

1 Background

The 2017 Independent Jersey Care Inquiry found that the Government of Jersey had failed to keep step with many of the children's legislative developments made elsewhere - and had systematically failed the young people in its care.

The States Assembly passed the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022 in February 2022 with the overarching objective to promote and support the wellbeing, and safeguard the welfare of children and young people.

The Law includes responsibilities for everyone who works with and/or provides services to children, young people and their families. Statutory guidance has been developed to explain how to carry out duties and responsibilities under the new Law.

It is essential that everyone who works with and/or provides services to children and young people is familiar with the statutory guidance and has completed the required training by the time the Law comes into effect.

2 What is the new Law?

The Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022 is a new law with the overarching objective to promote and support the wellbeing and safeguard the welfare of children and young people.

In addition to the overarching objective the Law aims to:

- strengthen child protection by supporting early assessment and intervention
- place a legal responsibility on safeguarding partners (including the Government) to work together
- include information sharing arrangements
- use wellbeing indicators to assess needs
- set out responsibilities for everyone who works with and/or provides services to children, young people and their families

The Law was passed by the States Assembly in February 2022 and will come into force early in 2024.

3 What is the statutory guidance?

The Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022 was designed as a framework law which requires statutory guidance.

The aim of the statutory guidance is to support practitioners and partners in Jersey working with children and young people to understand the roles and responsibilities under the Law.

Training resources have been developed to help explain key areas of the statutory guidance.

Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022, Statutory Guidance: 7 minute briefing



4 What are my responsibilities?

The following groups have responsibilities under the Law and must be familiar with the statutory guidance:

- responsible Ministers
- corporate parents
- safeguarding partners
- relevant providers

You must understand what training is essential for you/your team and ensure that this is complete by the time the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022 comes into effect.

The Introduction to the Statutory Guidance e-learning module is essential for all GoJ employees. Departments/ external agencies must lead the roll out of the training across their areas.

5 What training is available?

Four e-learning modules (courses) are available on Connect (the preferred platform for GoJ employees) and Virtual College. The training requirements for you/your team will depend on your roles and responsibilities.

Introduction to the statutory guidance (15 mins approx.) – essential for all GoJ employees and everyone in organisations (including volunteers) that work with/provide services to children, young people and families including organisations defined as corporate parents under the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022.

Working together (1 hour approx.) - essential for all employees and volunteers that provide services to children, young people and families and organisations defined as corporate parents under the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022.

Information sharing (1 hour approx.) – essential for all employees and volunteers that are likely to share information about children, young people and families as part of their role and organisations defined as corporate parents under the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022.

Corporate Parenting (1 hour approx.) – essential for corporate parents defined under the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022 and GoJ leaders/senior managers in a strategic planning and/or reporting role.

Toolkits are available to extend the learning and support the application of the statutory guidance in the areas of working together, information sharing and corporate parenting.

All of the Jersey's Children First training has been updated to reflect the statutory guidance supporting the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022. It is strongly recommended that all employees and volunteers complete the updated online learning programme appropriate to their role to understand how the Jersey's Children First framework supports them to work with the statutory guidance.

6 What do I need to do and by when?

E-learning modules should be completed by the time the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022 comes into effect. The toolkits are available as optional supplementary resources.

As a Leader or Manager you must:

- understand the statutory group/s you are included in under the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022. This will determine the areas of the guidance applicable to you and your team
- decide the roles within your team that will receive specific training (the 'Introduction to the statutory guidance' e-learning module is essential for all GoJ employees)
- plan how this training is best delivered in your section i.e. individually on a digital device, in a team meeting, developing face to face sessions, etc.
- communicate this across your team and monitor engagement
- consider how the impact of the statutory guidance and training can be included in your business performance reporting

As an individual, you are responsible for your own training and development. If you are unsure what training you need to complete, discuss your training needs with your line manager.

7 Links

Information about the Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2022, statutory guidance and training is available at gov.je/cyplaw

The statutory guidance training is available from Connect (GoJ only) and Virtual College.