



Corporate Parenting Board Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
MINUTES



**Corporate Parenting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**15:00-16:30**  
**Education Committee Room**

## **ATTENDEES**

Minister for Children and Education  
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs  
Minister for Housing  
Chief Officer of CYPES  
Acting Associate Director for Children's Services  
Interim Director covering Safeguarding, Operations and Chief Social Worker  
Associate Director for Innovation, Transformation and Business Support  
Head of Skills Jersey  
Head of the Care Leaving Team  
Representative for Brightly, CEO  
Representative for Jersey Cares, CEO  
Acting Children's Commissioner (Participant Observer)  
Representative for the States of Jersey Police, Chief Officer  
Commissioning Officer  
Research and Administration Officer

## **APOLOGIES**

Minister for Health and Social Services  
Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services  
Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Children's Services)  
Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years)  
Representative for the Comité des Connétables  
Representative for Andium Homes  
Assistant Director Policy

### **1. Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions – Chair**

The Minister for Children and Education welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new members of the CYPES team.

The minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> October were approved with amendments to clarify the Chief Officer of CYPES and the Chief Officer as States of Jersey Police Representative.

The Minister for Children and Education reviewed the actions from the previous meeting:

- Senior Policy Officer to review wording of Terms of Reference, including dates for circulating minutes and agendas and the functions of the Board. - The Minister for



Children and Education agreed that the Terms of Reference should be formally signed off at the next Board meeting.

- Associate Director for Children's Social Care Services to develop operational frameworks to sit alongside the care leavers offer. Ongoing.
- Associate Director for Children's Social Care Services to explore the collection and use of data to inform decisions and actions within the service. - The Minister for Children and Education felt that it was important to understand the data the Board needed. The Chief Officer of the States of Jersey Police was working with the Chief Officer of CYPES to develop a dashboard, highlighting key indicators and data. The CEO of Jersey Cares highlighted Learning from an input to GoJ from the Data Insight team at the Promise Scotland. She suggested that there was a risk that the Board might come to value what they measure, rather than measure what is of value. The Minister for Children and Education asked for suggestions of data to capture. The CEO of Jersey Cares requested time to give this due consideration and said asks would include data around permanence, parity with children who are not in care and support around education. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that data around long-term placements was an important indicator. The Interim Director covering Safeguarding, Operations and Chief Social Worker suggested health, education attainments, housing and care experienced young people, MH offer and data, missing and exploitation, offending data, participation data, foster care and residential updates. The CEO of Brightly suggested it was important to take time to think about the data needed. It was important to have quality data available to inform the Corporate Parenting Board. It was important to have some data around the care leavers offer on a regular basis and individuals the Board supported. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that it was important to capture the voice of the child in care. The Commissioning Officer suggested mapping the data onto the Jersey Children First Practice Model. The Interim Director covering Safeguarding, Operations and Chief Social Worker commented on the need for reports on every aspect of our children's lives, such as prioritising the needs of our children for education, and the mental health offer and the data surrounding this. It was important to understand their journey, keep properties in a good condition, monitor offending, understand the context of the safeguarding. It was important to understand how we engage with young people and see their wishes and feelings. She stressed that the young people are the centre of this meeting. The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs felt that each department already has all the data required. It was important to pull it together and present it in a way that shows how goals and outcomes were achieved. The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs noted that taking an outcomes-based approach necessarily drives us to a data development agenda. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that this needed further consideration and asked members of the Board to send their thoughts on data used by the Board to the Research and Administration Officer in January.

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- The Chief Officer to develop clear guidelines for information sharing for the Corporate Parenting Board and stakeholders. – The Minister for Children and Education noted that this action had now changed for the Chief Officer of CYPES to work on a dashboard for the Corporate Parenting Board to use.
- The Team Manager Improvement and Redesign to organise a visit to the therapeutic children’s home site for the Corporate Parenting Board. – The Minister for Children and Education noted the need to schedule an update for the next Corporate Parenting Board.
- The Associate Director for Children’s Social Care Services to outline the staffing plan for the Therapeutic Children’s Home – The Minister for Children and Education noted the need to schedule an update for the next Corporate Parenting Board.
- Research and Administration Officer to organise sending the draft letter regarding the therapeutic children’s home to the Minister for the Environment. – This action was complete.
- Research and Administration Officer to set up a TEAMS channel for the Corporate Parenting Board. – This action was complete. The Research and Administration Officer was to support Board members accessing the TEAMS channel.
- The Representative Comité des Connétables and the Assistant Director of Policy to look at options for exemptions from parish rates for care leavers up to 25. – The Minister for Children and Education noted that she had written to the Comité. The Care Leaver’s Offer did cover parish rates. There needed to be some clarification around who was responsible for covering care leavers parish rates and who these funds would be paid to. At the moment Connétables had discretion to treat care leavers like others in need, providing support such as payment plans or waiving rates. The Minister for Children and Education noted the need to explore these issues further. The CEO of Jersey Cares noted that there was a working group of three Connétables looking at how best to apply the exemption. The Associate Director for Innovation, Transformation and Business Support felt there was a need to get a statement from Customer and Local Services around the current payments made to care leavers for parish rates.
- The Minister for Children and Education to write to the Comité des Connétables to invite them to Corporate Parenting training and Children’s Rights Training with Jersey Cares and the Office of the Children’s Commissioner. This action was complete.
- The Associate Director for Children’s Services to review sufficiency in the system for the number of children currently in care and potential future capacity needs. – This Minister for Children and Education noted that there had been an inspection



of Children's Services. The report would be available on 14<sup>th</sup> February and would help to inform this work.

- The Associate Director for Children's Services agreed to present a plan around education, skills, and training to the next Board. – The Head of Skills Jersey would cover this during the agenda item on NEET young people.
- The Assistant Director of Policy to develop a Forward Plan for the Board for 2024 and circulate agenda options to Board members. – Ongoing.
- Update on Children in Care Council to be given in January 2024 by Jersey Cares. – The Minister for Children and Education agreed that this item would be covered at a later meeting in January 2024. Jersey Cares to provide an update.

## **2. Update of Care Leavers' Offer and Fund Uprate, including Co-Production and Inspection of Children's Services - Chief Officer and Associate Director for Children's Services**

The Head of the Care Leaving Team ran through the Care Leaver's Offer professional guidance documents. The care leavers offer that had been published represented broad aspirations around the offer. This document provided internal guidance on clarifying the delivery of the care leavers offer. The Head of the Care Leaving Team had met with partners about the delivery of the offer to discuss specifics, such as driving lessons. The guidance was very much in draft form. He had held a helpful meeting with Jersey Cares around the language used in the document to make it more aspirational and convey a sense of doing the best for care leavers. He had agreed to hold meetings with Jersey Cares in January to look at the document and how the information was presented. Several gaps in the offer were identified:

- Mental health support. There was no Wellbeing Officer for those with care experience. The Head of the Care Leaving Team was liaising with adult services about prioritising care leavers for mental health support. The document has aspirations around mental health needs.
- Residential status. The Head of the Care Leaving Team highlighted that children might come to the island and then come into the care system. These children might not have been in the island long enough to gain residential status. They were therefore at a disadvantage for employment and housing and required residential status granting to them.
- Education and employment. It was important to get care leavers engaged with education and employment. Some were signed off with disabilities and received Income Support. It was important to provide care leavers with support to access education and employment with bespoke support.

The Minister for Children and Education invited questions and comments. The Interim Director covering Safeguarding, Operations and Chief Social Worker asked about access to therapists and criteria and prioritisation for those on the island needing

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mental health care. The Head of the Care Leaving Team confirmed that care leavers were prioritised with other patients on the waiting lists based on factors such as risk. Some of these waiting lists were significant.

The CEO of Jersey Cares noted constructive conversations with the Head of the Care Leaving Team to help provide clarity in the operational guidance document. She highlighted that the concerns of Jersey Cares are not just around language but rather around the professional guidance removing aspects of the Offer and others not being deliverable. This guidance will go out to other departments, and it was crucial that the document aligned with the care leavers offer and aspirations.

The CEO of Brightly thanked the Head of the Care Leaving Team for the work done. He was concerned about the lack of support around mental health care and housing qualifications. He asked if in each case it would be necessary to revert to the Corporate Parenting Board on a case-by-case basis. He felt this should be addressed within the system as the Board might not be able to act in a timely manner. The Minister for Children and Education noted that housing qualifications would be addressed with a Ministerial Decision. The Head of the Care Leaving Team was to investigate this point further. The Minister for Housing noted that the Chief Minister held responsibility for granting housing qualifications. This was overseen by PSMG, and housing qualifications are given legislatively. The Minister for Children and Education felt that these cases needed to be discussed in the PSMG meeting.

The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs noted that veterans could be given priority for referrals by indication of a flag on an e-list. It would be helpful if this type of indication could be extended to care leavers.

The Interim Director covering Safeguarding, Operations and Chief Social Worker noted given the reparations we have made to those involved in the historical concerns, is there a golden thread of learning from that time, that prioritises the needs of our children? The Associate Director for Innovation, Transformation and Business Support Noted that this could be one of the key roles for the Corporate Parenting Board. It could set up the documentation and follow through with other departments.

The Minister for Children and Education asked about engagement with care leavers. The Head of the Care Leaving Team noted that he had worked with Jersey Cares, but not much engagement had been conducted to date. There was the potential for a piece of work with Jersey Cares to engage opinions. The Minister for Children and Education felt that feedback was important and asked about a deadline for March 2024. The CEO of Jersey Care noted the repeated feedback offered by care leavers. None of the feedback was retained. There was a challenge of repeatedly asking for feedback and care leavers would be fatigued and would want to know how feedback was used. The Minister for Children and Education wished to capture the opinion of care leavers to understand what was missing from the offer and also the practicalities and any challenges receiving the offer.



The CEO of Brightly felt that the initial plan had been to review the current offer and whether what was currently on the offer was accessible to care leavers. It was important to make sure what was on offer was deliverable. The Minister for Children and Education also felt that it would be important to identify the current gaps in the offer. It was important to review the offer including challenges in delivery and gaps in the current offer. The Minister for Children and Education felt it was time to review the offer document. The CEO of Jersey Cares felt this was an opportunity to aim high. However, feedback was received from a small group, and it was important to build relationships and trust to receive rich feedback from care leavers. The Minister for Children and Education recognised the importance of not over promising to care leavers. There were lots of good things in the care leavers offer, but some items might not be needed, whilst there might also be unidentified gaps. The CEO of Brightly felt that this was an opportunity to look afresh at the offer and that Brightly could help with suggestions.

The Associate Director for Innovation, Transformation and Business Support felt that it was timely for the whole offer to be reviewed. The Minister for Children and Education noted that this could be reviewed next quarter.

### **3. NEET for care leavers update Education and Skills Plan – Head of Skills Jersey**

The Head of Skills Jersey presented the plan to help improve the offer for engaging care leavers in education and skills training to improve employability. There was also a need to improve the tracking of young people's destinations. Skills Jersey was looking to work more closely with the Youth Service and Highlands College to improve the offer between the three service. It was important to work more closely to provide a combined provision. Some work had already been accomplished with the COVID-19 recovery fund. The aim was to fully launch next year. They would contact young people who had no direction and triage to identify suitable pathways. The support provided would be bespoke to their interests, with a focus on engaging them with various options. This might include trial jobs in different industries, structured qualifications, coaching support as a wrap around service, or skills mentoring. The focus was on keeping the young person engaged and each young person might access this system differently.

The Head of Skills Jersey highlighted how different departments were involved, including CAHMS, the Youth Services, Disability Team and HR. There might even be opportunities for bespoke and paid internships within Government. The next steps might include FE or HE. There was no one size fits all.

The key objective was "that no one gets left behind". The Head of Skills Jersey outlined the objectives to reduce NEET rates amongst disengaged youths, reduce unknown destination rates, align training with local labour market needs, and track and report on those enrolled in training programs and outcomes.

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The Head of Skills Jersey presented the new structure for coordinated and combined provisions, including improving access points and bespoke services.

The Head of Skills Jersey outlined the ongoing actions so far, including a trial self-triage and short-term provision, pre-emptive destination tracking with those identified from the disapplying list, RoN and CLA. There were also MOUs across CYPES for data sharing to improve destination tracking. There would be deep dives into individuals who were disengaged and the aim to slowly increase engagement levels.

The Minister for Children and Education invited feedback from the Board. The Chief Officer of the States of Jersey Police asked if it was possible to get numbers for care leavers who were NEET. This might be a good metric to add to the dashboard. The Board agreed it was important to have strong data on care leavers who were NEET and destinations for employment or training. The Head of the Care Leavers Team agreed to assist with this data. The Minister for Children and Education asked for a quarterly feedback report for this work. The Interim Director covering Safeguarding, Operations and Chief Social Worker suggested linking this work with the Virtual School.

The Minister for Children and Education noted that there was not enough time to discuss the Forward Plan and suggested an extra Board session in January to discuss the plan for 2024.

## ~~4. Corporate Parenting Board Forward Plan~~

## 5. AOB

The Commissioning Officer highlighted the possibility of a corporate parenting newsletter to update corporate parents and highlight their roles and responsibilities and improve communications. The Minister for Children and Education agreed this was important.

## **ACTIONS**

Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference to be formally signed off and agreed.

Associate Director for Children's Social Care Services to develop operational frameworks to sit alongside the care leavers offer.

All Board members to send their thoughts and suggestions around data capture and usage by the Board to the Research and Administration Officer in early January.

The Chief Officer of CYPES to work with States of Jersey Police Representative to develop a data dashboard for the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Team Manager Improvement and Redesign to organise a visit to the therapeutic children's home site for the Corporate Parenting Board.



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The Associate Director for Children's Social Care Services to outline the staffing plan for the Therapeutic Children's Home

The Representative Comité des Connétables and the Assistant Director of Policy to look at options for exemptions from parish rates for care leavers up to 25.

The Associate Director for Children's Services to review sufficiency in the system for the number of children currently in care and potential future capacity needs.

The Assistant Director of Policy to develop a Forward Plan for the Board for 2024 and circulate agenda options to Board members.

Update on Children in Care Council to be given in January 2024 by Jersey Cares.

The Minister for Children and Education to ask for an item to be placed on the PSMG agenda regarding care leavers who do not have residential status.

The Head of the Care Leavers Team with input from Jersey Care to develop the care leavers offer guidance documents and to engage with care leavers to identify gaps in both the delivery and also content of the care leaver offer with the possibility of extending items in the offer.

The Head of Skills Jersey to provide employments, skills, training and, NEET data for care leavers. The Head of the Virtual School and Head of Care Leavers Team to assist with this data and destination tracking.

Research and Administration Officer to organise meeting to discuss Forward Plan 2024.

The Commissioning Officer to develop plans for a corporate parenting newsletter.