

3.6 Deputy S.Y. Mézec of the Minister for Social Security regarding the support available for Islanders aged under 25 suffering from a mental illness who have never worked:

What support, if any, is available for Islanders below the age of 25 who, because of suffering from a mental illness, are not able to work and have not been able to work since leaving education and have therefore not paid any social security contributions?

Deputy S.J. Pinel (The Minister for Social Security):

Prior to school leaving age the family of a young person with a significant mental or physical illness or disability may be able to receive financial support through the Child Personal Care Benefit. This is available independently of household income. From school leaving age a young person who qualifies for one of the higher levels of the personal care award is entitled to make their own income support claim; again independently of whether or not their parents are a low income household. For those with less serious conditions financial assistance through the income support scheme is available providing that they are a member of a low income household. Alongside financial assistance, Back to Work offers specialist assistance to help people into work where long-term illness or disability represents a more significant barrier to employment. We have dedicated specialists who have specific experience of working with mental health and other conditions and can support the management of such condition. We also work closely with colleagues in the health service and the Jersey Employment Trust to determine the best approach for the individual customer.