

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2019

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. REPORT OF THE SOCIAL CLUSTER VISIT WEEK, 26 TO 29 AUGUST 2019.

1. Introduction

The Social Cluster Visit Week is a key mechanism established by the Provincial Parliament to achieve its constitutional oversight mandate in the province. It is intended to ensure that Members of the Provincial Parliament, through its standing committees, continually keep abreast of developments and delivery issues in the province. It also affords Members the opportunity to undertake oversight visits and interact with communities in order to get first-hand information on the needs and challenges that are confronting people. The committees also visit projects that have been implemented by various government departments and South African Police Services (SAPS) in the province. The Social Cluster Visit Week afforded the standing committees the opportunity to visit areas outside of the Cape Town metropolitan area. The following standing committees were part of the Social Cluster Visit Week:

Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport;
Standing Committee on Social Development;
Standing Committee on Health;
Standing Committee on Education; and
Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters.

2. The delegation

The delegation of the Social Cluster Visit Week included the following Members:
Mackenzie, RD (DA) (Leader of the delegation).

Allen, RI (DA)
 Baartman, DM (DA)
 Bakubaku-Vos, NG (ANC)
 Bans, AP (ANC)
 Bosman, G (DA)
 Botha, LJ (DA)
 Christians, FC (ACDP)
 De Jager, I (Al Jama-ah)
 Dugmore, CM (ANC)
 Kama, M (ANC)
 Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)
 Marais, PJ (VF Plus)
 Philander, WF (DA)
 Sayed, MK (ANC)
 Windvogel, R (ANC)
 Xego, M (EFF)

3. Overview

The main objective of the oversight cluster visits was to assess the activities of the facilities and to get an overall impression of the status of these selected social-cluster facilities.

4. Visit to the Laingsburg Public Library on Tuesday 27 August 2019

Ms C Jansen, Laingsburg Library Librarian, welcomed the delegation and proceeded to introduce the following matters: the history of the library, library membership, the library's collection in terms of the three provincial languages, the internet access at the library, the type of assistance given to users of the library's PCs, the library's outreach and holiday programmes, and the library's successes and challenges.

4.1. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation

- 4.1.1. The Laingsburg Library (the Library) has only one librarian, an assistant, and one temporary librarian. The temporary librarian works half-day at the Goldnerville Library and, if needed, also works at the Laingsburg Library during the afternoon session.
- 4.1.2. The Library has 1 466 members.
- 4.1.3. The Library is still capacitated with some of its original furniture, such as the shelving, and despite reasonable upgrades, it still uses dated furniture, which in many ways has nostalgic significance for the Library. These items are a stark reminder of the damaging effects of the Laingsburg flood in 1981.
- 4.1.4. Except for the main Library situated in Laingsburg, the Library also has facilities in Goldnerville, Matjiesfontein and Vleiland.
- 4.1.5. The Library has four PCs allocated to users to use for school projects, job searches, the compilation of CVs and general internet usage. Library staff members willingly assist the 86 registered PC users who require assistance with these tasks.
- 4.1.6. The Library has subscriptions to *Die Burger*, *Rapport* and the local *Courier* newspaper, as well as to 15 magazine publications.

- 4.1.7. The Library also has planned outreach programmes where staff members visit the nearby old-age home, schools in the area, and youth-focused collaborations with the Department of Social Development. There are also arts and crafts classes, and initiatives with the women of Nal'ibali.
- 4.1.8. The Library features a monthly and annual theme to encourage reading on selected topics across all age groups.
- 4.1.9. The most prominent challenge is that of space. There is limited space and no dedicated study room for learners. The Library has submitted its wish list to the Laingsburg District Municipality detailing its infrastructural needs.
- 4.1.10. The Library has made progress with expanding its Xhosa book collection. Most of the collection to date caters for children.
- 4.1.11. The Library is part of an inter-library loan system where members may request materials from neighbouring libraries that are not part of the Laingsburg district's library collection.
- 4.1.12. Although the general period for loaning books is two weeks, members residing in outlying areas are allowed to loan books for up to three months.
- 4.1.13. The Library is not equipped to assist differently abled persons, hearing and visually impaired persons. There is also insufficient space to install specialised equipment for such persons.
- 4.1.14. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is responsible for the maintenance of the information technology (IT) infrastructure. However, in cases requiring specialised attention to repair IT-related problems, the turnaround time is often two to three weeks. The reason for this is that the limited IT staff capacity, based in central Cape Town, are allocated to cover large areas across the province. As such, any call-outs to Laingsburg take a long time. This might result in extended periods of two to three weeks with no internet connectivity at the Library and its neighbouring library facilities.

4.2. Recommendations

The delegation RECOMMENDS that:

- 4.2.1. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport considers alternative mechanisms to address the information technology (IT) maintenance, connectivity and repair problems. The context for this recommendation is based on the slow turnaround time for some IT-related matters at the Laingsburg Library. During these instances, the Library is left without internet connectivity, often for two to three weeks, while waiting for assistance from the Department's Cape Town offices. The delegation therefore encourages the Department to find an alternative mechanism that will allow for faster repair of logged IT-related jobs.
- 4.2.2. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport and the Laingsburg Municipality explore the possibility of enabling the patrons of the Vleiland Library Centre to use the internet through the Breedenet Tower located in that area.
- 4.2.3. The Western Cape Government Department to brief the respective Standing Committees on the Rural Development Strategy.
- 4.2.4. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport expands its Xhosa literature collection to accommodate more age categories.
- 4.2.5. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport formalises its partnership with the women of Nal'ibali.

- 4.2.6. Books relating to the history of indigenous peoples e.g Griqua and Khoi should be available so that children, especially can learn about their own cultures and history.

4.3. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTS the following information:

- 4.3.1. Copies of the Municipality's engagements with the community regarding their concerns about the Laingsburg Library.
- 4.3.2. A copy of the Laingsburg Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) that indicates the community's requests for the Laingsburg Library.
- 4.3.3. A breakdown of the municipal support services given to the Laingsburg Library.

5. Visit to the ACVV Huis Malan Jacobs Old-Age Home on Tuesday 27 August 2019

The delegation was received by the Manager, Ms M Bourbon-Leftley, and her staff.

5.1 Key aspects pertaining to the presentation

- 5.1.1. The ACVV Huis Malan Jacobs has been in operation since 1985.
- 5.1.2. It was built after the flood in 1981.
- 5.1.3. The home provides a safe haven for sub economic and economic elderly people above 60 years of age.
- 5.1.4. There are rooms, frail-care units and independent flats that can accommodate 41 elderly people.
- 5.1.5. The management consists of 13 members. These members form part of different subcommittees. They have a financial committee, property committee, selection committee, staff committee, day-management and a fundraiser committee to ensure the smooth running of all the areas of the home.
- 5.1.6. The staff structure consists of one manager, one financial or administrative manager, one registered nurse, one senior nurse caregiver, one senior food-service supervisor, 11 housekeeping assistants, 12 nurse caregivers and one handyman.
- 5.1.7. The elderly residents are provided with 24-hour physical and medical care.
- 5.1.8. The home receives a monthly subsidy per resident from the Department of Social Development.
- 5.1.9. The quarterly reports received from the Department of Social Development are progressive.
- 5.1.10. A doctor visits the home every Wednesday.
- 5.1.11. There was one alleged incident of elderly abuse where a resident molested another resident who suffered from dementia. The manager filed a criminal case at the police station. The home gave the accused resident one month's notice to leave.
- 5.1.12. Water tanks were installed by Koup "Jag" and the local "koöperasie" to ensure that there is water when the Municipality cannot provide water.
- 5.1.13. The community faithfully supports the home throughout the drought that the area experiences at the moment.
- 5.1.14. The home's garden offers a distraction to residents. Residents' children and volunteers are involved with the delivery of gravel, soil, plants and fertiliser.
- 5.1.15. On Sundays, the church service is broadcast from the NG Church to the lounge.

- 5.1.16. The facility has a library service, voluntary feet service, women's bible study, prayer meetings, a tuckshop, a social club throughout the week and a hairdressing service once a month.
- 5.1.17. The home has regular fundraising opportunities to generate its own income. They have a Cookies & Rusks Project, which functions throughout the year. Residents assist with mixing, rolling, baking, packaging and sales. They also have bazaars, pancake sales, exhibitions of hobbies and tea functions.
- 5.1.18. Art and piano lessons are offered by one of the house committee members at the home to young people. He presents singing classes at the Buffelsrivier School.
- 5.1.19. A knitting group has been established. It takes place at the home. It involves the residents, members of the community and volunteers.

5.2. Challenges raised by the ACVV Huis Malan Jacobs Old-Age Home

- 5.2.1. There is a water scarcity due to the drought in Laingsburg.
- 5.2.2. There is a lack of trained nursing staff.
- 5.2.3. The home cannot retain nurses due to higher-paying nursing opportunities offered by the Western Cape Government.
- 5.2.4. Medication arrives later in the month or no medication is received due to perceived lack of medicine in the country as informed by Municipality. However no shortages and chronic medication reported subsequently at the local hospital.
- 5.2.5. Residents are dependent on chronic medication, such as Omeprazole (stomach), Panado and Tramadol (pain medicine), Amlolipine (blood pressure), Trepiline and Citalopram (anti-depressant), Isordil 10 mg (heart), Simvastatin (cholesterol), and the shortage of this medication results in a huge health risk to the residents at the facility.
- 5.2.6. The home does not receive any subsidy for staff salaries.
- 5.2.7. It costs R5 280 to sustain each resident per month. The home receives the residents' R1 800 SASSA pension grant but can only use 90% of this grant.
- 5.2.8. The home does not have the specialist care and financial capacity to accommodate younger persons who need frail care.

5.3. Resolutions

The delegation RESOLVED that:

- 5.3.1 The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Development write a letter to the Minister of Social Development requesting her to investigate the possibility of moving a patient (details of the patient to be provided in the letter) to the ACVV Huis Malan Jacobs Old-Age Home and providing a grant to assist the patient with the necessary care.
- 5.3.2. The Minister of Health give urgent attention to the delay in the dispensation of acute/chronic medication and the shortage of qualified nurses at the home.
- 5.3.3. The Department of Social Development investigates the possibility of increasing grants to frail-care homes to subsidise qualified nurses' salaries and social workers' salaries in rural areas in order for the homes to retain these specialised services.
- 5.3.4. The Department of Social Development investigates policies, legislation and/or process amendments for frail-care facilities or persons with disabilities in rural areas and the possibility of moving them to frail-care facilities, like old-age homes in the area.

5.4. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTS that the Department of Social Development provides the following information:

- 5.4.1. A report of plans (if any) to develop a centre for persons with disabilities or for frail-care in Laingsburg.
- 5.4.2. A copy of the quarterly reports of the home for the 2018/19 financial year.
- 5.4.3. Copies of all the ACVV policies.
- 5.4.4. A report on the social-work services available in Laingsburg.
- 5.4.5. A copy of the correspondence that the ACVV Huis Malan Jacobs Old-Age Home sent to the Department of Health relating to the shortage and dispensation of chronic medication.

The delegation also REQUESTS that the:

- 5.4.6. Department of the Local Government provides a copy of the municipal indigent grant policy and a brief report stating whether this grant includes residents in funded frail-care facilities.
- 5.4.7. Department of Community Safety opens a Court Watching Brief and provides a status report on case number 14/7/2019.
- 5.4.8. Panic alarm system must be installed

6. Visit to the Hoërskool Laingsburg on Tuesday 27 August 2019

The delegation was received by the school's principal, Mr CR Pedro, and the Education District Director for the Eden and Central Karoo Education District office, Mr Maarman, led the presentation.

6.1. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation

- 6.1.1. The Hoërskool Laingsburg can accommodate 1 200 learners from Grade 8 to Grade 12 but only has 353 learners, of which 195 are female and 156 male. While there are 115 learners in Grade 8, there are only 33 in Grade 12.
- 6.1.2. None of the school's Grade 10 to Grade 12 learners are currently enrolled in Mathematics or Physical Science.
- 6.1.3. The school is a quintile 4 fee-paying school. According to the Education District Director, most learners are from the poor community and application to change the status of the school has been made.
- 6.1.4. The School is an Afrikaans-medium section 21 secondary school. The school has 14 classrooms, which includes two science laboratories, five specialist classrooms, a workshop class, a computer laboratory, an e-centre and a library.
- 6.1.5. The Community Policing Forum reported that the school experiences problems with learners abusing alcohol and drugs on school premises and with learners bringing dangerous weapons to school with which they threaten fellow learners.
- 6.1.6. The school is scheduled for maintenance during the 2024/25 financial year, in accordance with the User Asset Management Plan (UAMP) for 2019/20.
- 6.1.7. The school received new stoves in 2019, which during inspection by the delegation were not set up, and the learners currently still utilise the three stoves in the home-economics classroom.

- 6.1.8. Laingsburg has two mass participation; opportunity and access; development and growth (herein after MOD) centres which are an after-school mass-participation programme that provides school-going young people daily access to various fun-filled, play-based and modified activities in recreation and sport, as well as in arts and culture. One MOD centre is at the Acacia Primary School and one at the Hoërskool Laingsburg – but not at the school, in the town – according to the Education District Director for Laingsburg. The MOD centres provide four sports codes, namely rugby, chess, cricket and volley ball. Each centre has a centre manager and one or more coaches who are responsible for an after-school programme. But there is currently only one coach responsible for the programme.
- 6.1.9. Learners practice and take part in different sporting codes, indigenous games and in arts and culture events.
- 6.1.10. Learners took part in the Youth Festival on 16 June 2019.
- 6.1.11. They participated in six indigenous games, as well as in poetry and drama.
- 6.1.12. In addition, the schools participate in SWD Sports Council leagues.
- 6.1.13. Farm schools participate in an intra-schools league.
- 6.1.14. The Safe Schools Cluster: There are 15 functional clusters in the district and they meet every term. Clusters empower school-safety officers by providing platforms for safety and security engagements.
- 6.1.15. According to the Safe Schools Programme all schools must have safety committees supported with training in terms of the National Schools Safety Framework, which includes the Hoërskool Laingsburg.
- 6.1.16. The whole district is trained and supported in occupational health and safety (currently training on resilient scorecards take place).
- 6.1.17. Safe Schools has requested the Laingsburg SAPS to increase visibility at and near the school to protect against the damage that has been done to the school fence.
- 6.1.18. The alarm-system upgrades will take place before the end of 2019. During the visit it was said that this is in supply-chain process.
- 6.1.19. Access control: Schools are supported with the installation of security mechanisms to improve safety and security, although there were no security cameras outside the school.
- 6.1.20. Safe Schools repairs fences up to 30 m. According to the district officer, there is no installation of perimeter fencing.
- 6.1.21. A school-based Support Team assists with intervention processes supported by Safe Schools.
- 6.1.22. Records of interventions performed by schools, SLES and external service providers are filed.
- 6.1.23. The Eden and Central Karoo Education District (herein after ECKED) will be the lead Department for the Joint Provincial Initiative (JPI) for Learner Retention as from January 2020. The district has a Learner Retention Strategy, which includes the Hoërskool Laingsburg.
- 6.1.24. A group of 15 Grade 10 learners, in collaboration with CPUT, took part in the science week.
- 6.1.25. Seven RCL members will take part in the heritage programme on Robben Island during the September holidays.
- 6.1.26. Grade 12 learners are well prepared for their matric examinations.
- 6.1.27. There is an intensive intervention plan to improve the school's systemic results.

6.2. Challenges raised by the WCED and the school:

6.2.1. Online admissions:

- 6.2.1.1. Learners without birth certificates or passports or any other required documents;
- 6.2.1.2. Poor quality of network connectivity in some rural areas; and
- 6.2.1.3. Lack of technological knowledge of parents to complete online applications.

6.2.2. Large geographical area to cover: Increased expenditure for travelling costs and time resources due to travelling time for meetings in Cape Town and to schools far from George.

6.2.3. Vandalism over the past two years. Almost 50 m of palisade fencing were stolen. Nearly every fortnight copper water pipes have been stolen.

6.2.4. Playing fields for soccer / Rugby is in very poor conditions and not being utilised by scholars.

6.3. Resolutions

The delegation RESOLVED that:

6.3.1. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Education write a letter to the Minister of Education, Ms B Schäfer, to recommend that the quintile status of the school be changed as a matter of urgency.

6.3.2. The WCED and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport brief the Standing Committee on Education and the Standing Committees Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the MOD Programme and the roles and responsibilities of the respective departments.

6.4. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTS the Western Cape Education Department to provide the following information:

6.4.1. A copy of the retention plan (strategy) for learners of the school in order to keep Grade 8 learners at the Hoërskool Laingsburg until matric.

6.4.2. A copy of the schools' budget, including the budget allocation in the Norms and Standards for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial year.

6.4.3. A report on the matric Mathematics results for March, June and September 2019.

6.4.4. A copy of the school maintenance plan, if any.

6.4.5. The Safety Plan for the school, whether or not there is a safety officer attached to the plan and the fire plan. Further to that, the delegation requests a report on whether there is a relationship between the neighbourhood watches, community policing forums and the South African Police Service in the area and with the school.

6.4.6. All documentation pertaining to the request to have the quintile changed of the school to a no-fee school.

6.4.7. A copy of the succession plan for the Hoërskool Laingsburg when the principal retires.

6.4.8. A report on fund raising, if any has been done for 2018/2019 financial year.

6.4.9. A detail report on the E-Learning Strategy for the next five years for the Eden and Central Karoo District.

- 6.4.10. The number of learners, including names that are on the Representative Council of Learners (RCL) at the school and the District.
- 6.4.11. A report on the funding allocated to the hostels of the Hoërskool Laingsburg for the last two years.
- 6.4.12. A breakdown on the systemic results and the intensive intervention plan to improve it.
- 6.4.13. A breakdown of the matric results for the past three years.
- 6.4.14. A breakdown of the staffing budget for the school for the past three years.
- 6.4.15. A report on whether the maintenance budget of the school could be separated from the entire budget in order to obtain more for maintenance.
- 6.4.16. A report on the MOD centre's budget for Laingsburg, including the activities that are being provided and where and how many coaches are present.
- 6.4.17. The drought plan for schools in the Eden and Central Karoo District.
- 6.4.18. A status report on the alarm system at the school.
- 6.4.19. The budget to replace the windows that are broken at the school. Further to that, the cost implications to replace the windows.

7. Visit to the Cape Access Centre on Wednesday 28 August 2019

The delegation was received by Mr E Galandt, Programme Manager: Cape Access, and Mr K Groeneveldt and Mr H Arendse from the Department of the Premier.

7.1. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation

- 7.1.1. The need for a Cape Access Centre at the Thusong Service Centre was identified by all stakeholders in Laingsburg. Role players included the Laingsburg Municipality, different government departments, community organisations and the community.
- 7.1.2. The Laingsburg Cape Access Centre has been in operation since 2013.
- 7.1.3. Basic ICT skills, accredited International Certification in Digital Literacy (ICDL) courses, internet, email, Word, PowerPoint and Excel training is provided at the Cape Access Centre.
- 7.1.4. The community has free access to email and internet connection.
- 7.1.5. The community can print documents for free, search for online jobs, research information for school, colleges and university projects, access schools' curriculum material, apply to universities and access distance learning institutions and materials.
- 7.1.6. The Cape Access Centre hosts open days with the Thusong Centre and other stakeholders.
- 7.1.7. The Laingsburg Municipality reported that the Cape Access Centre can move to the Environmental Education E-Centre as the site is bigger and would be able to accommodate more persons.
- 7.1.8. The Centre advertises on Facebook, on posters, displays banners outside the office, distributes brochures and advertises in the local Thusong newspaper to inform the community about the free services they offer.

7.2. Challenges raised by Cape Access Centre

- 7.2.1. The Centre can only accommodate 12 persons at a time.
- 7.2.2. The daily operations has to stop when the Cape Access Centre has training sessions.

7.3. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTS the Department of the Premier to provide the following information:

- 7.3.1. A brief explanation of how entrepreneurs can open businesses close to the Cape Access Centre and make use of the free Wi-Fi services.
- 7.3.2. The geographical breakdown of the Wi-Fi hotspots. The list should include the areas that have received installations and that will still get access.
- 7.3.3. A status report relating to the Cape Access Centre moving to the Environmental Education E-Centre, which includes the erf number of the site.
- 7.3.4. A feasibility study on training the staff on coding at the Cape Access Centre.
- 7.3.5. A feedback report on the response and process that is followed when the Laingsburg Library experiences downtime.

7.4. Recommendation

The delegation recommends that the Department of the Premier discuss with Liquid Telecoms the possibility of increasing the amount of bandwidth provided to the Thusong centres.

8. Visit to the office of the Department of Social Development on Wednesday 28 August 2019

The Social Cluster delegation visited the Department of Social Development (herein after DSD) office, which is situated in the Thusong Centre in Laingsburg. Ms Benadie, welcomed the delegation and led the presentation on the basket of services that are offered by the Department of Social Development in Laingsburg and the surrounding areas.

8.1. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation

- 8.1.1. According to the 2016 census by Statistics SA, Laingsburg has a population of approximately 8 430 with a total number of households of 2 862, while the total population of the Central Karoo District was 74 247.
- 8.1.2. The Department of Social Development has a working agreement with Child Welfare South Africa in Laingsburg. The purpose of the agreement is to offer a basket of services, except for the probation services, in Laingsburg, Goldnerville and Bergsig.
- 8.1.3. The Department also has working agreements with Badisa, which assists in areas of service delivery, namely social welfare and community-development programmes.
- 8.1.4. The DSD office in Laingsburg has a total of eight staff members that consists of one Social Worker Manager, one Social Worker Supervisor, one Acting Social Worker Supervisor, one Child Care and Protection & Services to Families Worker, one Customer Care Assistant, one Social Crime Prevention Worker, one Social Worker and one Social Auxiliary Worker these services also include the Victim Empowerment Programme, services to families and special programme. It was also reported that one Social Worker position was vacant.

- 8.1.5. During the visit there were no social workers in the DSD office in Laingsburg. One social worker was on maternity leave, another social worker was transferred to Beaufort West and a further social worker post was vacant.
- 8.1.6. The social worker position has been vacant since May 2019 and the social worker who was on maternity leave would only be back in October 2019.
- 8.1.7. It was reported that, due to the inadequate number of social workers in Laingsburg, services such as child protection and probation services were affected in particular.
- 8.1.8. Ms Benadie reported that they requested a temporary social worker to work on a contract basis, however, they were still waiting and in the meantime there was no social worker in the office.
- 8.1.9. A range of anti-bullying programmes, which focus on preventing bullying and empowering the victims of bullying, were in place in Laingsburg.
- 8.1.10. Ms Benadie reported that a support group for substance abuse was established in September 2018 and nine people were attending the support group.
- 8.1.11. The delegation was informed that a successful integrated crime-prevention boot camp for young people in conflict with the law was held in 2018 with the SAPS. The aim of the camp was to instill the norms, values and discipline in young people and all 15 young people who were in conflict with the law successfully completed the diversion programme.

8.2. Challenges raised by the office of the Department of Social Development

- 8.2.1. The current organogram of DSD officials was identified as a major challenge in the DSD office in Laingsburg.
- 8.2.2. There is a shortage of social workers that hampers service delivery, especially child-protection and probation services.
- 8.2.3. The delegation was also informed that one social worker from Child Welfare SA in Laingsburg resigned.
- 8.2.4. There was only one Social Auxiliary Worker at the DSD office in Laingsburg.
- 8.2.5. The DSD office in Laingsburg has one Assistant Community Development Practitioner who is responsible for community development in the social-work management area.
- 8.2.6. Inadequate office space was also noted. The officials reported that inadequate office space was a major contributing factor to the high staff turnover.
- 8.2.7. The DSD office in Laingsburg has no proper storage space.
- 8.2.8. It was reported that school dropouts were also common in Laingsburg.
- 8.2.9. Socio-economic challenges, namely substance abuse and unemployment, were identified as major challenges in the communities. This results in parents not taking care of their children.
- 8.2.10. There was no internet connection for DSD officials in Laingsburg. They reported that they utilise mobile dongles and these were not working during the visit.
- 8.2.11. Cape Access, which shares the building with DSD officials in Laingsburg, undertook to assist the DSD officials with an internet connection. The Cape Access officials reported that the infrastructure at the DSD offices was already installed and that they were only waiting for the switch.
- 8.2.12. Insufficient IT equipment and not enough space to assist young people with online university applications and job opportunities in the service delivery areas were also noted as a challenge.
- 8.2.13. The DSD office in Laingsburg has two vehicles. The officials reported that the vehicles were not suitable for gravel roads and that there was a need for 4x4 vans.

- 8.2.14. The officials reported that the distances that have to be travelled had an impact on service delivery. They further reported that Laingsburg has a total of 303 farms and some farms are 75 km to 90 km away.
- 8.2.15. There is a need for the establishment of a Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) in the Central Karoo. This will ensure that family-preservation and reunification services are properly conducted in terms of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005) and that the provision of crime prevention are met in accordance with the Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008).
- 8.2.16. A long waiting list for admissions at rehabilitation treatment centres was also identified as a major challenge.
- 8.2.17. There is an urgent need to deal with substance abuse and family preservation in Laingsburg due to the increase in substance abuse that contributes to family disintegration.
- 8.2.18. There is a high reporting rate of child neglect and child abuse in Laingsburg that requires urgent intervention.
- 8.2.19. There is no treatment centre in the Central Karoo.
- 8.2.20. Due to the high rate in socio-economic factors – such as substance abuse, crime, poverty and unemployment – family structures are under severe pressure in the Laingsburg communities.

8.3. Resolutions

The delegation RESOLVED that:

- 8.3.1. The Department of Social Development should brief the Standing Committee on Social Development on the allocation of staff members and vehicles for all the DSD regional offices in the province.
- 8.3.2. The Standing Committee on Social Development should write to the Social Worker Manager in Laingsburg, Ms Benadie, to seek clarity on the challenges and shortages of social workers in Laingsburg.
- 8.3.3. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Development should make contact with the provincial Minister of Social Development and request that the challenge of social-worker shortage in Laingsburg be resolved as a matter of urgency.
- 8.3.4. The Standing Committee on Social Development should follow up on the procurement process by Cape Access for the switch to ensure that the DSD offices in Laingsburg are connected to the internet and Wi-Fi.

8.4. Recommendations

The delegation RECOMMENDS that:

- 8.4.1. In future, the presentations must be put together and presented by officials on-site who understand the challenges faced at that particular site.
- 8.4.2. The Mayor of the Laingsburg Municipality should conduct a concerted campaign that will involve parents in their children's lives and in government programmes.
- 8.4.3. The DSD and Cape Access should collaborate and establish a Youth Café at the Thusong Centre since they share the same building.
- 8.4.4. The DSD should work with the Department of Transport and Public Works to find a suitable office space for the officials and clients of the DSD in Laingsburg.

8.5. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTS the Department of Social Development to provide the following information:

- 8.5.1. A detailed report on the number of school dropouts in Laingsburg for the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years.
- 8.5.2. A copy of the service level agreement with Child Welfare South Africa in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.3. A copy of the transfer payment agreement between Child Welfare South Africa in Laingsburg and the provincial Department of Social Development.
- 8.5.4. A detailed report on the stakeholder engagement in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.5. A detailed list of registered NPOs and services provided by these NPOs in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.6. A detailed report on the DSD recruitment process to show how long it takes to fill vacancies in the Department of Social Development.
- 8.5.7. A report on the plan to find suitable premises for the DSD in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.8. Detailed information on the DSD's sustainable Abuse Centre in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.9. Information on the number of registered children in Laingsburg and the caseload of reported bullying cases.
- 8.5.10. The total number of registered children and adults living with disabilities in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.11. A detailed breakdown of the number of vehicles allocated to the DSD offices in Laingsburg and the number of vehicles allocated for child-welfare services in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.12. A report on the needs analysis for the registration of Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCC) in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.13. The organogram of the DSD officials in Laingsburg.
- 8.5.14. A status report on progress made with filling the social-worker vacancies in Laingsburg.

9. Visit to the Laingsburg South African Police Services (SAPS) on Wednesday 28 August 2019

The delegation was welcomed by Lt Col JJ Tiemie, Station Commander, at the Laingsburg South African Police Service (SAPS).

9.1. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation

- 9.1.1. The Laingsburg policing area spans 8 787,44km² servicing approximately 8 983 persons.
- 9.1.2. The two policing sectors consist of 300 farm areas, with the furthest farm area located 160 km from the Laingsburg SAPS. The terrain leading to this farm consists of 40 km tarred road and a gravel road of approximately 120 km. Despite the large policing area, there are no satellite stations in the precinct, nor sufficient staff capacity should there be such a facility. Although call-outs to far-reaching areas are not minimal, staff are often asked to travel to those areas on their allocated rest days.
- 9.1.3. The Laingsburg SAPS stated that it does not receive any requests from the Hoërskool Laingsburg unless it is crime-related.
- 9.1.4. There is no established gang structure in Laingsburg.

- 9.1.5. For 2018/19, 91% of drug-related cases involved possession of illegal substances. Possession and/or use of dagga was reported in 40% of cases, of mandrax in 34% of cases, and of tik in 23% of cases.
- 9.1.6. The Laingsburg SAPS does not have a Crime Intelligence Officer but receives this service on police-cluster level.
- 9.1.7. There is only one operational member at the police station who does not have a driver's licence.
- 9.1.8. For the period 1 April 2019 to 20 August 2019, 18 victims were assisted with Victim Support Services. There is only one Victim-Friendly Room housed in a wendy house.
- 9.1.9. For the period 1 April 2019 to 20 August 2019, there were 14 domestic-violence cases reported, 33 applications for protection orders and 37 protection orders were served.
- 9.1.10. Bergsig accounts for 51% of domestic-violence-related crimes, with Goldnerville accounting for 45% of these crimes.
- 9.1.11. At the time of the visit, the Laingsburg SAPS had no volunteers to counsel domestic-violence victims. The recruitment drive for volunteers is dependent on the outcomes of the elections for the new term of office of the local Community Policing Forum.
- 9.1.12. The Laingsburg SAPS has 15 vehicles and one roadblock trailer. These include nine vehicles for the Visible Policing (VISPOL) Unit, four for the Detection Unit and two for Support Services.
- 9.1.13. Several vehicles have high mileage-levels registered. One of these vehicles is scheduled to be boarded and three others were in for repair and maintenance services at the time of the oversight visit.
- 9.1.14. The station has seven allocated holding cells of which only two are functional. One holding cell is used for storage space. The condition of the non-functional holding cells is such that the doors are damaged and the metal grid in one of the mini courtyards that separate the holding cells has been cut. The Laingsburg SAPS reported that it has not had any significant repairs or renovations of structural damages completed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure since the station was established in 1968.
- 9.1.15. The daily allowance to repair station-level damages does not cover the expected amount needed to repair the doors of the holding cell.
- 9.1.16. The ease of access to the Community Service Centre (CSC) presents security risks as there is no barrier to control entry by members of the public beyond the CSC.
- 9.1.17. There are pending cases against 14 Laingsburg SAPS members for assault with grievous bodily harm, assault common and malicious damage to property. The majority of the cases are from 2017. All of these cases have been reported to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID).
- 9.1.18. There are several liquor outlets in the precinct with six outlets registered to trade alcohol and seven registered to accommodate alcohol consumption. These outlets are operational between 09:00 and 18:00 from Monday to Friday.
- 9.1.19. There were no reported cases involving underage alcohol consumption and drug abuse registered at the Laingsburg SAPS.
- 9.1.20. In terms of staffing, the Laingsburg SAPS reported that it has 57 staff members. There is a deficit of 10 members in the VISPOL Unit.
- 9.1.21. There is no structured fitness programme in place for the Laingsburg SAPS, however the Station Commander had previously introduced weekly 'fun walks' to boost fitness levels and staff morale.

- 9.1.22. Complaints received against Laingsburg SAPS members are recorded in the station's Complaints Register at Human Resource Management. The Station Commander then furnishes the complaints to the component heads for investigation.
- 9.1.23. The Department of Community Safety's Werner Bezuidenhout gave a short presentation on the impact of the deficit of the 10 VISPOL vacancies. He highlighted that the shift management is adversely affected. Due to the requirements of the station as a Lieutenant Colonel-rated station, there are serious concerns that the Station Commander's staffing capacity is at best stretched, thus putting severe strain on the limited personnel for patrol and CSC duties. In effect, especially if members are away on training or various types of leave, there could potentially be only one officer on duty at the CSC. These risks hinder the Laingsburg SAPS' capacity to fulfil its mandate to effectively serve the precinct in accordance with section 205(3) of the Constitution.
- 9.1.24. The members of the public were also afforded the opportunity to provide comment.
- 9.1.25. The delegation notice that there were no integrated safety plan for the area involving SAPS and the Department of Community Safety.

9.2. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTS the Laingsburg SAPS to provide the following information:

- 9.2.1. A list of the number of cases registered at the station of children requiring victim support in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 9.2.2. The number of cases where children were taken into safety, in conjunction with the Laingsburg SAPS, in terms of subsection 3 of section 152 of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005) in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to date.
- 9.2.3. The number of pending cases, as well as the nature of these cases, against Laingsburg SAPS members. The information should include the progress updates of the pending cases.
- 9.2.4. An indication of how often the Laingsburg High School has initiated engagement with the Laingsburg SAPS during the current financial year.
- 9.2.5. A list of the type of fitness programmes that the Laingsburg SAPS has for its members.
- 9.2.6. A list of the infrastructural challenges and limitations at the Laingsburg SAPS that need urgent consideration for repair and/or replacement. These infrastructural concerns may include holding cells, the Community Service Centre, access to and safety in the station, the Victim Support Room, personnel office space, the vehicle fleet and storage space.
- 9.2.7. The mechanism in place for community members to process compliments for and/or complaints against Laingsburg SAPS members.
- 9.2.8. A list of cases involving underage alcohol consumption for the 2018/19 financial year, as well as the latest statistics for the 2019/20 financial year, registered at the Laingsburg SAPS.
- 9.2.9. That the Acting Provincial Police Commissioner details the number of cases reported where children were removed from unsafe places and where social workers were not involved.
- 9.2.10. The number of rape kits available at the Laingsburg SAPS, and whether or not that amount of rape kits is sufficient for that police station.

- 9.2.11. The delegation was informed that the Laingsburg Department of Social Development office is not furnished with weekend reports of reported incidents involving children. Provide a response to the concern.
- 9.2.12. A copy of the Laingsburg SAPS' strategy to deal with the sale of liquor to learners that are persons under the age of 18.
- 9.2.13. That the Acting Provincial Police Commissioner provides a status report of the staff establishment for all Western Cape policing precincts, including the Laingsburg precinct. The report should indicate the plan to ensure that vacancies are filled and that all stations are properly staffed.
- 9.2.14. The delegation expresses concern about the management of the Laingsburg SAPS' Victim Support Room register entries. Upon inspection the delegation noted that there were only four entries over a three-year period but it was stated during the presentation that much more victim support to both abused women and children was offered. Provide clarification on the monitoring processes and persons responsible for the management of the register to record victim-support cases.
- 9.2.15. The delegation requested the Department of Community Safety provides the latest copy of Laingsburg Cluster's Safety Plan.

10. Visit to the Laingsburg Clinic and Hospital on Wednesday, 28 August 2019

The delegation visited the Laingsburg Hospital, Dr Muller, Regional Manager, Laingsburg Sub District welcomed the delegation. The following presentations were done during the visit.

10.1 Key aspects pertaining to the presentation on the Forensic Pathology Services (FPS)

- 10.1.1. Dr. Smith, Head of Forensic Pathology Services in Laingsburg briefed the delegation on the services offered by the (FPS) in Laingsburg and the surrounding areas.
- 10.1.2. The FPS in Laingsburg renders level 1 package of service in terms of its legislative mandate, namely, the Inquest Act No 58 of 1959, section 56 of the Health Profession Act, 1974 (Act no 56 of 1974) and the Birth and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act 51 of 1992). There are regulations regarding the rendering of Forensic Pathology Services and the FPS is mandated to render services within these regulations. The regulations are only applicable to deaths that are or appear to be, due to unnatural causes. Dr. Smith also informed the delegation that the Laingsburg FPS also works closely with the traffic officers in terms of road fatalities in Laingsburg and surrounding areas.
- 10.1.3. He reported that the FPS in Laingsburg is working closely with the South African Police Services. The services provided by the FPS includes, but not limited, commencing with a scene of unnatural death investigation in consultation with the investigating officer, obtaining any information that is relevant to the medico-legal investigation of a death, taking responsibility for the collection of a body and removal from the scene, taking responsibility for the custody of a body from the scene of death until released for burial, taking into custody, thoroughly documenting and maintaining evidence and specimens relating to a body and any associated items, assisting with the process of identification of the deceased, conducting a post mortem investigation, requesting and conducting appropriate special investigations, providing expert testimony and opinion, archiving

documents, specimens and related materials, collecting, reviewing and analysing relating data and providing information and advice to health, other government authorities, and departments.

- 10.1.4. Dr. Smith further reported that all the above mentioned services are rendered on site as per the Legislated Mandate except two of their functions such as conducting a post mortem investigation that include an external and internal examination of a body, and retaining material that include tissue or fluids for evidentiary or diagnostic purpose, and requesting and conducting appropriate special investigation. Both of these functions are performed at Oudtshoorn, Forensic Pathology Lab, and a support centre or in George Forensic Pathology Lab, a referral centre by the Laingsburg staff as this is where specialist and clinical support is based.
- 10.1.5. According to the statistics of unnatural deaths presented during the visit, in 2016, the unnatural deaths as a result of road traffic accidents in 2016 was 48%, in 2017 was 51%, in 2018 was 66% and in 2019 to the date of the visit was 85%. The FPS projected that the 2019 statistics will increase since the festive season is still coming.

10.2. Challenges raised by the Forensic Pathology Service in Laingsburg

- 10.2.1. The FPS in Laingsburg was reported to be understaffed, there were two staff members, one manager and one operational, both members were permanently on 24-hour standby performing administrative work and driving to Oudtshoorn or George for post mortems.
- 10.2.2. Due to inadequate staff members, this makes it difficult for the two officials to take leave and attend training.
- 10.2.3. Infrastructure was inadequate for the FPS in Laingsburg, they were situated next to the police holding cells and this holds a risk to staff and their clients.
- 10.2.4. Due to the inadequate office space for the FPS in Laingsburg, there was no waiting room or adequate body viewing facilities and no post mortem dissection facility. These challenges were exacerbated by major road traffic accidents.
- 10.2.5. The FPS in Laingsburg could not fully support the Laingsburg hospital due to an inadequate storage facility for natural Non-FPS cases.

11. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation on the basket of services offered by the Laingsburg Clinic and Laingsburg Hospital

- 11.1.1. Dr. Muller, Regional Manager, Laingsburg Sub District led the presentation and presented on the basket of services offered by these health facilities.
- 11.1.2. The Laingsburg Clinic offers primary health care to the community of Laingsburg and its surrounding areas. The clinic operates on weekdays from 07:00 to 16:00. Laingsburg has one 1 clinic, 1 mobile clinic, 1 satellite clinic in Matjiesfontein and 1 district hospital. The Laingsburg clinic offers full primary health care packages, namely, preventatives, curatives, and rehabilitation services. The Laingsburg District Hospital has a total of 46 staff members that consist of 23 nursing staff and 2 doctors and 21 administrative staff and housekeeping staff.
- 11.1.3. The mobile clinic provides primary health care services to the Swartberg route with 23 farms in 4 different routes on roaster basis, whilst the satellite clinic in Matjiesfontein only opens every Wednesdays and second Monday from 09:00 - 15:00, both clinics are serviced by clinical staff from Laingsburg. Due to the service pressure at Matjiesfontein satellite clinic, the opening days are going to

be increased. A doctor from the Laingsburg Hospital visit the satellite clinic every Wednesdays if two doctors are on duty. The Clinic has an Integrated School Health Programme in place, at which packages of services are provided at schools using the Care and Support for Teaching and Learning framework that includes, learner assessment and screening, management of health alignments and preventative strategies.

- 11.1.4. The delegation was informed that a wellness bus has visited the Acacia Primary School where health services such as screening eye tests for the Grade R students and the Human Papilloma Virus (HVP) campaign for girls at Grade 4 were conducted. This was part of the Integrated School Health Programme. Furthermore, screening was also conducted for Grade 8 learners at Laingsburg High School and there was a positive response from learners on health education in topics such as substance and drug abuse, sexual and reproductive health including teenage pregnancies, HIV & AIDS, suicide and nutrition. The delegation was informed that some of the successes of the Integrated School Health Programme includes high a number of learners that were screened and received glasses, few learners were referred for dental care, an Optometrist and oral hygienist are present on the Wellness bus and the majority of learners consent and parents were informed about the Hepatitis C-Virus (HCV) campaign for girls in Grade 4. The Triage System was reported to be working and it addresses the waiting period of patients that visit the Laingsburg Clinic. The clinic is currently extended and revamped.

11.2. The challenges raised by the Laingsburg Clinic

- 11.2.1. Shortage of staff were reported as a major challenge.
- 11.2.2. The Clinic Committee Members were still to be appointed, currently, there was no Clinic Committee.
- 11.2.3. The expansion of the clinic was in progress and this affects the patients flow and services at the clinic.
- 11.2.4. Drought was identified as a challenge in Laingsburg.
- 11.2.5. No consent forms from parents, the health practitioners had to call parent's to sign the consent form.
- 11.2.6. Lack of cooperation by the teachers to refer learners who needed services such as eye testing, dental and social support services.
- 11.2.7. High school absenteeism for the girls in Grade 4 during the HPV campaign.
- 11.2.8. Lack of interest from parents on what was happening at school and lack of parent involvement in their children's lives.
- 11.2.9. Lack of interest from students to be referred to the clinic for health services such as contraceptives, pregnancy test, HIV and STI testing. This was due to the inadequate office space at the clinic that resulted to the lack of privacy and confidentiality when the learners visit the clinic.
- 11.2.10. It was reported that there was no office space or clinic at Matjiesfontein, the satellite service offered health services from a community hall.

11.3. Key aspects pertaining to the presentation of Laingsburg Hospital

The Laingsburg District Hospital is a level 1 hospital that renders a full package of level 1 care related services with a total of 20 beds except for theater and OPD services. The hospital target for the bed, utilization was 88.3% in the past three financial years and the

target for the average length of stay is 3.3. However, the hospital had clients that were exceeding the bed utilization rate and length of stay due to medical admissions.

11.4. The challenges raised by the Laingsburg Hospital

- 11.4.1. The Laingsburg Hospital did not have a mortuary on hospital grounds.
- 11.4.2. Currently, there was no undertaker available at Laingsburg to collect the deceased of natural deaths from private homes. It was reported that there was an undertaker, however, the undertaker stopped working, and it failed to meet the municipality required standards of transporting bodies.
- 11.4.3. No functioning funeral service at Laingsburg, this also caused a major challenge for patients that were passing away at Laingsburg hospital.
- 11.4.4. The delegation was further informed that the Forensic Pathology Services in Laingsburg were not collecting bodies of natural death persons from private homes, due to the shortage of staff and shortage of skills to perform the task.
- 11.4.5. There was a shortage of staff at Laingsburg hospital. Only two medical doctors that cover services including private users.
- 11.4.6. The security personnel was inadequate at the hospital, only one security guard was on duty per shift and one security guard at Laingsburg Clinic. The hospital officials reported that the security contract was negotiated at a provincial level and the hospital does not have an allocated budget for security.
- 11.4.7. There were no private health practitioners and no private pharmacies in Laingsburg.
- 11.4.8. Seasonal motor vehicle accidents were reported as a major challenge for the Laingsburg and as they put service pressure and demand to the system.
- 11.4.9. The Laingsburg Hospital Board was appointed, however, the Mayor of the Laingsburg District Municipality informed the delegation that the Municipality was not aware that the Laingsburg Hospital Board was appointed.
- 11.4.10. The shortage of dentists was also reported as a challenge at Laingsburg District Hospital.
- 11.4.11. The community members that were present during the visit reported that due to the lack of vehicles, the hospital refers pregnant teenagers to Worcester and the teenagers were expected to take lifts to Worcester hospital.
- 11.4.12. Another member of the community reported that his wife suffered a heart attack, there were not doctors at Laingsburg hospital. He had to drive his sick wife from Laingsburg to Worcester Hospital without getting any medical help from the Laingsburg Hospital.

11.5. Resolutions

The delegation RESOLVED that the Department of Health brief the Standing Committee on Health on the appointment of the Hospital Boards and the Clinic Committees in the province.

11.6. Information requested

The delegation REQUESTS the following information:

- 11.6.1. The Minister of Health, provides the Standing Committee on Health and the Laingsburg District Municipality with the process followed in the appointment of the Laingsburg Hospital Boards and Clinic Committee.

- 11.6.2. Dr van Heerden provides the Standing Committee on Health with detailed report on the particular patient on whether the nurses in old age homes are capable of taking care of the patient in question.
- 11.6.3. The Department of Health provides detailed information on how the hospital operates, staff compliment, vehicle allocation, and details of the person in charge of the Laingsburg Hospital on a daily basis.
- 11.6.4. The Laingsburg District Municipality provides the Standing Committee on Health with detailed information on the requirements and criteria that undertakers must meet to qualify for removing bodies from the communities of Laingsburg.
- 11.6.5. The Laingsburg District Municipality to provide detailed information on what the Municipality was doing to assist undertakers to meet the criteria.
- 11.6.6. The Department of Health provides the latest organogram for staff and management at Laingsburg Hospital

12. Resolution by delegation

The delegation resolved, as part of a longer-term objective, to dedicate a full day to the strategic planning of effective parliamentary oversight of rural communities and the status of differently abled persons in particular.

13. Conclusion

The Delegation successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the urgency of the challenges experienced at the various sites that were visited. The facilities that were visited need support in their endeavours to succeed against the challenges noted in this report.

14. Acknowledgements

The delegations thanks the management of the different facilities that were visited for their willingness to share valuable information with the Social Cluster Visit Week delegation.

Report to be considered.

2. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON UNANNOUNCED OVERSIGHT VISITS TO THE KAYAMANDI WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN KAYAMANDI AND RUSTHOF OLD AGE HOME IN PAARL-EAST, CONDUCTED ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2019.

The Standing Committee on Social Development, having conducted an unannounced oversight visits to the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project in Kayamandi and the Rusthof Old Age Home in Paarl-East, on 17 September 2019, reports as follows:

The Delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Social Development, included the following Members:

Democratic Alliance

Bosman, G (Chairperson)

Mackenzie, RD

Philander, WF

African National Congress

BakuBaku-Vos, NG

Additional Members

Bans, AP (ANC)

Windvogel, R (ANC)

Apology

Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)

Ms N Jamce, Procedural Officer, accompanied the delegation.

1. Introduction

The Standing Committee on Social Development resolved to embark on unannounced oversight visits to the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project in Kayamandi and Rusthof Old Age Home in Paarl-East on 17 September 2019, as part of its oversight mandate over the Department of Social Development and in compliance with its programme.

2. Visit to the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project in Kayamandi

On arrival at the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project, the Centre Coordinator Ms Nkupane, and the Centre Manager Ms Baku-baku, welcomed the Committee Members and led the delegation to a walkabout of the facility.

3. Findings

- 3.1 The Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project (the project) started as a trauma centre for victims of rape, domestic violence, and abuse in 2007. It was launched in 2009 due to a desperate need for a trauma room where woman and children could receive counselling and a place of safety.
- 3.2 The trauma centre is not subsidised by the government and functions 24-hours on the compassion of its volunteers and the assistance of various stakeholders, namely, the Stellenbosch United Church which occasionally assists with giving clothes and soup to the underprivileged community members. They received funding for the Community Nutrition Development Centre and is received from the National Department of Social Development.
- 3.3 The project operates from the Municipality building next to the Kayamandi Police station.
- 3.4 They offer counselling to victims of domestic violence, rape, and abuse.
- 3.5 It is a place of safety, a crèche and it also provides an after-care programme for children who do not have after school supervision.
- 3.6 The Project provides a feeding scheme for the community members of Kayamandi. The food is funded by the National Department of Social

Development through Ilitha Labantu Provincial Food Distribution. It provides lunch meals to approximately 200-250 community members from Monday to Friday and in future they plan to provide meals on weekends.

- 3.7 The Project has a total of seven staff members that are paid a monthly stipend by the National Department of Social Development through Ilitha Labantu. It was reported that the Centre Coordinator is paid R3500, the cook is paid R2500 and the other officials are paid R2000.
- 3.8 The Centre Coordinator reported that there is no lease agreement between the Centre and the Municipality. When the Centre started the building was empty and vandalized. They had to fix it through the assistance of the sponsors, namely, the Rotary Club, which donated fridges for the Centre, Capitec Bank donated office equipment, Medi-Clinic Southern Africa assisted with the renovations of the facility and Ma-Africa Hotel Group donated R1500.00.
- 3.9 The Stellenbosch Municipality only provides free electricity and water to the centre.
- 3.10 Ms. Nkupane reported that the facility is having a challenge of space, currently, the facility accommodates 23 families, who are victims of fire. According to Ms Nkupane, the Stellenbosch Municipality requested the Centre to accommodate the fire victims for two weeks in May 2019, and they are still living in the Centre. There is no plan to move them from the Centre and these families do not have a place to go.
- 3.11 The centre reported that two people died during the fire and the majority of the people living in the Centre do not have Identity Documents, some of the people have criminal cases, some were sentenced and are out on parole.
- 3.12 There is a high demand for the project services in Kayamandi and the surrounding areas. It was reported that there is a high unemployment rate. Some families request assistance from the Centre when they are not able to bury their family members.
- 3.13 The outside structures and the dining area of the facility have been transformed into living and sleeping rooms.
- 3.14 Due to the 23 families that are living in the Centre, the facility could no longer run the Trauma Centre and safe house for women and children. The 23 adults living in the facility also pose a risk to the children that attend the crèche, as some of the people that live in the Centre have criminal records and some are allegedly using prohibited substances.
- 3.15 The Trauma Centre is in need of a financial injection to operate at its maximum capacity in creating a safe haven for women and children.
- 3.16 The Project is not funded by the provincial Department of Social Development.
- 3.17 According to the Centre, the Municipality undertook to arrange temporary shelters for the 23 families to ensure that the families move out of the centre, however, this has not been implemented.

4. Challenges

The following challenges were reported and noted during the visit:

- 4.1 There is inadequate space in the Centre. This has been made worse by the 23 families that are living there.
- 4.2 The kitchen is small and poses danger to the staff and clients of the Centre.
- 4.3 The Centre is struggling to get a Blue Safety Certificate, due to challenges that include the overcrowding and inadequate space.

- 4.4 The storage place is inadequate and this cause danger to the workers.
- 4.5 The services provided by the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project especially the services of the trauma centre are affected due to the 23 families that are living in the facility and do not want to move out as they do not have a place to go.
- 4.6 During school holidays, children from Kayamandi schools and surrounding communities go to the Centre for lunch and this causes a shortage of food for people that rely on the center for their daily meals.

5. Resolutions

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 5.1 follow up with the Stellenbosch Municipality to get detailed information on the type of assistance the Municipality is providing to the Centre and to encourage the Municipality to continue providing free electricity and water to the facility.
- 5.2 engage with the Stellenbosch Municipality on the progress and the plans made by the Municipality to move the 23 families out of the Centre.
- 5.3 write to the Minister of Social Development and outline what the Committee has seen and request the Department to get involved and assist the Centre with compliance.
- 5.4 get facts from the Municipality as to how many families were victims of fire, how many are still living in the Centre and the plans made by the Municipality thus far to accommodate the 23 families.
- 5.5 to work closely with the Minister of Community Safety and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport in ensuring that the criminal elements are removed from the facility.

6. Recommendations

The Committee RECOMMENDED that:

- 6.1 The Department of Education assists the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project to look at the possibility of extending its feeding scheme food programme to the facility to assist the children from Kayamandi and surrounding areas during the school holidays.
- 6.2 The Centre Coordinator follow-up with Captain Mithi from the Kayamandi Police Station on the cases of people living in the Centre with criminal cases and to follow up on the cases of people that were moved out of the Centre. The Centre should provide the Minister of Community Safety with the case numbers to enable the minister to monitor the progress of the case.
- 6.3 The Minister of Social Development engage the Stellenbosch Municipality and the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project to develop and sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the entities.
- 6.4 The Department of Social Development assists the facility in order to be compliant with the Blue Safety Certificate and compliant with the ECD.
- 6.5 The Department of Social Development should come up with ways on how it can support and assist the trauma centre at Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project to apply for funding.
- 6.6 The Stellenbosch Municipality should consider entering into a lease agreement with the facility as part of their memorandum of understanding.

- 6.7 The Stellenbosch Municipality should remove the 23 families from the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project as their stay is affecting the programmes of the centre especially the trauma centre and the ECD services.
- 6.8 The Trauma Center and safe house needs to be operational again as their services are vital and needed by the Kayamandi community and the surrounding areas.
- 6.9 The South African Police Service and Drakenstein Municipality should send officials including law enforcement to the Kayamandi Women and Children Development Project to enforce the by-laws including taking the 23 families to a place of safety.

7. Visit to the Rusthof Old Age Home in Paarl-East

The Committee visited the Rusthof Old Age Home in Paarl-East and was welcomed by Centre Manager, Sister Kleinhans. Sister Kleinhans led the Committee on a walkabout and duly answered all questions posed by the Committee during the visit.

8. Findings

- 8.1 The Rusthof Old Age Home in Paarl-East has a total of 104 residents that are getting a monthly subsidy of R3340 from the Department of Social Development.
- 8.2 It was reported that out of 104 residents of the facility, 10 residents under the age of 60 years are people living with a disabilities.
- 8.3 The residents are SASSA beneficiaries and out of their R1700 monthly government grant they pay R1, 400 to the facility for their living expenses and are left with R300 for personal incidental expenses, funeral policies and other needs.
- 8.4 The Old Age Home has a total of 54 staff members that consist of 43 Home Based Carers, two nurses and general workers. These Home Based Carers service the greater Paarl East community.
- 8.5 The facility does not have a social worker, however, a medical doctor from the provincial Department of Health visits the facility once a week.
- 8.6 The requirement is that the centre should at least have 10 staff members on duty per day, however, due to the high staff shortage, only five staff members are on duty per day.
- 8.7 In 2008, the Department of Health approached the facility and requested the facility to render Community Based Care services focusing on illness prevention and health promotion.
- 8.8 The Rusthof Old Age Home reported that it manages 14 beds for the Department of Health for community members that are in urgent need of the health care services.
- 8.9 There is a recreation centre in the facility that is utilised by the elderly for their recreation activities such as handwork and play games
- 8.10 The facility has a sick bay for frail persons and two emergency beds.
- 8.11 Due to robberies in the area there is a shortage of space for the frail care patients. The facility has approached the Stellenbosch Municipality requesting that it be allocated a facility in town and they are still waiting.
- 8.12 The lack of funding to cover all the expenses of the facility was reported as a challenge. However, the facility reported that Barloworld donated funds towards the refurbishment of the occupational therapy section whilst the Drakenstein Prison donated cardboards.

9. Challenges

The following challenges were reported and noted during the visit

- 9.1 The nursing staff is inadequate.
- 9.2 The low salaries were also mentioned as a challenge and was reported as the reason for the high staff turnover. The unions are demanding decent salaries for their members and the matter was lodged with the CCMA. The outcome was that the facility should approach the relevant Departments for more funding. The facility is not able to pay market related salaries and have been severely affected by the minimum wage legislation.
- 9.3 There are high robberies in the community, of which some are committed in front of the Rusthof Old Age. This puts the elderly persons and officials at risk.
- 9.4 The premises has become a dumping place. It was alleged that the community is dumping dirt in front of the facility.
- 9.5 There is a shortage of space at the Rusthof Old Age Home, resulting in six residents sharing a room.
- 9.5 The sickbay area in the facility is urgently in need of hospital beds for frail elderly persons.
- 9.6 The facility is in need of diapers for the frail residents. It was reported that due to the budget cut, the Department of Health will no longer provide diapers to the facility.
- 9.7 The facility reported that offering competitive salaries to staff remains a challenge. The Department of Health requires them to provide quality service although the Department is not willing to allocate funding for competitive labour market salaries.

10. Resolutions

The Committee endeavor to continue with the conversation to assist the Rusthof Old Age Home to get a suitable building and will engage with the Department of Health, Social Development and Department of Transport and Public Works to find a way of assisting the Old Age Home to get a suitable building.

11. Information requested

The Committee requested the Department of Health and the Department of Social Development to provide copies of their latest reports of visits conducted by the Departments to the Rusthof Old Age Home in Paarl-East.

3. REPORT OF THE PETITION COMMITTEE ON THE PETITION SUBMITTED BY DENNEHOF CENTRE IN VILLIERSDORP.

The Petitions Committee, having considered a petition submitted by the Dennehof Centre in Villiersdorp reports as follows:

1. Introduction

In September 2017, the Committee received a petition from the Dennehof Centre. The petitioners complained about their area which was plagued by a scourge of social issues and the lack of adequate healthcare facilities.

This report discusses the Committee's recommendations taken during engagement sessions with stakeholders.

2. Overview

Salient elements of the petition:

- The Petitioners claim that the Villiersdorp community was plagued by a scourge of social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, rape and a lack of adequate healthcare facilities.
- The Dennehof facility has been laying unused for several years while the Theewaterskloof Municipality allowed the building to deteriorate into a waste pile. The Municipality was reluctant to hand over the property to the Department of Public Works in order for the property to be developed as a functional asset in the community.
- The Petitioners claim the Dennehof facility could be utilised as a Rehabilitation Centre and potentially create 300 permanent jobs in the local community in Villiersdorp.
- Petitioners wrote to various government departments including the Department of Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Transport, and the Office of the Premier with no feedback from the respective departments.

The Committee held its first meeting on the petition on 13 April 2019. During this meeting, the Committee resolved to invite the Department of Public Works and Transport and Theewaterskloof Municipality to provide feedback on the petition received from the Dennehof Centre, including any other documentation pertaining to the Dennehof Centre. The Committee also resolved that the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and Theewaterskloof Municipality, where possible, provide feedback on the correspondence sent by the petitioner, Mrs AE Venter, as indicated in the petition.

Theewaterskloof Municipality indicated that the property was managed by the Overberg Municipality. Following intensive investigations, it was discovered that the property was owned by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (herein after the Department). The Committee wrote a letter to the Department and finally on 21 August 2019, the Minister, Ms P De Lille, responded to the Committee.

The Department provided the history and background to the Dennehof Centre. The portion 4 of the Farm Dennehof No, 69, Caledon Road (in extent 109.53.51 hectares), Title Deed Nr. T37195/1983 and is under the custodianship of the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Nine houses were occupied at the time, with seven being leased out privately by the Overberg Municipality. Mrs Venter occupied two houses. All the vacant buildings and houses, etc. were vandalised and in need of repair at the Dennehof Centre. The houses were built of asbestos products which according to a Health and Safety Report are safe to occupy. The houses do not need to be demolished but can be repaired.

During the vesting process of State-owned property in 2002, it was resolved that the property should be vested with the National Government of the Republic of South Africa.

On 1 July 2015, Mrs Venter submitted an application to the Department to utilise the property as a Rehabilitation Centre for the chemically dependent. The application was responded to by the former Minister of Public Works, Minister S Sigcau, advising her that the property was leased to the Overberg Municipality.

This property was subsequently under the management of the above-mentioned Municipality until 27 February 2019. But in September 1992 the Department received “Notice of Termination” with the intention of handing it back on 28 February 2019. Following this all, occupants residing on the property, on 13 February 2019 including Mrs Venter, were advised of the Department’s intention to enter into a new lease agreement with all existing lessees/occupants on-site.

All lessees, except for Mrs Venter, signed their lease agreement. This resulted in a “Notice to Vacate” due to non-compliance and non-payment of rentals. The notice was handed in on 18 March 2019. To date, Mrs Venter, is illegally occupying two dwellings on the property. She has never vacated the property, and therefore a “Final Notice” would be issued during the week of 21 August 2019. Given the failure to pay her rental since 1 March 2019, Mrs Venter, is viewed as a bad debtor of the Department.

It came to the attention of the Department that Mrs Venter is claiming that she would take over the management of Dennehof as of 01 August 2019 and all lessees must pay their rental to her.

3. RESOLUTIONS

The Committee notes the explanation provided by the Department of Public works and RESOLVED to conclude the petition of Dennehof Centre.

4. REPORT OF THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PETITION SUBMITTED BY THE TRAUMA CENTRE FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AND TORTURE PETITION.

The Petitions Committee, having considered a petition submitted to the fifth parliament by the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture (Herein after the Trauma Centre) reports as follows:

1. Introduction

In September 2017, the Committee received a petition from the Trauma Centre. The purpose of the petition was to raise the issue of child murders in the Province. The Trauma Centre petition also requested that a provincial Commission of Inquiry into the lack of safety for children be held. The enquiry according to them will uncover common threads in various communities which can strengthen civil society and government’s insight into how best to address the scourge. The findings and recommendations of such a commission are vital to revisiting child protection in the Western Cape.

On 13 April 2018, the Committee resolved to engage with the Department of Social Development and the Department of Premier to provide the reasons why neither of these two government departments were not keen to conduct a provincial Commission of Inquiry into child safety in the Western Cape.

This report discusses the Committee's recommendations taken during engagement sessions with stakeholders.

2. Overview

Salient elements of the petition:

- The Trauma Centre and its peers have expressed outrage at the brutal killing of children in the Western Cape. In collaboration with 15 other organisations, a meeting with Premier H Zille was convened at which the call for a Commission was disregarded according to them.
- The Trauma Centre is of the view that a Provincial Commission of Inquiry into the lack of safety for children will uncover the threads in various communities which can strengthen civil society and government's insight into how best to address the scourge. The Trauma Centre also believes that such a Commission is vital to revisiting child protection in the Western Cape.

The Committee held its first meeting on the petition on 13 April 2018. During this meeting, the Committee resolved to invite the Department of the Premier, the Department of Social Development and the Department of Community Safety to provide feedback on the petitioners request to establish a Provincial Commission of Inquiry into the lack of safety for children. Further to that, that the Trauma Centre be informed about the decisions of the Committee including extending an invitation to attend the scheduled meeting of 20 April 2018 to discuss the petition received.

At the above-mentioned meeting of 20 April 2018 all parties were presented, including the petitioner, Ms van Reenen-le Roux, Director of Trauma Centre, who were given an opportunity to address the Committee on their petition. The Head of Department: Department of Social Development, Dr. R MacDonald, and the then Minister for Social Development, Mr. A Fritz, briefed the Committee on child deaths, engagement sessions they have had with the Trauma Centre and other reasons why they did not want to agree to conduct another research on child deaths in the Western Cape. During this meeting, Ms. Van Reenen-Le Roux highlighted the need for new research on child deaths in the province to be conducted, as the current research was outdated and had no new data included. The Committee recommended that:

- The Department of Social Development must provide a copy to the Committee on the research documents that were utilized in the presentation delivered at the meeting of 20 April 2019.
- The petitioner (Trauma Centre) set up a workshop/meeting with the Department of Social Development to unpack and develop an action plan/proposal on the petition submitted, and this action plan/proposal should be presented to the Committee by 25 May 2018.

During the meeting of 25 May 2018, the Department of Social Development provided all research methodology which was utilized in the presentation. The Committee during this meeting resolved:

- That the petitioner of the Trauma Centre, the Department of the Premier and the Department of Social Development reconvene to discuss an action plan/proposal on the petition submitted, as this action plan/proposal should be presented to the

Committee. Three months were given, to provide sufficient time for all parties to engage in the petition and to provide feedback to the Committee.

- To engage with the Department of the Premier on the possibility of new research to be conducted. The research should be conducted i.r.o child deaths, murders, violence, and torture, etc.
- That the Department of Social Development provides a breakdown of the cost implications for one victim of violence.

In July 2018, a meeting was held to discuss the petition of the Trauma Centre. The Committee resolved to conduct two public hearings in conjunction with other non-profit organisations (NGOs) and the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture. The Committee also resolved to identify hot-spot areas within the Cape metropolitan area and in the rural areas. The Chairperson of the Petitions Committee was requested to consult with relevant stakeholders to develop the terms of reference for the public hearings on the child murders, deaths, and violence.

Subsequently, after the above recommendations were decided on, the Department of Social Development met with the petitioners on 10 May 2018 and 17 October 2018, following the meeting of the Petitions Committee on 14 August 2018. At the second engagement, a Provincial Plan of Action to Reduce Child Murders was discussed with the petitioners and their inputs obtained to further refine the plan. The petitioners indicated that they would proceed to hold a People's Commission into the question of child murders in the province in the absence of the judicial commission of inquiry they were petitioning for. They subsequently embarked on the said commission and released a report on the commission on 10 August 2019 at the offices of the Trauma Centre. The Department of Social Development was provided with a copy of the said report.

The Department of Social Development moved forward with the finalization of the Provincial Plan of Action, which was adopted in principle by the Western Cape Cabinet on 21 November 2018. Before adoption by the Cabinet, the Plan of Action was drafted and consulted with all provincial departments, and after the Cabinet adopted the plan, it was further consulted with the criminal justice stakeholders, involved in the Provjoints Murders Priority Committee. It has also been consulted with external stakeholders including NGO partners in the provincial Child and Family Forums. The Plan of Action was presented to the Standing Committee on Social Development on 30 July 2019.

Implementation of the Plan of Action had already begun, with, inter alia, the appointment of a project manager, the expansion of the Eye on the Child community based early warning system for children at risk, increases in the number of social workers funded at child protection organisations, additional deployment of Isibindi community based child and youth care services, and the establishment of referral pathways between schools and social work offices. The Plan of Action is a living document and will continue to be consulted on and developed in partnership with key stakeholders.

The Trauma Centre went onto to conduct a People's Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety in the Western Cape, which was finalized in June 2019.

3. RESOLUTIONS

The Committee RESOLVED:

- 3.1. To conclude the petition from the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture.
- 3.2. That the Trauma Centre continues to engage with the Department of Social Development and provide feedback on the next People's Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety in the Western Cape, which is set to take place in the West Coast region.
- 3.3. That a letter be written commending the excellent work done by the Head of the Department: Department of Social Development, Dr. R Macdonald, and his team with regards to this petition. The Committee also encouraged the department to continue working with non-governmental organisations on the issue of child murders in the province.