

General Information	
Ministerial Decision Type	Miscellaneous
Report Title	Children's Health Care Services
Minister	Social Security
Signatory	Minister
Lead Department	Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SP3)
Lead Directorate	Public Policy (SP3)
Ministerial Decision Summary: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Date decision made if different to date 'Ministerial Decision Summary' signed.	Select date.
Report and Supplemental Report Details	
Report Author	Senior Policy Officer
Date of Report	18/07/2023
Supplementary Report Title <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Supplementary Report Title.
Supplementary Report Author <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Official Title Only.
Date of Supplementary Report <i>(If applicable)</i>	Select Date of Supplemental Report.
Ministerial Decision Report: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Relevant Case/Application/URN <i>(Only complete if making a decision related to an appeal where appropriate or allowed under legislation/case/application)</i>	Insert Relevant Case/Application.
Relevant Proposition Number <i>(Only complete if presenting Comments or if lodging an Amendment)</i>	P 97 2022 Amd 18
Relevant Scrutiny Report <i>(Only complete if presenting a ministerial response)</i>	Insert S.R. number.
Associated Law(s) and/or Subordinate Legislation	Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967
Action required if recommendation agreed	Department to take necessary action.

Resource Implications	There are additional financial and/or manpower implications. Further detail is included in the detail section of the report.
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### **Introduction**

In response to the eighteenth amendment to the proposed Government plan 2023-2026 (P97.Amd (18)) lodged on 28 November 2022 and adopted by the States Assembly, this new scheme will provide free access for eligible children to General Practice services.

### **Background**

Concerns about the cost of primary care is a reoccurring theme in public discourse. These concerns have been heightened in the context of current inflationary pressures and the rising cost of living.

The Health Access Scheme and the Contracted Medical Benefit Agreement have directly reduced the cost of care for islanders while payments for remote services and Government subsidy for allied healthcare professionals have created the conditions in General Practice for the development of business models which will increase capacity and deliver a positive impact on patient access.

Children of Income Support households have been receiving General Practice care free of charge for the past two years since the Health Access Scheme was introduced in December 2020.

This scheme, to provide free GP services for all eligible children, irrespective of family income, has been developed to meet the commitment made by the States Assembly on 14 December 2022, when P97 Amd (18) was adopted.

Options for the Children's Healthcare service were initially developed by the Minister for Health and Social Services. It was agreed that implementation of the service should be passed to the Minister for Social Security to be administered by Customer and Local Services, building on administration systems and contractual arrangements which have already been established.

Whereas the original proposition requested a transfer of money from the Health Insurance Fund to the Health and Community Services department, the transfer from HCS to CLS enables the service to be funded directly from the Health Insurance Fund and administered alongside other General Practice services.

### **Children's Healthcare Service**

This service has been designed in consultation with the Primary Care Board who represent General Practices in Jersey. The service will:

- Reduce financial pressures on families
- Support young people to access General Practice care without having to ask for money from parents/guardians (independent access)

People who are eligible for support under this service are children and young people aged 0 to 17 inclusive, who are entitled to medical benefits under the Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967, (meaning they are resident in Jersey and they or their parent or guardian is a member of the Health Insurance Scheme having achieved six months' residency and paid any contributions to the fund that would be due of them.)

Practitioners who made provide services under the scheme comprise general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, and healthcare assistants working from a General Practice who is party to the agreement.

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Services which are fully funded under the scheme, meaning no fee should be charged of the patient or their parent/ guardian, include face to face surgery visits and telephone or video link consultations.

The service also includes funding the most common services or procedures, meaning no additional fees should be charged for:

Blood tests,  
Urinalysis,  
Referral letters,  
ECGs,  
Swabs,  
Spirometry  
Ear syringing  
Pregnancy tests,

The service excludes home visits and out-of-hours JDOC services

Practices will support government in raising awareness of the Children's Healthcare Service by including information about the service on their websites and in notices in their reception where possible.

### **Recommendation**

Other

Customer and Local Services administer a contracted scheme, under which children and young people receive fully funded care for surgery-based consultations, remote consultations and specified services in General Practice.

### **Financial and resource implications**

The Children's Health Care Services agreement will be administered by existing resource within Customer and Local Services. P97 Amd (18) originally proposed an estimated budget of £800,000, however considering inflation and the service design to include additional services the budget required is likely to exceed £1 million.

Systems development has been undertaken to support an efficient payment process and allow information regarding the service to be collected. This development required a non-recurring budget of £15,000.

The Children's Health Care Service will operate under an agreement spanning 2 years (2023-2025).