



# Children and Young People

A summary of Jersey's  
Strategic Framework

November 2011

States   
of Jersey

In November 2011 Jersey's first ever Strategic Framework for Children and Young People was presented to the States. It was commissioned by the Children's Policy Group<sup>1</sup>.

The key elements are summarised in this shorter version. The full Framework is available from [www.gov.je/health](http://www.gov.je/health)

## What you told us

We asked Islanders whether they think Jersey is a good place to grow up and, on the whole, they do. Children, young people, parents and professionals have readily identified much that is great about Island life.

That said, they have also identified that more needs to be done if we are to ensure that all children and young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential and lead happy, healthy lives.

This Framework is built on the voices and experience of Islanders.



1. The Children's Policy Group (CPG) is a cross-departmental group which includes the Ministers for Health, Education and Home Affairs. Its purpose is to provide robust political leadership across, and amongst, all States agencies and States funded services that impact on, benefit or protect Jersey's children and young people.

## Q: Who is the Framework for?

**A: All the Island’s children and young people, their parents and carers, service providers, politicians and decision makers.**

## Q: Why have a Framework?

**A: To ensure we invest resources in a way that delivers the greatest possible benefits.**

We are a small Island and our children and young people are not always able to access the same services, facilities or opportunities as others in the UK. Some of the issues they face are more complex than those of other larger jurisdictions, for example:

- the cost of studying in the UK
- housing qualifications and the cost of housing
- small population size making anonymity hard for vulnerable young people
- lack of specialist facilities for those with a disability or additional needs
- a limited range of employment opportunities.

We must invest our resources – people, effort, time, money and knowledge – in a way that delivers the greatest possible benefits for all children and young people<sup>2</sup>. Where necessary this may include re-directing funding in order to try and prevent problems from occurring in the first place.

2. Whenever we talk about children and young people we mean everyone aged 0 to 18 years including those with additional needs, unless we specify otherwise.

**Q: How will the Framework help?**

**A: By pulling together key issues it will support us to think and work collectively across all areas of interest, in order to decide what services and facilities are needed.**

**Q: What services does it apply to?**

**A: All services for children and young people delivered, funded or supported by the States.**

## Our vision, outcomes and principles

### Our vision

We want all children and young people to grow up in a safe, supportive Island community in which they achieve their full potential and lead happy, healthy lives.

### Our six outcomes

We want all children and young people to:

- Be healthy
- Be safe
- Achieve and do
- Grow confidently
- Be responsible and respected
- Have a voice and be heard.

### Our five core principles

- the welfare of all children is a principal consideration
- we will “think family” – supporting families<sup>3</sup> is critical to supporting children
- early intervention is key – we will invest upfront to prevent problems developing in the first place
- we will design and commission services based on need, impact, effectiveness, efficiency and value for money
- we will work in partnership to ensure best use of knowledge, expertise and resources.



3. By family, we also mean other people who care for children such as within foster homes or residential homes. We recognise that families come in many different forms and that some family set ups can be complex. We include all these families.

# Outcome 1: Be healthy

We want children and young people to enjoy good health – physically, mentally and emotionally. We will work to improve their understanding of health issues, promote their wellbeing and improve services.

## What you told us

- ➔ Being healthy is critically important.
- ➔ You are concerned about obesity in children.
- ➔ We all need the best start – working women need maternity leave and new families need health visitors.
- ➔ You recognise that speech is fundamental to our wellbeing – all babies and young children need the stimulation and support essential to developing speech.
- ➔ You think schools have got a critical role to play – providing hot lunches and encouraging exercise through after-school activities.
- ➔ You want it to be easier to cycle around the Island.
- ➔ Adults are setting a bad example by drinking too much alcohol.
- ➔ You think our health services are good but it costs too much to take children to the GP.

### Children and young people's voices

“Health is important because it affects your future”

“It's about achieving physical, mental and social wellbeing”

“Watching what you eat is important so you have enough energy to play sports”

“Some people come from a healthy background, others have to learn to be healthy”

### Adults' voices

“It's hard to get interpreters for non-English speaking families accessing health services”

“It's expensive so you put something off rather than take them to the doctor because of the cost. You shouldn't feel like that, you should be able to take your child to the doctors”

“We have a really good health service in Jersey”

## What the data tells us

### Early Years

- Babies who are not breast fed exclusively to 6 months are at increased risk of becoming overweight or suffering from a range of illnesses. In Jersey breast-feeding rates are high just after the baby is born (around 75%) but are significantly lower after six weeks (around 30- 40%)
- The numbers of babies getting primary immunisations in Jersey (eg. tetanus, and whooping cough) is very high – better than the UK.

### Diet and activity

- Less children are cycling or walking to school and more are being driven.
- The numbers of Islanders who are overweight or obese is increasing year on year. In Jersey more five year olds are overweight or obese than in the UK.
- Only around 25% of 10-15 year olds eat '5-a-day'<sup>4</sup> and around 10% do not have anything to eat before lessons start in the morning.

“If your mum and dad are fat, you'll be fat”

### Smoking

- Smoking accounts for approximately 20% of all deaths on the Island each year.
- Children and young people are more likely to smoke if there are adults who smoke at home.

### Alcohol and substance misuse

- In Jersey we drink one and a half times more alcohol per person than in England and Wales.
- Approximately 8% of 14 -15 year olds drink at least double the recommended adult limit for alcohol.

Q: “What makes you feel healthy?”

A: “Water, sleep, laughter, bananas”

A: “Having a laugh with friends”

### Sexual Health

- Teenage pregnancy rates for under 16's, and conception rates for under 18's, are lower in Jersey than in the UK.
- Only 64% of 14-15 year olds in Jersey say they have the confidence to say 'no' to sex.

### Specific Health Conditions

- The top three reasons for hospital admissions for 18 year olds and under are: respiratory diseases; accidental injury and poisoning; diseases of the ear.
- We do not know the total number of children or young people with mental health problems in Jersey, but based on UK figures it is an estimated 1,800.

## What we are doing and planning

**Breast-feeding:** Maternity services and health visitors already support mothers to breast-feed. Proposals for statutory maternity leave, which will help make it easier for working mothers to continue to breast-feed, are planned to go to the States in 2012.

**General Practice (GPs):** GPs have an essential role to play in helping parents and carers to look after their children. GPs are often the first port of call for those managing a new and unknown situation with their child. The States subsidises the cost of taking a child to the GP and provides free development checks and immunisations for the under-fives.

**Dental services:** Changes in diet have resulted in children being increasingly susceptible to dental problems. Decay spreads rapidly in milk teeth and can result in life-long problems. The States' *Dental Fitness Scheme* and *Dentistry Special Payments* meet some of the costs of taking children to the dentist.

**Being Active:** We are already working to help children and young people stay active through the *National Healthy Schools* programme; the *Primary After School Physical Activity Programme* and through the Community and School Sports Department which works with pupils in schools that have less access to sports.

**“Let them wear trainers to school and then they could just run everywhere”**

**“Cycling to school is the obvious answer, but cars go too fast on narrow roads”**

**“You can’t see a dark school uniform beside the road in winter. Fluorescent strips need to be part of the uniform”**

**Smoking:** Whilst smoking is on the decline, 17% of 14 and 15 year olds still report smoking. We want to support people to quit so that children live in smoke free homes. This includes making it harder for young people to access tobacco and working in schools to change behaviour.

**“Wouldn’t drink as much if there was more to do”**

**“All the adults drink. It is just hypocritical”**

**Sexual Health:** The age at which young people have sexual intercourse is decreasing so it is essential they have access to the right information to help them make positive choices. Pupils already receive information via school, the youth service and Brook. Free condoms and chlamydia screening is also available.

**Alcohol:** Excessive drinking is bad for health, is a major factor in crime and disorder and contributes to divorce, domestic violence and poverty. We want to reduce the amount of alcohol drunk by:

- introducing screening in GP surgeries
- establishing an alcohol pricing policy
- ensuring revisions to Liquor Licensing Laws consider the impact of alcohol on health.

**“PHSE is good but it can’t tell you everything. It can’t tell you how you’ll feel”**

**“Tell us the rules about sex and drugs and then give us the freedom to break them”**

**Emotional & mental health:** Services that support children and young people to have positive emotional and mental health include: school counsellors and multi-agency support in schools; Youth Enquiry Service; Youth Action Team and specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

A specialist *Pathway Plan* supports those who self harm.

**Disability:** Work is underway to develop paediatric palliative care, in addition to community care and respite services that will help ensure children are able to be discharged from hospital back to their homes as soon as possible. This work is supported by the Social Security Department’s plans for a long-term care benefit that will be available to all young people aged 18 years and above.

## Focus for future development

### Our focus

Promote preventative approaches to help ensure that children live healthy lives.

Ensure a joint strategic approach to improving health services for children and young people with high levels of need.

Take positive action to ensure parity between Looked After Children and their peers.

### We’ve been told this could include:

Deliver programmes shown to improve the health of children, young people and families. Focus on: breast-feeding; alcohol and tobacco use; obesity; protecting young people against sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies.

Improve the integration of children’s health services including: reviewing access to GP’s services; children’s dental services and children’s surgery.

Ensure a joint strategic approach to improving services for children and young people with mental health problems.

Support the development of services for children with disabilities, including a register of need.

Ensure that the health needs of all Looked After Children are fully assessed, prioritised and monitored.



# Outcome 2: Be safe

We want to protect children and young people in our community and help keep them safe from harm. We will work to reduce the risks they face and help them develop protective behaviours.

## What you told us

- ➔ Feeling safe is important.
- ➔ Most children and young people do feel safe in Jersey and their parent think they are safe. You think the worst things are the fear of crime and too much traffic.
- ➔ You are concerned about whether it is safe to cycle and walk on such narrow roads.
- ➔ Some parents, particularly those do not have English as a first language, are concerned about bullying and racism towards their children.

### Children and young people's voices

**"Friends look after each other by hanging around in groups"**

**"Having special talks about drugs and staying safe helps"**

**"Don't talk to anyone you don't know on the internet or social networking groups"**

### Adults' voices

**"I think we've got a good easy life compared to England because the children can go out on their own and be relatively safe without being supervised"**

## What the data tells us

### Safety

- Jersey has a low rate of road traffic accidents involving children. In 2009 only 10 had an injury serious enough to require hospital admission. Despite this, the public believe children are at risk on Jersey roads.
- Around 4,000 childhood accidents are dealt with each year in Jersey's A&E Department,
- Crime levels in Jersey are significantly lower than the average in England and Wales (roughly half) and overall recorded crime is the lowest it has been in the last five years.
- In 2009 the Police were called to 1,046 incidents of domestic violence. Children were present in over half these incidents.

### Child Protection

- Children who are at risk of neglect or abuse are more likely to be identified now than in the past.
- New technologies have created the potential for on-line abuse, including bullying and grooming for sexual exploitation. Mass communication means that lots of people can be affected by a single incident. During a 2 year period in Jersey, an average of 1 in 30 girls aged 8 - 13 years could have been a potential target for on-line grooming.
- Partly as a result of these changes, reports to the Police concerning child protection issues rose by 159% in 2008 and a further 2.4% in 2009, when the Police dealt with 421 such referrals.

## What we are doing and planning

**Community safety:** A significant part of police work involves helping keep children safe. This includes identifying offences committed against them, reducing disorder and managing potential safety problems, for example road safety. The Police work in partnership with a whole range of other agencies, for example, Victim Support; Crime Stoppers, Prison Me No Way and the Honorary Police.

**Domestic violence:** Children who live with domestic violence face an increased risk of emotional trauma and mental health problems as adults. Breaking the cycle of domestic violence is essential. The Jersey Domestic Violence Forum and the Women's Refuge are working to tackle these issues.

**Child Accident Prevention:** In the UK accidents are known to be a leading cause of child mortality. The Jersey Child Accident Prevention Group runs campaigns aimed at improving safety. In 2010, the States voted for legislation that will make it a requirement for under 18's to wear cycle helmets.

**Jersey Child Protection Committee:** The JCPC works to protect children and young people from harm by supporting others agencies, such as schools, the police and charities, to work together. This includes: developing procedures; providing training and reviewing cases where a child has died, been seriously harmed or is potentially at risk.

**Bullying:** All Jersey schools have procedures in place to tackle bullying. Evidence suggests that incidences of bullying may be reducing.

**"Everything is hard. If you don't have the right haircut, or you're too clever, or you don't listen to the right music. Everything is hard"**

**Vulnerable Children:** A range of services exist to support vulnerable children such as: family support services; child protection services; care for Looked After Children and those with disabilities; support for foster carers and adopters.

Recent developments include:

- the Jersey Family Court Advisory Service, which supports children involved in court proceedings
- an independent Board of Visitors who monitor the care given to children living in Jersey's children's homes and residential units
- an Offender Management Service, established to manage the risks posed by convicted sex offenders living in the community.

**New vetting arrangements:** Employers in Jersey can now access the Criminal Records Bureau in England and Wales (CRB), making it easier to 'vet' people who work with children by checking their criminal record.

## Focus for future development

### Our focus

To ensure that children and young people feel and are safe.

To ensure appropriate support for all vulnerable children particularly those at risk of harm.

To work with families to help them to take informed decisions and actions to ensure their children's safety.



### We've been told this could include:

Continue to build on existing initiatives to help reduce domestic violence and minimise impact on children and young people.

Review potential expansion of the JCPC role to a wider "safeguarding" remit.

Review legislation designed to protect children from accidents.

Ongoing development of services for children based on findings of independent inspection.

## Outcome 3: Achieve and do

We want all children and young people to realise their aspirations and achieve their full potential. We will work to improve the opportunities available for all including those with additional needs.

### What you told us

- ➔ A significant number – particularly children at primary school – said that having a good education was the most important thing to them.
- ➔ Parents overwhelmingly said that our education system is excellent, but some did express concern about there being fewer opportunities for those who are not academically minded.
- ➔ You think that the cost of going to university is high
- ➔ You are concerned that there is a lack of job opportunities for who stay on the Island or return after university.
- ➔ You told us that schools are a vital community resource and should be used more for after school activities.
- ➔ You think more people should volunteer in schools and pupils should do more volunteering in the community. You recognised that this could not just be bolted onto a teacher existing job but needs planning and resourcing.
- ➔ You feel very strongly that achievement is about more than exams and money. It is about being active, getting involved and having fun.
- ➔ You said there is a lot to do in the summer but not enough during the rest of the year. You expressed concern about how expensive activities are and about the problems of transport.

### Children and young people's voices

**"It's important to earn enough money in an enjoyable job"**

**"We need fun and more activities: ice skating, a fun fair, open Fort Regent and give us free swimming"**

**"We feel stuck and under the impression we have to leave in order to succeed"**

### Adults' voices

**"The education is great"**

**"Activities are quite expensive and families who don't have a great income miss out on certain things"**

**"It's a great place to grow up but if the States don't want to lose the workforce they have educated they need to give young people good enough reasons to stay"**

## What the data tells us

### Learning

- In 2009 81% of A-level entries achieved grades A to C compared to 75% in the UK.

**“I know we’ve got good schools. Better than my cousins’ in England”**

**“Feel under real pressure to do well in exams and be a success”**

- School attendance in Jersey is high – 95.4% in primary schools and 92.8% in secondary schools. Unauthorised absences are lower than the UK.
- In 2009 47% of young people went on to university and higher education. Only a very small number of young people (0.5%) left school with no qualifications.
- A *Record of Need* is issued when a child has special educational needs. Around 320 children in Jersey have a *Record of Need*. Around 230 are in special educational settings. The others are in mainstream schools with additional support.

### Employment and training

- Only around 4% of young people in Jersey are known to move out of education or training into employment after GCSE, and only around 14% after A levels.
- The finance sector accounts for 53% of economic activity compared to 3% tourism and 1% agriculture.

**“It’s important to have a good education and believe in yourself”**

**“We live in a bubble in Jersey. We need help preparing for life”**

**“We need to know more about what is out there and you need to tell us earlier”**

### Getting involved

- Over 2,500 children and young people belong to a uniformed youth organisation (e.g. Scouts). 68% of children participate in after-school sports.

**“Bring back the trampolines”**

**“..need more facilities that are free and affordable. Feel we’re missing out on things they have in the UK and that makes us think Jersey isn’t as good and doesn’t service us well”**

## What we are doing and planning

**Learning support:** A range of dedicated teams work to support learning in schools for children with, and without, additional needs for example:

- teaching and learning advisers
- the Education Support Team – which includes specialist in the fields of educational psychologists; education welfare; speech and language; visual impairment; hearing impairment and English as a second Language
- the Jersey Instrumental Music Service.

**Children with Additional Needs:** In Jersey, compared to the UK, a higher proportion of children with additional need are supported to attend mainstream schools, with a lower proportion attending specialist schools. Special schools include: Mont a l’Abbe; St James’; d’Hautree House and the Alternative Curriculum.

**“Are there jobs for people like me who’re useless at maths?”**

**Employment and Training:** Jersey’s economy is dominated by the financial and legal services industries, which has an impact on the range of employment opportunities available to young people. Activities aimed at widening the opportunities available to them, include:

- *Advance to Work and Enhanced Work Zone* which provide unemployed young people with work experience and personal advisors
- careers guidance including: school careers sessions; the Trident work experience scheme; work shadowing and work placement schemes
- youth work that supports social and personal development, for example: Youth service activities; ASDAN; Princes Trust and the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme.
- Vocational courses at Highlands College.

**Employment and training for young people with additional needs:** A strategy has been developed to ensure that people with a learning disability or autism are not excluded from pursuing employment. The Jersey Employers Network on Disability and the Jersey Employment Trust work with disabled people to support them to retain paid employment.

**“We got lots of help when she was at Mont a l’Abbe but then it just stopped. Like her disability was meant to disappear now she’d stopped going to school”**

**Benefits for young people looking for work or training:** Around 85 – 90% of young unemployed people receive income support whilst they look a job or undertake training or education that supports them into employment.

**“They said they’d take away my benefits because being a nail technician isn’t proper training”**

**Cultural opportunities:** A range of organisations provide cultural opportunities for children and young people such as: the Arts Centre; the Eisteddfod; Battle of the Flowers; La Motte Street Youth Centre; the Instrumental Music Service; Jersey Opera House and Jersey Heritage.

Some primary school children take part in Jerriais language classes plus a GCSE equivalent is being developed for secondary schools.

**“I want to do things with my mates but I can’t get anywhere”**

**“There is loads to do but as a parent I’m just a taxi service”**

## Focus for future development

### Our focus

Continue to raise the educational achievement of all children and young people.

Narrow the gap between children who underachieve and their peers.

Ensure that all children have the necessary skills to thrive and make a positive contribution to society.

Ensure that our schools are fully inclusive and supportive of all students.

Promote vocational and employment opportunities for all young people, including those with a disability.



### We've been told this could include:

Review the curriculum at each stage of education to ensure that it meets the needs of all children and young people.

Provide more vocational opportunities for young people to choose from.

Continue to implement the evaluation framework for schools to ensure high standards.

Provide more opportunities for all students to participate in community development initiatives.

Ensure that targeted support is provided to help vulnerable children and young people achieve as they go through the education system.

Continue to deliver targeted training programmes such as Prince's Trust Team and Youth Steps.

Evaluate how to improve access to activities for all children. Consider safe routes.



## Outcome 4: Grow confidently

We want all children and young people to grow into confident fulfilled adults who feel cared for and inspired by their families and the community around them. We will work to support families and others to enable this to happen.

### What you told us

You think Jersey is a great place to grow up but you are concerned about the high cost of living and a range of other issues:

- ➔ You think childcare is too expensive – as a result you sometimes use unregistered child minders or choose not to return to work. Some of you think childcare benefits are too rigid and do not allow sufficient opportunities to work or train. Others want more choice of childcare.
- ➔ You think that parenting support is important and that we should continue to do more, particularly for new parents. You recognise that helping families at the outset can prevent problems from occurring or getting worse.
- ➔ You think there should be more facilities like the Bridge Community Centre.
- ➔ You are concerned that family breakdown happens more in Jersey than the UK because of the pressure on families to work and earn money and, when it does happen, you are concerned our housing policies might make it worst for children.
- ➔ Housing is a real concern on a number of levels including the quality of unqualified accommodation; potential overcrowding, the impact that the loss of housing qualifications has on children and a lack of affordable housing for young people.

### Children and young people's voices

**"We need love"**

**"I want a nice house"**

### Adults' voices

**"Jersey is great for the kids. It's safe and happy"**

**"You worry that if it is cheap childcare, it won't be any good... and they spend hours there"**

**"I have two young boys stuck in a flat with nowhere to play, so they tend to go and cause mischief somewhere"**

**"We all need help at times – whether financial or just someone to talk to"**

## What the data tells us

- 47% of children under 3 and 90% aged 3 or over spend time in a registered childcare setting (the numbers of children being cared for in unregistered settings is not known).
- The average household income for a lone parent is £613 per week, compared to an average of £860 for all households.
- The proportion of households with children with a relative low income has fallen. In 2002, 33% of all children lived in relative low income households compared to 24% in 2009.
- Jersey has the highest percentage of economically active women in the world (82%). It also has a high proportion of working mothers, 75% of women with children under 16 are in employment, compared to 68% in the UK.
- Divorce rates in Jersey are higher than the UK. In 2008 there were approximately 27% more divorces in Jersey.
- People who attend parenting courses are most likely want help with discipline and limit setting.

**“It is always okay if there is someone to talk to”**

**“Divorce is tough enough on kids, but even harder here because of housing”**

- There are currently around 84 Looked After Children in Jersey. It is estimated that by 2013 there will be around 60 Looked After Children.
- Around 70% of Looked After Children are in foster care or with family and friends.
- Outcomes for Looked After Children are not as good as their counterparts (eg: health and academic achievement).
- Looked After Children, as a whole, do better if they remain beyond the age of 16 in their care environment, as opposed to living independently.

## What we are doing and planning

**Housing:** Decent, affordable housing contributes to the well-being of parents and children. Children in stable housing, where there is no overcrowding, do better in school and have reduced exposure to stress, infections and health and safety hazards that affect their physical and mental health.

In Jersey, the system of housing qualifications and the high cost of housing can bring particular challenges. Initiatives designed to help manage these include:

- standards for occupancy levels in registered lodging houses<sup>5</sup>
- schemes supporting social housing tenants to purchase States rental property and low income families to buy a home
- protection for some children forced to move if a breakdown in their parent’s relationship results in loss of housing qualifications.

Housing for vulnerable children and young people with particular needs is provided by a range of organisations including: the Supported Housing Group; the Assisted Living Team; Community and Social Services and the Causeway Association.

**“Stop pretending that unqualified accommodation is a home”**

**“My children are very stifled, they are not allowed to play on the estate and there’s nowhere for them to go in town. They end up sitting in a room being aggressive because they can’t get rid of their energy”**

**Benefits:** Income Support, which is available to some young people aged 16 or over (either directly or as part of their parents’ claim) includes a number of components that benefit families, for example:

- a contribution towards some medical costs
- support for some parents who choose to stay at home to look after their child
- support for under 25s who are responsible for, and living with, a child.

**Early Years Provision:** The Early Years and Childcare Partnership (EYCP) is working to improve the quality of early years care for children. This includes establishing standards; improving staff training and producing a play strategy. The EYCP also monitors the Nursery Education Fund which provides 20 hours free nursery education to all qualifying three and four year olds.

**Parenting and Family Support:** Evidence shows that when parenting goes wrong there is increased potential for children to be disaffected, to engage in crime, to experience mental health or behavioural problems and under achieve, both academically and economically.

The Island’s existing parenting strategy, *Stronger Foundations*, sets out how parenting support is currently provided.

**“It’s tiny here. You’d think it would be easy to find out what’s doing on and who can help but it isn’t”**

**“There is support but it is not advertised widely enough”**

**“We don’t expect parents to cut their children adrift at aged 18 or 21, so why do it to children in care? Shouldn’t it be the other way round? Shouldn’t vulnerable children be able to stay at home for longer?”**

**Looked After Children:** For some children and young people living at home is not an option and they are cared for by Children’s Social Services. They could be cared for either by foster carers, family or friends, or in one of Jersey’s five residential children’s homes<sup>6</sup>. Some may be adopted. Increasingly more children are cared for in family placements and less in residential children’s homes.

Improvements to services for Looked After Children in Jersey include:

- a new Intensive Support Team to help children and families in crisis
- a review of services for children with complex needs
- a new independent reviewing officer to ensure all Looked After Children get appropriate support, plus the appointment of an external inspection agency

**Looked After Children leaving care:** Care leavers face a number of challenges and are at high risk of homelessness, unemployment, substance misuse and mental health problems. In Jersey a dedicated team works to provides them with support and guidance.

**“... not just like ‘oh yeah you’re an adult now, see ya”**

**Young people with additional needs:** All children and young people have to face the challenges of growing up, but those who are disabled or have additional needs, also face the added challenge of changes to their support arrangements. Jersey’s Transition Planning Policy aims to help smooth this process.

**Young Carers:** A carers’ strategy launched in 2010 by the States in partnership with the Jersey Carers Association includes a commitment to improving support for young carers in order to ensure that they fulfil their potential and aspirations. This includes support groups in secondary schools.

## Focus for future development

### Our focus

Ensure children benefit from quality provision in their early years.

Ensure the early identification of support needed for potentially vulnerable children and families.

Minimise the impact of inadequate housing on families and young people.

Ensure services and policies minimise the impact of a breakdown in family relationships.

Ensure appropriate support for all young people in transition, including children with disabilities and those with particular needs.

Ensure people know where to go for help.



### We've been told this could include:

Implement the Early Years Quality Standards.

Improve access to parenting support.

Introduce a common assessment framework.

Support review of access criteria to social and affordable housing, and support increased housing options for young people with particular needs.

Investigate issues relating to children living in non-registered lodging accommodation.

Ensure housing and population policies support health and wellbeing of all children and young people.

Explore options to ensure Looked After Children can remain in their care setting for longer and can access suitable, supported accommodation.

Ensure appropriate support to young people in transition to adult services, including developing flexible and effective personalised budgets to support disabled young people.

Explore options for a one-stop shop.



## Outcome 5: Be responsible and respected

We want children and young people to act responsibly and to be respected by others. We will work with them and the wider community, including those involved in youth justice, to help engender mutual respect and understanding.

### What you told us

- ➔ You think the public are generally quite negative about young people in Jersey and that this public concern is partly fuelled by the media.
- ➔ You worry that this could lead to some intolerance of young people.
- ➔ You think more should be done to engage young people in volunteering and community activities. We should listen to young people about the activities they want and help them to set up peer-led projects.

### Children and young people's voices

**"Everyone should have respect – if they do bad things they should be forgiven and have a chance to put it right"**

**"Young people suffer prejudice because of people's previous experience of young people"**

**"There is not as much respect shown to young people, our opinions are pushed aside"**

**"The way youths are treated makes it harder to become a responsible member of society"**

### Adults' voices

**"They did build a skate park but some children won't let others in there"**

**"Don't treat them like morons. Give them freedom"**

## What the data tells us

**“We are responsible. We could easily say ‘how we can ensure that adults act responsibly?’”**

- Between 20% and 30% of young people participate in some form of volunteering and in 2009, 533 children and young people took part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
- Offending rates by children and young people are very low. It is no more prevalent in Jersey than elsewhere and it is not increasing.
- In 2009 there were 660 recorded crimes committed by young people. Nearly half were committed by a small group of 35 persistent offenders.
- Persistent young offenders in Jersey face real disadvantage. They come from problematic family environments, where domestic violence and alcohol abuse are common. Some self-harm and many have mental health problems, anger issues or abuse alcohol.

## What we are doing and planning

**Citizenship:** Many children and young people are already ‘active citizens’, making a contribution to Island life whilst developing skills and gaining confidence in their own abilities. They get involved through schools, through organised activities and through both formal and informal volunteering. The Youth Service also supports young people to be active citizens.

**“Learnt loads as a volunteer but was embarrassed to tell people. Makes me sound like an old lady”**

**“I love it. I’ve done something that made other people smile”**

**Youth Offending:** A comprehensive review of youth justice<sup>7</sup> has highlighted a number of key issues:

- our youth justice system must provide real solutions for young offenders’ high levels of social need. A focus on needs, not just deeds
- offending behaviour is more obvious on a small Island and more likely to attract an official response or sanction.

It recommends that:

- we raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years
- we build on our existing strengths when dealing with young offenders including Parish Hall enquiries, problem-solving through the Youth Court and voluntary methods, such as restorative justice and cautioning
- the Youth Court, as opposed to Royal Court, should deal with under 17s who have not committed a grave crime.

**“Stop wrapping us in safety blankets. Let us make mistakes and learn”**

**“They are children first and offenders second”**

**“People get into trouble with the police when they come from a c\*\*\* home”**

## Focus for future development

### Our focus

Work toward compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989.

Increase opportunities for children and young people to be involved in the community.

Promote services that can help stop children and young people committing offences and entering the court system.

Agree and implement changes to the youth justice system and, where necessary, support by legislative changes.

### We’ve been told this could include:

Work with Third Sector agencies to support community involvement.

Reduce use of the criminal justice system for very young offenders.

Provide effective alternatives to custodial remand.

Broaden options for those sentenced to youth custody, including potential use of secure accommodation instead of the Young Offenders Institute.



# Outcome 6: Have a voice and be heard

**We value the contribution that children and young people make. We will work to support them as active citizens and provide opportunities for them to be involved in the development of services or issues that affect their lives.**

## What you told us

- ➔ Approximate 40% of young people want more of a say in services that affected them, and in changing the law.
- ➔ You think the development of this Framework is an important step in helping ensure children and young people are heard.

### Children and young people's voices

- "We feel like a little echo in the background because nobody seems to listen"
- "Children in care need a spokesperson"
- "There should be a young peoples' forum so we can have a voice in a calm way"

### Adults' voices

- "I tell them to be themselves and to make sure they have a voice – they do at home but not sure they do at school"
- "Managers of services need to listen to young people directly"

## What the data tells us

- 57% of 15-16 year olds believe that their parents like to hear their ideas and 51% believe their teachers listen to them at school.

**"Include childrens' views and parents' views. Government and professionals don't know everything"**

**"We should protest"**

**"Big people should come and talk to us"**

## What we are doing and planning

Jersey has lowered the age of electoral voting to 16, making it one of the few places in the world you can vote below the age of 18.

Other forms of youth participation include:

- schools councils and groups linked to specific services
- the *Virtual Learning Environment* enabling consultation with school age children
- a programme of visits and debates in the States Chamber for Year Five pupils.

All young people are actively encouraged to shape and influence the work of the Jersey Youth Service. The Youth Service is leading on establishing a Youth Forum to provide a 'voice' for all young people including those who are hard-to-reach, vulnerable or disadvantaged.

## Focus for future development

### Our focus

Ensure children and young people can a say in the services that affect them.

### We've been told this could include:

- Establish forums to give children and young people a voice.
- Implement a participation strategy across all services.
- Increase access to services for children and young people from minority groups e.g: with a disability or non-English speaking.

# Making it happen

We want children and young people to benefit from affordable, effective services that deliver the best outcomes for them. We will work together, across organisational boundaries, to identify priorities and commission and monitor services that are best able to meet need.

## What you told us

- ➔ We should avoid duplication of services – one of everything is enough on a small Island.
- ➔ Only spend money on things that we can prove are effective.
- ➔ Invest in early intervention – don't wait for something to go wrong and then have to spend more to fix it.
- ➔ Let families get involved in planning services.

## Planning services

We will work together, across all sectors and States Departments to plan and monitor services. This will ensure we:

- only spend money on services that work and are needed
- use our money and resources to best affect – that might mean stopping some services and setting up new ones
- have accurate information, so we can plan what is needed
- can make any necessary changes to our policies and legislation.

## Focus for future development

### Our focus

Develop a delivery plan for each of our six key outcomes. These will dovetail with the States Strategic Plan.

Support the development of a Third Sector umbrella group.



### We've been told this could include:

Include Housing and Social Security in the Children's Policy Group.

Explore options for establishing a dedicated ministerial lead across issues relating to all children and young people.

Establish an agreed data set against which to monitor outcomes for children and young people.

Develop a children's services directory.

Agree an information-sharing protocol across all agencies.

Clearly identify current spending on children and young people services and develop commissioning arrangements.

Instigate a review of current legislation practices that impact on children. Develop a mechanism to ensure legislative updates are timely and are in accordance with emerging good practice.

**For a full copy of the Children and Young People Strategic Framework visit:  
[www.gov.je/health](http://www.gov.je/health)**



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