

QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN

Question

- (a) As a number of young people have left school and gone out into the workplace but have been unable to obtain employment, what preparations has the Committee put in place to help young people wishing to return to full-time education or to assist them to obtain a job placement?
- (b) With the apparent reduction in the number of jobs in the finance industry, what steps is the Committee taking to encourage young people into other careers, such as nursing, engineering and other manual trades?

Answer

- (a) All young people leaving compulsory education at 16 years of age have the option to remain in full-time education either in one of the schools that provide 'sixth form programmes of study', or at Highlands College. I understand that this year about 97 per cent of sixteen year olds took this option. The Careers Service tries to maintain contact with those who do not remain in full-time education and have difficulty in securing employment. Discussions are underway with representatives from the Training and Employment Partnership, and the Employment and Social Security Department to consider whether any additional programmes or measures should be taken to raise vocational skill levels among this group and others who may need further training or support in order to gain employment in the current economic climate.
- (b) The Careers Service, through its publications, events and presentations to pupils and parents, has always encouraged young people to take the widest possible view of career and training options available to school leavers. All Key Stage 4 students in Jersey undertake courses of careers education in schools and have one-to-one interviews with careers teachers when considering their career options. The job opportunities for 16 year olds in the finance industry have been reducing for a number of years and so encouragement to consider a wide range of training and employment opportunities is not a new phenomenon. Indeed, recent years have been marked by increasing numbers of school leavers progressing to Highlands College at 16+ to undertake programmes in practical areas.