



Children's Outcomes – Executive Committee

5th October 2023

MINUTES



Children's Outcomes – Executive Committee
Thursday 5th October 2023
13:30-15:00
Education Committee Room

ATTENDEES

Minister for Children and Education
Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Children's Services)
Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years)
Assistant Minister for Home Affairs
Assistant Director Policy
Senior Policy Officer
Director of Delivery and Improvement, SPPP
Deputy Director Public Health Transformation
Associate Director of Engagement and Participation
Senior Youth Worker - Jersey Youth Parliament
Head of Business Management & Governance, Seconded to CYPES
JEYA Representative
Best Start Partnership Representative
Research and Administration Officer

APOLOGIES

Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Housing and Communities
Minister for Health and Social Services
Acting Children's Commissioner
NSPCC Representative
Chief Inspector, Jersey Care Commission
Chief Officer, CYPES
FNHC Representative

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Minister for Children and Education welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes

The Minutes of the 12th July 2023 were approved subject to one small amendment by the Director of Delivery and Improvement "that one of the key areas in the Children's Plan *could* be online safety".

3. Update on Children and Families Plan 2024-27

The Senior Policy Officer provided an update on Children and Families Plan actions to date. This included the publication of the review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2023 and commencement of work on the new plan. The task and finish



group had been assembled, feedback from the Forum on 12th July had been collated and reviewed. There was work to identify population level indicators and establish links with other work streams, such as Building a Safer Community.

The Senior Policy Officer noted that the Children and Families' Plan 2024-27 was an opportunity to align key initiatives related to children and young people, including Island Outcome Indicators, Jersey's Children First '8 ways to wellbeing', and the enactment of key legislation. The Island Outcome Indicators wheel was discussed as children and young people represented only a segment of wheel, rather than an overarching theme spread across the segments. The Senior Policy Officer was in discussions to get this amended, so that the children and families' aspect was represented across the wheel, rather than a separate segment. The Children and Families' Plan could align with the Laws to be enacted in 2024, including Children and Young Peoples Law 2022 and Children (Convention Rights) 2022. These aspects could be aligned to underpin the plan and form common threads.

The Senior Policy Officer highlighted the importance of feedback loops. Children and young people have already provided the Government with much feedback via engagement and participation, and it was important that feedback on progress was provided to them. It was also important to keep system governance simple and clear after the recent review of children's boards.

The Minister for Children and Education invited the Committee to share their feedback regarding the use of the suggested framework. In the Children and Young People's Law wellbeing was a prominent theme and the wellbeing thread ran through the Jersey's Children First framework.

The Deputy Director Public Health Transformation felt that it was good to use the practice model as it was a cross Governmental framework used by all departments. She was keen to see more from the health perspective. The Director of Delivery and Improvement agreed that it was good to keep it simple by using this familiar framework.

The JEYA representative reminded the group of the importance of early years. She noted that there was lots about schools and youth workers, but it was important to include families and not just children. She felt that early years were the most vital part of childhood. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that the focus should be balanced between age groups. The JEYA representative noted that it would take many years to see the impact of early years indicators. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years) also highlighted that around the framework there was the needs of the family, including housing, food, poverty, and wider societal issues. Making the outer rings of the Island Outcome Indicators 'family and community' would be helpful. The Deputy Director Public Health Transformation agreed with the elements of family, community, education, and individual. The JEYA representative highlighted the importance of private childcare in the lives of the youngest children. The Assistant Director Policy noted that these issues were not precluded by the wheel. It was broad enough to incorporate the aspects discussed. The Assistant Director



Policy noted that if the Jersey's Children First Model was used to underpin the plan, it will be easier to map performance indicators to the model.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation noted that this would be an opportunity to rebrand to the Children and Family First framework. The Minister for Children and Education noted that the Common Strategic Policy used the phrase children and families. She noted that she would not wish to spend a fortune on rebranding. The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation felt that it would be fairly easy to change the name online without extensive rebranding costs.

The Senior Policy Officer noted that there were wider conversations regarding making changes to the Island Outcome Indicator wheel. It was important that the Children and Families' Plan sat centrally within this and was also connected to the Government Plan and other documents. The Minister for Children and Education felt that the plan was specified as a Children and Young People's Plan in the Law. The Senior Policy Officer was clarifying this point regarding the name with the Law Officers Department.

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years) asked how young people might feel about a 'Children and Families Plan' title, as it might imply that they were children. There might also be difficulties for those without a family. The Senior Youth Worker felt that it was important not to alienate young people. The Minister for Children and Education suggested asking people's preferences for the name of the plan. It could possibly be the 'Children, Young People and Families' Plan'. Some young people would not like to be called children.

The Minister for Children and Education agreed that the Jersey's Children First Framework could be accepted as the model to underpin the plan.

4. CYP Engagement Plan

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation outlined the engagement plan for children and young people. This would allow experience and commentary from young people to be mapped to the wellbeing wheel with the 8 indicators. There had been about 500 responses. They asked children how the Government should spend £1000, and many responses suggested the Government should spend this on charities.

The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership suggested ways for early years children to participate. She suggested utilising evidence from a paper called "We All Need Help Sometimes". She suggested a means to support participation from very young children, recognise their individual needs, and including a section around empathy and understanding. She highlighted the need to understand from babies and young children's perspectives. The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership would send the paper to the Associate Director of Engagement and Participation.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation provided an update after Democracy Week. There would be work with the Schools Councils Network, and youth friendly Government and Ministerial Plans. All young people in School Councils would

be offered an online training course on engagement and participation, outlining their rights, how they are going to be engaged with, and how this information would be used. There was also work ongoing with young people to help recruit a new Children's Commissioner. Whilst the Schools Council Network was an easy group of young people to engage with, as there was already a structure in place, the action short of strike might risk engagement. The Minister for Children and Education noted that there might be other opportunities for engagement. Some schools welcomed engagement, there was also the Youth Service, and engagement with early years groups.

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years) suggested that consulting groups were formed for early years, school age, and young people. She felt that there needed to be a separate consultation group for early years. The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership suggested the concept of a listening bear. It was important not to just ask a group of early years children, but ask them independently. Some children need to advocate via a parent or carer. She highlighted that this might also apply to older children with cognitive needs as well. While sometimes a group is good mechanism, sometimes asking individual opinions was also helpful. It was important to use good practice and good feedback mechanisms. The JEYA representative noted that often nursery regulators enquired about how children were consulted. The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership noted that it would be difficult to regularly meet with the same group for early years. It was important to recognise the diversity of young children and clearly define the questions asked of children. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years) suggested a group of gate keepers for children in various settings. The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership noted that it might be necessary to access voices of children through parents and practitioners.

The Minister for Children and Education noted that there needed to be wider consultation and engagement with children and that this needed a cross departmental strategy. The Deputy Director Public Health Transformation asked about children not in education. While the culture of engagement was improving, there was still the need for more work to be done. She asked how we could influence this throughout the organisation. It was important not to hold tokenistic consultations. Consultation needed to be relevant to children's lives and embedded throughout the organisation. She noted that there was still ongoing work as an island on the process of consultation. The Senior Youth Worker highlighted that the Youth Services were only asked for feedback on the Termination of Pregnancy consultation two weeks before the consultation ended. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years) noted that the Minister for Health would still receive feedback after the consultation.

The Director of Delivery and Improvement suggested looking at upcoming policy and legislation and picking out specific changes to engage with children. This might be specific service changes that would impact upon children. There could then be focussed and specific consultations properly planned. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years) noted that there were improvements and more engagement with young people, but this would take time to develop. The Deputy Director Public Health Transformation noted some feedback received from young



people in relation to the vaping ban news story. Some young people were addicted to nicotine. Jersey was not a specialist island and listening to the voice of customers made a massive difference to understanding needs.

The Assistant Director of Policy noted the need to make engagement sustainable and part of everyday structures that exist. The School Councils were a good starting point as they were already established. Engagement would require a lot of learning by doing and picking up insights as plans progressed. If work started with School Councils, these would be a good opportunity to develop good working practice and provide strong feedback loops. It would allow the opportunity for insights to be received and to hear key commentaries from parts of the system. The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership agreed that listening should be regarded as a way of life. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years) noted that a Policy Officer was creating a data base of surveys where children had been consulted for Children's Rights Impact Assessments.

The Minister for Children and Education asked for a timeline for ongoing conversations and consultations. It was important to update the Children and Young People's Plan in light of consultation. There should also be engagement with professionals and adults. This was a good start.

5. Governance Structure

The Assistant Director of Policy outlined the wider governance context. The Children Outcomes Executive Committee (COEC) was looking at the whole system with all children. It had broader level political ownership of delivery of Children and Families' Plan. He also outlined that the Ministerial Safeguarding group were responsible for the safeguarding of children and also adults. The COEC sat under the Council of Ministers with high level political oversight for Government priorities. He outlined the interconnection between Ministerial groups with responsibility for children and young people. The Deputy Director Public Health Transformation asked if there were any groups missing. The Director of Delivery and Improvement noted that many groups interacted with children's issues. For example, the realm of St Helier might be the responsibility of Future Places, and this could impact on children. In many instances Ministers would need to embed the needs of children within their own particular groups.

The Senior Policy Officer outlined the process for developing the Children's Plan. The next Forum would be on 16th November, which would look at where the biggest impacts might be. The Forum could develop a long list for where the biggest impacts might be. The feedback from the Forum would be cross referenced with other plans, including Ministerial Plans and Government Plans for delivery.

The Senior Policy Officer outlined decisions required from the COEC. There needed to be consideration for the publication date of the new plan. The Law would be enacted in January 2024 and a plan did not need to be published until 1st January 2025. However, this was a very long timeline and would not fit with the Minister's plans. The



action short of strike posed a risk to data collection from the Children and Young People's Survey. The survey had been delayed until Spring 2024 and results would be available from September 2024. The current plan expired in December 2023.

The Director of Delivery and Improvement suggested that areas of obsession would be broadly similar. It would be important to synthesise engagement and adapt the areas of obsession accordingly. Feedback could be used from the Forum on 16th November. The Minister for Children and Education noted that people were expecting the plan. It was important not to let the survey delay the plan. Following the survey results the plan could be revised and updated for January 2025. The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership suggested that a bridging plan might provide flexibility. The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation would work on a summary of groups who could participate in engagement for 16th November. The Assistant Director of Policy suggested bringing the outcome indicators to the Forum on 16th November. The Forum could be used to understand if anything had been missed and work on refining key points of focus. The Senior Youth Worker noted that anything after the 16th November would be too late for engagement with schools before Christmas.

The Minister for Children and Education felt that the results could be reviewed by the Executive Committee in January 2024 and children could comment on the plan. There needed to be engagement around the plan. She asked who would be invited to the next Forum. The Assistant Director of Policy noted that a good starting point would be the invite lists from the children's boards governance structure workshops. The JEYA representative suggested that planning and housing were missing. Perhaps Andium might be invited to the next Forum. The Senior Policy Officer noted that all Children's Cluster members would be invited and the CEHA Scrutiny Panel. The Assistant Director of Policy noted that Senior Leadership Team members should be invited.

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs asked if developers were aware of their impact on children. The Director of Delivery and Improvement felt that the SoJDC could be connected to the voice of children.

The Senior Youth Worker highlighted the importance of people who worked with children and young people directly. The Director of Delivery and Improvement felt that managers could be accompanied by front line workers. The Minister for Children and Education asked for Head Teachers to be included in the invite list. Two representatives from Primary Schools and one Secondary Head Teacher. The Senior Youth Worker stressed the importance of people who worked directly with children and young people. The Independent Chair of the Best Start Partnership suggested church groups, parent and toddler groups, and inviting parents. The Minister for Children and Education noted that she was inviting the Jersey Association of Home Educators. The Senior Policy Officer suggested Parent Carer Forums. The JEYA representative noted the difficulty of getting working parents to come to events. The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation noted that there were Head Teachers on the Cluster and that the main focus had been poverty. The Minister for Children and Education suggested reaching out to PTAs and Boards of Governors. The Senior Policy Officer suggested a CAMHS representative. The Assistant Minister



for Children and Education (Children's Services) asked about the parents of pre-school children. The JEYA representative suggested asking HR department of finance companies. The Minister for Children and Education suggested the Breast-Feeding Steering Group and Deputy Kovacs. The Deputy Director of Public Health Transformation suggested online consultation. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that an online survey might be helpful. She also asked for a professional facilitator. There needed to be different groups and breakout rooms. She suggested First Tower Youth Group. The JEYA representative asked about the Connétables, and it was agreed that Connétable Jackson would be invited.

The Minister for Children and Education confirmed the action for the Associate Director of Engagement and Participation and asked for a summary of engagement to be provided at the Forum. The Forum would be asked about the framework and small groups would be asked about indicators and what they would like to see as outcomes. A survey could be sent to States Members. The Associate Director of Participation and Engagement could plan to engage Early Years practitioners.

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Children's Services) suggested the Jersey Foster Carers Group to be invited to the Forum.

The Minister for Children and Education asked for the 2024 COEC dates to be planned and placeholders to be sent.

The Associate Director of Participation and Engagement asked about HE representation. The Minister for Children and Education suggested Highlands.

6. AOB

None.

ACTIONS

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to engage on the name of the plan and preferred branding options.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to include in the engagement plan ways for the voice of early years children to be included by 16th November.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to update timeline for future consultations and build summary of groups who could be asked for engagement and consultation by 16th November.

The Senior Policy Officer to develop an invite list for the Forum on 16th November.

The Senior Policy Officer to organise professional facilitator for Forum.



The Senior Policy Officer to organise a survey to be sent to all 49 States Assembly Members.

Research and Admin Officer to send out COEC dates for 2024.