

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Relocation of the Accident and Emergency Department of Tang Shiu Kin Hospital to Ruttonjee Hospital

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the relocation of the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department of Tang Shiu Kin Hospital (TSKH) to Ruttonjee Hospital (RH).

Background

2. At present, the A&E Department of TSKH provides emergency and acute medical services to the community in Central, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay areas. Due to lack of diagnostic and treatment facilities, TSKH cannot provide critical care to patients admitted to its stand-alone A&E Department. Patients requiring hospital admissions through the A&E Department have to be transported to other hospitals by ambulance and about 80% of them are admitted to the neighbouring RH. Such an arrangement not only raises concerns about possible delay in providing medical treatment to patients, but also poses considerable inconvenience to patients and their relatives. At a meeting of the Community Building Committee of the Wan Chai District Board held in October 1996, members expressed concern about the possible delay of treatment under the existing arrangement and requested that an A&E Department be set up in RH.

3. The provision of ambulatory care services in Wan Chai District is scattered over various locations and is far from being efficient in the delivery of health care services. We announced our plan to rationalise the services provided at TSKH, RH and Tang Chi Ngong Specialist Clinic (TCNSC) in the 1999 Policy Address. As part of the rationalisation programme, RH has taken over the medical and surgical Specialist Out-patient services provided at TCNSC. To consolidate the provision of in-patient services at TSKH and RH, in-patient beds in TSKH have been relocated to RH, necessitating the consequential relocation in future of the related in-patient allied health departments of TSKH to RH.

The Relocation Project

4. Taking into account the rationalisation programme in Wan Chai District and the relative strengths of TSKH and RH as a health care provider, we propose to relocate the A&E Department of TSKH to RH. Upon relocation, the new A&E Department will be supported by in-situ in-patient, diagnostic and treatment facilities, thus providing better medical care to patients. The new A&E Department will also be equipped with ancillary facilities to enhance its service quality and disaster handling capacity. Three additional floors will be constructed on top of podium of RH to implement that part of the rationalisation programme affecting RH as detailed in paragraph 3 above and to cope with increase in demand for service requirements.

Public Consultation

5. The Hospital Authority briefed the then Wan Chai Provisional District Board on the proposed relocation project in May 1998. The Wan Chai District Council was updated on progress of the proposed relocation project in May 2000. No objections to the proposal were raised on both occasions.

Way Forward

6. We shall seek the approval of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council to embark on the project at a cost of \$154 million at the FC meeting to be held in early 2001. Once FC's approval has been obtained, we shall embark on the construction works which will take 26 months to complete.

Health and Welfare Bureau
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