



EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

22nd July 2005

Investing in
Our Future: A
Vision for
Early
Childhood
Education and
Care for
Children in
Jersey
(R.C.54/2005)
548/4(8)

A5. The Committee recalled that, on 30th November 2004, the States had rejected a proposition lodged by Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier entitled, 'Child Care Scheme for low income families: amendments' (P.173/2004 refers). During the course of the debate, mention had been made of the forthcoming release of an early years strategy by the Education, Sport and Culture Committee. The strategy had subsequently been published on 5th July 2005 in a document entitled 'Investing in Our Future: A Vision for Early Childhood Education and Care for Children in Jersey' (R.C.54/2005 refers).

The Committee considered a report, prepared by Mr. T. Gales, Policy Director, in connexion with R.C.54/2005.

Cont.
E.S.C.(2)

The Committee noted that the proposed strategy presented a 3 year vision for-

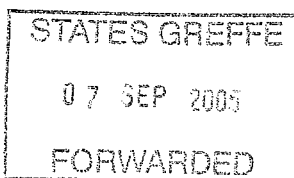
- (a) a more coherent family policy, supported actively by the States
- (b) affordable education for all 3 to 4 year olds for 30 hours per week and 38 weeks per year; and,
- (c) development of an integrated children's centre.

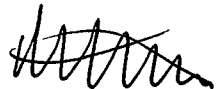
Having reviewed the proposed strategy, the Committee acknowledged that it would have a positive impact on the facilitation of nursery education for 3 to 5 year old children; however, it considered that the scope of the proposals brought forward by the Education, Sport and Culture Committee was somewhat narrower than had been anticipated. The Committee considered that there was a pressing need for a broad and cohesive childcare strategy based on the concept of wrap-around child care. It further considered that any strategy should allow for public and private sector service providers to co-exist.

The Committee agreed to ask for representatives of the Education, Sport and Culture Committee to attend a joint meeting in order to hear the views of the Committee and discuss possible options for refinement of the draft strategy.

The Policy Director was instructed to take the necessary action.

The Greffier of the States was requested to send a copy of this Act to the Education, Sport and Culture Committee.




 Greffier of the States