

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 20th MARCH 2012**

Question

What consultation has taken place between her department and third sector providers to agree new service level agreements over the period of the coming Strategic Plan?

In particular, in the delivery of what specific services is a greater role for third sector envisaged?

Has the Minister made any progress in securing 3-year funding streams for third sector service delivery?

What role does charging play in the delivery of services over the next 3 years?

Answer

HSSD has service level agreements (SLA) and provides grants and subsidies to a wide range of Third Sector organisations. Each has a lead officer within HSSD. Lead officers are working, and will continue to work, with SLA holders to review those Agreements. Our aim is to ensure that SLAs are transparent and that they secure the best outcomes for Islanders in relation to quality of service and best value.

HSSD is currently working up plans for service redesign as outlined in the Green Paper. Once the operational details have been finalised and funding secured via the States' Medium Term Financial Plan, we will commence commissioning new services and, if necessary review existing service contracts to ensure they continue to deliver real benefit to Islanders. The commissioning process will include a wide range of opportunities for Third Sector providers, the details of which will be made available when finalised.

It is the States' Medium Term Financial planning process that will provide the opportunities to secure three-year funding. HSSD, like other States Departments, is currently working with the Treasury to develop the Plan for presentation to the States during the summer.

HSSD is committed to supporting the Third Sector to be actively involved in the provision of new or different services - we recognise that Third Sector organisations have a unique and valuable role to play as service providers and as agents for change. HSSD will shortly be holding a Third Sector meeting to discuss next steps, plus we are developing an engagement plan which builds on the approach taken in the Green Paper and will involve the co-production of some service development plans with a range of stakeholders, including the Third Sector organisations.

With regard to charging, HSSD is developing user pays proposals for some services as outlined in the 2012 Business Plan.