

**Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of  
Social Welfare and Labour Committee  
under Yuen Long District Council in 2024**

Date: 23 December 2024 (Monday)  
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council, 13/F., Yuen Long Government Offices,  
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

**Present**

Chairman: Mr CHONG Kin-shing, MH, JP

Vice Chairman: Mr SZE TO Chun-hin

Members: Mr WONG Hiu-shan

Ms HO Hiu-man

Ms LI Ching-yee

Ms LAM Wai-ming

Mr TSUI Wai-ngoi

Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH

Ms MA Shuk-yin

Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum

Mr LEUNG Ming-kin

Mr CHAN Ka-fai

Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie

Mr WONG Siu-chung

Ms WONG Wai-ling

Mr WONG Wing-ho, Allan

Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH

Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie

Mr TAM Tak-hoi

Co-opted Members: Mr WU Kin-keung, Calvin

Ms TAM Kam-lin, MH

Secretary: Ms CHUNG Shuk-man, Winky      Executive Officer (District Council) 7,  
Yuen Long District Office

**In Attendance**

Mr LAU Hiu-lap, Frederick	Senior Liaison Officer 4, Yuen Long District Office
Ms WAN Yee-man, Fion	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long) 2, Social Welfare Department
Miss LUI Wing-man, Vivian	Labour Officer (Employment Services) (Yuen Long), Labour Department

**Item II**

Mr CHAN Hiu-fai (transliteration)	Service Director, Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
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**Items III to VI**

Mr MAN Cho-wai	Social Work Officer 1 (Planning & Coordinating), Social Welfare Department
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**Absence**

Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH	(Absent due to sickness)
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## **Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and department representatives to the sixth meeting of the Social Welfare and Labour Committee (“SWLC”) of the Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2024.

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received prior to the meeting an application from Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH for absence from the meeting due to sickness. According to Order 64(1) of the YLDC Standing Orders, a Member might apply to the Committee for absence from a meeting on grounds of sickness, attendance at a meeting of an advisory body or organisation appointed by the State or the Government, or any other reasons considered reasonable by the meeting could apply to the Committee for absence from a meeting. The SWLC should decide at the commencement of the meeting whether to consent to the application for absence. The Chairman asked Members whether they would consent to the application for absence of Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH.

3. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman announced that the SWLC consented to the application for absence of Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH.

### **Item I: Confirmation of minutes of the fifth meeting of SWLC in 2024 held on 28 October 2024**

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4. Members confirmed the minutes of the fifth meeting of the SWLC in 2024 held on 28 October 2024.

### **Discussion Item:**

#### **Item II: Introduction to the services of Evangelical Lutheran Church Hong Kong, Tin Shui Wai District Youth Outreaching Social Work Team and its investigation on “Space Oil” (SWLC Paper No. 24/2024)**

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5. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 24 and welcomed Mr CHAN Hiu-fai, Service Director of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong (“ELCSS-HK”), to the meeting.

6. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members suggested that relevant bureaux and departments strengthen efforts to combat “space oil” at its source to reduce its abuse among young people;
- (2) Members enquired about the support services provided by the ELCSS-HK for young people who abused “space oil”;
- (3) With the spread of “space oil” in the district, Members expressed concern that many young people might turn to drugs due to family or academic issues. They hoped that the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) and ELCSS-HK would enhance support for families in the district and further publicise the harmful effects of “space oil” through channels such as youth hostels, public transportation, distribution of information cards, or display of promotional materials at community events. Members emphasised that promotional materials should be youth-oriented to capture young people’s interest;

- (4) In response to the paper which indicated that young people aged 20 or below were the major users of “space oil”, Members enquired about the situation of individuals aged 21 or above vaping “space oil”. Members enquired about the drug testing methods for “space oil” and how parents could determine whether their children had developed the habit of vaping “space oil”; and
- (5) Members hoped that the SWD could collaborate with local stakeholders to organise more positive and sports-related activities for young people, providing them with outlets to relieve stress, learn to think positively and avoid vaping “space oil” or other drugs as a means of escaping reality.

7. A consolidated reply provided by Mr CHAN Hiu-fai of the ELCSS-HK was as follows:

- (1) To prevent young people from abusing “space oil”, collaboration between families, schools and the community was essential. Most young people turned to “space oil” due to academic pressure and a lack of family support. Therefore, strengthening school and family support, reducing academic stress, and providing young people with sufficient space to adjust were fundamental solutions;
- (2) For suspected cases of “space oil” abuse, it was recommended to promptly contact the Police and healthcare professionals for follow-up. If necessary, the outreaching team of the ELCSS-HK could also be contacted for immediate crisis support;
- (3) Strengthening publicity and community education could effectively combat the abuse of “space oil”, with efforts divided into three levels. Firstly, young people who had not been exposed to “space oil” should be educated on its harmful effects and encouraged to remain vigilant against it. Secondly, early identification and intervention should be carried out for those who had started using “space oil” but were not severely addicted to help them reduce the use of “space oil” gradually. Thirdly, assistance should be provided to help heavily addicted young people to get rid of their drug addiction. In addition, teachers should be equipped with proper case handling techniques and reporting procedures for “space oil” abuse;
- (4) Since the use of “space oil” among individuals aged 21 or above might be more hidden and could involve mixing with other drugs, the situation of such abusers might not be accurately reflected in the survey data of the ELCSS-HK. The ELCSS-HK would continue to monitor the situation;
- (5) After identifying young people abusing “space oil”, the ELCSS-HK would provide different forms of assistance based on professional judgement and assessment and decide whether to notify their families or schools depending on the circumstances;
- (6) “Space oil” could be detected through common drug testing methods, including urine test paper, hair sample and urinalysis conducted by the Government Laboratory. However, requiring children to undergo drug testing often caused serious family conflicts. Therefore, parents were advised to build trust with their children, communicate openly with each other and work together to solve the problem; and
- (7) The key to rehabilitation lay in supporting individuals in rebuilding their value of life. Therefore, having regular exercise, fostering good family relationships, and enhancing community support were essential in helping young people overcome drug addiction.

8. Ms Fion WAN of the SWD said that the department and the ELCSS-HK had been working closely on district youth work and commended the ELCSS-HK for its swift response to the problem of “space oil” abuse among young people in the district, including educating community stakeholders such as parents and teachers about the characteristics of “space oil” and its harmful effects on abusers.

9. The Chairman concluded that the abuse of “space oil” had far-reaching harm on young people and urged the public to pay more attention to young people around them. It was hoped that the problem could be curbed at an early stage with appropriate publicity as well as enforcement actions by the Police.

### **Questions Raised by Members:**

**Item III: Ms MA Shuk-yin, Ms Fennie LAI, Ms WONG Wai-ling and Mr SZE TO Chun-hin proposed a discussion on “Proposal for enhancing the promotion of gerontechnology among service providers and the elderly in Yuen Long District” (SWLC Paper No. 25/2024)**

10. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 25 and the written reply from the SWD. He also welcomed Mr MAN Cho-wai, Social Work Officer 1 (Planning & Coordinating) of the SWD to the meeting.

11. Members’ views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members received from time to time enquiries from the elderly regarding the use of gerontechnology and considered that some of the existing teaching materials were relatively complicated for the elderly. Members enquired about the assistance provided by the SWD in helping the elderly access and use such technology and suggested simplifying the teaching materials; and
- (2) Members enquired about the SWD’s approach in promoting gerontechnology to hidden elderly.

12. A consolidated reply provided by Ms Fion WAN of the SWD was as follows:

- (1) In addition to elderly centres, elderly eligible for the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (“Scheme”) could rent assistive technology products from certain service providers under the Scheme. Service providers would design suitable care plans for the elderly and provide free training and follow-up support services after rental, ensuring that the elderly and their caregivers clearly understood how to properly use the rented assistive technology products;
- (2) The SWD would continue to review the rental situation of gerontechnology products and collect feedback from relevant users of the Scheme in a timely manner; and
- (3) In March 2024, the SWD launched the District Services and Community Care Teams – Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers (“Pilot Scheme”). Taking Tsuen Wan and Southern District as pilot points, the Pilot Scheme provided assistance to households of singleton/doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons/persons with disabilities. The Pilot Scheme had achieved positive results and over 100 elderly people had been visited and referred to use the emergency alarm system. The Pilot Scheme would be extended to all 18 districts in Hong Kong in 2025, hoping to reach

more hidden elderly in the district and introduce them to various gerontechnology products and services to help them integrate into the community.

13. The Chairman concluded by requesting the SWD to enhance the promotion of gerontechnology to improve the quality of life for the elderly.

**Item IV: Ms LI Ching-yee proposed a discussion on “Enquiry about support services for ethnic minorities in Yuen Long District”  
(SWLC Paper No. 26/2024)**

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14. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 26 and the written replies from the SWD, the Labour Department (“LD”), the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”), the Education Bureau and the Census and Statistics Department.

15. Members’ views and enquiries on the item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members enquired about the support provided by the Government to ethnic minorities (“EMs”) living in Hong Kong, including assistance for hidden EMs, support for marriage and daily life, assistance in obtaining identity documents, and support for employment and education;
- (2) To improve the employment situation of EMs, Members suggested that the Government implement further measures, such as strengthening vocational Chinese language courses, taking the lead in hiring EMs, providing incentives to employers, increasing the number of places for EMs to enrol in courses for the construction industry;
- (3) Members enquired about the effectiveness of the EM District Ambassador pilot scheme and suggested extending the service to the Maintenance Mediation Pilot Scheme to provide translation services for EMs facing domestic violence and marital issues;
- (4) Members suggested involving EMs in the fields of arts and culture, sports and technology, enabling them to give full play to their strengths in Hong Kong and to integrate into the community and the overall development of the country;
- (5) Members suggested encouraging EMs to visit the Mainland in line with the national policy of allowing non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents to apply for Mainland Travel Permits; and
- (6) In response to the SWD’s reply that the services provided by the Yuen Long Town Hall Support Service Centre for EMs and EM District Ambassador pilot scheme were gradually taking effect, Members suggested that promotion of these services should be strengthened and more resources should be allocated to them.

16. A consolidated reply provided by Ms Fion WAN of the SWD was as follows:

- (1) Currently, there were six EM district ambassadors in Yuen Long District serving in different service units to provide more appropriate support for EMs. In addition to providing translation and introducing welfare services to those in need, these ambassadors also helped the staff at service units understand the cultural

backgrounds of EMs, thereby further enhancing the support services. In 2023-24, EM district ambassadors across Hong Kong served 9 128 EMs and achieved a very high level of satisfaction with the services; and

- (2) Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Outreaching Team for Multi-Cultural Community, subsidised by the SWD, had successfully reached out to more hidden EMs and provided them with transitional support services before they could access mainstream services.

17. A consolidated reply provided by Miss Vivian LUI of the LD was as follows:

- (1) The LD provided diversified employment services to job seekers (including EMs). It also provided specialised services tailored to the employment needs of EMs and employed EM employment assistants to assist in the provision of these services;
- (2) The LD held the Building a Multicultural Workplace Job Fair in November this year to provide job seekers with a wide variety of job vacancies which enhanced the employment opportunities of EMs; and
- (3) The LD had also set up a dedicated webpage for EMs on the Interactive Employment Service website and made use of this platform to share successful employment cases.

18. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Frederick LAU of the YLDO was as follows:

- (1) The Home Affairs Department operated eight support service centres for EMs, one of which was located in Yuen Long, providing language classes, interest classes, after-school tutorial classes, etc. to EMs. Besides, the Yuen Long Town Hall Support Service Centre for EMs and EM Care Team were established this year to further assist EMs in integrating into the community; and
- (2) The YLDO also provided funding to various non-governmental organisations in the district for organising integration activities to encourage EMs to engage with the community and facilitate exchanges.

19. The Chairman concluded that EMs often faced difficulties in education and employment due to differences in cultural backgrounds. He suggested that the Government strengthen support for EMs to achieve social inclusion.

#### **Reports of Government Departments:**

##### **Item V: Statistics on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance caseload and domestic violence reports in Yuen Long District (SWLC Paper No. 27/2024)**

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20. Members noted the above paper.

##### **Item VI: Any other business**

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21. Ms Fion WAN of the SWD said that the department's Strive and Rise Programme had entered its third phase, with the goal of recruiting 4 000 mentees. She invited Members to help promote the recruitment of mentors. Mentors were required to participate in activities

and interact with paired mentees, meeting with them at least once a month to help boost their self-confidence and help them establish positive life goals. In addition, Mr MAN Cho-wai of the SWD said that the department's Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged had commenced the 18th round of Regular Portion applications and the 11th round of Dedicated Portion applications on 19 December 2024. Further details were available on the SWD's website.

22. Members enquired about the criteria and requirements for mentor recruitment and hoped that more young people or rural residents would take up the role of mentors.

23. Ms Fion WAN of the SWD responded that as the department would arrange for mentees to visit their mentors' workplaces, mentors must be working people. In addition, mentors were required to allocate time to share and interact with mentees and participate in activities. The department would provide Members with detailed information on mentor recruitment after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded relevant information on mentor recruitment for the SWD's Strive and Rise Programme to Members on 31 December 2024.)

#### **Item VII: Date of next meeting**

24. The Chairman said that the next SWLC meeting would be held in the Conference Room of the YLDC at 2:30 p.m. on 26 February 2025.

25. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:15 p.m.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat  
February 2025