

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Notes of the 93rd Meeting held on 1 November 2018

<u>Present:</u>	Ms CHAN Yuen-han	(Chairperson)
	Ms CHANG King-yiu	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Vice-Chairperson)
	Professor Cecilia CHAN	
	Ms Aruna GURUNG	
	Ms Melaine LEE	
	Dr Loletta SO	
	Ms Michelle TANG	
	Mr Philip TSAI	
	Mrs Viola WONG HO	
	Ms Yvonne YEUNG	
	Ms Carol YIP	Director of Social Welfare
<u>Absent with Apologies:</u>	Ms Susanna CHIU	
	Professor Shirley HUNG	
	Ms Angelina KWAN	
	Mrs Emily LAM HO	
	Dr Kevin LAU	
	Ms Juan LEUNG	
	Ms Elaine LO	
	Ms Yolanda NG	
	Ms Scarlett PONG	
	Miss Sherry TSAI	
	Ms WONG Siu-wah	
	Ms Rabi YIM	
	Ms Judy CHUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs)5, Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau
<u>In attendance</u>	Miss Leonia TAI	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (1)
	Miss Agnes CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2

	Mr Huggin TANG	Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2A (Secretary)
	Mrs Annie CHAN	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare)2
For Agenda Item 2	Mr Jimmy WU	Director (District Health Centre Team)
	Ms Wendy AU	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Health)5
	Dr Wanmie LEUNG	Senior Medical & Health Officer (Health)5A

**Item 1: The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address –
Policy Initiatives Relating to Women's Development (WoC
10/18)**

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the notes of the 92nd meeting without any amendment.

1.2 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Miss Leonia TAI, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (1) (DS(W)1), briefed Members on the new and on-going welfare initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address (2018 PA) and Policy Agenda particularly relating to women.

1.3 Noting that there was a dedicated part on women-related initiatives in the speech on 2018 PA delivered by the Chief Executive, the Chairperson suggested that in future the Policy

Address should consider a dedicated chapter on women.

1.4 In response to a Member's enquiry, DS(W)1 explained that the number of child care centre places would be increased through formulating planning ratio in the long run. Meanwhile, the Government would continue to identify suitable sites for providing child care services with a view to increasing the number of child care centre places as soon as possible. As to the initiative of providing after-school care services for children aged 3 to 6, Ms Carol YIP, the Director of Social Welfare (DSW), explained that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would explore the provision of the services in suitable welfare facilities settings, such as Mutual Help Child Care Centres and Community Centres operated by Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) under the subvention of SWD.

1.5 Noting that SWD planned to set up four small group homes in 2020-21 to provide additional residential child care places and places in emergency/short-term care, a Member enquired if there would be any increase of the places before 2020-21. DSW responded that increasing the number of residential child care places required long-term planning and SWD would continue to increase the number of places in phases. In fact, the number of places had been increased in 2016 to 2018 through expansion of services in the existing sites.

1.6 A Member welcomed the proposal to extend maternity leave and for the Government to take the lead in implementing the proposal for all female employees of the Government with immediate effect. She opined that the extension of the maternity leave from 10 weeks to 14 weeks would have manpower implications for Bureaux and Departments and therefore the Government should consider increasing manpower to support the new maternity leave.

1.7 In response to some Members' enquiries on the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (the Special Sites Scheme), DSW explained that the Special Sites Scheme had been well received and, making reference to the experience and feedback of the existing phase, the Government had plans to implement a new phase of the Special Sites Scheme in 2019-20. Most of the applications under the Special Sites Scheme required redevelopment of a site, the processing of which involved various Bureaux/Departments, such as the Architectural Services Department as SWD's technical advisor to give comments on the project and costing arrangements as well as the design of the facilities. The Policy and Project Co-ordination Unit (PPCU) of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office had taken the coordinating role in the Special Sites Scheme to solicit comments from Government departments concerned on the applications to facilitate applicant NGOs to take forward their applications in a proper and expedited manner. After the disbandment of the PPCU

following an internal reorganisation of the Government in end 2017, SWD would take up the coordinating role in this respect. As at 31 October 2018, there were six projects under the Special Sites Scheme which had been or were to be completed, while another 12 projects had been provided with funding support under the Lotteries Fund to proceed with technical feasibility study. The processing time for the applications under the Special Sites Scheme had been shortened considerably compared to the duration required for normal projects, which usually took at least seven to eight years. The Chairperson welcomed the proposed new phase of the Special Sites Scheme and remarked that expediting the applications under the Special Sites Scheme was not an easy task as the high standards of the facilities for welfare services and the proper use of the Lotteries Fund to meet the capital costs of the projects could not be compromised.

1.8 A Member welcomed the new initiatives for ethnic minorities (EM) in 2018 PA. She opined that with support on language training, many EM elderly could fit into local elderly care settings. DSW responded that elderly care facilities under the subvention of SWD welcomed users of all nationalities. Support services, including interpretation services, were put in place to help EM in these facilities. She remarked that to strengthen welfare support for EM communities, three designated outreaching teams which would be operated by

NGOs and comprised of EM staff would be set up in 2019 to assist EM in receiving relevant welfare services. NGOs had also been invited to propose on the enhancement of services for EM.

1.9 The Chairperson said that during the consultation period of 2018 PA, she and several Members raised the proposal of setting up a \$1 billion fund for general women development. But the proposal was not granted. Noting that the Financial Secretary (FS) would soon start consultations on Budget 2019, she and several Members would like to raise again the proposal to FS with elaboration on the proposed use of the fund in four areas, namely –

- i) Conducting researches on a range of women-related subjects such as women health; women participation in the labour force and public affairs; women capacity building, etc – to earmark \$200 million;
- ii) Strengthening existing Funding Scheme on Women Development as well as increasing the cap of funding support to \$3 million per project for three years – to earmark \$200 million;
- iii) Strengthening support for women carers by e.g. launching a pilot project to provide funding support to carers of infants, young children, persons with special needs or chronic illnesses, etc – to earmark \$200 million; and
- iv) Setting up permanent culture and tourist hub(s) in the form of a designated street/area/market

whereby women or young artists could launch their businesses and unleash their creative power – to earmark \$400 million.

In reply to the Chairperson, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW) said that Members were at liberty to raise their views or proposals when they were consulted on FS' Budget 2019. Although Members' proposal to use such substantial amount of additional resource in four specific areas of work, if approved, would also involve substantive staffing requirements for the secretariat, we would follow established practice and put forward the staffing and other recurrent cost implications for FS' consideration of Members' Budget proposal, as appropriate. The Chairperson said that she would work out with Members after the meeting a written proposal for submission to FS.

[Post-meeting note: The Budget consultation session for WoC would be held on 17 November 2018 together with other advisory bodies.]

Item 2: Pilot District Health Centre in the Kwai Tsing District

2.1 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr Jimmy WU, Director (District Health Centre Team), briefed Members about the Pilot District Health Centre (DHC) in the Kwai Tsing District. The project was currently undergoing tender invitation. Director WU highlighted that to reflect the Government's

emphasis on the quality of services to be provided by the proposed DHC, a two-envelope approach with a technical to price weighting of 7:3 would be adopted for the tender evaluation.

2.2 The Chairperson and Members enquired about the additional services to be provided by the proposed DHC and its interface with the existing public services under the Hospital Authority (HA)/Department of Health. Director WU elaborated that the proposed DHC would focus on providing primary healthcare including chronic disease management services through public-private partnership at community level. The proposed DHC would also coordinate with welfare services providers, e.g. elderly care centres, to form a local network to ensure that care and health services would be provided and referrals would be made in a timely and coordinated manner.

2.3 In response to a Member's enquiry, Director WU clarified that the payment by the clients of the DHC for each subsidised session of professional services, other than medical consultation, provided in the network was capped at \$250 (\$150 for Chinese medicine service and \$100 for patients referred from the HA). The setting of the capped amount had taken into account the market price of the services provided by NGOs and the affordability of the clients in the district. There was also a cap on the number of the subsidised sessions for different kinds of healthcare professional services. The setting of such caps had made reference to similar services under the HA.

2.4 In response to a Member's enquiry, Director WU responded that the tender document had set out the minimum requirement of the number and composition of the medical and health practitioners. The tenderers would be rewarded with higher marks in the tender evaluation if they could engage more medical and health practitioners.

2.5 In response to a Member's enquiry, Director WU shared that his team had finally secured a premise of about 1500m² in size that was near Kwai Hing MTR Station and Bus Terminus. The five satellite centres would be identified and provided by the operator. Under the tender requirement, the operator was also required to provide proposals for pick-up services. He emphasised that the idea of DHC was to establish and coordinate a local service network in public-private partnership to meet the need of the clients in the district. The Core Centre and the Satellite Centres were only part of the more extensive network to be established.

2.6 A Member opined that the proposed DHC should not lose sight of EM users. Publication materials should be prepared in multiple languages and interpretation services should be put in place for EM. Director WU responded that under the tender requirement, the operator was required to engage different network medical and health practitioners to deliver different innovative programmes to meet the needs of different groups/categories of clients including EM groups.

2.7 The Chairperson and Members emphasised the importance of gender awareness in the tender assessment. They also urged Food and Health Bureau to explore providing more new services that were of concern to women, such as those on preventing and coping with osteoporosis, pain management, sex education, prenatal and postnatal care, etc..

2.8 The Chairperson thanked Director WU for his comprehensive briefing.

Item 3: Secretary's Report (WoC 11/18)

3.1 The Secretary invited Members to participate in WoC's visits to Lam Tin Women Health Centre and the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society Parent-child Contact Centre to be held on 8 November and 13 November 2018 respectively.

Item 4: Any Other Business

4.1 It was suggested that the next meeting be held in January 2019. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 17:20.

**Women's Commission Secretariat
November 2018**