

Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department

Ministerial Decision Report

Nominations to the Secure Accommodation Order Statutory Panel Jersey Children's Social Care Services

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The Minister for Children and Education is asked to appoint Brian Heath, MBE, Wendy Kinnard, Judy (Judith) Marie O'Sullivan and Debbie Thompson as persons to the Secure Accommodation Statutory Panel.

2. Background

2.1. In accordance with the Children (Secure Accommodation) (Jersey) Order 2005 ("the 2005 Order") the Minister for Children and Education (the "Minister") is required to appoint three persons to review the placement of a child in Secure Accommodation.

2.2. Paragraph 9 of the 2005 Order titled, Appointment of persons to review placement in secure accommodation, states:

The Minister shall appoint 3 persons, at least one of whom must not be an officer of an administration of the States for which the Minister is assigned responsibility, who shall review the keeping of a child to whom Article 22 [of the Children (Jersey) Law 2002] applies in secure accommodation for the purposes of securing his or her welfare, within one month of the inception of the placement and then at intervals not exceeding 3 months if the child continues to be kept in such accommodation.

2.3 The Minister is recommended to appoint more than three persons who may, from time to time, perform the statutory role, although with no more than three of those persons performing the review function at any one time, but always ensuring that at least one those persons conducting the review function at any one time is not an officer of an administration of the States for which the Minister is assigned responsibility. The appointment of more than three persons is necessary to provide for circumstances where one or more of the appointed persons is unable to perform the required role, such as through illness or conflict.

3. Process

3.1. The appointed persons have been selected, by the Principal Social Worker and Chief Social Worker for Children and Families at the Children's Social Care Service. The nominees were selected as appropriate, being existing Jersey residents with experience of holding of high office in the Island, including being members of the statutory Placements Panel, and have been subjected to thorough DBS and reference checks.

3.2. The following persons have been nominated:

- Brian Heath, MBE for services to Probation and Chair of the Jersey Fostering Panel) (Former Chief Probation Officer of the Jersey Probation and After Care Service)
- Wendy Kinnard (Former Minister of Home Affairs Jersey (1999-2008))
- Judy (Judith) Marie O'Sullivan (Former Registrar, Family Division, Royal Court of Jersey (2004 – 2018))
- Debbie Thompson (Senior Physiotherapist Paediatrics and Neurology at Jersey General Hospital) and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. (AFBPsS)

3.3. Please see appendix 1 for background information.

4. Recommendation

4.1. Pursuant to Paragraph 9 of the 2005 Order, it is recommended that the Minister for Children and Education, having considered the nominees, appoints Brian Heath, Wendy Kinnard, Judy O'Sullivan and Debbie Thompson to perform the review function expressed at paragraph 10 of the 2005 Order.

4th April 2022

Report author: Head of Quality and Standards

APPENDIX A

NOMINEE – MR BRIAN HEATH

Originally from the Channel Islands, Brian was born in Jersey and is resident in Jersey. He has also resided in Alderney, Italy and the United Kingdom.

His qualifications are as follows:

BA(Hons) Psychology Plymouth Polytechnic 1980

Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work Southampton University 1985

Certificate of Qualification in Social Work 1985

Brian has extensive experience in the Probation Service, first as a trainee Probation Officer in 1983, through to being made Chief Probation Officer in Jersey in 1999.

As Chief Probation Officer, Brian negotiated the incorporation of Children's Public Law Guardians into the Family Court Advisory Service to provide a more consistent and higher quality Guardian Service for Children. His contribution was instrumental to remove a perceived impasse around the extension of the UNCRC to Jersey.

He has served as a Board Member on the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) between 2016 - 2019 (Non profit company under Dutch legislation)

Brian was awarded an MBE for services to Probation in 2017.

He is currently the Chair of the Jersey Fostering Panel.

NOMINEE – MRS WENDY KINNARD

Originally from the Channel Islands, Wendy was born in Jersey and is resident in Jersey.

Her qualifications are as follows:

BA (Hons) Applied Social Sciences Open University 1990

Dip.H.E. Social and Environmental Problems University of Winchester 1980

Wendy has extensive experience in public office holding many States posts as follows: Wendy was elected Senator in 1996 and re-elected in 2002.

Between 1999-2008 Wendy served as Vice-President, President and Minister of Home Affairs.

2002-2005 Policy and Resources Committee.

1998-2003 President of the Building Costs Inquiry.

1996- 1999 Vice-President and President of the Legislation Committee.

Wendy has held other States posts as follows:

Vice President, Housing Committee; States Appointed Trustee to the Community Relations Trust;

Committee Member of Employment and Social Security and of Health and Social Services.

Wendy was appointed to the Youth Court Panel as Lay Magistrate between 1993 to 1996 and she is currently an independent member of the Children and Young Person's Placement Panel.

NOMINEE – MRS JUDY O’SULLIVAN

Judy has lived in Jersey since 2000. Prior to this she lived in the UK. She was born in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

Her qualifications are as follows:

Degree in Politics Exeter University 1975

Qualified as an English solicitor 1979

Qualified as a solicitor mediator in the 1990s

Judy is a trained Lawyer. She is retired since 2018 but for 18 years served in the law profession in Jersey, as a lawyer, then family mediator, Deputy Registrar, and from 2004 to 2018 Judy was Registrar of the Family Division of the Royal Court of Jersey. Prior to living and working in Jersey, Judy was working in the UK in the legal profession.

Judy has been involved in children’s cases for many years across her career as a lawyer specialising in family matters. She was a member of the English Children Panel for some years. She was a member of the Association of Lawyers for Children and regularly attended their conferences both when she was in England and in Jersey. She joined the Solicitors Family Law Association when it was first started (now known as Resolution).

As a judge Judy dealt mainly with private children cases but there was sometimes an overlap with public law cases. She attended Judges training in her spare time and attended courses in England and abroad about family matters.

Judy is currently the Chair of Family Mediation Jersey since 2020 and also sits on the Board of My Voice Limited since 2020.

NOMINEE – MRS DEBBIE THOMPSON

Originally from the Channel Islands, Debbie was born in Jersey and is resident in Jersey.

Her qualifications are extensive as follows:

BSc (Hons) Psychology 2:1. The Open University 2000

MSc in Psychological Research Methods with Distinction. The Open University 2006

Chartered Psychologist in Teaching and Research. (CPsychol) 2013

Admitted as an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. (AFBPsS) 2015

MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology with Distinction. University of West of England 2016

Professional Doctorate Sport and Exercise Psychology student (LJMU) 2017

Mindfulness in Schools (.b trained teacher). 2020

Debbie started her career in physiotherapy. She worked in the UK as a Senior physiotherapist in Paediatrics in acute hospital, community and special school settings. Debbie returned to Jersey in 1993 working as a Senior Physiotherapist in Neurology and she supported the development of the rehabilitation service. She then worked at a Hospice for 4 years and now Debbie works as a private practitioner in neurology.

Debbie is qualified to teach students and has taught courses in the following settings:

2000 - 2011 Associate Lecturer in Psychology 2nd level course. Open University for the South region

2008 - 2018 A level Psychology. Beaulieu Convent School

2019 - 2020 A level Psychology (maternity cover). Hautlieu School

Debbie has spent the majority of her professional life working with children, either as a physiotherapist or teacher and more recently she has delivered sport psychology to young athletes. Debbie has also held the position of lay panel member of the Youth Court. Her current independent positions include membership of the Children and Young People's Placement Panel and she also sits on the Disciplinary Panel for the Jersey Law Society and the Jersey Charities Tribunal Panel.