

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 19th MARCH 2018**

Question

Following the Review of Early Childhood Education in Jersey, will the Minister provide an update on the Department's position in respect of nursery education funding and will he state what work is now being carried out and what potential solutions are being worked on to support early years provision and the private nursery sector?

Answer

The Early Years Childhood Partnership (EYCP) published its report 'Review of Early Childhood Education in Jersey' in November 2017. The report was prepared by a group of EYCP stakeholder members which included representatives of private sector nursery businesses, a primary school head teacher and the officers of the Education Department. It was led by the independent chair of the EYCP.

Members of the EYCP group are now looking in more detail at how the recommendations put forward in the report could be implemented. Consultations with parents and wider stakeholder groups are being planned and work has started on preparing an Early Years Strategy which will feed in to the Children and Young People's Plan.

In the meantime, the usual process for nursery year applications for three to four year olds for September 2018 is under way. The allocation process for States nursery places has started and parents will be informed by the end of March whether they have the place they requested.

The Nursery Education Fund (NEF) in its current form remains in place for September 2018. A meeting has taken place with representatives of private providers to discuss the partnership agreement for the next academic year and this has now been sent to all NEF providers.