

Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project

Southern District

Proposed Priority Areas for Further Improvement and 3-Year Action Plan

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1. Introduction

1.1 District and Project Background

The Southern District ranks third among other districts in its percentage of elderly population, which 16.6% of the total district population aged 65 years or above. With the collaboration of the District Council, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the commercial sector and local elderly residents, Southern district made concerted efforts in promoting the concept of AFC and in improving the community environment in response to changing needs of elderly residents.

For example, The Working Group on Rehabilitation and Age-friendly Community in the Southern District implemented the “Age-friendly City Plan” in collaboration with the Southern District Healthy & Safe Association Limited, and proposed a series of activities and programmes to promote the concept of “Age-friendly Cities” . Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Limited (AKA) in the Southern District have also actively initiated and participated in age-friendly community projects. For the commercial sector, HSBC Community Partnership Programme “Bringing People Together” funded certain projects to improve the age friendliness in the district. Finally, the Southern Elderly Concern Group (「南區長者關注小組」) formed by elderly residents holds regular meetings and collect views from district residents on various elderly-related issues, and then relay these views to various government departments and District Councillors.

As a result of these concerted efforts put forth by various district stakeholders, the Southern District made an accreditation application to World Health Organisation (WHO) on 28 July 2016, and was informed on 14 September 2016 that the Southern District was successively admitted as a member of the WHO’s “Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities” (GNAFCC), rendering it the fourth accredited community in the territory.

The Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project aims to move Hong Kong towards becoming an age-friendly city. Based on findings of a baseline assessment in phase 1 of the project, this document outlines the overall strategy and the proposed priority areas for further improvement for the Southern District to make the district more age-friendly.

1.2 Baseline Assessment

A baseline assessment was completed for the Southern District in July 2017. Its objective was to understand the needs of the district in preparing itself to become more age-friendly. The baseline assessment consisted of a quantitative (questionnaire survey) study and a qualitative (focus group) study. All participants were recruited from four communities within the district: Pok Fu Lam; Aberdeen; Ap Lei Chau; and Wong Chuk Hang, Bays Area, Stanley & Shek O.

According to the questionnaire survey, participants perceived the district to be age-friendly in general, particularly in terms of social participation, but least in terms of housing, community support and health services. The sense of community is strong particularly in terms of sense of membership. The older the resident, the stronger the sense of community and perceived age-friendliness. The four sub-district communities differed in their profile of perceived age-friendliness and overall sense of community.

Participants of the focus groups drew attention to (1) physical environment issues: hygiene and potential risk of the open public space, pavement obstruction, and the challenges in and need for renovation and maintenance of residential buildings; (2) social and cultural environmental issues: reducing in intergenerational interaction, and job opportunity; and (3) communication and services issues: the general availability of healthcare services, and long waiting time.

Results from this baseline assessment suggested existing groundwork with a reasonably good sense of community and perceived age-friendliness in the district.

2. Overall Strategy

Future actions for making the district more age-friendly should build on the existing infrastructure and network, including the district's good general sense of community and perceived age-friendliness. They should leverage on the sense of membership and emotional connectedness in the district, strengthen the sense of influence and need fulfilment, and include older adults in the implementation of the Action Plan to be compiled by the DC in consideration of the proposed priority areas for further improvement.

3. Proposed Priority Areas for Further Improvement

Based on the findings from the baseline assessment, we propose and organize priority areas for further improvement around 3 themes, including ‘Physical Environment’, ‘Social and Cultural Environment’, and ‘Communication, Community and Health Services’, covering all 8 domains of World Health Organization’s age-friendly city framework. The theme of “Physical Environment” include areas related to both hardware and software improvements, whereas the other two themes include areas mainly related to software improvements.

3.1 Theme 1 – Physical Environment

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

1. Improving street hygiene;
2. Reducing the uneven step on street and improving the slip resistance of ramp especially in wet market;
3. Increasing the accessibility to Queen Mary, Grantham Hospitals, the Aberdeen Jockey Club Clinic, and wet market in Yue Fai Court;
4. Improving the parks, such as adding more sheltered areas.

Transportation

1. Improving the frequency and availability of public transportation for residents in Stanley especially during weekends;
2. Improve the coverage and availability of public transport to public hospital for area with high elderly population.
3. Increasing law enforcement to reduce illegal parking in Aberdeen, and tourist buses parking in Yue Kwong Road, and Shek Pai Wan Road;
4. Improving or adding features of public transportation, such as shelters and seats for bus and minibus stops, travelator and elevator for MTR stations;
5. Increasing the availability of barrier-free transportation to meet the local demand;
6. Improving the awareness of bus and mini bus driver to drop off near the bus stop;
7. Improving the road safety such as adding zebra crossings in Wong Chuk Hang Road, and increasing the crossing time for pedestrian.

Housing *

1. Increasing support for renovating and maintaining tenement houses, old units, and non-PRH estates;
2. Balancing the interest and concern between owners and tenants in PRH with Tenants Purchase Scheme on renovating and maintaining issues within the estate.

3.2 Theme 2 – Social and Cultural Environment

Social Participation

1. Developing more suitable and accessible venues in the district for holding events and activities;
2. Increasing outreach services to socially isolated older people in the district; *
3. For Shek O residents, a community centre or NEC is needed for residents to convene and participate in various social activities irrespective of the weather.

Respect and Social Inclusion *

1. Promoting actions of respect, particularly courtesy behaviours (e.g. giving priority seats to people in need) on public transportations; *
2. Increasing efforts to promote and enhance intergenerational interaction and relation. *

Civic Participation and Employment

1. Creating flexible and meaningful job opportunities to older people.

3.3 Theme 3 – Communication, Community and Health Services

Communication and Information *

1. Improving the reach and exchange of information outside of elderly centres especially for elderly living alone;
2. Exploring the use of digital devices for improving communication among older people in the district;
3. Improving the transport information system in Stanley, so that the residents can have easy and timely access to the updated traffic information in their district.

Community Support and Health Services

1. Enhancing the telephone medical appointment system, or providing sufficient assistance for medical appointment booking;
2. Improving the availability of dental services in the district, and reducing the price of private dental service;
3. Reducing wait time of health services;
4. Extending the consultation period in Stanley General Outpatient Clinic in Stanley to respond to the medical demand;
5. Improving the infrastructure and services in various communities in Southern district, including residential care service and community care service in Shek O, wet market in Shek O and Stanley, and banking service in Wah Fu and Lei Tung Estates.

* Prioritized areas of the 3-year action plan confirmed in the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Rehabilitation and Age-friendly Community in the Southern District on 9 February 2018. The Working Group was set up under the Community Affairs and Tourism Development Committee of Southern District Council.