

Street Sleepers Shelter Society
Trustees Incorporated

Annual Report 2023-24

Prepared by Executive Committee
Street Sleepers Shelter Society Trustees Incorporated

October 2024

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1. Introduction

The Society continues to provide free overnight accommodation (226 bed spaces) with basic necessities for the homeless sleepers as an interim measure to complement the main-stream comprehensive services provided by the more formal social welfare services sector. The focus is more on provision of short-term basis to make available vacancies in a timely manner to serve more individuals with urgent needs for accommodation.

To ensure mobility of sleepers and expedite decantation, we maintain close liaison with Social Welfare Department (SWD) and other agencies on the follow-up actions by their social workers in arranging longer term accommodation and appropriate welfare services for our clients, with the aim to vacate more beds to serve the needy. We also encourage our clients, especially those long-time clients, to identify alternative accommodation with the help of case workers and move out to make room for new comers. It is understood that turnover rate could be affected by various economic, climatic, social and personal reasons. We would continue to exercise flexibility in admission of new referrals, so as to optimize the utilization of our facilities.

2. Shelters and Occupancy

During the year the Society continues to operate three shelters, one each in the Wanchai, Yaumatei and Shamshuipo districts.

a) Wanchai Shelter

1/F, Housing Society Golden Jubilee Building, 83 Kennedy Road, Wanchai

This Shelter provides beds for 46 men and 30 women.

b) Yaumatei Shelter

4/F, 3 Hau Cheung Street, Yaumatei (From August 2021)

The Shelter provides 70 beds for the males.

- c) Shamshuipo Shelter
15A Un Chau Street, 2 – 4/F, Shamshuipo

The Shelter provides beds for 64 men and 16 women.

The occupancy rate of all 3 shelters were relatively moderate. The Society had maintained dialogue with various agencies for homeless with a view to enhancing the occupancy rates and expediting the turnover.

Notwithstanding the relaxation of various health controls, vaccination requirements and social distancing since early 2023, yet with the bitter experience encountered during the epidemic in early 2022 and close spacing of our double bunker beds, we have to be particularly vigilant and capped the occupancy rates to 50% to maintain reasonable social distancing and environmental hygiene. We would continuously monitor and review the situation as well as the demand.

We continued to provide all personal sanitation items freely to our sleepers, as well as take measures to upkeep the cleanliness of shelters, such as daily cleansing and scheduled disinfection services.

3. Financial Situation

For 2023/24, the income was \$2,578,987 against the expenditure for \$2,852,311, or a deficit of \$273,324. We failed to get reimbursement for Government Rent and Rates from the Social Welfare Department for the first time as we did not meet the financial assessments, despite our appeal.

4. Conditions of Shelters

The new Yaumatei Shelter at Hau Cheung Street commenced operation in end July 2021. Despite this is a new building, we have encountered numerous problems, including blockage of the urinal bowls, no TV signals and breakdown of water dispensers. Further, we have encountered difficulties to liaise with relevant Government Departments to fix them in time. We would continue our efforts to resolve these issues.

For the Shamshuipo Shelter, the HKJCCT has kindly approved a grant for the

renovation works including provision of air-conditioners. Subsequent to the completion of works, the Shelter was reopened in August 2020 and the living condition has been improved significantly.

With respect to the Wanchai Shelter, air-conditioners had also been installed and have been in operation since August 2020, thus providing great improvement in the quality of life in hot weather. However, the ongoing renovation of public toilets downstairs did cause noise, smell and flooding problems that need to be resolved with the consultant.

5. Proposed Redevelopment of Shamshuipo Shelter

In response to initiative by Tsung Tsin Mission for joint redevelopment of the whole site by the 3 existing users (i.e. Tsung Tsin Mission, Boys' Home and SSSS), in September 2021 the three parties jointly submitted an EOI to URA for participation in URA's scheme for 'Redevelopment of Sites Held by Non-governmental Organizations for Multiple Uses'.

However, the URA informed us in mid 2024 that due to financial viability and priority reasons, the redevelopment of the Shamshuipo Shelter would not be taken forward under the Facilitation Scheme on Redevelopment of Non-governmental Organizations.

6. Staffing

The number of supervisors in each Shelter remains unchanged, i.e. a couple for each Shelter and a total of six for all Shelters.

7. Administration

The Society continues to be administered by an entirely voluntary Executive Committee. The members, technical advisors (TA) and trustees (T) for the current year are as follows:

President	Mr. Mike ROWSE (T)
Chairman	Mr. TANG Moon Yiu (T)
Vice Chairman	Mr. Daniel Chu (T, TA)
Hon Treasurer	TMF HK Limited
Hon Secretary	Ms. Teresa CHU

Members	Mr. WONG Kwok Keung (T)
	Mr. Nicholas LO (T)
	Mr. LAM Sair Ling (TA)
	Dr. LEUNG Chi Wah (TA)
	Ms. Jane CHAN
	Ms. Cynthia SHUM
	Ms. Carrie WONG
	Ms. Natalie KWOK
	Mr. Kevin WONG

Last year, we are particularly pleased to welcome two new members, Ms. Natalie KWOK and Mr. Kevin WONG. They have settled down well to share our workload. Also they have brought in new expertise to broaden our perspectives and enable the Society to initiate a succession plan for longer term development.

We are also extremely sad to announce with heavy heart that Mr. Mickey Wong, who had been our member, Technical Advisor and Trustee for many years, passed away in November 2023. Members expressed great thanks for his tremendous effort and contribution to the Society all these years, and sent our deepest condolences to Mickey's family. Members had attended his funeral and memorial mass to say farewell to him.

8. Acknowledgements

The Society is extremely grateful to the continuous financial support from HKJCCT for operation of the Wanchai Shelter and renovation works at the Shamshuipo Shelter as well as the Community Chest for operation of the Yaumatei and Shamshuipo Shelters, Sing Tao Foundation (for laisee distributed in the Chinese New Year), Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation and 靈氣能量藝術有限公司. Thanks are also due to the Rotary Club and many other donors for their donations and support.

The Society is also grateful to receive continuous professional support from TMF HK Limited as our Honorary Treasurer and Lawrence Chan & Co. as our Honorary Auditor.