

# **STATES OF JERSEY**



## **CHILDREN'S EXECUTIVE: PROGRESS REPORT MAY 2005**

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**Presented to the States on 21st June 2005  
by the Health and Social Services Committee**

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**STATES GREFFE**

## REPORT

This report is presented on behalf of the Health and Social Services Committee, the Education, Sport and Culture Committee, the Home Affairs Committee and the Probation Board. The 3 Committees are jointly responsible for the services provided through the Children's Executive.

### Introduction

In 2002 Dr. Kathie Bull was commissioned by the Committees for Education, Sport and Culture; Health and Social Services, and Home Affairs to inspect and report on provision for young people experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) in Jersey. Dr. Bull's report, published in 2003, highlighted atypical problems in Jersey and systemic deficiencies within and across services. Recommendations were made in respect of –

- Strategic partnership and planning
- The reconfiguration of existing services
- Developments necessary to enhance provision
- The scrutiny of provision.

A key recommendation was the creation of a Children's Executive, a monitoring body comprising of managers from the commissioning departments together with a manager from the Probation and After-Care Service. In February 2004 the Children's Executive reviewed the final report's recommendations in light of the States Fundamental Spending Review. A range of recommendations were proposed by the Executive and endorsed by the Committees. The following vision statement was agreed –

*“The three Committees of Health and Social Services, Home Affairs and Education, Sport and Culture together with the Probation Board will work in partnership and be jointly accountable for the development of effective and efficient support and provision for SEBD children in Jersey”.*

This vision has been at the heart of all work undertaken and has led to significant developments in the way that services have been configured. The co-operation at a senior management level has seen the development of the Children's Executive which has linked with the Chief Officers and Politicians to provide a strategic direction for services for children with SEBD. A feature of the past twelve months has been the willingness of all involved in working with this challenging group of young people to incorporate a multi agency approach and develop work across traditional departmental boundaries.

A business plan has been developed and will be reviewed in the next section.

### 1. Specific recommendations and updates:

#### Management and organisation

1.1 Establish effective management of SEBD services.

Update: *A Co-ordinator of Services was appointed in November 2004 on an 18 month secondment basis.*

*An Educational Psychologist was appointed in September 2004 with responsibility for SEBD Services.*

*A Residential/Secure manager was appointed in June 2004 to oversee developments across residential care.*

*A manager for the Youth Action Team (YAT) will take up post in April 2005 to develop Community Based Services.*

*These managers will jointly operate as the Management Board overseeing developments across SEBD Services.*

1.2 Establish effective link between Children's Executive and Corporate Parent.

Update: *A formal document has been drawn up which highlights lines of communication and responsibilities between the Management Board, Children's Executive and Corporate Parent.*

1.3 Ensure a business plan/action plan has been developed and presented to the 3 committees.

Update: *This plan was developed and presented to the 3 committees in February 2005.*

*Further development plans within Education, Residential/Secure and Youth Action Team have been established.*

1.4 Establish effective financial management of SEBD Services.

Update: *This has required considerable co-operation as senior officers and finance officers from across 3 committees had to ensure a designated SEBD budget for 2005.*

1.5 Establish effective links across agencies.

Update: *Children's Service and Education have linked to share data with regard to looked after children and children in need.*

### Community developments

1.6 Create and develop a community-based Youth Action Team (YAT).

Update: *The appointment of the YAT manager for April 2005, linked to parts of this team that are already in place in single strand provision, will mean they will be ready to implement the new service initiatives during the coming year. The team will consist of Social Workers, Probation Officers, Police Officers, Youth Workers and Parenting Workers who will work in partnership to address the needs of young people coming before the Courts or those who are at risk of offending.*

1.7 Establish good working relationships with the Court.

Update: *Continuous liaison with the Magistrate has ensured that the Court is aware of current developments and specific plans for the future. The Children's Service Youth Justice Workers now attend court on a regular basis to provide advice and information about issues such as remand options*

1.8 Re-designate Child and Family Service as a Child, Adolescent and mental Health Service operating a four-tiered model of care and treatment.

Update: *The CAMHS service was established in 2003. The employment of a dedicated mental health specialist to work with SEBD children was appointed in January 2005.*

1.9 Establish parenting program as part of the Youth Action Team.

**Update:** *Parenting team are to become an integral part of the Youth Action Team in mid-2005. Interim development has included working with pre-school/reception age children and their families where the child is exhibiting emotional and behavioural difficulties.*

Key performance indicators

*That not less than 75% of young people supervised by YAT are involved in individualised programmes targeted to their behaviour and needs.*

*That not less than 50% of young people under statutory supervision reduce their risk of re-offending in accordance with an accredited risk assessment.*

*To increase the number of professionals who are trained to deliver accredited parenting programmes.*

Residential services

1.10 Establish effective delivery of service across residential and secure services.

**Update:**

- *The appointment of the new manager will ensure that the residential units of Heathfield, La Preference and Greenfields are managed within a consistent framework. This formal structure will be introduced alongside the implementation of the Jersey Children's Law over the coming months. This separation of responsibilities will allow the Children's Service under the Voluntary Homes (Jersey) orders to be introduced with the new legislation thus allowing regular evaluation and inspection of all residential facilities.*
- *Interim arrangements have already seen the development of closer working relationships between the three establishments to ensure a child focussed approach to placement planning. This has included ensuring senior positions within residential services are held by qualified staff; the introduction of NVQ training for other staff; development of policy and procedure; internal audit; the introduction of a placement panel and an independent 'chair' which has seen the improvement in admission and review processes.*

1.11 Develop a more effective response to young people requiring secure accommodation.

**Update:** *A design team has overseen planning and development of a new secure build over the coming 18 months. The planning stage has now been completed with the anticipation that the new secure facility will be ready for use by the end of 2006. This will ensure that Jersey has an appropriate provision for those young people requiring secure care.*

Key performance indicators

*For 100% of all young people within residential care to have clear work plans which respond to their needs and the needs of the wider community.*

*An increase in the numbers of children in family placements compared with residential care. (This 'indicator' will be adversely affected by the introduction of the new Jersey Children's Law due to the way that extended family placements will be designated as 'non care' placements.)*

*An improvement in the educational attainment of looked after children within residential care.*

## **Education**

1.12 Establish an effective response to children with SEBD within mainstream schools.

### **Update:**

- *Secondary schools have been allocated resources to establish their own specialist support services.*
- *Attendance Officers and monitoring systems have been introduced to the secondary schools.*
- *Multi-agency teams are being developed, consisting of social workers, counsellors, attendance officers, educational psychologists and specialist teachers. Some professionals are already working within the four secondary schools but a focussed training programme will be delivered during the summer term of 2005 for all of these professionals in order to establish these teams. A pilot project will commence in September 2005 at two of the secondary schools with the other two schools following by March 2006.*
- *The 'Quiet Place EQ' provision has been developed in two mainstream primary schools.*

### ***Key performance indicators***

*Establish an annual return of data for pupils disengaged in mainstream provisions review and comment with recommendations for development.*

*50% of pupils in Key Stage 3 who access "Learning Support Provisions" or have access to mentor/coaching support are maintained in mainstream.*

*An improvement in unauthorised attendance in the four 11 to 16 schools.*

*Two multi-agency teams established in two of the 11 to 16 schools, with clear roles and responsibilities identified and a referral route into YAT.*

*The evaluation of the two "Quiet Place EQ" shows an improvement in access to learning for 50% of the young people who have been through the programme.*

1.13 Establish creative and varied educational initiatives across the Special Schools Service.

**Update:** *A multi-agency group has been working to identify the best way of delivering services for youngsters with SEBD who are not within mainstream school. A plan is being developed which will see further development in September 2005.*

### ***Key performance indicators***

*An agreed strategy is established during 2005 for the development of new provision in 2006.*

1.14 Establish an effective response to youngsters with SEBD who are experiencing mental health and/or substance misuse difficulties.

**Update:** *A mental health worker has been appointed who is targeting work at residential/secure facilities and will be an integral part of the YAT service. Further developments with the Alcohol and Drugs Service and the mental health worker are leading to the development of new working protocols between services and specific training opportunities for staff working with youngsters with SEBD.*

## *Key performance indicators*

*Staff working in residential/secure facilities are trained to support young people with mental health issues.*

## **2. Future challenges**

No future can ever be without potential risks. Efficiency savings are accepted as a part of modern public service. Yet, as a new entity, it is hoped that the Children's Executive work will be given an opportunity to flourish without the need for further service efficiencies.

Similarly, a great deal of work has been carried out to ensure that the Island has secure facilities that are fit for purpose. This can only be right but should not overlook the value of alternative methods of care. The need to invest in promoting and developing fostering and adoption services remains critical in terms of long term financial savings and quality of care.

Over the next 12 months any developments will need to be compatible with the new Children's Law and it will be vital to consult with the courts and Law Officers about any proposed court measures.

Similarly, it is important to remember that children with challenging behaviours live in an ever-changing world where parental attitudes and discipline as well as the effect of States policies can have a significant impact. The concept of Corporate Parenting applies not only to those tasked with delivering the above vision but is a challenge for the community as a whole.

May 2005.