

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION
BY DEPUTY R.J. WARD OF ST. HELIER CENTRAL
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2022
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2022**

Question

“Will the Minister outline the current plans for a North of St. Helier Youth Centre, given the adoption of an amendment to the Bridging Island Plan to protect the Nelson Street site for such a facility if no other site was identified; and will the Minister confirm whether £2 million allocated in the Government Plan 2022-2025 is still available for this project?”

Answer

I am committed to the development of youth and community centres in St Helier as there is a pressing need to provide opportunities for young people to engage in appropriate activities in a safe and healthy environment. It is my intention to bring forward plans for the delivery of youth provision in the town area, and this includes the North of St Helier Youth Centre. This project will be renamed the ‘Central St Helier Youth and Community Centre’ to better reflect the desired location of the centre, which is to be located in the middle of town and within the central St Helier district.

Since coming to Office I have committed to reviewing the capital programme for the Children, Young People, Education and Skills Department to ensure projects which address identifiable need are prioritised. This plan will be published in the forthcoming Government Plan and I would like to reassure Deputy Ward and members of the Assembly that the newly titled Central St Helier Youth and Community Centre remains a priority for me and my Department.

There has been a significant challenge to date to find a suitable site for this project with Nelson Street being previously looked at. It is my intention to work closely with all of the St Helier Deputies and the Connétable of St Helier to review and assess all available sites to ensure the most appropriate location is found so that we can deliver this important project for the young people of St Helier.

Capital funding for this project is available within the Government Plan.