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Panel on Health Services

**Updated background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 16 July 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 ("the Pilot Project").

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 District.

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 Panel received views from deputations on the Pilot Project at a special meeting on 26 March 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 ("HA") 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 personal health management, and provide support for the chronically ill, thereby reducing unwarranted use of hospital services. 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. On members'

question about the timeline in this regard, the Administration advised that the pilot District Health Centre in Kwai Tsing District was expected to commence services in the third quarter of 2019. The timetable of setting up 18 District Health Centres would be worked out later.

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. Members considered that the pilot District Health Centre should aim to meet the specific health needs of the population 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. Some members shared the deputations' views that the scope of services to be provided by the pilot District Health Centre should include, among others, oral health care services, screening and management of osteoporosis, eye care services, as well as health risk assessment and physical check-ups for women and elders to facilitate early identification of the health risk factors. Concern was raised about the service fee of the pilot District Health Centre.

9. According to the Administration, the Steering Committee and the Working Group would look into the health profile, in particular the prevalence of selected chronic diseases and health risk behaviours, of the population in Kwai Tsing District in determining the scope of services to be provided by the pilot District Health Centre. Reference would be made to HA's statistics on chronically ill patients, the Population Health Survey conducted by the Department of Health and the Thematic Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department. The pilot District Health Centre would direct resources to the treatment of the most prevalent chronic diseases that consumed substantial medical resources and explore how to manage their conditions through risk management and early intervention. Partial subsidy would be provided for specific services of the Centre.

10. Some members urged the Administration to gauge views from different stakeholders, in particular the NGOs concerned, as well as residents in Kwai

Tsing District. There was a view that the Working Group should also comprise representatives from the NGOs concerned, patient groups and service users. 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. Given that the plan of the Administration was to identify an NGO to operate the pilot District Health Centre by way of tender, representatives from NGOs in the community were not invited to sit on the Working Group. The Administration would start meeting with the NGOs and healthcare professionals serving in Kwai Tsing District and consult the Kwai Tsing District Council respectively in April 2018. Separate public consultation sessions would also be organized to gauge the views of residents of Kwai Tsing District in due course.

Recent development

11. The Administration will brief the Panel on 16 July 2018 on its detailed proposals for establishing the pilot District Health Centre in Kwai Tsing District.

Relevant papers

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 July 2018

**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
	26.3.2018 (Item I)	Agenda

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