

2.5 Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the implementation of a Practice Direction:

Would the Minister for Health and Social Services confirm whether best practice guidelines have now been implemented in accordance with recommendation 9.3 of the Serious Case Review, in relation to the implementation of a practice direction and if not, why not?

The Deputy of Trinity (The Minister for Health and Social Services):

Recommendation 9.3 of the Serious Case Review is to review the procedures and protocols in relation to care planning and the court processes. The target date for completion is at the end of 2010. The implementation of a practice direction is a complex task requiring considerable input from a range of different agencies. Good progress is being made and I can report that a draft practice direction has been developed by the Judicial Greffe. This direction builds on U.K. practice, best practice observations from the J.C.P.C. (Jersey Child Protection Committee) and the Serious Case Review findings. Agencies, including Children Services and the States of Jersey Police, have commented on it and these comments are currently being considered by the Royal Court.

2.5.1 Deputy P.V.F. Le Claire:

That is very enlightening. Thank you very much. I would like to ask the Minister, if then, given that that information is now being considered and they have had responses, whether the target will be met by the end of 2010?

The Deputy of Trinity:

As I said, the target date is completion at the end of this year. Good progress is being made and, as I said, it is out for consultation then. All the recommendations are being overseen by the independent chair, The Jersey Child Protection Committee, and I hope they will be.