WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS BY DEPUTY T.M. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 23rd MARCH 2010

Question

"Having agreed to defer my proposition P.201/2009 ('Strategy for dealing with young offenders: establishment of a working group') to await any developments arising from related work being undertaken under Mr. Andrew Williamson relating to the creation of a 'Children's Plan for Jersey', will the Minister advise as to what stage this work has now reached and when he expects it to be concluded?"

Answer

Although this question is being asked of me, I am responding on behalf of the Child Policy Group.

The Children's Plan is the responsibility of the Child Policy Group, which consists of the Ministers for Health and Social Services, Education Sport & Culture and Home Affairs, the Chief Probation Officer and the three other relevant Chief Officers.

Since I last reported to the States, the following have occurred: -

- (a) scoping work has been completed in relation to the contents and themes to be included in the Children's Plan including the management of children within the Criminal Justice System;
- (b) an Executive Officer has been appointed to provide support and management to the Child Policy Group in relation to this project;
- (c) Andrew Williamson, who is acting as the Transitional Director for Children's Services, has contracted a person, who has previously had experience of similar work in the UK, to draft the Children's Plan;
- (d) by the end of April we should have in place a timetable and a worked out process for the development of the project.

It is anticipated that the Children's Plan will be presented to the States before the end of this year.