

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE
BY DEPUTY S. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 6th JUNE 2006

Question

Given that States' departments aim to achieve 'best practice' and 'value for money', would the Minister explain to members how the current ratio of a four strong management team to 12 professional workers within the Youth Service achieves this?

Answer

I believe that I have answered this question in information I have supplied to members in response to previous questions by Deputy Pitman in the past. For the sake of clarity, however, I will reiterate that with the exception of the Principal Youth Officer, all the members of the senior management team of the Youth Service have an individual rôle to play in delivering front line services to young people as well as assisting the Principal Youth Officer in the management of the service.

It is wrong of Deputy Pitman to assume that the youth service comprises only twelve professional workers. The Provision made for young people in this Island comes through partnerships between the Youth Service and a wide range of other organisations and projects, parishes, uniformed organisations, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the Prince's Trust, and some 200 volunteers and part-time staff to name but a few. Its strength lies in the diversity of provision, the close relationship forged between these organisations, and the efforts put into our young people by a wide range of part time and voluntary staff.

Projects have to be managed, full time, part time staff and voluntary staff have to be trained and supported, and effort has to be co-ordinated. A small team of experienced and professional staff fulfil this role. I believe they do an excellent job, assuring 'best practice' and value for money.