



Children's Outcomes – Executive Committee

12th July 2023

MINUTES



Children's Outcomes – Executive Committee
12th July 2023
16:00-17:00
Société Jersiaise

ATTENDEES

Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Early Years)
Minister for Health and Social Services
Chief Officer, CYPES
Assistant Director Policy
Senior Policy Officer
Director of Delivery and Improvement, SPPP
Associate Director of Engagement and Participation
Senior Youth Worker - Jersey Youth Parliament
Head of Business Management & Governance, Seconded to CYPES
Children's Commissioner
JEYA Representative
FNHC Representative
NSPCC Representative
Best Start Partnership Representative
Research and Administration Officer

APOLOGIES

Minister for Children and Education
Assistant Minister for Children and Education (Children's Services)
Minister for Housing and Communities
Minister for Home Affairs
Deputy Director Public Health Transformation
Chief Inspector, Jersey Care Commission

1. Welcomes and Apologies

The Assistant Minister welcomed the Executive Committee and noted the positive workshop that had been held prior to this Committee meeting. There had been some very useful discussion and good ideas generated.

2. Update on actions from 29 March meeting - Approval of previous minutes

The Assistant Director Policy ran through the actions from the last meeting noting that these were all complete:

- The Assistant Director Policy and the Senior Policy Officer to update the Terms of Reference with suggested representatives for the Forums.
The Terms of Reference were now update and uploaded to the COEC webpage.
- The Assistant Director Policy to circulate the revised Terms of Reference to update all those who took part in the workshops. Complete.

- The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation and the Assistant Director Policy to develop a plan of engagement to capture the voice of children and young people for the Forum and Executive Committee. A presentation of initial ideas had been made to the Forum.
- The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to assist with Press Release and publication of Terms of Reference to media highlighting new Committee and Forum Governance structure. Complete.
- The Assistant Director Policy to circulate the Children and Young People Plan to the Executive Committee. Complete.
- Research and Administration Officer to organise dates and arrangements for next Executive Committee meeting. Complete.

The minutes were formally approved by the Committee with no changes.

The Senior Policy Officer noted that the representatives on the Committee had changed slightly. The Children's Commissioner and Chief Inspector of the Jersey Care Commission had been invited to join as participant observers. The voluntary sector representatives now included the Best Start Partnership, as Les Amis had agreed to step aside.

The meeting attendees introduced themselves and their roles.

3. Feedback from the Forum

The Associate Director Policy thanked those taking part in the Forum for their thoughts on the Review of the Children's Plan. There had been a conversation with stakeholders about which indicators should feature in the new Children's Plan for the three headline outcomes. There were four tables during the workshop giving feedback for different age groups. This reflected the life course approach. A rich set of ideas had been generated in the workshop. This included how the voice of the child could be incorporated into the Forum.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation spoke about the new Participation Standards and how these could be embedded across Government to achieve a sustained approach to capturing the voice of the child. There were also gaps in participation and it was important to capture the opinions of children who were seldom heard. This could be brought together with more established forms of engagement, such as the School Council Network and Youth Parliament. It was important to engage with children and young people in a meaningful way. There was an aspiration to create a new Youth Advisory Group. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education noted that the longer-term aspiration could be to form groups split into life stages. However, in the short-term engagement could focus on groups that were already established. The Senior Youth Worker reflected upon the priorities and the challenges of getting the young people together. The Children's Commissioner noted the importance of methods used to engage children.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation highlighted the gap for children that were seldom heard, such as those with care experiences. It was a challenge capturing these voices. She highlighted the formation of the Care Leavers



Council and bringing together groups such as the Virtual School and Jersey Cares to support this. It was important to use trauma informed methods to engage these children and young people.

The Senior Policy Officer felt that existing resources could be used better. The Children's Plan should not be an afterthought, but embedded in existing structures. The Senior Youth Worker noted that these could be linked in with the campaigns of the Youth Parliament. She also noted that it would be good for the Youth Parliament to engage with the Island Outcome Indicators.

The Chief Officer of CYPES was keen to understand how the "Mind of my Own" app might be used. This was a tool used by young people in care, and there was a high level of engagement, which generated rich information. This app could capture opinions from less visible voices. It would enable children to give feedback in a less formal way, in a more private manner. Usually engagement with young people was formal or part of a public group, which might be a barrier for some. The Senior Policy Officer also noted the importance of capturing voices from the early years, and this might include carer input.

The Children's Commissioner noted that capturing the opinions of children and engaging with young people should be embedded across every Government Department as it was everyone's responsibility. The Associate Director of Policy noted that this wider Governmental work could feed back into the Forum. The Senior Policy Officer noted commissioned activities and using work that was already ongoing to help capture the voice of children.

The Children's Commissioner noted the importance of having a feedback loop for participation. The Senior Policy Officer highlighted that it was important that people got recognition for giving their time and they should be provided with feedback on what actions were taken in response to their contributions. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education agreed that consultations should be a meaningful process that generates action and feeds into the decision-making process. The Minister for Health and Social Services asked the Children's Commissioner the best practice for capturing the voice of the child. The Children's Commissioner noted that it was not sufficient to hear the child's voice, the child needed to know why they were participating and how that information was going to be used. However, the Participation Standards already provided a guide for best practice. The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation was encouraging other Government Departments to use the Participation Standards Tool Kit and this could also be used by external stakeholders. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education noted that at a Ministerial level there needed to be encouragement for other departments to consult with children and use the Participation Standards.

The Minister for Health and Social Services highlighted involving young people from a health perspective. She would be seeking the opinions of young people regarding Assisted Dying, as they might be part of families impacted by any new law. This would be a controversial topic and a test of the Participation Standards. The Minister for



Health and Social Services noted there would also be engagement with young people regarding the Termination of Pregnancy Law. She asked about how this participation might go ahead.

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education noted the need for co-ordination between Departments. The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation suggested that School Councils could know about any particular consultations in advance. It was important to work with schools to co-ordinate to make sure that there weren't too many consultations at once.

The representative from the Best Start Partnership highlighted the importance of talking to older children with complex needs and inclusion. She also felt it was important to bring evidence back to future Forums.

The Assistant Minister thanked everyone for their feedback after the workshop.

4. Next steps towards development of the new Children and Families Plan 2024-2027

The Senior Policy Officer highlighted the difference between Participation and the Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA). The CRIA was a separate assessment conducted by Officers to judge the impact of a policy upon Children's Rights.

The Associate Director of Policy noted that there was until the end of the year to bring forward the revised Children's Plan. There would be three Forums per year, each one focussing on a key outcome. There would be a fairly small group writing the draft for the Children's Plan, which would be brought back to the COEC for feedback and oversight. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education asked about further engagement with stakeholders between now and the next Forum. The Associate Director of Policy suggested a small working group to help develop the Children's Plan, but also capturing wider feedback. The draft would be circulated to the COEC for feedback.

The Director of Delivery and Improvement suggested that one of the key areas in the Children's Plan could be online safety. The Senior Policy Officer noted that poverty, early intervention, and primary prevention were also highlighted as key areas. The focus would be on children, families, and also the wider community.

The Senior Policy Officer highlighted key points in the previous workshop discussions. People had struggled to come up with one indicator. However, it was important to have these starting conversations to identify the golden threads of experience running through all age groups. Indicators might not be traditional measures of success, such as attaining 5 GCSEs. New indicators might be broader, such as thriving and living happy lives. There had been lots of rich dialogue to consider from the workshop.

The Minister for Health and Social Services asked how poverty might be defined. The Senior Policy Officer noted that there had been questions about poverty in the Children and Young People's Survey and there were also universal indicators. The Chief Officer



of CYPES noted that this discussion could get very broad, even into the remits of safeguarding. It was important to tease out the understanding of this, as elements might be included in Child Protection Notifications. The Associate Director of Policy noted the use of more targeted measures in particular groups and also population level measures. The Children's Plan was an opportunity to develop measures for all children.

The Chief Officer of CYPES noted that schools needed to be prominent in this plan. This might include clear targets around students on part-time timetables and more robust challenge in the school system. There might also be inputs incorporated from the Inclusion Review. The Senior Policy Officer also noted including input from the Virtual School and CAMHS, particularly in regard to persistent absenteeism. The Chief Officer also noted the need for some challenge around school exclusions. The Assistant Minister for Children and Education suggested having some teachers included in the Forum. The Senior Policy Officer noted that some were part of the Children's Cluster, but might not have been able to attend. The Associate Director Policy would look at the invite list and incorporate more representation from schools.

The Minister for Health and Social Services highlighted recent Government Plan funding discussions and referred to NEET young people. She asked about young people being economically active and also a broader engagement with economic output and productivity. She considered the value funding education could bring to improving young people's abilities to be economically active. The Director of Delivery and Improvement noted that the arts and culture policies had been deliberately aligned to children and young people. The Senior Policy Officer agreed that cross departmental working would be important.

The Minister for Health and Social Services also discussed work with the Housing Department, and how to support families and communities excluded from quality housing. The Senior Policy Officer noted that Andium was a Corporate Parent. There was a data point regarding care leavers in secure accommodation, this data could be enriched by asking care leavers how safe they felt in their accommodation.

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education asked for the feedback about indicators to be compiled and reviewed for key themes.

The Director of Delivery and Improvement asked about any big shifts in the last three years and what themes might be seen in the next Children's Plan. There was the obvious impact of COVID-19. The Associate Director Policy noted a focus on health and wellbeing, staying well and safe.

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education noted that the new Children's Plan needed to be more embedded in the Department, like the Ministerial Plan.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation noted that the 16-25s were a forgotten age group. This group might even be starting to think about their own families. The Senior Policy Officer noted the transition of adolescents between paediatric and adult services.



The Chief Officer of CYPES was struck by an exhibition at Art House Jersey about Fort Regent and the facilities that had previously been in the island. He asked what is the aspiration for St. Helier and what facilities do young people want. The Minister for Health and Social Services noted the opportunity to generate ideas for future facilities. Young people could be included to help shape Ministerial Plans. The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation noted that a Play Strategy was in development.

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education noted the need to be aspirational and think about what an ideal childhood could look like in Jersey. The representative for JEYA noted that all the intentions of the Plan cannot be considered if the child is in poverty and that this is work at ministerial level. The Minister for Health and Social Services noted that this work was being worked on by the Cost of Living Group.

5. Proposed date for next Children's Outcomes Forum and Executive Committee meeting – Monday 16 October 1-3pm

The Assistant Minister for Children and Education noted that the next meeting should be sooner rather than later. The Associate Director Policy would work with the task and finish group to draft the Children and Young People's Plan. It would be circulated and then discussed with the COEC before going to the wider forum.

The Research and Administrations Officer would find a date for the next Committee and also wider Forum.

ACTIONS

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to work with Health Department on engagement of children and young people for upcoming consultations.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to suggest methods of generating feedback loops after consultation with young people.

The Chief Officer of CYPES to explore ways in which the "Mind of my Own" app data might be incorporated into capturing the voice of the child.

The Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to engage with other Departments to help embed the Participation Standards across Government.

The Associate Director Policy and Senior Policy Officer to compile feedback from the workshop, and drawing together key themes, feed this into the new Children's Plan.

The Associate Director Policy and team to produce a first draft of the Children and Young People's Plan, and work with the task and finish group to circulate to the COEC for oversight and feedback.



The Associate Director Policy to include more representation from schools in the Forum invite list.

The Research and Administration Officer to organise next COEC and Forum dates.

The Chief Officer of CYPES to provide an update on the work being done by Ministers on child poverty.