

Deputy Louise Doublet
Chairman
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier
JE1 1DD

22 August 2016

Dear Deputy Doublet

Thank you for your letter dated 14th July 2016 inviting the Jersey Child Care Trust to provide a written submission regarding the MTFP Addition and how this could impact upon the children of Jersey. Whilst the Panel will appreciate that the Trust's discussions are at their earliest stage at present, it is possible to provide an insight into the current position and the next steps.

To clarify, the Trust has learnt that the recommendation by the Education Minister was reviewed just at the point of publication and so the reduction is now one £45,000 reduction to the grant in 2018 and in future years for the foreseeable future.

The Trust has a Service Level Agreement (attached) in place with the Education Department for 2016 which covers the specific activities that the Minister expects the Trust to carry out with the grant of £179,800 that it received. The grant, does not include the costs of the Special Needs Inclusion Project or the Assisted Nursery Places Scheme. The total cost of these two services is around £170,000 this year and set to continue to rise in 2017 and beyond. They are entirely funded through monies raised by the Trust.

In addition to the listed activities in the SLA, the grant enables the infrastructure (including offices, computer and other systems, core staffing) of the Trust to exist. This has provided a real strength to the Trust when fundraising as every single penny of charitable donations has been able to be applied directly to supporting children and families. The Trust's core team is very small but efficient and very effective provider of early years services for vulnerable families at a time of need. The team is working at full capacity however, the needs of families grow year on year. The team provide real value in their role and due to the size of the team and the workload, there are very few savings that can be made in an organisation that already works in an incredibly lean way.

The Trust plans to meet with Education to see what elements of the SLA activities could be removed. Once this has been done, the Trust will be in a much better position to outline the impact on families in Jersey. That said, the Trust has had some initial ideas which involve 1. Stopping some activities and 2. Income Generation.



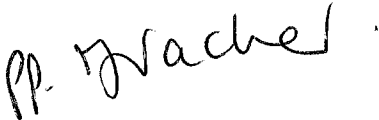
Stopping Activities – Potential areas could INCLUDE a reduction or cancellation of financial support and services provided direct to childcare providers, and the paring of running costs (although these are already set at a very low level).

Income Generation – potential areas could be increasing charges for the training provision, currently subsidised by the Trust and charging for Nanny Accreditation Scheme.

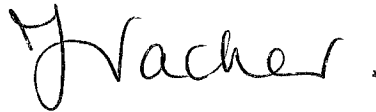
In the future, it could also be that the Trust will need to operate a 'full cost recovery' model whereby the administration and other costs will need to be applied. Whatever the final decision, the Trust is determined to put families first and minimise impact upon them through focussing reductions in areas which do not involve direct services to children and families in need.

When discussions have taken place with the Education Department, the Trust will be in a better position to provide the Panel with more information about the actual changes and their impact upon children.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Marnie Baudains
Chairman



Mrs Fiona Vacher
Executive Director