

CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(2nd Meeting)

16th April 2025

**Part A (Non-Exempt)**

All members were present, with the exception of Deputies R. Ward of St. Helier Central, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour, Minister for Health and Social Services, and M.R. Le Hegarat of St. Helier North, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, from whom apologies had been received.

Connétable R. Vibert of St. Peter, Minister for Children and Families (Chair)  
Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing (not present for part of item A6, item A7 and part of item A8)  
Deputy C.S. Alves of St. Helier Central, Assistant Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (on behalf of the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning) (not present for items A1 and A2)

In attendance –

A. Heaven, Assistant Director, Policy, Cabinet Office  
Dr. N. Kemp, Senior Policy Officer, Cabinet Office  
D. Raffio, Deputy Director, Public Health Commissioning and Transformation, Cabinet Office  
K. Posner, Interim Chief Officer, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department  
C. Lucas, Head of Transformation, Commissioning and Partnerships, Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department  
M. Knight, Head of Health Improvement, Health and Care Jersey  
P. McGinnety, Director of Local Services, Employment, Social Security and Housing Department  
C. De Gruchy Mosely, Justice and Building a Safer Community Coordinator, Justice and Home Affairs Department  
G. Sproats, Statistician, Statistics Jersey  
A. Moore, Assistant Private Secretary, Ministerial Office  
L. Ferguson, Research and Administration Officer, Ministerial Office  
L. Plumley, Senior Secretariat Officer, Specialist Secretariat, States Greffe  
C. Tucker, Assistant Secretariat Officer, Specialist Secretariat, States Greffe

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Declarations of interest.	A1. There were no declarations of interest in respect of any items under consideration at the present meeting.
Minutes.	A2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2025, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024 - 2027 –	A3. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A5 of 10th October 2024, received a PowerPoint presentation in connexion with the Monitoring Plan for the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024 – 2027 (the Plan), and heard from Dr. N. Kemp, Senior Policy Officer, Cabinet Office.

Monitoring  
Plan.

It was recalled that the Committee had previously endorsed the proposed approach to monitoring the Plan, which consisted of 4 monitoring workstreams to support the Committee's ongoing review function. Each workstream was considered in further detail during the meeting, as follows –

- Voice of Children and Young People;
- Data Dashboard;
- Alignment of Commissioning Activity; and,
- Update from the Voluntary Sector (Children's Cluster Group).

It was noted that the extant meeting would focus on Big Picture Outcome One of the Plan: Be Happy and Healthy.

The Committee thanked Dr. Kemp for the update.

Children,  
Young People  
and Families'  
Plan 2024-  
2027 – Voice  
of Children  
and Young  
People.

A4. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A7 of 10th October 2024, received and noted a report entitled 'Voice of Children and Young People; Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024 – 2027 (the Plan)', which had been prepared by Ms. E. Walker, Associate Director, Engagement and Participation, Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) Department, and heard from Dr. N. Kemp, Senior Policy Officer, Cabinet Office.

The report set out the participation and engagement activity undertaken with children and young people with regard to monitoring the Plan, in relation to a planned upgrade of the Millenium Town Park playground, hot school meals, sustainable food and students' voices.

It was recalled that Members had previously requested that consultation be undertaken with older children and teenagers regarding their preferences in terms of play facilities. The Committee was informed that officers from CYPES, the Infrastructure and Environment Department and the Youth Service had met with around 30 older children and teenagers in November 2024, at Millenium Town Park, as part of the consultation to upgrade the playground and equipment.

Approximately 150 primary and secondary school students had also participated in a design activity at the meeting of the School Council Network (SCN) in November 2024, and the feedback received had been captured in a detailed briefing paper outlining the child-led design approach for the Millenium Town Park playground. The views of young people aged 12 and upwards were being considered, following suggestions about the creation of a more inclusive and multifunctional park, such as the addition of football goals or line marking, safe hangout zones, shaded seating, disabled friendly ramps, drinking water fountains and recycling bins. A video, featuring students from the SCN discussing what it meant to them to be happy and healthy, was also shared. A feedback report had been published following a SCN question and answer session with CYPES Ministers in January 2025, focusing on play, activities, the Waterfront and Fort Regent, and this had been shared with the Fort Regent consultation exercise.

The Committee noted that the refurbishment by the Parish of St. Helier of the play spaces at Parade Gardens had recently been completed and that the facilities were proving popular.

The Committee thanked Dr. Kemp for the update.

Jersey's  
Children and  
Young  
People's  
Survey 2024 –  
results.

A5. The Committee received and noted a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Jersey Children and Young People's Survey 2024 Report', dated 16th April 2025, and heard from Mr. G. Sproats, Statistician, Statistics and Analytics, Statistics Jersey.

The Committee was informed that the Jersey Children and Young People's Survey (the Survey) had been taking place since 1996, and was now undertaken by Statistics Jersey every 2 years (having previously been undertaken by an external agency at 4 yearly intervals). All pupils in year groups 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12, including home schooled pupils, were provided with the opportunity to take part. Participation was voluntary and anonymised, and the purpose of the Survey was to gain a clearer understanding of life from the perspective of children, and to inform policy and decision-making for the services provided to children in areas such as mental health, sport, and sexual health.

The 2024 Survey, which had been undertaken in October 2024, had received a response rate of 84 per cent and Mr. Sproats highlighted various areas of interest. These included findings in relation to wellbeing, anxiety, levels of physical activity, participation in sports outside of school, active transport, diet, sleep, screen time, access to dental care, and staying out late with no adult supervision.

It was noted that health related quality of life decreased with age and had fallen since 2021 for all year groups apart from Year 12, with the largest fall recorded for children in Year 8. Anxiety was more prevalent in female students and generally increased with age, with a noticeable spike in 2021, which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Levels of physical activity decreased after Year 8, with only 22 per cent of children overall achieving the minimum recommended level of one hour per day, every day of the week, although this was noted to be a high bar. There was a correlation between family finances/affluence and participation in sport outside of school, with less than half of children whose families were 'not at all well off' participating weekly, compared to more than 75 per cent of children from 'very well off' families. More than 50 per cent of children travelled to school by car/van/taxi/moped/scooter, 32 per cent walked, 17 per cent used school buses, 7 per cent used buses and 4 per cent travelled by bicycle. The data demonstrated an uptake in bus usage between 2021 and 2024, following the introduction of the student bus pass scheme.

The proportion of children eating 5 servings of fruit or vegetables the previous day was 23 per cent, which represented a decrease since 2021, when the figure had been 30 per cent. 45 per cent of children reported that they slept for 8 or more hours per night, and 39 per cent slept between 6 to 7 hours, with the remainder sleeping less than this, similar to the results of the 2021 survey. Of those reporting 3 hours sleep or less the previous night, 55 per cent reported having more than 5 hours of screen time the previous day, compared to 28 per cent of those achieving 8 or more hours of sleep. Overall, around 20 per cent of children in Years 8, 10 and 12 reported having more than 3 hours of screen time the previous day.

It was noted that child-friendly versions of the 2024 Survey results would be prepared for primary and secondary schools and that a data dashboard was also proposed.

The Committee was advised that work was being undertaken in connexion with a prevention strategy, which aimed to offer a greater range of subsidised activities to young people and increase the uptake of childcare allowance, particularly for

vulnerable children, those with disabilities and those living in relative poverty. The prevention strategy would also include an adult component, and it was noted that a report would be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

The Committee thanked Mr. Sproats for the update.

Primary school meals programme.

A6. The Committee received and noted a report entitled ‘Supporting Healthy and Happy Big Picture Outcomes through Primary School Meals’, dated April 2025, and associated PowerPoint presentation. Ms. C. Lucas, Head of Transformation, Commissioning and Partnerships, Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) Department, and Mr. M. Knight, Head of Health Improvement, Health and Care Jersey, addressed the Committee.

The Committee noted that Big Picture Outcome One within the Children, Young People and Families’ Plan 2024 – 2027 (the Plan), ‘all Children in Jersey are healthy and happy’, was underpinned by a strong focus on establishing healthy, nutritious dietary behaviours for future wellbeing. Feedback from children and young people had highlighted the importance of affordability and accessibility to support healthy diets. The Plan included an ambition to improve key measures including body mass index and consumption of fruit and vegetables, which were noted to be worse for children attending non-fee paying schools.

The Committee was informed that dietary risk factors were becoming the leading cause of preventable diseases and there was strong evidence that consumption of fruit and vegetables provided protective benefits. As of December 2024, all Government-maintained primary schools had received access to school meals; 16 through ‘Apetito’, a provider based in the United Kingdom which supplied frozen meals to be reheated, and 5 through a local provider, ‘Flourish’, which operated a hot food transport model. The overall participation rate (for free school meals and paying pupils) was 42 per cent. 60 per cent of children eating a school meal did so daily, with a further 20 per cent accessing meals 2 to 4 times per week.

Feedback in relation to the introduction of school meals had been largely encouraging, with 40 per cent of parents reporting a positive change in their child’s eating habits at home. 2 vegetable sides had been added to each menu option as a result of engagement with the School Council Network (SCN) and there had been a high level of support for making fruit available as a dessert option. 5 new meals had also been added to the menu cycle based on the feedback from the SCN. It was noted that there was a strong correlation between the popularity of familiar, well-liked, often less healthy, meals, and overall engagement with the school meals service. Striking a balance between encouraging uptake and aligning with strategic goals in terms of promoting healthier eating remained a key focus for future service development.

A free fruit provision service had been piloted across 4 Jersey primary schools during break time, which entitled each primary school child to one piece of fruit per day. Whilst qualitative feedback had been positive, quantitative feedback had revealed little evidence to reflect increased overall fruit consumption, with parents and children expressing a strong preference for fruit to be provided as a dessert option at lunchtime. Consequently, it was proposed to extend the pilot for a further period, with a focus on children’s consumption and the consideration of the impact alongside current school policies on break time snacks. The provision would be piloted alongside the ‘Apetito’ hot lunch service in selected schools. It was noted that the extension of the pilot to all schools was not feasible at present due to the

anticipated cost.

The Committee was informed that whilst a full tender process for the Primary school meals programme had initially been planned for 2025, it was proposed to extend the current pilot programme until the end of the year, to enable it to become established, increase meal uptake and ensure compliance with Jersey School Food Standards (JSFS). Extending the pilot would also ensure that the chosen model was both effective and sustainable, prior to a long-term contract being entered into. The JSFS would also be revised and updated to include approaches to increasing uptake, reducing waste and lowering the carbon footprint of the service, in line with the Government's commitment to carbon neutrality. Improvements in meal choices and menu selections would also be identified, with consideration of the wider school population and those with selective eating needs. The requirement for wider collaborative commitment and action beyond school settings to achieve cultural change in relation to healthier diets was also highlighted.

The Committee noted and expressed its support for various recommendations in relation to the Primary School meals programme, as outlined in the report. Due to Deputy S.Y. Mézec of St. Helier South, Minister for Housing, being temporarily absent, it was noted that approval for the recommendations would be sought by electronic mail message following the meeting.

Children,  
Young People  
and Families'  
Plan 2024 -  
2027 –  
Alignment of  
commissioning  
activity.

A7. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A8 of 10th October 2024, received and noted a report entitled 'Aligning Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) Department commissioning activity with the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024 – 2027 (the Plan)' and heard from Ms. C. Lucas, Head of Transformation, Commissioning and Partnerships, CYPES Department.

It was recalled that certain public services were commissioned from external providers as they could not be provided internally. Consequently, a cross-Government commissioning framework had been introduced in 2023, to apply best practices and offer a structured, evidence-based approach across all Government-provided public services. The Committee was advised that significant progress had been made to improve procurement processes, strengthen contract management and align commissioned services more closely with the key priorities and objectives of the Plan. The transition from grant-based funding to outcome focussed contracts for services had marked a stepped change in the way services were delivered, monitored and evaluated. Clearer expectations, greater accountability and stronger oversight had also resulted. Revised service specifications and service level agreements prioritised the achievement of measurable outcomes to provide a clearer understanding of how services impacted children, young people and their families.

A centralised contract register had been established by the CYPES Department to improve transparency and oversight across all commissioned services. This was complimented by a standardised contract management process to ensure consistency of process and expectations for all providers across the Government of Jersey. Value for money remained a priority and each commissioned service was now reviewed and evaluated prior to ending, to assess financial sustainability, as well as strategic alignment and impact. Services directly linked to the Plan, such as Family Nursing and Home Care, had been reviewed, and the contract revised with an updated specification, to emphasise data collection and outcome measurement. This would allow for improved integration with programmes such as Baby Steps and the Maternal Early Childhood Sustainable Home Visiting Programme, in order to assess their contribution to early childhood development outcomes. The contract with

Brighter Futures, which supported the 'Enjoy the Best Start in Life' priority, was under review, as the specification had remained unchanged since 2013.

With regard to wellbeing and mental health support, it was noted that the CYPES Department had extended its contract with Kooth (the United Kingdom's largest digital mental health provider) to ensure the continued provision of digital therapeutic services. In addition, the minimum age for accessing Togetherall, a mental health community application, had been lowered to support the transition from child to adult services and ensure continuity of care.

The Committee noted the position and thanked Ms. Lucas for the update.

Children,  
Young People  
and Families'  
Plan 2024 -  
2027 – update  
from the  
voluntary  
sector  
(Children's  
Cluster  
Group).

A8. The Committee, with reference to its Minute No. A9 of 10th October 2024, received and noted a report entitled 'Update from the Children's Cluster' and heard from Mr. P. McGinney, Director of Local Services, Employment, Social Security and Housing Department.

It was recalled that the Children's Cluster Group (CCG) was a collaboration between various local charities and Government of Jersey Officers, with a collective focus on improving the outcomes for Children, Young People and Families, which met on a bi-monthly basis.

The Committee was apprised of matters which had been discussed at the CCG meeting of 4th March 2025, including the following –

- issues surrounding access to medically recommended dental work due to financial constraints and braces being deemed as cosmetic by certain services;
- the positive impact of targeted funding post pandemic in supporting babies, young children and families;
- positive interaction between the Government of Jersey, children and families was noted. The CCG had discussed a mechanism whereby organisations working with families, babies and young people could pledge to embed a set of principles to promote equality, respect and non-discrimination;
- concerns which had been expressed regarding the accessibility and consistency of the Care Leavers offer;
- the Government of Jersey supported Food Pantry at the Salvation Army was now operational and more than 200 households had joined the scheme;
- the Elemental Social Prescribing system was now live, and training was planned for General Practice. It was noted that the Connect Me grant scheme had closed on 4th April 2025, with a record number of 109 applications, many of which related to positive activities for children and families;
- an overview of all disabled parking spaces within the Island, which had been produced by the Government Disability and Inclusion team;
- the Children and Families event hosted by Local Services at St. Clements School on 29th March 2025, which had attracted more than 300 Islanders, with over 30 organisations hosting stalls; and,
- a pilot Social, Environmental and Economic Enterprise pathway project, which had been launched on 26th September 2024, to provide a comprehensive framework of support for the development of entrepreneurial activity that supported communities and the environment. 5 organisations had been

successful and would benefit from support offered by Jersey Business, the School of Social Enterprise, Digital Jersey and the Government of Jersey. 2 of the projects would directly benefit children and families.

The Committee noted the position and thanked Mr. McGinnety for the update.

Date of next meeting.

A9. The Committee noted the following meeting dates for meetings in 2025 and 2026 –

- 30th October 2025, with a focus on Big Picture Outcome 3 of the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2024 – 2027 (the Plan): Enjoy a good standard of living and housing.
- April 2026 (date to be confirmed), with a focus on Big Picture Outcome 4 of the Plan: All children in Jersey are safe and loved.

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2nd Meeting  
16th April 2025