

REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE

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.

Question

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

The former Education Department welcomed Professor Marshall's review of the implementation of the Children Law and provided considerable information and evidence to the Scrutiny Committee as part of the review.

The Marshall Report gave very clear recommendations regarding the implementation of the Children Law 2008 and the new Committee for Education, Sport & Culture is supportive of the relevant Committee or Service exploring and delivering on these recommendations.

The majority of Professor Marshall's specific recommendations gave clear guidance to the Committee for Home Affairs and the Committee for Health & Social Care; more specifically the Safeguarder Service (now Family Proceedings Advisory Service), the Convenor for the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal and the Royal Court. Although not specifically mentioned in the recommendations, Education Services recognises it has a key role to play in supporting all children and in particular those in need or those at risk.

It is important to recognise that Professor Marshall's review is only one source of guidance regarding the care and support provided to our children. Education Services believes it should not limit itself to just these recommendations and continues to consider the needs of all children and young people in all its strategic and policy developments.

In responding to your questions, Education Services will highlight some of the main areas of current and future development but these should not be seen as an exhaustive list:

Appointment of a dedicated Vulnerable Children's Officer – following a reorganisation of staff in 2016, Education Services now has a dedicated Vulnerable Children's Officer who works with schools, other States Committees and Services and third sector agencies as well as the child and family to support successful access to education provision.

Establishment of a LAC (Looked After Children) Virtual School – the Education Development Officer for SEN, Inclusion and Intervention acts as the Lead Officer of a virtual school for looked after children, ensuring that the progress and attainment of this vulnerable group of learners is carefully tracked and shared with other support agencies and carers.

Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH) – Education Service staff (School Attendance Officers, Educational Psychologists etc) play an active role in the daily MASH meetings (currently hosted at Grange Road House) ensuring early intervention and effective joint agency support of children and young people.

ICPC (Island Child Protection Committee) – under the independent chair, safeguarding practices are being strengthened. Education Services staff have taken an active role in this development. You can find out more at www.icpc.gg .

CYPP – Education Services staff are taking a lead role in implementing the Children and Young People’s Plan.

The Big Picture – Education Services is working with teachers across all phases of education to develop a new Bailiwick of Guernsey curriculum for implementation from September 2017. This new curriculum sets out an entitlement for all children and young people ensuring that they are Healthy & Active; Safe & Nurtured; Reaching their Individual Potential; Included and Respected. Learning will also be organised to reflect positive mental health and wellbeing. You can find out more at www.gov.gg/curriculum .

Universal Pre-School Entitlement – From January 2017 (for a two-term pilot period for those with a household income under £150,000) all three to four year-old children in Guernsey and Alderney are entitled to 15 hours of free pre-school education per week (term-time only). A new Quality Standards Framework (QSF) has also been developed to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children. The EYQSF aims to secure equality of opportunity by developing a culture of support, reflection and empowerment within the Early Years Sector to ensure our children have the skills, knowledge, passion and independence to fulfil their dreams to become life-long learners in environments that are safe and promote their health and wellbeing. You can find out more at www.gov.gg/preschool .

Alderney – In collaboration with other services, work has begun to strengthen inter-agency working in Alderney in line with Professor Marshall’s Recommendation 18. St Anne’s School and the Youth Commission (for which the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture is responsible) are both actively involved in this work. One major area of development is the establishment of a weekly inter-agency meeting to discuss support for children in need or at risk living in Alderney.

Question 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?

We do not believe that it is appropriate for the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to lead any update to the Assembly. It would be more appropriate for the Committee *for* Health & Social Care to lead any updates, as required, as they are the Committee responsible. We will be happy to provide any input into these updates as requested.

Question 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?

N/A

Question 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 department's attempts to pursue the recommendations?

The Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture will happily contribute to any form of update, if required, although notes that the Committee *for* Health and Social Care and the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture already publish regular updates on www.gov.gg outlining major areas of work and decisions taken.

Question 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* Education, Sport & Culture, 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 social media feeds and other channels where necessary. We welcome feedback from the community and if anyone feels that there are gaps in the information available to them, particularly with regards to safeguarding children, then please contact us at educationsportandculture@gov.gg and we will do our best to address those gaps.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 15 December 2016

Date of Reply: 28 December 2016