

4.10 Deputy M. Tadier of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the introduction of Community Care Orders:

Would the Minister explain why she would or would not support the introduction of Community Care Orders to enhance the provision of mental and social health care in the Island?

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

Community Treatment Orders were introduced in England and Wales in 2009 as part of the amendment to the 1983 Mental Health Act. These allow for people with serious mental health problems to receive ongoing treatment while living within the community. It has been recognised for some time now that a new Mental Health law is required in Jersey and I and my officers will be keen to consider Community Treatment Orders within the new law as an alternative to confining individuals in a unit. Officers are currently looking at resource implications required to undertaking a root and branch review of all the current legislation, which includes the Community Treatment Orders.

Deputy M. Tadier:

I thank the Minister for her response. I would simply add that obviously there are members in our society who have a level of functionality for whom it is not necessarily appropriate for them to be institutionalised, nonetheless they do not have the same executive function that we may do and that they do need some kind of halfway house. So I do welcome the comments of the Minister and I hope that we can both work together with other Members to provide a constructive and improved law in this regard.

4.10.1 The Deputy of St. John:

Has the Minister put to the Council of Ministers its 2 per cent cut for 2011, if not why not? Is this an area that would be slashed in her final report, and if so would she be able to reconsider it?

The Bailiff:

Deputy, how do you consider that arises out of the question about Community Care Orders?

4.10.2 The Deputy of St. John:

It arises by the answer given and I have just incorporated it in the bigger picture. I want to make sure that the funding is not cut in this particular area.

The Bailiff:

Very imaginative, Deputy. [Laughter]

The Deputy of Trinity:

No, it has not been cut because it is something that we are looking ahead on and we know that we need to update our mental health laws but a great deal of work needs to be done because it is a very complicated piece of law.

4.10.3 The Deputy of St. John:

The Minister did not answer the first part of my question. Has she put in her response to the 2 per cent cut for 2011 to the Council of Ministers? I think the answer is no.