

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (JERSEY) LAW 202- (P.107/2021): COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 25th January 2022
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

This draft Law is a significant piece of legislation which has been lodged to “strengthen strategic planning for children and young people and introduce specific measures to promote the wellbeing of and safeguard children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable”, following the recommendations of the report of the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry in 2017.

This comment paper refers to Part 6 of the draft Law, which introduces the concept of ‘corporate parenting’ in Jersey. The Schedule lists the bodies which are proposed to be corporate parents of care leavers and looked after children. Article 25 sets out a range of duties of corporate parents in respect of those people, as follows:

- (a) to be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of those individuals;
- (b) to assess the needs of those individuals for the services and support the corporate parent provides;
- (c) to promote the interests of those individuals;
- (d) to seek to provide those individuals with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing;
- (e) to take such action as the corporate parent considers appropriate to help those individuals –
 - i. to access the opportunities provided under sub-paragraph (d), and
 - ii. to make use of services and access the support that is offered under Article 29; and
- (f) to take such other action as the corporate parent considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which the corporate parent discharges its functions in relation to those individual

Corporate parents must publish a plan on how they intend to discharge their responsibilities under this law; publish information about the services they offer; publish a report, at least every four years on how they have discharged their responsibilities; and collaborate, where appropriate with other corporate parents. There is also proposed to be a corporate parenting board which can issue guidance to corporate parents.

The States Greffe is a “unit or department of administration established on behalf of the States”, to use the language of the Schedule, and so would become a corporate parent under this draft Law.

The Committee is content that it is appropriate for the Greffe to be a corporate parent. The department provides a range of services which could be relevant in the context of corporate parenting, including:

- School visits to the Chamber;
- Support for the annual Youth Assembly and Colin Powell Student Peace debate;
- Support for the Jersey Youth Parliament;
- Work to promote the inclusion of Jersey politics in the curriculum;
- The selection of young people to attend the Commonwealth Youth Parliament; and
- Work to encourage people to register to vote, and to vote.
- There may also be new opportunities to identify ways of working with care leavers and looked after children, for example to identify ways of connecting them with scrutiny panels and States Members.

If this projet is adopted, the States Greffe will begin work on its corporate parenting action plan, for consideration by PPC after the new committee is established.