

The Jersey Chamber of Commerce

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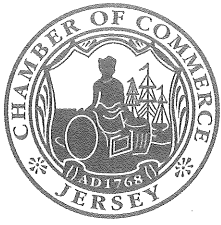
18th July 2012

Dear Sir

Response of The Jersey Chamber of Commerce to the Health & Social Services White Paper "Caring for each other, Caring for ourselves" ("The White Paper")

Members of the Executive Committee of the Jersey Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber") have read and discussed the content of the White Paper and, in addition, have had the benefit of a meeting with Deputy Anne Pryke and Ms Rachel Williams. The bullet points set out below have been compiled following on from those discussions and meeting and are submitted by Chamber to be considered not in any way as a criticism but rather to emphasise matter which Chamber believes the White Paper has not dealt with or has not dealt with in sufficient detail, and to raise questions about issues which have not been raised in the White Paper.

1. Chamber accepts and agrees that the idea of working in the community with the various third sector organisations or private agencies is at the core of the White Paper but there is little or no information as to the way in which this partnership will be implemented. This is a great cause for concern as the relationship needs to be one of "equal partnership" where charitable organisations are to provide services. This means that civil servants and professionals will have to relinquish the necessary elements of their control for this to work efficiently without, of course, prejudicing recipient well-being.
2. Chamber acknowledges that there was a substantial amount of research carried on in the background which "sits behind" the White Paper but no indication has been given as to how the conclusions drawn were in fact reached. Chamber agrees with the issues which have been identified but wonders if there were other issues revealed as a result of the research which have not been included in the White Paper.
3. Chamber would like further information with regard to the review of the consultation such as
 - a. Who will review the information gleaned from the consultation?



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- b. When will it be reviewed and when are the results of the review likely to be published?
 - c. What will be done with the feedback and what happens if the feedback is not what is expected?
 - d. Are the priorities identified in the White Paper fixed or is there a possibility that these priorities could be tweaked or even changed in the light of the responses received?
4. Chamber is of the view that the delivery of the priorities is crucial but that far more information is needed as to how these priorities will be delivered. The third party organisations delivering services to the community at the present time will undoubtedly co-operate in any way possible in order to increase and better the services provided in the Island. However, they are independent charitable organisations and it is crucial that this independence is not lost in any new scheme and they must not become smothered or suffocated by the plan.
5. There are undoubtedly problems at the present time with regard to the provision and delivery of services in the Island due e.g. to lack of funding, uncertainty about funding, inefficiency. Chamber queries whether or not any new plan will work if the underlying structures or agencies are not dealt with before embarking on the new plan. Chamber believes that if the factual problems in existence today are not dealt with then this plan cannot go forward.
6. There is no mention in the White Paper of any contact having been made with Guernsey with a view to providing joint services in some cases. Chamber understands that contact has been made but would like to have further information on the outcome of any discussions and possible pan-Island co-operation.
7. Chamber queries whether the consultants and the general practitioners will come on board with the proposals as it is clear that any resistance from these professionals would lead to failure of the plan.
8. There is very little information in the White Paper with regard to the cost implications of the plan and from the point of view of Chamber's members, what effect those implications will have on businesses in the future. It is vital that this information is provided to everyone "up front".
9. Chamber understands that a feasibility study is now being carried out with regard to a new hospital. Whilst pleased that this is now in hand, Chamber believes that this study should have been carried out before publication of the White Paper as the capital cost figure must



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surely be crucial in finalising the finer details of any plan for the future. Is the final report going to set out exactly what will happen with regard to the hospital whether it is a brand new purpose built hospital or a refurbishment of the existing hospital?

In conclusion, it is suggested that H&SS sits down with all agencies, voluntary or private, with whom H&SS sees being involved in the future of the plan and talk about where H&SS thinks that organisation will be in 10 years time. The question should then be asked "how are we going to get there?"

Yours faithfully

PP DAVID WARR
PRESIDENT