

## **Panel Meeting on 3rd April 2006**

### **4. Age Concern and Senior Citizens Association**

The Panel met Mrs D. Minihane MBE and Mr R. Le Brocq to discuss the views of Age Concern and the Senior Citizens Association on the new General Practitioner (GP) out-of-hours service.

#### **a) General Discussion**

The Panel was informed that the Senior Citizens Association involved people of 55 and over.

Mrs Minihane advised the Panel of her belief that the scheme was to have been implemented in conjunction with the new Income Support system.

The Panel asked whether Age Concern and the Association would monitor the new out-of-hours service and consider informing the Panel of its findings.

#### **b) Matters Raised**

During the course of its meeting with Mrs Minihane and Mr Le Brocq, the Panel considered the following matters in relation to the co-operative out-of-hours service:

- The impact of the service on those who currently received HIE.
- The possibility that the new service would make Jersey a more attractive place to work for GPs.
- The impact of the new system on short-term residents of the Island.
- The access visiting GPs would have to patient information.
- The use of Public funds establishing and maintaining the out-of-hours service.
- The potential impact of the service on Accident and Emergency (A&E).
- The arrangements for receiving and transferring calls in the new system.

#### **c) Consultation**

The Panel was advised that no formal request had been made by the Department of Health and Social Services for the views of Age Concern or the Senior Citizens Association. It was further advised that no request had been made by the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) for its own investigation.

The Panel was advised that Mrs Minihane had consulted informally with members of Age Concern and the Association at meetings held on Tuesday mornings. The Panel was informed that these meetings were generally attended by approximately ninety people, approximately half of whom benefited from Health Insurance Exception (HIE).

The Panel was informed that Mrs Minihane had not received many adverse comments relating to the new out-of-hours service. The Panel was further informed that no adverse comments had been received relating specifically to the use of the Gwyneth Huelin Wing at the General Hospital for the Co-Operative's surgery.

The Panel was advised that the Senior Citizens Association would hold a meeting in April 2006 regarding the new out-of-hours service. Mrs Minihane advised the Panel that an invitation to the meeting would be extended to a representative of the GP Co-Operative.