
Early Years Policy Development Board (the 'Board' or the 'EYPDB') Meeting 4
Monday 30th September 2019, 1430 – 1700hrs

Board:

Minister for Education, Senator Tracey Vallois (TV) (Chair)
Minister for Children and Housing, Senator Sam Mézec (SM)
Deputy Louise Doublet (LD)

Executive Support:

Strategic Policy, Performance and Population:
Andrew Heaven – Director Children's Policy (AH)
Sarah Stoten – Policy Principal, Children's Policy (SS)

Ministerial Support Unit:

Marie Claire Hannigan

Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES):

Mark Rogers – Director General CYPES
Cathy Hamer – Chair Best Start Partnership
Nicola Mulliner – Head of Children Early Years' Service

Apologies:

Assistant Minister for Education, Deputy Jeremy Maçon (JM)

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 TV welcomed all those in attendance, apologies were received from Deputy Maçon.

1.2 TV approved the minutes and agreed to formally sign and publish them once some minor spelling errors were corrected

2. Right help right time, redesigning the way early help is delivered.

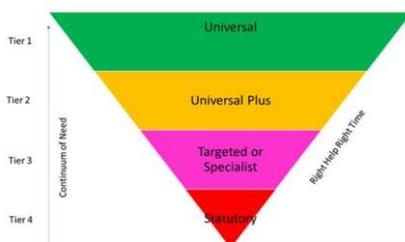
2.1 Update on design work Right help Right time (RHRT), presented by Amanda Kelly (AK), Strategic Consultant Advisor to CYPES.

Early Help doesn't exist as a function rather as a collection of services delivering support to families and children. Any new design will offer help for 0-25-year olds and needs to deliver a stronger more integrated early help service focussed on early intervention and prevention where families in crisis do not meet statutory thresholds.

2.2 Currently data is not shared between services and data is often saved in different formats which makes collating a cumbersome and difficult process. The differing data collation methods impact an early alert system being initialised. RHRT will remove the complex referral routes and multiple assessments. Which will remove the duplication of work and the need for those that need help having to explain their situation multiple times to multiple people. RHRT is about Government working together using evidence and service information to inform targeted commissioning.

2.3 AH confirmed that similar language features in policy throughout many jurisdictions with the emphasis being on collaborative work, and integrated approaches. The Minister for Education (TV) confirmed that work was underway to implement a new Safeguarding App. that would assist early identification of need. This would, AK confirmed, strengthen the duty to cooperate.

2.4 AK discussed the continuum of need (see diagram), showing how RHRT would work throughout each step focussing more on early intervention and prevention at a universal level thereby reducing the demand for Statutory intervention which was often delivered too late in the process. This would also ensure clear lines of responsibility and more effective use of resources. AK confirmed that families can move up and down the continuum of need and that it was important that step up/step down processes are clear and fluid.



2.5 It is intended that Early Help services will be co-located, and the delivery model designed around a cluster model, with a single front door which will act as a triage. Any Parent/Carer can contact the Right Help Right Time front door for advice or to discuss their needs or request for support. Early Help manager liaises with MASH with weekly RHRT meeting being held to discuss new cases and progress on other cases. Multi-disciplinary RHRT hub meeting will be held monthly to problem solve complex cases.

2.6 Multi-Disciplinary team meetings around the Schools (Team around the school TAS) will happen at least once a term in each school, the focus of these meetings being on prevention and early intervention. Meetings will include a link Social Worker and family support worker.

2.7 TV asked whether liaison between RHRT and the Closer to Home project within Customer and Local Services was also happening. AK reassured the Minister that they are included as an important stakeholder and frequent conversations are being held.

2.8 AK highlighted the various pathways for RHRT and the processes for accessing the services. Support could be offered through a single agency or a multi-disciplinary approach. It is hoped that the Best Start Partnership would assist in understanding the referral process for Early Years setting and the Team around the Nursery equivalent.

2.9 The Minister explained that at recent school visits, she was aware of the demands parents faced. It was, she believed, important to recognise the school as a community hub where parents approach teachers for advice when family workers were not always present.

2.10 SS highlighted that the policy board would have the opportunity to understand parental experiences and to get an insight into the areas where they struggled through the planned focus groups.

2.11 TV stressed that trust and community spirit was at the heart of the subject matter. There must be trust between family and professionals. Professionals must learn to be as non-obtrusive as possible. A Number of parents were thought to have withdrawn consent as they don't want to engage with the services due to the 'MASHED' process. AK confirmed that the jump from 'zero to hero' is too vast which causes a lack of trust immediately between families and professionals. It was acknowledged that it was a difficult balance to strike.

2.12 RHRT would be administered through clusters (East, Town, West and North), these would identify any emerging issues and address them early to prevent escalation of need.

The Early Help hub would have a permanent base in St Helier. It may be co-located which will assist in the integrated working using the Jersey's Children First approach. It is recognised that the town cluster, being large, may need to be split.

The use of clusters could assist in reducing the stigma attached to accessing the services. A RHRT approach was embedded across the Government of Jersey with a shared practice model.

2.13 Discussion around how the structure and information would be made available to families. Ideas included:

- Single building
- Website advertising services
- Parents can use a webpage to access Q & A through self - service
- Use of La Motte Street – CLS
- People advertise verbally the assistance to families and individuals they encounter
- Clear pathways – no wrong front door

2.14 TV raised the stigma attached to going into Social Security and being on Income Support, TV more comfortable with cluster model – school based. Deputy Doublet highlighted that a school-based model could potentially lose the neediest. AK raised that for younger children the health visitor's role is pivotal in assessing well being and potential areas where help can be offered. AK confirmed that the cluster model is virtual rather than geographical and real case studies would reveal where real families would go for assistance.

2.15 The point was raised about the importance of school pick up and drop offs being utilised as a point where parents can ask for assistance or guidance. The need for corporate support providing for the family unit and flexible working is an area the Government should be striving to improve on. Playgroups, church groups, provide for a lot of families that benefit from early help.

2.16 How the Hub in St Helier would complement similar existing centres was also discussed. This would have to be considered as well as identifying other opportunities to incorporate services. Physical location of building would be reviewed at a later stage. Clarity of terminology important to help understand how the model and integrated services could work.

3. Progress on Workstreams

3.1 SS and AH gave an update on the progress on the various workstreams.

- **Focus Groups – Understanding parental viewpoints** SS asked the board to confirm that 4insight can go ahead with recruitment of participants in the upcoming focus groups. LD requested they recruit fresh participants to avoid the risk of having the same people for multiple contracts. Focus groups from other areas such as personal tax could be utilised regarding childcare tax relief. SS had booked dates for the focus groups and had suggested discussion themes for the sessions. LD frustrated by lack of representations from families who have not yet had any interaction with schools, refocus thinking on children before they attend school. 6 focus groups will be arranged, recruitment activity will ensure a variety of parents attend.
- **Engagement Brief – Designing and Delivering a Market assessment of the Early Years market in Jersey** SS has liaised with Oxera who regularly assist the Government's Economic Advisors. The intention is to provide an accurate and factual basis of what the EY market place looks like and how it might respond to policy changes. The supply of business models and commercially sensitive information will be anonymised. The parameters for the brief included analysis of supply, demand, workforce and how policy options might impact on providers.

AH explained that it was important to get economic analysis. Also important to test evidence-based policy such as those promoted in studies like EPPSE¹ which highlighted

¹ Performing against the odds: developmental trajectories of children in the EPPSE 3-16 study, Department for Education, Research Report DFE-RR128 6, Ibid & Sylva, K et al (2008)

the benefits of Early Childhood Education from an early age and quality interactions led by a graduate workforce.

3.2 Implications of having post graduate qualified people for example may have cost implications for businesses. Information about supply and demand will highlight the capacity gap. EPPSE findings were an important reference point when looking at what was most effective in preschool provision. LD raised that Child Centred point of view – choice in the best interests of the child was limited or enabled by the financial situation. Earlier quality childhood interaction were highlighted as a key contributor to better outcomes for children in the Early Years so this strengthened the bid to increase the NEF that had been included in the Government Plan.

3.3 TV wanted the board to be specific as to what they required from the Market Place Research. The board confirmed the following areas:

- Supply/demand in Jersey and how that works in the private marketplace.
- How to understand claims that there was not a level playing field between private and public setting
- Direct and indirect funding and what effect does that have on the market place.

Any providers reluctant to provide data would be reassured that it's a chance to liaise and work with the Government to change the policy. It was agreed that the impact on businesses should be fully considered particularly if expanding recruitment of a graduate workforce posed a significant financial barrier for providers.

3.4 The Best Start Partnership (BSP) – CH, Chair of BSP confirmed that they had previously completed market research (which did not include economic analysis) piece that could be shared with the EYPDB. CH also explained that the BSP was also able to assist in engaging with Stakeholders. BSP were commended for the work that had previously informed the policy at the earliest stages when it was known as the Early Years Childhood Partnership Board. SS recognised the impact the working group from Best Start Partnership (BSP) had in rekindling relationships and encouraging an appetite to work in partnership with the children's sector. LD recommended that the Board liaise with the Best Start Partnership Board. CH highlighted that the Care Inquiry had made reference to the small budget that the BSP had, she felt that the BSP had huge potential to be used as a resource to do some of the work.

3.5 Children with developmental delay would be highlighted by family nursing at the 2-year check and through routine checks with the midwife post birth. LD asked who advises on criteria for child development delays. SS confirmed that the Child Care Trust uses this health check to highlight any delay and priority for referral from services to highlight the need for children to attend nursery through 'Best Start Plus' funding.

3.6 LD Wants Health Visitors to be supported more as they contact every child at some stage whilst being under resourced. Family Nursing should comment on policy scenarios. LD highlights the importance of the Two-Year milestone check.

3.7 MR suggested that work should be concentrated on testing policies which have been previously evidenced and implemented such as, earlier delivery of early childhood education, qualifications of Early Years staff and opportunities around the family and home learning environments.

4 An Early Years Policy Framework – Conception to 5 years.

SS presented the existing roadmaps to the board. SS has approached Health colleagues to avoid duplication as part of the Care Model Review. **Early Years roadmaps** – examples were shared with the Board, including work carried out by NCB as part of the Early Child Development programme in Jersey and the work of the Best Start Partnership.

4.1.1 The Early Years Policy Framework in Jersey was presented showing the owners of policy areas. Birth to 1 year was predominantly ‘owned’ by Health Policy. Education Policy own the area from 3 to 4 years which highlighted a policy development space around the age from 1 to 2 years. Focus on 1-3 traditionally not owned as departmental policy. It was noted for reference that there is minimal to no contact with a child after their 2-year check to starting reception/preschool from a universal perspective.

4.1.2 LD found the document really helped and puts into context what other ministers are doing in their areas of policy. Family Friendly legislation will have an impact and would sit in the middle of the chart.

Examples of policy aims during the Early Years were also discussed

Active policy areas were identified:

- Antenatal, Neonatal, Paediatric, Health and child development.
- Mental Health (Child/Parent/Carer)
- Children’s policy (Corporate Parenting, CiN, UNCRC etc)
- Safeguarding and Child Protection (RHRT)
- Education (including SEND)
- Financial support (including Benefits, Jersey Premium and Tax Allowances)

Acknowledged by Board that there must be transparency between the workstreams. Communication is the key to ensure this works.

4.2 Government Plan proposals and ongoing initiatives

4.2.1 The presentation showed the current proposals and ongoing initiatives. These included the Government Plan, the Children and Young Peoples Plan, and the Common Strategic policies. The Minister (TV) wanted to know how many documents were ‘out there’ with recommendations to enable officers to remove any repetitive initiatives and also to remove any recommendations that no longer match the CSP priorities of the Government. It was important that cross ministerial portfolios were open and transparent to ensure they can influence and help evolve policy areas. The Minister for Children being a board member was a key example, so any approach was joined up across both portfolios.

4.2.2 Moving from board to Ministerial Meetings to establish development areas – Whilst the Policy Pipeline will also assist in providing a bird’s eye view of areas where duplication may be occurring it will still be important to build up a view of evidence nationally and locally with feedback from partnerships and third sector groups.

4.2.3 Early Years and Mental Health Policy is significant to TV and she stressed the importance of how the inverted triangle and the concept of need is heavily influenced by number of factors. Strategy needs to be aligned and integrated across multi governmental departments to ensure it has the most effective impact on children ultimately making their lives better. Highly qualified individuals working together to intervene early and ensure the best outcomes are met for children. TV expressed frustration at the area being under resourced.

4.2.4 It was recognised that key ministers from Health, Social Security, and Treasury were not members of the Board and that, consideration should be given as to how they could be involved more. In reference to the final slide, MR raised the point that Policy informs strategy, which informs delivery.

5. AOB

5.1 The Minister for Education confirmed that any redesigned NEF would not be available until 2021 with potential for pilot in 2020.

5.2 LD declare for the minutes that she has a child that will be accessing NEF.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16th December where the Board hoped to have an opportunity on discussion on Policy Streams

5. Action Points

	Action required	Allocated to	Required by	Date completed
1	Share links to the Best Start Partnership Board	SS		12 th December
2	Distribute the JCCT 'Best Start' criteria and process for nursery funding from 2 years.	SS		Link to the JCCT website where criteria can be found provided 12 th December
3	CH to update the board on the work the Best Start Partnership are focussed on.	CH		Links to Best Start website provided
4	Explore Maternal/Paternal mental health provisions and pathways available to parents.	MR		Meetings held on 8 th November and 12 th December to progress with Ministers and project leads.

Minutes agreed:



Senator Vallois
Chair of the Policy Board

Date:

16 December 2019

Agreed for publication:



Senator Vallois
Chair of the Policy Board

Date:

16th December 2019