

STATES OF JERSEY



DEVELOPMENT OF FOSTERING AND ADOPTION SERVICES IN JERSEY (P.219/2005): COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 25th October 2005
by the Finance and Economics Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Committee appreciates and supports the objectives of the proposition in relation to the development of fostering and adoption services. However, the Committee opposes the proposition on the grounds that the States Business Plan was the appropriate opportunity to propose an amendment to the States spending plans for 2006 to 2008. In presenting such an amendment, and with the States strategic objective of balanced budgets, the Committee and the States might also reasonably expect the source of funding to be identified such that the relative priorities could be debated.

The Health and Social Services Committee received a significant proportion of the additional funding from the recent resource allocation process, some £8.9 million over the period 2006 to 2008. If the States were minded to approve this proposition the Committee would ask that, in the first instance, the Health and Social Services Committee consider the proposed development of fostering and adoption services against the other competing service priorities for the additional funding it has already been awarded.

If the required additional funding were not identified through this process then the proposed route would be a submission to the business planning and resource allocation process 2007 to 2009, which will follow the review of the States Strategic Plan by the Council of Ministers early next year. This submission could then include a full business case for the development of the service identifying the extent to which the savings alluded to in the current report and proposition can be realised.

The Committee would also ask the States to note that the costs of the proposal amounts to £390,000 in 2006 but increases to £870,000 per year in 2008. The manpower implications are not identified but information from the Health and Social Services department indicates that 2 additional recruitment and support staff and up to 12 professional carers will be needed by 2008.