

CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(1st Meeting)

10th October 2024

**Part A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputy M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, from whom apologies had been received.

Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families (Chair)  
Deputy R. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning  
Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services  
Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing

In attendance –

A. Heaven, Assistant Director, Policy, Cabinet Office  
Dr. N. Kemp, Senior Policy Officer, Cabinet Office  
D. Raffio, Deputy Director, Public Health Commissioning and Transformation, Cabinet Office  
E. Walker, Associate Director, Engagement and Participation, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department  
R. Sainsbury, Chief Officer, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department  
K. Posner, Head of Office, Education, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department  
D. Marriott, Director, Children's Services, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department  
C. Lucas, Head of Transformation, Commissioning and Partnerships, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department  
P. McGinnety, Director of Local Services, Customer and Local Services Department  
C. De Gruchy Mosely, Justice and Building a Safer Community Coordinator, Justice and Home Affairs Department  
L. Plumley, Senior Secretariat Officer, Specialist Secretariat, States Greffe  
E. Patterson, Assistant Secretariat Officer, Specialist Secretariat, States Greffe

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Welcome.

A1. Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families, Chair, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

It was recalled that the Committee had been established in March 2023, to replace the Children's Strategic Leadership and the Children's Strategic Partnership Boards. Members were reminded that the Committee's purpose was to lead on cross-Government policy development and to provide a clear, strategic organising frame for the Government of Jersey's responsibility to children, young people and families. The Committee was responsible for overseeing the development of a revised Children, Young People and Families' Plan for 2024 to 2027, and would meet twice a year.

It was noted that the Committee had been formally re-established by the Chief

Minister on 4th October 2024 (MD-CM-2024-749 refers) to reflect changes in ministerial offices and to the Committee's advisors. The Committee's Terms of Reference and membership had been updated accordingly and formal thanks were extended to those officers and voluntary sector representatives who had previously formed part of the membership.

Minutes. A2. The Minutes of the meeting of 3rd April 2024, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Secretariat – States Greffe. A3. The Committee noted that the official records of meetings would be produced by the Specialist Secretariat, States Greffe, with immediate effect. Whilst the Committee had met on 5 previous occasions, the Minutes of the current meeting would show that it was the first recorded by the States Greffe.

Declarations of interest. A4. There were no declarations of interest in respect of any items under consideration at the present meeting.

Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024-2027 – Proposed monitoring plan. A5. The Committee, with reference to its Minute of 3rd April 2024, received and noted a report entitled 'Future Committee meetings – a proposed approach to monitoring the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024-2027 (the Plan)', and heard from Dr. N. Kemp, Senior Policy Officer, Cabinet Office, in this connexion.

It was recalled that the Committee had previously endorsed the Plan, which was based on 5 'Big Picture' outcomes, whereby the Government undertook to work alongside the private and voluntary sector to provide the best life possible for children, young people, and families in Jersey. The outcomes for children and young people included being healthy and happy; learning and achievement; enjoying a good standard of living; feeling safe and loved; and being included, respected and valued. Responsible Ministers were required to monitor and review the Plan periodically and the oversight function for the Plan would be undertaken by the Committee, as set out in its Terms of Reference.

It was noted that there were no additional monies or dedicated resources attached to the Plan and that the approach to future monitoring activity had been refined following discussions with key officers. 4 monitoring workstreams were set out within the Plan, which would support the Committee's ongoing review function, and each workstream was considered in further detail during the meeting, as follows –

- Voice of Children and Young People;
- Data Dashboard;
- Alignment of Commissioning Activity; and,
- Update from the Voluntary Sector (Children's Cluster Group).

The Committee was asked to endorse the proposed approach to monitoring the Plan, as outlined in the report. The Committee was reminded that the Plan presented a key opportunity to align Government programmes for improvement and deliver better outcomes for children, young people and families. A case study was shared, demonstrating the Plan in action, in the context of the proposed redevelopment of the Millenium Town Park playground in 2025. A child-led consultation process had been undertaken and the playground would be the first in the Channel Islands to gain Plan Inclusive Play Areas (PiPA) accreditation for accessibility and inclusivity. It was suggested that it would be helpful for information regarding PiPA accreditation to be shared with the Parishes, in which a number of new play areas were proposed as part of planned developments, and Mr. P. McGinnety, Director of Local Services, Customer and Local Services Department, undertook to liaise with Parish

representatives in this connexion.

Having considered the matter, the Committee endorsed the proposed monitoring approach outlined in the report and thanked officers for their work on the matter.

Children,  
Young People  
and Families’  
Plan 2024-  
2027 –  
Proposed data  
dashboard.

A6. The Committee, with reference to its Minute of 3rd April 2024, received and noted a report entitled ‘Introducing a data dashboard for the Children, Young People and Families’ Plan 2024-2027 (the Plan)’, and heard from Mr. A. Heaven, Assistant Director, Policy, Cabinet Office, in this connexion.

The Committee was informed that the development of the Plan had enabled a timely review of the sustainable wellbeing indicators relating to children and young people, which were aligned to Government programmes and strategy, including Island Outcome indicators. A prototype data dashboard was shared, which would assist in identifying key themes for the Committee to consider. Key indicators from across the Government would be grouped according to age groups (0-5 years, 6-11 years, 12-16 years and 17-18 years), in order to provide a high-level overview of childhood and prioritise actions to improve outcomes for children and young people. It was noted that the data dashboard would be accessible to children and young people and the Committee was asked to consider the accessibility of the same and provide comments.

Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, suggested that the age groups be modified to 12-15 years and 16-18 years to align with significant life events, noting that at 16 years old, children became eligible to vote and were no longer of compulsory school age. The Committee made various further suggestions, including the need to consider the inclusion of older age groups (up to 25 years) and care leavers, and in connexion with certain proposed indicators and sub-indicators, which Mr. Heaven undertook to consider.

Having considered the matter, the Committee endorsed the proposed dashboard and thanked officers for their work on the matter.

Children,  
Young People  
and Families’  
Plan 2024-  
2027 – Voice  
of Children  
and Young  
People.

A7. The Committee, with reference to its Minute of 3rd April 2024, received and noted a report entitled ‘Voice of Children and Young People: Children, Young People and Families’ Plan 2024-2027 (the Plan)’, and heard from Ms. E. Walker, Associate Director Engagement and Participation, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department, in this connexion.

The report set out the participation and engagement activity undertaken with children and young people with regard to monitoring of the Plan. The School Council Network (SCN), which had been relaunched and refreshed in 2023, had been instrumental in the development of the Plan. Further engagement on the monitoring of the Plan would be undertaken via the SCN’s existing planned activities, in order to provide a meaningful focus for long term dialogue with children and young people. It was recalled that Participation Standards for children and young people had been launched by the Government in July 2022, to ensure that all Government Departments and stakeholders were consistent in their approach to involving and listening to children and young people in policy formulation and decision making and to ensure meaningful engagement. The Committee was advised that online training on the School Council Network, including their Rights and Participation Standards, had been launched in the first quarter of 2024, for all students who were part of a School Council.

A youth-friendly version of the 2025-2028 Budget (formerly known as the Government Plan), named ‘Our Budget – The Government’s money plan for 2025-

2028', had been prepared and had been well received. Feedback obtained from children, young people and families during an engagement activity on Children's Day on 7th July 2024, had been shared with the Committee; the Children, Young People, Education and Skills Ministerial Team; the Corporate Parenting Board; the Children's Cluster Group; and the Government's Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The ELT had been tasked with responding to the feedback and a workshop was being prepared in this connexion, ahead of the next School Council Network meeting on 19th November 2024.

The Committee made various suggestions in connexion with matters outlined in the report, which Ms. Walker undertook to consider, including the cost of school trips, which was highlighted as a concern and Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families, Chair, requested that non-Governmental options for assistance be explored in this connexion. Additionally, members requested that consultation be undertaken with older children and teenagers regarding their preferences in terms of play facilities. It was noted in this context that it might be helpful for facilities (including toilets) to remain open later in the evenings and the need for a collaborative approach between the Government and the Parishes to achieve this was emphasised.

The Committee thanked Ms. Walker for the update.

Children,  
Young People  
and Families'  
Plan 2024-  
2027 –  
Alignment  
with  
commissioning  
activity.

A8. The Committee, with reference to its Minute of 3rd April 2024, received and noted a report entitled 'Aligning Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) Department Commissioning Activity with Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024-2027 (the Plan)', and heard from Ms. C. Lucas, Head of Transformation, Commissioning and Partnerships, CYPES Department, in this connexion.

The Committee was informed that certain public services had to be commissioned from external providers as they could not be provided internally and there was a careful balance to be struck between cost-efficiency and the delivery of optimal outcomes. Commissioned services were essential to the operation of the CYPES Department, and a new cross-Government commissioning framework had been designed in 2023, to apply best practices and offer a structured, evidence-based approach to commissioning services across all Government-provided public services.

The Committee noted that the commissioning process would be co-ordinated and adaptable in order to meet diverse needs across the community and would align with broader Governmental objectives. Contractual arrangements would be reviewed to ensure that they met the needs of children, young people and families and would focus on outcomes and impacts rather than outputs. Key performance indicators would be used to capture meaningful data and ensure accountability, transparency and continuous improvement in service provision. The Plan outlined several key strategies and programmes which were essential to ensure effective delivery and work was therefore underway to ensure that commissioned activities aligned with the Plan.

On a related matter, Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, highlighted the potential for conflicts of interest to arise in this context, given that it was not uncommon for States Members to undertake roles (usually in a voluntary capacity) on the board or governing body of local charities and third-sector organisations which might be interested in or already provided services to the Government. In a similar vein, he noted that States Members and Ministers were sometimes directly approached by such organisations with requests

for financial assistance and he suggested that it would be helpful for the appropriate channels to be outlined as part of the commissioning process.

The Committee noted the position and thanked Ms. Lucas for the update.

Children,  
Young People  
and Families’  
Plan 2024-  
2027 – Update  
from the  
Voluntary  
Sector  
(Children’s  
Cluster  
Group).

A9. The Committee, with reference to its Minute of 3rd April 2024, received and noted a report entitled ‘Update from the Children’s Cluster’ and heard from Mr. P. McGinnety, Director of Local Services, Customer and Local Services Department, in this connexion.

It was recalled that the Children’s Cluster was a collaboration between various local charities and Government of Jersey Officers, with a collective focus on improving the outcomes for Children, Young People and Families, which met on a bi-monthly basis.

The Committee was apprised of matters discussed at the Children’s Cluster meeting of 17th September 2024, including the following –

- the Children’s Cluster was committed to providing greater access to white goods for families, and local charity Brightly had purchased 24 items, including fridges, cookers and washing machines for individuals who were not supported by Social Security;
- Deputy M. Ferey of St. Saviour, Assistant Minister for Children and Families, had informed the Children’s Cluster that a Care Leavers Fund was being created to provide care leavers with small sums of money towards life events such as moving, getting married and job interviews;
- the Children’s Cluster had been presented with the Care Leavers Offer from the Government of Jersey Officers and had been invited to provide feedback, comments, or observations;
- the Salvation Army had closed its Food Bank, which would be replaced (with support from the Children’s Cluster) with a new Food Pantry from 18th October 2024. The Food Pantry would operate on a membership basis and would normalise shopping for those in need as well as provide families with a choice of food;
- a pilot Social, Environmental and Economic Enterprise Pathway project had been launched on 26th September 2024, with free training available, to support and develop entrepreneurial activity in pursuit of Jersey’s social and environmental goals. The project would provide a framework for the development of social enterprises in Jersey and 6 local charities were taking part in the pilot; and,
- the British and Irish Council had visited Jersey on 25th and 26th September 2024, with a focus on creative industries and social impact/inclusion.

The Committee noted the position and thanked Mr. McGinnety for the update.

Dates of future  
meetings.

A10. The Committee noted the following dates for meetings in 2025 –

- 16th April 2025 – with a focus on Big Picture Outcome one of the Children, Young People and Families’ Plan 2024-2027 (the Plan): Healthy and Happy.
- 8th October 2025 – with a focus on Big Picture Outcome 3 of the Plan: Enjoy a good standard of living and housing.