

Social Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Meeting 26

Date: 13th November 2006

Location: Le Capelain Room, States Building

Present Deputy F.J. Hill, B.E.M., Chairman
Deputy D.W. Mezbourian
Deputy A.E. Pryke
Deputy S. Pitman

Apologies Deputy J.A. Martin, Vice Chairman

Absent

In attendance Mr. C. Ahier, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings</p> <p>The Panel approved the minutes of its meeting on 30th October 2006 with one amendment:</p> <p>Under item 2b) Briefing notes the word 'not' was inserted after '... briefing notes had' and before 'been forwarded to them recently.'</p>	
	<p>2. Matters Arising</p> <p>a) Action Updates The Panel noted updates on actions requested at its previous meetings.</p> <p>b) Chairman and Panel Member Actions</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel about an article in the local press concerning the possible postponement of the Department of Education, Sport & Culture's Early Years Strategy. The Panel went on to discuss possible alternative issues to review in the event that their planned review of Early Years Education and Care was postponed. It was agreed that the Panel would consider a review of the introduction of student loans.</p> <p>The Panel went on to discuss the forthcoming fifth Scrutiny Panel and its composition. The Panel considered the advice given by the Greffier of the States concerning the number of Panel members required to sit on the existing Social Affairs Panel once the fifth Panel has been created. The Panel noted that based on standing orders the Chairman was not under any obligation to replace Panel members who left.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the <i>Crime (Disorderly Conduct and Harassment) (Jersey) Law 200-</i> and agreed that, whilst supporting the proposed Law in principle, it would be helpful if</p>	

	<p>they could give it further consideration before discussing it in greater detail at their next Panel meeting. The Panel noted that the draft Law was due to be lodged for debate shortly and as such any comments they wished to make would need to be submitted as a matter of urgency. The Panel agreed to inform the Department of Home Affairs that they were minded to consider the draft Law at their next meeting and to ask if this would allow sufficient time for any resulting comments from the Panel to be lodged before the draft Law is debated. The Panel further agreed that should there not be enough time to defer consideration until their next meeting that a telephone meeting be organised in order for the Panel to formulate their comments. Deputy Pryke requested that a hard copy of the draft Law be sent to her.</p> <p><u>Dairy Review</u></p> <p>Deputy Pryke informed the Panel that the second Promar report available the previous week and that there would be meetings with stakeholders this week. The Chairman went on to inform the Panel that the Sub-Panel would be holding Public Hearings separate from the Executive and had reserved the right to produce a separate report if the Sub-Panel deemed it necessary. It was further noted that the Sub-Panel were exploring the possibility of using mobile recording equipment in order to conduct Public Hearings at locations around the Island.</p>	<p>CA/WM</p> <p>CA/WM</p>
	<p>3. Rôle of the Centenier in the Magistrate’s Court</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel that he would be meeting with Deputy Mezbourian and the Scrutiny Officer to discuss the heads of report.</p> <p>The Panel went on to discuss the recent Public Hearing with the Attorney General and noted the contrasting experiences they had had with the various witnesses who had appeared at Public Hearings during this review. It was agreed that the Panel would explore the possibility of undergoing intensive questioning training and undertake a visit to Westminster in order to observe Parliamentary Select Committees in action.</p> <p>The Panel also discussed the transcript of the Public Hearing with Centenier Rigby and noted that a lot of the sentences had been incomplete. The Panel agreed to check whether or not there had been a problem with the recording equipment.</p>	<p>CA/WM</p> <p>CA/WM</p>
	<p>4. GP Out-of-Hours</p> <p>The Lead Member Deputy Pryke informed the Panel that, as agreed at the Panel’s previous meeting, the Minister for Health & Social Services and representatives of the GP Out-of-Hours Co-op had been invited to appear at a Public Hearing on Monday 20th November. The Minister for Health and Social Services, his Department and the representatives of the GP Out-of-Hours Co-op had failed to respond to the previous invitation to appear at a Public Hearing on Monday 13th November. However, upon receipt of the</p>	

	<p>subsequent invitation it became apparent that the invitation to appear on the 13th November had been accepted by the delegation from Health without informing the Scrutiny Office.</p>	
	<p>5. Overdale</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Panel that the heads of report were being formulated with a view to starting the final report in short order. Also the Panel were informed that the accountancy firm Alex Picot and Co. Ltd had been asked to provide a professional opinion on an aspect of the review.</p>	
	<p>6. Forthcoming Propositions</p> <p>The Panel noted the forthcoming propositions lodged for debate by the States relating to their remit and, having noted that the propositions in question would no longer come within their remit at the date of debate, agreed that they would not scrutinise them.</p>	
	<p>7. Future Meetings</p> <p>The Panel noted that it would next meet at 9:30am on Monday 27th November 2006.</p> <p>The Panel also discussed meeting dates for 2007. It was agreed that Monday January 8th be provisionally booked as the first meeting of 2007 and subsequent meetings be held on a two weekly basis as in 2006. This decision was made subject to approval by the new Panel, as constituted, at the meeting on 11th December 2006.</p>	

Signed

Date

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Chairman, Social Affairs Panel

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