

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY A H ADAM**

Question

On 12th July 2012 there was a joint Board meeting of SSD and HSSD when a document was presented by the Chief Officers of both departments.

This document made a number of key points, including:- the Health and Social Care system should be considered as a whole; the current system is not financially sustainable; sustainability of on-island specialist clinical services is of considerable concern; the current structure of the funding system does not offer value for money to the public.

Are these key points still accepted by your Board?

Answer

These key points are still generally accepted by the Social Security Department.

Question

If not, why not?

Answer

N/A

Question

If they are accepted, what progress has been made in relation to addressing the areas highlighted?

Answer

Following the joint meeting of the Social Security Department (SSD) and the Health and Social Services Department (HSSD) on 12 July 2012, HSSD developed an outline proposal for conducting a comprehensive review of Guernsey and Alderney's health system.

It was envisaged that the full Health System Review would be carried out using a combination of in-house resources and contracted advisors with expertise of remodelling health systems. It was understood that this would be a very substantial undertaking, with high costs by way of external assistance and consultancy. A draft States report was prepared, largely by HSSD, but with the assistance and support of SSD.

Following the December 2012 changes in the Minister and some Members of the HSSD Board, the proposal for a comprehensive review of the health system was re-examined. By July 2013, the HSSD had decided to cease to pursue an 'all at one time' health system review

in favour of an incremental or 'modular' approach, as explained in that Department's answers to Rule 6 questions asked by Deputy Adam, published on 21 January 2014. This alternative approach, supported by SSD, will be able to make greater use of in-house resources and the need for costly contracted advisers will be reduced. This makes the task more manageable and cost effective.

SSD will continue to work closely with HSSD to ensure that the review is conducted in a cost effective manner and that value for money is at the heart of decision making with regard to the future provision of health services in Guernsey and Alderney.

Date of Receipt of the Questions: 17th February 2014

Date of Reply: 28th February 2014