

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LESTER QUERIPEL**

In 2015, a review of the implementation of the Children Law 2008 was undertaken here in the Bailiwick by Professor Kathleen Marshall, on behalf of the Scrutiny committee. In her report, which was published in November 2015, Professor Marshall made 21 recommendations that she felt could be pursued by the States. With that very much in mind, I ask that you please provide me with answers to the Rule 14 questions laid out below.

- 1. a) What has your department done so far to pursue Professor Marshall's recommendations?**
- b) What is your department currently doing to pursue those recommendations?**
- c) What will your department be doing in the future to pursue those recommendations?**

The Committee *for* Health & Social Care is progressing relevant recommendations set out in Professor Marshall's November 2015 report. A progress report is due to be considered at a Committee meeting on 18th January 2017 following which it intends to provide the Scrutiny Committee with a formal update.

The recommendations set out by Professor Marshall are only one source of guidance regarding the implementation of the Children Law. The Committee *for* Health & Social Care believes it should not limit itself to just these recommendations and continues to consider a wide range of factors in its strategic and policy developments relating to its functions under the Children Law.

In responding to Deputy Queripel's questions, the Committee *for* Health & Social Care can highlight some of the main areas of current and ongoing development:

Team Around the Children and Lead Professional

Multi agency training and implementation of the Team Around the Children Approach has been rolled out across Children and Family Community Services and partner agencies who work with children and families. The approach consolidates the role of the lead professional so that children and families have one single point of contact when professionals are providing multi-agency and multi-disciplinary support to families. To date, some 120 families have benefitted from this more co-ordinated form of early help and intervention. Similarly, the approach has been extended across all areas and client groups within Children and Family Community Services including children subject to legal orders and those who are looked after.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Children and Family Community Services have spent 2016 working towards delivering the key outcomes identified in the Corporate Parenting Strategy for looked after children. This

has seen workstreams focused specifically upon improving the psychological well-being of looked after children as well as improving education and health outcomes for this vulnerable group of children and young people. This has involved close working relationships with our partner agencies including the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security.

On 7th December 2016, States Members were invited to a presentation on their responsibilities as Corporate Parents. The presentation was extremely well attended by 20 Deputies as well as representatives of key Childrens charities.

Specialist Foster Care

2016 saw the launch of Specialist Therapeutic Foster Care on island. Following an extensive media and recruitment campaign the first young people to benefit from the scheme moved into specialist foster placements in the fourth quarter of 2016. Again this scheme has required extensive joined up working with partner Committees including the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security.

MASH – Multi Agency Support Hub

The MASH has remained in operation throughout 2016 and has been successful in meeting its key aims during its pilot phase. These included the reduction of children at risk of significant harm, a reduction in the number of children subject to legal order and a reduction in the number of children received into the care of the State. The Multi-Agency Support Hub has received excellent support from partner agencies and it is hoped that this form of working can be extended in 2017.

Transformation of Children’s Residential Care

Following review, extensive work has taken place to transform the delivery of residential care for looked after children on island. This has included the implementation of the recommendations of an independent review of the service and the closure of Le Carrefour, the last institutionalised child care establishment on the island.

2. *Will the President of your department (or another political representative of your department in the President’s absence) be making regular statements during future States debates, that update the States Assembly on the progress your department has made, in pursuit of the recommendations?*

Consideration is being given as to how best to provide updates in relation to the recommendations of Professor Marshall and whether this should be directly to the States Assembly, the Scrutiny Management Committee or otherwise.

3. If the answer to question 2 is 'yes', then please can you tell me when the first statement will be made and also the dates for subsequent statements in future years, throughout the term of the current Assembly?

Please see answer to question 2.

4. If the answer to question 2 is 'no', then please can you tell me how you will be keeping the Assembly informed regarding your departments attempts to pursue the recommendations?

Please see answer to question 2.

5. Will your department also be providing the media with similar statements and updates, so they may in turn, broadcast and publish them for the benefit of the general public?

The Committee *for* Health & Social Care, in line with other States Committees, tries to ensure that all information of interest to the public is published on the States of Guernsey website and also promoted through other forms of communication and media where appropriate.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 15th December 2016

Date of Reply: 29th December 2016