

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2012 (P.28/2012): AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 16th April 2012
by the Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel

STATES GREFFE

PAGE 2 –

After the words “attached at the Appendix” insert the words –

“, except that –

- (a) on page 4 of the draft Plan, in the diagram ‘Our Priorities for the next 3 years’, after the Priority ‘House our Community – Housing’ insert an additional priority as follows –

“Promoting Family and Community values”;

- (b) after the Priority ‘House our Community’ on page 9 of the draft Plan, insert the text of the additional Priority as follows –

“Promoting Family and Community Values

Providing appropriate support to both families and individuals is essential if we are to develop a strong sense of community where everyone is valued.

Key factors:

- Government has a key role to play in enabling people to take more responsibility for their own lives and wellbeing.
- Early investment and support for vulnerable children and families will improve the outlook for the individuals concerned and benefit society as a whole.
- Our Island will be strengthened through a more cohesive community where everyone is encouraged to engage with each other.
- Our social policies need to promote equal opportunities and access to services, so that all members of society can share in the Island’s success.
- In order to tackle the challenges faced by disadvantaged families and children, we need to address the root causes and consequences.

Key actions:

We will

- **Preserve and enhance community values.**
- **Work together with all Parishes and other agencies to co-ordinate efficient and effective social and community services.**
- **Seek extension of the UK ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

- **Work towards delivering the range of objectives contained in “Children and Young People: A Strategic Framework for Jersey”.**
- (c) on page 15 of the draft Plan for the heading ‘Looking ahead to resourcing the six priorities within the Strategic Plan 2013 to 2015’ substitute the heading ‘Looking ahead to resourcing the seven priorities within the Strategic Plan 2013 to 2015’ ”.

HEALTH, SOCIAL SECURITY AND HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

REPORT

Introduction

The Panel note that “*A safe and caring community*” is included as part of the Council of Ministers’ vision, however, there is no priority to specify **how** this part of the vision will be delivered.

An insight is provided into what lies behind the vision of inspiring confidence in Jersey’s future through a safe and caring community, as it describes –

- a strong and proud sense of community values
- a unique partnership between government and other agencies
- a need to support some sections of our community, in order to maintain a safe and independent life and improve their future prospects.

Unless this is linked to a priority, the Panel do not see how this part of the vision can come into fruition. We are therefore proposing that a new priority is included: “*Promoting family and community values*”.

Justifications for the key actions are as follows:

Preserve and enhance community values

Promoting family and community values is essential to the development of any society and should not be taken for granted. It also needs concerted and sustained action to see the improvements we all desire.

The States Assembly approved the Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 in May 2009. We agreed that the main aim should be “*Working together to meet the needs of our community*”. One of the priorities to achieve this was to “*Enhance support services to vulnerable children, families and others at risk*”. We acknowledged that some sections of our community need support to improve their life chances and access the same opportunities available to others. Furthermore, we agreed that understanding influences in the wider community is vital for the development of policy and provision of services to families¹.

We do not feel that enough emphasis has been put on promoting family and community values in the draft Strategic Plan.

Work together with all Parishes and other agencies to co-ordinate efficient and effective social and community services

This is mentioned as part of the vision under “*A safe and caring community*” and therefore, it should be established as part of a priority.

¹ Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014, approved by the States in May 2009, pages 21–22

Seek extension of the UK ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. They apply equally to every child, regardless of who they are, or where they are from².

The UK signed the convention on 19th April 1990 and ratified it on 16th December 1991. It came into force in the UK on 15th January 1992³. The UK government has to make sure that every child has all the rights outlined in the treaty except in those areas where the government has entered a specific reservation⁴.

The States of Jersey has committed to work towards compliance with the Convention⁵ and it was included as part of a priority in the Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014⁶.

Questions have been asked on numerous occasions during States question time seeking clarification as to when Jersey could seek the extension of the convention. The States Assembly heard advice from H.M. Attorney General⁷ that, before a conventional treaty is ratified on behalf of the Island, the UK would make a sufficient inquiry to ensure that the Island legislation is consistent with international obligations in the convention. This would be to ensure that it would not be in breach of any obligations by extending the instrument of ratification. The States Assembly also heard that a provision was required for Article 32 of the Convention: “*a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment and appropriate regulation of hours and conditions of employment*”.

The Panel notes that the *Children (Regulation of Employment) (Jersey) Order 2011* has now been made by the Minister for Health and Social Services and came into force in October 2011. This Order complies with the legislative obstacle to the Convention as explained by H.M. Attorney General.

Work towards delivering the range of objectives contained in Children and Young People: A Strategic Framework for Jersey

On 2nd November 2011, the Minister for Health and Social Services presented *Children and Young People: A strategic framework for Jersey* (R.133/2011) which was built on the voices and experiences of many Islanders and professionals. A commitment was made to deliver a brighter future for all the Island’s children and young people.

The purpose of the Strategic Framework was to set out a range of objectives enabling departments to work in partnership across all sectors to develop detailed implementation plans defining exactly what is needed and by whom.

² <http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Our-mission/UN-Convention/>

³ <http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Our-mission/UN-Convention/>

⁴ http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/ParentsRights/DG_4003313

⁵ Children and Young People: a strategic framework for Jersey 2011 – consultation document (R.147/2010)

⁶ Priority 9: “Enhance support services to vulnerable children, families and others at risk” seeking extension of the convention, page 22

⁷ Following a question by Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire of St. Helier on 2nd June 2009

The Strategic Framework aimed to influence the Strategic Plan thus shaping the future direction of States policy in relation to children, young people and families⁸. Therefore, these objectives⁹ should be included in this Strategic Plan –

- **“Be healthy:** We want children and young people to enjoy good health – physically, mentally and emotionally. We will work to improve their understanding of health issues, promote their wellbeing and improve services.”
- **“Be safe:** We want to protect children and young people in our community and help keep them safe from harm. We will work to reduce the risks they face and help them develop protective behaviours.”
- **“Achieve and do:** We want all children and young people to realise their aspirations and achieve their full potential. We will work to improve the opportunities available for all including those with additional needs.”
- **“Grow confidently:** We want all children and young people to grow into confident fulfilled adults who feel cared for and inspired by their families and the community around them. We will work to support families and others to enable this to happen.”
- **“Be responsible and respected:** We want children and young people to act responsibly and to be respected by others. We will work with them and the wider community, including those involved in youth justice, to help engender mutual respect and understanding.”
- **“Have a voice and be heard:** We value the contribution that children and young people make. We will work to support them as active citizens and provide opportunities for them to be involved in the development of services or issues that affect their lives.”

The inclusion of these objectives should directly influence the States business planning process and determine how financial resources are used.

Financial and manpower implications

If this amendment is adopted, any additional financial and manpower implications will be brought forward in specific policy proposals and via the Medium Term Financial Plan.

⁸ *Children and Young People: A strategic framework for Jersey* (R.133/2011), page 5

⁹ *Children and Young People: A strategic framework for Jersey* (R.133/2011), page 5