

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Urgently improving public healthcare services in Kowloon East”  
moved by Hon Wilson OR  
at the Council meeting of 29 March 2017**

**Motion as amended by Hon HO Kai-ming, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki,  
Hon WU Chi-wai and Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung**

That public healthcare services in Kowloon East have all along failed to effectively respond to the persistently growing demand for healthcare services resulting from population increase and ageing in the district, and the waiting time for stable new case booking for specialist outpatient services of specialties such as eye, orthopaedics and traumatology, medicine and surgery is longer than the territory-wide average waiting time; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to urgently improve public healthcare services in Kowloon East to protect and promote public health; the relevant measures include:

- (1) according to the population characteristics of the Kowloon East Cluster, appropriately allocating additional resources to shorten the waiting time for specialist outpatient services and general outpatient services of public hospitals in Kowloon East;
- (2) expeditiously introducing 24-hour accident and emergency services and 24-hour general outpatient services in the Wong Tai Sin district;
- (3) expeditiously implementing the Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital redevelopment project;
- (4) expediting the completion of the United Christian Hospital expansion project;
- (5) expeditiously constructing the Kai Tak Hospital and ensuring its full commissioning in 2024;
- (6) ensuring that the Hong Kong Children’s Hospital, which is expected to be completed in 2017, will be fully commissioned as soon as possible;
- (7) expanding the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme of the Community Care Fund to cover all elderly persons who are Old Age Living Allowance recipients aged 65 or above, and introducing elderly dental

care vouchers to support grass-roots elderly persons in treating oral health problems;

- (8) allocating additional resources to enhance the public-private partnership programme in healthcare;
- (9) expanding the types of subsidized drugs in the Drug Formulary of the Hospital Authority;
- (10) setting up additional community health centres to provide residents of Kowloon East with one-stop primary healthcare services covering general outpatient services, chronic disease management, health education, etc., so as to relieve the pressure on services of public hospitals in the district;
- (11) setting up a Joint Replacement Centre in the Kowloon East Cluster to shorten the waiting time for total joint replacement surgery;
- (12) increasing the deployment of mobile clinics to provide simple medical treatment and physical check-up services to elderly persons and people with impaired mobility in the district;
- (13) providing the public with sufficient information on healthcare services through various platforms, such as a list of private clinics providing evening consultation services in the district and the operating hours of private clinics during long holidays in the district; and
- (14) increasing the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers and strengthening the monitoring of providers of relevant healthcare services;
- (15) allocating additional resources to improve the psychiatric services in Kowloon East by, among others, increasing healthcare manpower ratios and introducing evening consultation services;
- (16) setting up more elderly health centres, woman health centres and maternal and child health centres in Kowloon East, so as to increase service quotas and shorten the waiting time of residents for health assessments;
- (17) setting up additional public dental clinics in Kowloon East, perfecting the existing public dental services by, among others, introducing services such as scaling, filling and crowning, increasing the number of service sessions and quotas in public dental clinics, and by making reference to the School Dental Care Service, introducing an 'elderly dental care service' to provide elderly persons with dental examination

and scaling services once a year, so as to treat the oral health problems of elderly persons as early as possible, thereby enhancing the dental services for residents of Kowloon East, especially elderly persons, children, low-income persons and people with special needs (such as persons with intellectual disabilities) in the district;

- (18) improving the general outpatient clinic telephone appointment system and deploying more manpower to answer calls for booking appointments, so as to assist people in need (including elderly persons) in Kowloon East in booking consultation appointments; and
- (19) enhancing the evening consultation services in hospitals with an accident and emergency department in Kowloon East and introducing consultation timeslots on holidays, so as to alleviate the pressure on the accident and emergency departments;
- (20) setting up a seed fund to subsidize the public to undergo regular physical check-ups and hence perfecting the primary healthcare services, with a view to benefiting residents of Kowloon East; and
- (21) formulating detailed development plans for sites earmarked for construction of hospitals or clinics in Kowloon East and expeditiously implementing those plans;
- (22) establishing a mechanism to ensure that patients referred by public hospitals to private hospitals for treatment can be arranged to return to public hospitals for continued treatment when necessary; and
- (23) expediting the approval of the types of subsidized drugs in the Drug Formulary of the Hospital Authority by, among others, incorporating as subsidized drugs Vemurafenib (a skin cancer drug), Afatinib (a lung cancer drug), as well as Natalizumab and Fingolimod (interferons for multiple sclerosis), which are listed in the Formulary; apart from expeditiously including Eculizumab (a drug for treating paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria) and Osimertinib (a drug for the advanced stage of lung cancer), which are clinically proven to be effective, in the Drug Formulary, incorporating these drugs as subsidized drugs to ensure appropriate treatment for patients.