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Panel on Health Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the special meeting on 26 March 2018**

District Health Centre Pilot Project in Kwai Tsing District

Purpose

This paper provides background information and summarizes the concerns of members of the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on the District Health Centre Pilot Project in Kwai Tsing District.

Background

2. As announced in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address in October 2017, the Government is determined to step up efforts to promote individual and community involvement, enhance co-ordination among various medical and social sectors, and strengthen district-level primary healthcare services. The aim of these measures is to encourage the public to take precautionary measures against diseases, enhance their capability in self-care and home care, and reduce the demand for hospitalization. Being one of the initiatives in this regard, the first District Health Centre with a brand new operation mode will be set up in Kwai Tsing District within two years to further give play to the effectiveness of medical-social collaboration and step up efforts to promote individual and community involvement.

3. The Steering Committee on Primary Healthcare Development ("the Steering Committee"), which is chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health and comprises key persons/representatives from the medical and allied health professions (including family medicine, nursing, Chinese medicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy), academia, non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and district groups, was established in November 2017.

The Steering Committee is tasked to formulate the development strategy and devise a blueprint for primary healthcare services. It is underpinned by the Working Group on District Health Centre Pilot Project in Kwai Tsing District ("the Working Group"), which is chaired by the Under Secretary for Food and Health, in taking forward the pilot District Health Centre in Kwai Tsing.

Deliberations of the Panel

4. The Panel discussed the establishment of a District Health Centre in Kwai Tsing District in the context of receiving a briefing on the policy initiatives in respect of health matters featuring in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address in October 2017 and discussing the development of primary healthcare services in February 2018. The deliberations and concerns of members are summarized in the following paragraphs.

5. Members noted that three Community Health Centres had been set up under the Hospital Authority in Tin Shui Wai, North Lantau and Kwun Tong in 2012, 2013 and 2015 respectively to provide integrated and comprehensive primary care services, covering medical consultation, multidisciplinary services to complement doctors' management and control disease progression, and patient empowerment to promote self-care. Members were concerned about the scope of services and the mode of operation of the pilot District Health Centre, in particular how it would be different from the existing Community Health Centres.

6. The Administration advised that it was expected that the pilot District Health Centre would enhance the public's awareness of disease prevention and their ability in self-management of health, and provide support for the chronically ill. With funding from the Government, the primary care services to be provided by the pilot District Health Centre would be based on the needs and characteristics of the district. The Centre would also make use of the local network to procure services (e.g. health screening, medical, nursing, allied health and drug counselling services) from organizations and healthcare personnel serving the district. Other than the core official centre, there would be five official satellites to tally with the five sub-districts of the Kwai Tsing District (i.e. Kwai Chung (West), Kwai Chung (North East), Kwai Chung (Central and South), Tsing Yi (North East) and Tsing Yi (South West)) to better serve the community. Services might also be provided at the healthcare service providers under local network. With the experience gained from the pilot scheme, the Administration would progressively set up District Health Centres in all 18 districts.

7. There was a concern about the rationale for establishing the first District Health Centre in Kwai Tsing District. Members were advised that in the 2013 Policy Address, the Government earmarked a one-off grant of \$100 million for each district to initiate, through the respective District Council, one or two large scale projects to address local needs under the Signature Project Scheme. Under the Scheme, the Kwai Tsing District Council had adopted "Enhancement of Community Healthcare" as its theme and provided ocular health care service, dental care service, seasonal influenza vaccination and health education to local residents. The services were well-received by local residents. The experience gained served a solid basis for the provision of primary healthcare services via district-based medical-social collaboration in the community.

8. Some members urged the Administration to gauge views from different stakeholders, in particular the NGOs concerned, as well as residents in Kwai Tsing District. They drew to the Administration's attention that the District had large number of ethnic minorities (e.g. Pakistanis) and new immigrants and a high poverty rate. The Administration advised that the Working Group which comprised medical and healthcare professionals, district representatives and academia would provide advice on the planning, implementation and evaluation of the pilot project. The Administration would also meet with the key stakeholders from the Kwai Tsing District and consult the Kwai Tsing District Council in due course.

Relevant papers

9. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

**Relevant papers on the
District Health Centre Pilot Project in Kwai Tsing District**

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Health Services	16.10.2017 (Item IV)	Agenda Minutes
	12.2.2018 (Item IV)	Agenda

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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