

STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND of GUERNSEY

16th May 2018

Proposition No. P2018/24

REQUETE – ASSISTED DYING

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy H J R Soulsby

Seconded by: Deputy R H Tooley

To insert, after Proposition 3, the following text:

"And to note that:

4. the Committee *for* Health & Social Care, in accordance with the resolutions of Article 12, Billet d'État XXIV of 2017 ("A Partnership of Purpose: Transforming Health and Care"), will:

(a) consider the need for developments in specialist palliative care, together with community services and long-term care, amongst others, in order to improve health outcomes and quality of life for islanders towards the end of their life;

(b) take into account the concerns expressed surrounding the debate on the requête entitled 'Assisted Dying' in considering these particular areas for development; and

(c) inform the States of progress in the above area in each of its annual updates to the Policy & Resource Plan, and return to the States with relevant propositions, if necessary."

Explanatory Note

The Committee's Policy Letter, "A Partnership of Purpose – Transforming Health and Care" commits to developing a health and care system which places the user at its centre and, although there was not a specific reference to palliative care in the Policy Letter, the Committee acknowledges that dying well and end of life care is a vital part of health and care provision.

The Committee considers that the service it currently offers is of a good standard but that it should undertake a review to identify any areas which could be developed, as part of the Partnership of Purpose. Palliative care is a very important element that, together with many other services such as occupational therapy, improves the quality of life of patients facing life-threatening illnesses and their families. The Committee therefore cannot simply look at palliative care in isolation, but as part of a wider range of care services to ensure it allocates resources where they are most needed.