school leavers, a Member suggested that the SWD should closely follow up on the handover and collaboration between school social workers, the designated teams for special school leavers and the DSCs, and provide timely support to each unit in the district;
- (2) a Member suggested that the SWD should pay close attention to the average utilisation rate of respite services at various service units in the district, and make timely adjustments to the service places; and
- (3) a Member enquired whether there were care services for PWDs in the evening at present to cope with urgent needs.

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

- (1) the SWD noted the views on following up on the handover and collaboration between the designated teams for special school leavers and various units in the district;
- (2) the SWD would continuously review the needs for day respite service for PWDs in the district; and
- (3) members of the public could search for vacancies of residential and day respite services through the “Vacancy Enquiry System for Respite Services/Emergency Placement”. They could also call the 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support (phone number: 182 183) manned by social workers to seek for assistance.

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

- (1) a Member enquired about the number of PWDs in Tsuen Wan district, and hoped that the SWD would assess whether the relevant services could meet the demand with such figure; and
- (2) a Member enquired about the number of students with disabilities who had enrolled in ordinary schools under the integrated education policy, and expressed concern over the support targeting such students.

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

- (1) the information on the number of PWDs in Tsuen Wan district would be provided after the meeting; and
(Post-meeting note: The SWD does not maintain statistics on the number of PWDs in Tsuen Wan district. If Members came across PWDs and their families/carers in need of welfare services, they could refer the cases to the DSCs.)

- (2) Members could make enquiries to the Education Bureau about the number of students with disabilities who had enrolled in ordinary schools under the integrated education policy.

18. A Member enquired whether the DSCs would regularly get in touch with members who were school leavers to keep abreast of their situations to ensure that these school leavers with disabilities could cope with the change of carers.

19. SSWS of the CJL, Caritas Hong Kong responded that the CJL provided casework services for members and school leavers with service needs, and their situations would be followed up by social workers and/or other professional team members. In general, the CJL would convene a case meeting every six months to learn about the situation of the assistance seekers after they had received services and to review their latest needs.

V Item 4: Any Other Business

20. The Chairman said that the Primary Healthcare Commission of the Health Bureau had invited Members to serve on the District Health Centre Scheme Liaison Committee (DHCSLC).

21. After consulting Members, the Chairman decided to submit the name of Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum to the Chairman of the TWDC for the nomination to serve on the DHCSLC.

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

- (1) a Member said that quite a number of residents had recently expressed concern over the issue that the residents of Colourful Home (Tsuen Wan), a private residential care home for persons with disabilities (RCHD), would smoke and urinate outside the premises, and would even stare at children in a strange way, arousing anxiety among local residents. The Member enquired whether the SWD would step up its efforts in monitoring private RCHDs;
- (2) a Member enquired whether the SWD would offer professional training regularly to staff of private RCHDs for the provision of more comprehensive services (such as psychological counselling services); and
- (3) a Member suggested that the Government should carry out regular inspections to private RCHDs so as to monitor their service quality.

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

- (1) the SWD had implemented the Service Quality Group Scheme in RCHDs. Members of the Service Quality Group would visit RCHDs regularly to make observations about their facilities as well as services. The SWD noted Members' views on strengthening the monitoring of private RCHDs, and would continue to encourage private RCHDs to participate in the Service Quality Group Scheme in RCHDs, with a view to enhancing their service quality; and
- (2) the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities

(LORCHD) of the SWD was responsible for ensuring that the RCHDs were compliant with the statutory requirements, so that residents of these RCHDs would receive services that allowed their physiques, emotions and social interactions to achieve acceptable standards. Regarding the behaviour of certain residents of the RCHD concerned, the SWD would reflect the issue to the LORCHD. In addition, the SWD would convey local residents' concerns to the relevant RCHD and urge it to remind its residents that they should be mindful of their behaviour, with a view to maintaining a harmonious community.

VI Adjournment of Meeting

24. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 19 December 2024 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 4 December 2024 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
13 November 2024