

# An Outline of the Children and Young People's Plan

for Guernsey and Alderney and how you can help shape that plan

*Delivering Better Outcomes Together*



# CONTENTS

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Foreword                              | 02 |
| About the Plan                        | 03 |
| Plan on a page                        | 08 |
| Getting some focus                    | 10 |
| 6 key cultural and structural changes | 12 |
| Our outcomes in more detail           | 16 |
| How you can help                      | 28 |

# FOREWORD

I was delighted in February 2015 to be appointed as Chair to the board of a multi-agency partnership which is developing a new Children and Young People's Plan ('the Plan'). The Plan will go to the States for approval by February 2016 and set the vision and priorities for services for children and young people for the next 6 years.

We recognise that the current Plan did not deliver a step change in improvement of outcomes for children and young people that was needed.

This Plan is not just about agencies working better together to set a common vision. It's about working together to transform the way in which services are delivered in order to make that vision and its priorities a reality. Most importantly it is to ensure that the child is at the centre of all that we do.

Working together with our community, families and volunteer organisations will be essential to our success. We believe that the most important people in a child's life are its parents. Our role is to strengthen families to ensure that all parents receive the opportunities and support needed to allow them to become great parents.

Most of our Island's children and those in our sister Islands achieve good outcomes and go on to lead successful lives as adults, but there are some who do not. It is those 'children in need' groups that really deserve our focus.

The Plan will set out how we intend to meet the challenge of ensuring that everyone, including the more vulnerable, is able to thrive. It highlights how we will reshape services and deliver them differently, how we will adopt an approach of 'strengthening' families; working with them, responding to their needs and building on their strengths.

**The 'How You Can Help' section of this document explains how you can contribute to shaping future services for children and young people. Please tell us what you think needs to change for the better.**

**Deputy Michelle Le Clerc**  
Chair, Partnership Board, Children and Young People's Plan

# ABOUT THE PLAN

## WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The Children and Young People's Plan ('the Plan') will set out how we intend to work alongside children, young people and their families.

It will set out a direction for all services, universal, targeted, specialist, voluntary and third sector to collectively ensure that every child in Guernsey and Alderney, regardless of their circumstances, has access to the best services so we can make Guernsey and Alderney the best places to grow up.

The new Plan will identify key issues to be addressed over the next six years and will be reviewed after three years. So we will organise detailed objectives in periods 2016 to 2018 and those for 2019 to 2021.

## WHO IS THE PLAN FOR?

- It is for all children and young people under the age of 18 living in Guernsey and Alderney .

- However, the priority will be for the most vulnerable children. With this in mind, the Plan also aims to support those young people with additional needs who require support beyond the age of 18 to ensure a smooth transition into adulthood; in particular those leaving care and young people up to age 25 who have complex educational, health and care needs.
- Our community as a whole who must prioritise providing committed parental care, support and guidance for those young people who do not have the benefits of family and for whom we are the 'corporate parent'.
- The families and carers of children and young people who need our help and support to ensure that those in their care achieve their full potential and support their children into adulthood.
- Everyone helping to support or deliver services to children, young people and their families in Guernsey and Alderney from across multiple agencies and the voluntary sector who will need to work together.

## HOW IS THE PLAN BEING DEVELOPED?

The Plan is being developed through the analysis of data and information received through consultation with a wide range of partners and stakeholders and, most importantly, through talking to the children and young people in Guernsey and Alderney.

The Health and Social Services Department (HSSD) has the statutory responsibility for producing the Plan and will present it to the States of Deliberation for approval by the end of this term of office. However, in recognition of the range of children's outcomes which are the responsibility of several States' Departments, as well as the primary concern of many voluntary organisations, and that the delivery of effective services and support for children and young people relies on a multi-agency approach and joined-up working, the Plan is being developed on behalf of the Health and Social Services Department using just such an approach.

The Partnership Board is comprised of political leads and Chief Officers from the three key departments involved – HSSD, Education and Home. The Board has also been supported by a wider partnership and implementation group.

The Partnership Board Members are:

- Deputy Michelle Le Clerc (Chair) HSSD
- Deputy Arrun Wilkie, Home Department
- Deputy Peter Sherbourne, Education Department
- Carol Tozer, Chief Officer, HSSD
- Jon Buckland, Chief Officer, Education Department
- Mark de Garis, Chief Officer, Home Department

Key contributors to the drafting of the CYPP to date have been:

- Alysa Martel, Policy Council
- Anita Harrild, HSSD
- Anna Guilbert, Home Department
- Anne Marie Carrie, Specialist Advisor
- Jane St Pier, Youth Commission
- Jacqui Gallienne, HSSD
- Karen Brady, Office of the Children's Convenor
- Mick Watson, Island Child Protection Committee
- Natalie Tucker, Policy Council
- Nick Hynes, Education Department
- Nikki Brink, HSSD
- Peter Standring, Paediatric Services
- Ruby Parry, HSSD
- Stephen Langford, Policy Council
- Wayne Bulpitt, Youth Commission

## WHAT WILL BE IN THE PLAN?

This will ultimately depend upon the results of consultation. However, we envisage setting the document out as follows:

### Section 1: Vision and priorities

In this section, we will set out our collective commitment to children, young people and their families and outline the key ingredients needed to deliver good outcomes. We will also highlight the key cultural and structural things that need to be in place for it to be a success.

### Section 2: Making it happen

In this section, we will set out the outcomes we want for the children and young people growing up in our community, especially those in the most vulnerable groups, and highlight what we need to do to ensure that they all have every chance of success.

### Section 3: Evidence and planning

In this section, we will provide detail of the activities, the priorities, and an action plan of how we will deliver these and importantly the framework for monitoring success.

This section will also include the evidence of why we have chosen to focus on the areas included within the action plan, including the results

of consultation with children, young people, their families and a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

## WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS PLAN?

The 2008 Children Law introduced a legislative framework for a welfare based, integrated model for responding to children in need, including children at risk of significant harm. It was recognised from the outset that success would be dependent on the support of a number of agencies who are vital to the implementation and operation of the Law. However, whilst the legal change introduced has been radical, the framework for delivery of services to children and families has largely remained the same.

Implementing a law that introduces a radically different approach requires a process of transformational change which includes culture, systems and practice. Change of this sort is often challenging and takes time to achieve. Whilst there has been almost unanimous support for the theory and principles within the Law, making these a reality has presented some challenges and inevitably exposed some inherent tensions. The principles that underpin the system do not stand alone. They require a supportive culture and sound framework of law, social policy and professional practice.

**Our ambition and determination is to develop and deliver a whole systems response by government and third sector working effectively together. This must be underpinned by robust collection and sharing of essential data.**

### WHAT ARE WE ALREADY DOING?

Alongside the development of the vision and framework that is reflected in this document, we are currently working on implementation so that the process of change does not have to wait for the Plan. Work already underway includes:

- The development of permanent platforms for States' ongoing and regular engagement with children and young people so that they have a stronger voice in the services provided to them and the way in which their Island is governed;
- The development of detailed implementation plans for each of the priority outcomes ( Safe; Achieve and be Active; Healthy & Nurtured; Included, Respected & Responsible);
- A review of the governance of children and young people's services;
- A service delivery plan, including a review of how information and data is gathered and shared and how performance is monitored;
- The implementation of a multi-agency support hub;
- A review of services provided to looked after children;
- The development of a strategy for corporate parenting.

This list is far from exhaustive and doesn't include the 'business as usual' activity that public, private and third sector services provide to children and young people, or the initiatives put in place through inter-linking strategies such as the Disability Strategy, Sexual Health Strategy, Domestic Abuse Strategy etc.

We need to:

- Improve the manner in which different organisations work together to deliver services;
- Identify gaps in service provision and how they can be met;

- Identify those services that are no longer fit for purpose in meeting the needs of the children of the Islands;
- Build on existing good practice.

By working differently and by engaging the community, including the business community, we need to invest more effectively in the children and young people of our community. We need to build stronger communities and 'social capital'.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2021 will be completed by the end of this year to be submitted for States' approval by February 2016. The States' Report will not only ask the States to set the vision and strategic direction for children and young people's services, but it will also request an allocation of resources and changes in governance arrangements to make transformational change to the delivery of services.



# PLAN ON A PAGE

## OUR PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AND PLAN ON A PAGE AND OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### THE VISION

Young people consider Guernsey and Alderney to be the best places to grow up

Our overarching aim is to ensure that **everything** we do supports all children, but in particular, the most vulnerable and marginalised children and their families so that they feel valued, successful and included within all aspects of our community

### 6 Structural and Cultural Changes that need to be made:

- 1

Children and young people’s voices must be heard and central to what we do.
- 2

Information systems and the ways we share information must be improved and understood.
- 3

Services must be holistic and integrated working together is essential.
- 4

Our delivery of services must put children first.
- 5

We must be proactive and focus on early intervention.
- 6

We need to establish a Corporate Parenting Board.

## WHAT WE WANT FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

By implementing these structural and cultural changes we will ensure that all Children & Young People have every opportunity to:

### ○ Achieve and Be Active

We want all children and young people to achieve their full potential and to be supported in the development of their skills, confidence and self-esteem.

We want them to have more opportunities to take part in activities, sports and play to promote healthy growth and development

### ○ Be Healthy and Nurtured

We want children and young people to have the highest possible standards of physical and emotional health in a nurturing environment.

### ○ Be Included, Respected and Responsible

We want children and young people to have a voice in decisions that affect them and to play an active and responsible role in all aspects of their lives, including their schools and communities.

We want to ensure that children and young people have help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and are valued members of their community.

### ○ Be Safe

We want to ensure children and young people are protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community.

We want to encourage young people to engage in safe behaviours.

# GETTING SOME FOCUS

**Our overarching aim is to ensure that everything we do supports and prioritises the most vulnerable and isolated children and their families so that they feel valued, successful and included within all aspects of our community**

The Children Law introduced a definition of 'Children in Need' and placed a duty on the States to identify to what extent there are 'Children in Need' in Guernsey and Alderney. There is already a focus on providing services to those children to promote the upbringing of the child by the child's family and to prevent the child in need becoming a child at risk.

The definition of a 'Child in Need' in the Law is:

- The child, or their family, requires the provision of additional services to enable them to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development.
- The child's health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further

impaired, without the provision of additional services,

- The child is disabled, or
- The child is, or is likely to be, adversely affected by the disability or illness of a parent or another member of the family without the provision of additional services.

A child is 'at risk' if there is reasonable cause to believe that grounds exist for compulsory intervention under the provisions of the Children Law in respect of that child.

We have identified the following 11 groups of children who may potentially be in need of additional services in Guernsey and Alderney.

## These are our Children in Need

Some children may find themselves in more than one category which increases their potential vulnerability. Children may move in and out of categories as their circumstances change. The features and circumstances identified are not comprehensive and may indicate (not necessarily define) vulnerability. The more that apply to any individual child the greater the risk and the greater the need for collective action.

Children living in poverty

Children with compromised or poor parenting

Disabled children

Children with mental health or emotional well-being issues

Children living with domestic violence

Children in care

Care-leavers

Children of prisoners

Young carers

Children and young people who have committed a criminal offence

Children involved in acrimonious child residence/contact battles when parents separate



# 6 KEY CULTURAL AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES NEEDED

## TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BAILIWICK

We recognise that many families in Guernsey and Alderney are thriving and that families, whatever their situation, have many strengths as do the communities in which they live. However, whilst most of our children and young people achieve good outcomes and go on to lead successful lives as adults there are some who do not. In particular, children from poorer backgrounds often do not achieve the success of others and there is a huge gap between their life chances and outcomes and those of their more fortunate peers. For too many of the Islands’ children, their day to day experience is one of struggle and uncertainty, and we need to be better at picking this up early, and giving children and their families the right help at the right time to prevent their difficulties from escalating.

We want all children to be able to benefit from the advantages of island life, and for this to happen, we know that we must target more resources on those who need them most, whilst also ensuring that

every child and young person has the best possible start in life. For this to happen, we consider that the following key changes are necessary in the way that the States identifies and then meets the needs of our children.

### 1. Children and young people’s voices must be heard and be central to everything that we do

Children and young people have a right to have a voice in decisions that affect them, both individually and collectively. Failure to listen to children and young people can result in a failure to protect them from abuse and neglect. We need to develop a culture that respects, protects and fulfils the rights of children and young people, including the diversity of children’s experiences, abilities, identities and cultures, and ensure that this informs every aspect of our work. This can best be achieved by implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is the worldwide common reference against which progress in meeting human rights standards for children can be assessed and results compared. Having agreed to meet the standards in the Convention, governments are obliged to bring their legislation, policy and practice into accordance with the standards in the Convention; to transform the standards into reality for all children; and to abstain from any action that may preclude the enjoyment of those

rights or violate them. Governments are required to report periodically to a committee of independent experts on their progress to achieve all the rights.

*We are committed to ensuring that all children and young people can exercise their right to be heard and that they are supported to express their views in all matters affecting them.*

### 2. Information systems and the ways in which we share information must be improved, and the needs of our child population better understood

Appropriate sharing of relevant information is a vital part of early and effective intervention to ensure better outcomes for our children and young people. We need to improve and connect existing infrastructure, organisations and systems, and challenge any traditional boundaries for this to work in a way that protects children and enables information to be shared in their best interests.

*We are committed to ensuring that appropriate information about children is shared with the right people, at the right time as required and empowered by the Law, and, wherever possible, in partnership with children and their families, in order to promote and protect their welfare, both individually, and collectively.*

### 3. Services must be better joined-up and focussed on the whole child, not just one aspect of their lives at a time; a multi-agency and collaborative approach must be part of our culture

This Plan must be owned across all States Departments to enable greater collaboration and coordination across departments and agencies. Help and support for children and their families must be easier to access at ‘single points of entry’ rather than the child or family passing from one service to another.

*We are committed to improving cross-departmental, inter-agency and third sector coordination to ensure that children and young people have equal and easy access to quality services that are effective, efficient and trusted.*

### 4. Our delivery of services must put the most vulnerable children and their families first in order to narrow the gap between these children and the rest, whilst ensuring equality of opportunity for all of our children and young people

The experiences of children and their families need to be heard and included in all planning and service delivery. Within this context, we must identify and

prioritise the most vulnerable children and families in order to provide services which most meet their needs, and make the best use of scarce public resources and taxpayers' money. These are often the most 'difficult to reach' families and the easiest to ignore, but they are those who have the poorest life chances and outcomes, and for whom the huge advantages of island life have not been realised. This includes children who are in care, those who are living with domestic violence and other parental difficulties that may prevent their parents from providing nurture and love, and those who are disabled by physical or physiological impairment or challenges.

*We are committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable of our children have the best possible access to help and support to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities of island life.*

**5. We must be proactive and focus on the Early Years and on early intervention using evidence about what works so that money and resources are used to the best possible effect**

Prevention and early intervention means intervening at a young age, or early in the onset of difficulties, or at points of known increased vulnerability, such as school transitions, adolescence, parenthood or pregnancy. There is now a huge

body of research available about what works well in changing children's lives - the importance of the first 1001 days of life in laying the foundation for a child's healthy emotional and physiological development for example.

Evidence shows that prevention and early intervention is also cost-effective as fewer children and their families then go on to be reliant on costly and intrusive services, and are more likely to make positive life choices into adulthood.

*We are committed to placing a greater emphasis on prevention and earlier intervention, using evidence-based approaches, the aim of which is gradually to transfer resources over time from crisis to earlier points of intervention and to provide effective support for those who need it for longer.*

**6. We need to establish a Corporate Parenting Board to ensure that the States' legal responsibilities to children in care are fully understood and met, and that being in care does not lead to poorer outcomes for those children.**

The Children Law 2010 makes children in care the responsibility of the States, meaning that every politician and every officer is a corporate parent, with responsibility for the welfare of every child in States' care. There were 72 children in care in 2014.



However, the outcomes for children in care can be very poor, and we know for example that 31% of our care leavers became pregnant before their 21st birthday, and that there is a huge gap in educational attainment for such children. It is rare for a child in care to go to University, for example, and whilst many are living in settled and loving foster homes on the Island, there are very limited options for our care leavers, and a lack of placements for young people who come into care as teenagers, many with histories of abuse and neglect with all of the distress that implies. To address this we will create a Corporate Parenting Board, attended by politicians and senior officers, where the services to our children are monitored and gaps identified so that we can ensure that they have the best possible help and opportunities to thrive. This will include

regularly consulting with them about their care experiences so that we can learn from them and continuously improve their corporate parenting.

*We are committed to understanding and improving the life experiences of our children in care, and being the best possible corporate parents to them. Their needs are reflected across all of the 4 outcomes identified in this Children and Young People's Plan.*

*Our overall commitment is to ensure that these changes are supported by the necessary leadership, investment in people, cultural change and work-force development to make this Children and Young People's Plan effective.*

# OUR OUTCOMES IN MORE DETAIL

There are four identified outcomes which link with each other. We have chosen these four as a result of widespread engagement and discussion with professionals and other stakeholders across the Bailiwick during 2014, and also as a result of the available data about the outcomes for our children and young people analysed against the research and data evidence from the UK about what it would be reasonable to expect in a population of our size and make-up. We have also drawn on the Guernsey Young People's Survey 2013, to capture the views of children and young people, though we are consulting in more detail with children as part of the development of this Plan. We have chosen only 3 or 4 actions to support each of the four priority outcomes in order to focus work clearly on a few changes that are achievable and measurable, and which we believe will have the most impact, so that we can demonstrate that the Plan is making a difference where it is needed most.

## **We want all our children to Achieve and be Active**

***We want all children and young people to achieve their full potential and to be supported in the development of their skills, confidence and self-esteem. We want them to live lives that are as active as possible, making the most of the benefits of island life, with its access to beaches and to the sea, as we know that this is most likely to enable children to grow into the healthy, active, and emotionally secure adults who will ensure the future prosperity of our island communities.***

### **What do we know now?**

Research evidence tells us that parental involvement in children's education from an early age has a significant effect on educational achievement, and continues to do so into adolescence and adulthood. The quality and content of fathers' involvement matters more for children's outcomes than the quantity of time fathers spend with their children. Family learning can also provide a range of benefits for parents and children including improvements in reading, writing and numeracy, as well as greater parental confidence in helping their child at home. The attitudes and aspirations of parents and of children themselves predict later educational achievement. International evidence suggests

that parents with high aspirations are also more involved in their children's education, (DCSF The Impact of Parental involvement on Children's Education 2007).

Children and young people are achieving and attaining at a higher rate in Guernsey and Alderney than ever before... but we know that there are still significant groups of children and young people who are not achieving or attaining as well as they could. We also know that physical activity is an important factor in preventing childhood and then adult obesity, and that the latter is a concern for the Bailiwick. Whilst there is a wide range of opportunities for children and young people to be active in Guernsey and Alderney, and many take full advantage of this, there are also many 'disadvantaged' and vulnerable children who do not have the same opportunities to access the same clubs and activities through a lack of support or because of financial restrictions.

### **Key facts:**

There is a wide gap in attainment for those learners who have special educational needs or who have indicators of economic deprivation:

- 23% of learners who were eligible for Uniform Allowance achieved 5 A\* C GCSE against 63% of learners who were not eligible for Uniform Allowance

- 24% learners with special educational needs (SEN) achieved 5 A\* - C GCSE including English and Maths against 66% of non-SEN learners
  - There were attainment gaps at the end of Key Stage 2 (Level 4+ in 2013 -14) between learners who were eligible for Uniform Allowance and those who were not; in Reading 24%, Writing 36%, Maths 32%. These are wider than we might expect when compared with England which had attainment gaps of 13%, 16% and 13% respectively.
- Children in Care (CIC) are particularly vulnerable to poor educational outcomes.
- In 2013 -14, 0% CIC achieved 5 A\* -C GCSE including English and Maths, and 71.4% CIC achieved 1 A\* -G GCSE against 94.6% of all other young people

At a young person's conference in 2014, delegates cited the lack of activities, particularly for those aged 14-18, as the worst thing about growing up in the Bailiwick. This is also emerging as a key theme for young people in the survey supporting the development of this Plan.

In the 2013 Guernsey Young People Survey :

- 51% of young people responded that they take part in a sports club at least ‘weekly’, meaning that nearly half of young people do not attend such activities
- 43% of young people responded that they exercise as much as they like – nothing stops them. However, 35% of young people responded that they don’t have enough time to exercise, and
- 69% of young people responded that they exercised for at least 30 minutes and had to breathe harder and faster at least three times in the week before the survey - with 31% having had no exercise in that period.

What do we need to do?

We need to:

1. Develop and implement a joint cross department strategy and intervention programme to narrow gaps in the attainment, achievement and attendance tracking of all vulnerable learners, with triggers for action to address emerging problems ensuring effective and meaningful engagement with parents and vulnerable families.

2. Improve the understanding and practice of inclusion and support, and challenge institutions and environments to ensure equality of access and provision across all educational, leisure and sports environments to encourage and enable children and young people from all backgrounds and abilities to access and benefit from activities that promote healthy growth and development.
3. Improve the range of inclusive activities for children and young people, particularly in the winter months, to keep them active and to divert them from unsafe and unhealthy activities and choices.

.....  
**We want all our children to Be Safe**  
.....

**We want to ensure children and young people are protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community. We want to encourage young people to engage in safe behaviours both at home and in the community.**

What do we know now?

Guernsey and Alderney are generally considered to be safe places to grow up. They are not seen as presenting the same level of risk as larger and more densely populated communities.

However, there are particular risks associated with living in small island communities. There is a sense that everyone knows everyone else’s business, which can lead to complacency in sharing information. There can also be a reluctance to share information for fear of reprisals or breaching confidentiality.

There have been some very high profile and worrying sexual exploitation scandals in the UK in the last 2 years and we know that our island communities are not immune to this. Sexual exploitation of children is not always recognised as such by professionals, parents or children, so identification of abuse is an important issue and we have no agreed multi-agency strategy for dealing with this as yet.

The HSSD commissioned a diagnostic review into Children’s Social Care in November 2014, which identified that we are not working in a joined-up way across departments to provide effective help and support. This means that too many children are exposed to emotional abuse and neglect for too long, with the potential for lifelong negative impact on their life chances. The review also identified a number of families where there has been long-term inter-generational abuse and deprivation, which will affect future generations if we do not act to help these families to change their lives and to meet their children’s needs for safe and stable care.

Key facts:

- During 2013 there were 1,599 referrals to the Social Work Child Protection Team – nearly 70% were for children already known to agencies. Physical and sexual abuse is still a significant issue and there are waiting lists for all children’s social work services, particularly for parenting support and therapeutic post-abuse work for children. Social workers have high caseloads, with up to 400 children accessing services at any one time.
- 61% of referrals between September and December 2014 related to young people – many of whom were misusing alcohol, sending sexual pictures to others, or at risk of sexual exploitation. Research tells us that addressing sexually harmful behaviour at an early stage is more likely to have an impact on reducing future risks. We also know that alcohol is a problem in Guernsey and Alderney and is a key factor in increasing the vulnerability of our children and young people to abuse and exploitation, as well as to physical harm and risk of addiction.
- The numbers of children on the Child Protection Register trebled in 2014 – with 72% of identified risks being about emotional abuse associated with domestic

abuse, parental mental health issues and parental substance and alcohol misuse. Nearly a third of the parents had been in care as children or had themselves experienced abuse as children. This highlights a cycle of inter-generational difficulties for some families which we are not managing to change with our current approaches.

- There has been a rise in the number of private law cases being heard in the Court from under 100 in 2008 to over 180 in 2013. A proportion of these will involve acrimonious and drawn out separations which can cause distress and harm to the children in the family.
- In a snapshot of 69 children in care, 48 had experienced domestic abuse before being accommodated.
- In the Guernsey Young People’s Survey 2013, 28% of respondents reported being bullied in the past 12 months. 18% of respondents reported worrying about bullying, either quite a lot or a lot. This had risen from only 14% in the 2007 and 2010 surveys. 25% of the primary school children surveyed also admitted using 18 rated games such as Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty - the former has explicit sexual content.

What do we need to do?

We need to:

1. Improve children’s access to care and protection by creating one single pathway - bringing professionals together to share information and resources earlier and to agree how best to meet the needs of children at the earliest possible stage. We believe this can be done by creating a Multi-Agency Support Hub, which has been evidenced to improve communication and outcomes for vulnerable children in the UK authorities where this is in place. The difference in Guernsey is that this will also incorporate our early help offer, as well as safeguarding those at risk of harm;
2. Develop and deliver evidence-based programmes to support families with very complicated and long-standing problems to turn their lives around so that their children have better life chances – this includes parents who have had poor childhood experiences themselves. We will call this ‘Strengthening Families’ and will engage with the voluntary and charity sectors to deliver hope and change. This will be supported also by a range of evidence-based parenting programmes, including a 1001 days programme which helps parents-to-be and

those with very young children, who are in difficulty, to thrive and to develop lasting attachments and positive parenting which will give their children the best start in life;

3. Work with the Island’s Child Protection Committee to address:
  - > bullying,
  - > alcohol misuse in children and young people, and its links to sexual exploitation,
  - > on line grooming and targeting of vulnerable youngsters, including those in care, through a multi-agency child exploitation strategy.

We want all our children to Be Health and Nurtured

*Nurturing is a fundamental human endeavour and nurturing children is the cornerstone of our society and crucial to physical and emotional wellbeing. We want all of our children and young people to have the highest possible standards of physical and emotional health in a nurturing environment, to prepare them for success in adulthood.*

What do we know now?

Nurturing is a fundamental human endeavour and nurturing children is the cornerstone of our society. This involves raising children in a way that recognises their need to achieve healthy development, regardless of the presence or absence of illness, disability or social disadvantage. It also includes providing any formal health care and education needs that leads to them being full participants in adult life. Nurturing is not an activity that can be fully measured but its effect is profound.

There are 3 key players in this:

- Parents or those who act with the determination and dedication that parents do (CSEFEL 2011).
- The home environment of a family, in which to establish a valued identity and learn; in particular, the skills for nurturing the next generation.
- A community that children and young people can be part of and which values the part they play; a community that will intervene, on their behalf, for their welfare and will ensure the availability of accessible services, when required.

The population of children in Guernsey under 19 years of age in 2012 was 13 384 with 673 newborn babies in the year (Health Profile for Guernsey and Alderney 2010 - 2012). In 2012, 40 969 child appointment contacts were made by healthcare professionals including Health visitors, School nurses, Speech and Language therapists, Dieticians, Audiologists, States Dentists and Paediatricians and Consultant specialists (data excludes visiting specialist consultants and general practice) (Data supplied by individual Service Leads). The opportunities to support the health and nurturing of children are therefore considerable, but some children miss out.

Early intervention in both mental and physical illness is important and the mental aspect of poor health needs to be fully appreciated by everyone in the health care team. The development of joined-up services and interventions for children and young people, particularly those at risk of poor development, is therefore key. Early life screening, immunisations and family health are important for infants to prevent disease and improve health outcomes. These services are currently provided in Guernsey and Alderney by General Practitioners (GPs), Practice Nurses and Health Visitors. If a child is unknown to the Primary Care Services, their welfare is unknown and, if needed, society cannot protect and support them.

There may be financial penalties for children and young people attending the Accident and Emergency

Department in Guernsey. Delayed presentation is an important consideration in evaluating a family for neglectful care. Penalising families for presenting when they have concerns about their child's health is therefore unfair and may lead to financially less well-off families coming under the suspicion of neglect, or the possibility of neglectful care being excused. Either way, children and young people could lose out.

#### Key facts:

- In 2013 and 2014 over 3500 children and young people under the age of 19 years attended the Accident and Emergency Department at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital. In 83 of the attendances in 2013 and 65 in 2014 self harm, alcohol or drugs was considered to be a contributory factor. (IM&T, HSSD).
- Teenage pregnancy rates in Guernsey are more than double those of Jersey. The rate of under 16 conceptions in Guernsey and Alderney (2010 – 2012) was 4.3 per 1,000 with 62% of these pregnancies ending in a termination. By comparison, the rate in Jersey was 1.7 per 1,000. The rate of under-18 conceptions in Guernsey and Alderney (2010 – 2012) was 27.8 per 1,000 with 43% of these conceptions ending in a termination.

Over the same three-year period Jersey reported a rate of just 11.4 conceptions per 1,000 women — a rate less than half that of all the English regions and of Guernsey/ Alderney (Health Profile for Guernsey and Alderney 2010 – 2012).

- In 2011 14.9% of mothers at the time of the birth of their baby were smokers, which is above the England average of 13.5% (Health Profile for Guernsey and Alderney 2010-2012).
- Only 5 of 28 local schools currently hold a valid Healthy Schools accreditation and one has the Enhanced Award. 3 are working towards it and a further 7 schools had held a valid accreditation prior to 2014. The National Healthy Schools Programme (NHSP) was a joint initiative between the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH) in England which aimed to promote a whole school/whole child approach to health. The programme in the UK is now a self-validation process to gain the Enhanced Award. Locally the Education Department and Health Promotion Unit have developed the Guernsey Healthy Schools Award which is based on the UK system and is accredited by assessors from the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) Association. The

programme focuses on four themes: PSHE, emotional health and wellbeing, healthy eating and physical activity (Source: Health Promotion Unit).

- In 2014 the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) saw 353 young people for assessment, including 98 who were at high risk or had a severe mental health problem. There has been a 55% increase in the overall numbers seen since 2010, and a 92% increase in high-risk cases. Of the 98 high-risk cases seen in 2014, 44 were admitted to hospital, of whom only 3 needed to be sent to off-island inpatient units. The most common reason for admission was deliberate self-harm (76%), and the next most common reason was eating disorder (13%) (CAMHS Audit 2014 and CAMHS Service Information).
- Children who are not given the opportunity to be healthy and nurtured are children in need. The size of this cohort is not clear but numbers for some groups are known. In 2011, approximately 600 children were living in relative poverty, which was defined as living in a household with an income of 40% or less than the median income. This equated to 5.2% of children in the Bailiwick (The States Strategic Monitoring Report 2014).

What do we need to do?

We need to:

- 1. Develop integrated and accessible emotional health and wellbeing services, to include targeting early years, schools, through the healthy schools programme, and youth services, CAMHS and other providers to deliver a responsive, child and community-focussed service. This needs to reflect coordinated preventative support as well as responding to acute need, including the worrying increase in self-harm and eating disorders in our young people;
- 2. Tackle teenage pregnancies and provide a prompt, integrated multi-agency response to sexual health care for all young people, linked into the Drug and Alcohol Strategy, to tackle underage drinking and the consequences of this - of which teenage pregnancy is only one;
- 3. Ensure that we are addressing preventable injury in children through an accident prevention strategy, which contributes to child safety and reduces the need for children and young people to attend A&E services, including for alcohol-related incidents and self-harm.

**We want all our children to Be Included, Respected and Responsible**

*We need to ensure our community is one where children and young people are listened to, valued and respected for who they are. We need to ensure that they are given the opportunity to participate in decisions about their lives and community, and that where things have gone wrong they are supported to behave responsibly towards others, and to have respect for themselves and their life choices.*

What do we know now?

Children and young people bring diversity to their communities by virtue of their personalities, culture, gender, abilities and disabilities, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexuality, and economic demographic. We want children and young people to have a voice in decisions that affect them and to play an active and responsible role in all aspects of their lives, including in their schools and communities.

We want to ensure that children and young people have help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and are valued members of their community. We know that the Bailiwick's young people are engaged, committed and contribute in many ways. For example, the Bailiwick's Duke of

Edinburgh's Award participants volunteered for at least 8,200 hours in the community in 2014. However, we also know that there is not equality of opportunity for all children and young people, and the lack of access to enriching experiences can form the beginning of social exclusion for those children that are subject to economic inequalities.

We know that there are at least 18 different first languages spoken by families in the Bailiwick, and we must celebrate the diversity of our community. Furthermore, we must adopt practices that ensure that the ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality or economic background of a young person will not have a negative impact on their attainment, achievement or participation in the Bailiwick's community.

Our young people are less likely to be involved in criminal activity than their peers in England and Wales, and those who do offend are also less likely to re-offend, which suggests that they are more respectful of community life than their counterparts, and that intervention to divert and prevent offending behaviour is effective on the island. UK evidence and research tells us that young people who get in trouble with the law, and young people who have unmet welfare needs are, broadly speaking, the same group of young people. Most youth offending in the Bailiwick is dealt with in the Children Youth and Community Tribunal system (CYCT), which identifies that many young offenders come from problematic

family environments and have complex needs. In 2013, 74% of the reported offences in the Bailiwick were dealt with in the CYCT system.

Key facts:

- 2013 attendance in all schools across the Bailiwick has improved over previous years and it compares favourably when 'bench-marked' against England: exclusion rates for 2013 also compare favourably when 'bench-marked' against England.
- In response to the 2013 Guernsey Young People's Survey, 34% of primary school children responded that they take part in helping and volunteering at least 'weekly' and 26% of children responded that they take part in a uniformed youth group (e.g. Scouts, Guides) at least 'weekly'.
- Only 50% of young people in Secondary school responded that they feel a real part of their school, while 51% feel they are included in lots of activities in their school, and 20% of young people responded that they feel there isn't at least one teacher or other adult in their school they can talk to if they have a problem.

- Offending by young people is low and is reducing. The number of young people who are reported to the Convenor for the alleged commission of an offence has been reducing each year and has reduced by 35% since 2010. Very few young people commit serious crimes. Less than 10% of the offences committed by young people are considered by the Police to be serious offences. In 2013, 8% of the reports made involved offences that were considered to be a serious offence.
- The most common age group for youth offending is those young people who are aged 15, 16 or 17. In 2013, 83% of the young people reported were in this age group.
- A third of the offences committed by young people are road traffic-related. In 2013, 37% of all reported offences were road traffic or vehicle related, with the most commonly reported offence being speeding. Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons determined in 2013 that the arrangements for the detention of young people who have been sentenced to imprisonment are inadequate as children should never be held in an adult prison.

What do we need to do?

We need to:

1. Ensure that inclusion, and the voice of children and their families, is at the centre of the development and implementation of the social policies that affect them, This includes ensuring all agencies (public, private or voluntary) understand the importance of inclusion and develop inclusive practices, and monitor performance data, to identify the match between need and service, the effectiveness of services, and the extent to which the right children are getting the right support.
  - > Increasing participation by children and young people in the design and delivery of services that support them, including, for example, introduction of a scheme of Young Inspectors who are active volunteers inspecting services across the Bailiwick (private, public and voluntary) which are accessed by young people and their families;
  - > Adopting a Charter for Participation for Children and Young People (to establish a panel to oversee all consultation and involvement activity; to

adopt a common set of standards to underpin consultation with children and young people; to develop further consultation with parents and carers)

2. Communicate with and motivate children and young people to engage with extra-curricular activities, ensuring that we support the most vulnerable to engage with groups in all of the Bailiwick's sports, leisure and cultural centres. For example, each child in care should automatically receive free access, together with being matched with a voluntary sector mentor to support them in accessing new experiences.
3. Provide effective delivery of information, advice and guidance to young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), with priority given to care leavers, 16-19 year olds and disabled young people, or those with a with a learning difficulty aged 16 -24 years, including:
  - > The provision of 'wellbeing' support for NEETs, pregnant teenagers and young parents and the delivery of life skills and vocational courses to these groups.

- > That data sharing is improved and agreed protocols are in place between partner agencies to enable early identification and flexible support for those young people likely to fall into the NEET group: particularly vulnerable Year 11/12 leavers, young offenders, young parents and care leavers.
  - > Continued improvement in access to full time provision post-16 for learners aged 16 – 24 years with learning difficulties and disabilities.
4. Ensure that there are alternatives to custody that are robust, credible, supportive and realistic, and that no young person is incarcerated in Guernsey Prison unless there are real threats to the safety of the public and there are no viable alternatives.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

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What do you think about the developing Plan and priorities we have outlined in this document? Give us your feedback by completing the questionnaire at **[surveymonkey.net/s/cyppguernsey](https://surveymonkey.net/s/cyppguernsey)**

Children and young people are also invited to 'Speak Up!' about their experiences in living in Guernsey, Herm and Alderney through a questionnaire available at **[gov.gg/speakup](https://gov.gg/speakup)** or through Facebook '**Speak Up Guernsey**'

If you are a parent/guardian, a carer, a volunteer or professional working with children and people with relevant experience of accessing services in Guernsey or Alderney and if you would be interested in participating in further consultation on the development of the Children and Young People's Plan, please email **[cypp@gov.gg](mailto:cypp@gov.gg)**

Find out more at:  
**[gov.gg/children](https://gov.gg/children)**





If you would like more information on the  
Children & Young People's Plan if you would  
like a hard copy of the questionnaire, please  
email [cypp@gov.gg](mailto:cypp@gov.gg)