

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE  
BY DEPUTY T.A. VALLOIS OF ST. SAVIOUR  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2009**

**Question**

“Could the Minister advise the Assembly what his current priorities are in the Education, Sport and Culture Department and advise why he has chosen these in particular for 2010?

Were there other priorities which he wished to address but was unable due to financial or manpower constraints, and, if so, what were they?”

**Answer**

My priorities for 2010 were clearly set out in the Annual Business Plan that was debated in the States earlier this year. A copy of the key objectives is attached.

I chose these objectives because they relate to the development of key service areas which are of critical importance to our community at this time. Focusing on these objectives will:

- provide individuals with the opportunity to develop their talents and work towards achieving their potential;
- support individuals in developing the skills and competencies that will enable them to play a full part in society;
- equip young people with the skills they need to succeed, particularly in terms of employment;
- encourage active involvement in sport and culture.

If additional resources had been made available for 2010, I would have taken steps to improve financial support for students in higher education, increased the funding available to cultural organisations and invested in the development of vocational education for secondary school pupils.

Notwithstanding, I have drawn these issues to the attention of the Treasury Minister and the Council of Ministers who have agreed to work with me to find solutions to these challenges.

## **EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE**

### **AIM**

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**The mission of the Department for Education, Sport and Culture is to:**

**Strengthen our community by providing a first class education service, supporting the development of skills and promoting leisure and cultural activities that enrich our lives.**

**Our aims are to:**

- **Promote social inclusion and equal opportunity.**
- **Ensure that our children enjoy the best start possible;**
- **Prepare our young people for the challenges of the future and encourage them to make a positive contribution to society;**
- **Encourage lifelong learning and active participation in sport and culture.**

### **SUMMARY OF KEY OBJECTIVES AND KEY SUCCESS CRITERIA**

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**Objective 1: To work with the Skills Executive to ensure that vocational education is available to support the Island community through the economic downturn**

*Success Criteria:*

- (i) New youth training scheme in place for 16-18 year olds;
- (ii) Improved data and information system leads to greater understanding of training needs;
- (iii) New graduate training scheme in place for nurses and teachers in shortage subjects;
- (iv) Training opportunities in place to provide adults with access to learning and retraining opportunities;
- (v) Apprenticeship scheme strengthened and extended;
- (vi) Careers advice, and guidance and support extended to meet anticipated demand;
- (vii) Review of Higher Education support arrangements completed;
- (viii) Broad and balanced educational curriculum meets the needs of all.

*Strategic Plan Priority: 1, 2, 8 and 12*

**Objective 2: To continue to raise standards and improve key outcomes for children and young people**

*Success Criteria:*

- (i) Action taken to improve literacy and numeracy profiles;
- (ii) GCSE and 'A' Level results continue to compare favourably with benchmark authorities;
- (iii) Robust performance indicators are used to identify areas for development of the service;
- (iv) ICT strategy implemented to meet agreed targets;
- (v) Early Years strategy implemented successfully and supported by private public partnership;
- (vi) Review of primary curriculum completed;
- (vii) Vocational options available for 14 – 16 year olds;
- (viii) Quality performance framework developed for Highlands College;
- (ix) Review and report on the options available for the Island's secondary education system by April 2010, in

order to ensure it is fit for purpose and cost effective.

- (x) Adult education program at Highlands College maintained and extended to meet demand.

***Strategic Plan Priority: 6 and 12***

**Objective 3: To encourage widespread participation in lifelong learning, sport, leisure and cultural activities**

***Success Criteria:***

- (i) Bid to host 2015 Island Games successful;
- (ii) Individuals and teams successfully compete in regional, national and international competitions;
- (iii) Increased participation and attendance at sport, and leisure and cultural facilities;
- (iv) Continue to encourage and support the pursuit of sporting excellence;
- (v) Events website initiative implemented;
- (vi) Plans progressed to ensure long-term future of Fort Regent as a sports and leisure facility;
- (vii) Development of local Clubs and Associations supported to write and implement development plans to increase participation;
- (viii) Adult education programs at Highlands College maintained and extended to meet demand.

***Strategic Plan Priority: 6, 7 and 12***

**Objective 4: To develop programmes and initiatives designed to promote social inclusion and equal opportunity**

***Success Criteria:***

- (i) Support arrangements in place to help people with special needs secure appropriate employment;
- (ii) New guidance on improving behaviour and managing suspensions implemented across all schools;
- (iii) New management information system provides educational welfare officers with data to facilitate early intervention to reduce absenteeism and suspensions;
- (iv) Curriculum development provides educational experiences that reduce disaffection;
- (v) Support provided for individuals who do not speak English as a first language;
- (vi) Implications of 2009 Review of Inclusion across schools considered and relevant recommendations implemented;
- (vii) Increased opportunities for participation in community development programmes;
- (viii) Arrangements in place to consult more widely with young people with regard to their needs and the services available to support them;
- (ix) New childhood studies course introduced at Highlands College.

***Strategic Plan Priority: 7, 8 and 9***

**Objective 5: To provide targeted support to meet the needs of both vulnerable children and families**

***Success Criteria:***

- (i) Early intervention programme in place to ensure the needs of vulnerable children and families are identified as early as possible;
- (ii) School-based support for parents developed in partnership with the Parenting Service;
- (iii) Strategic review group established to monitor consistency of approach in relation to child protection;
- (iv) Tracking system in place to monitor outcomes for children who require additional support;

- (v) E-safety policy to be in place by end of 2010;
- (vi) Children and Young People's Plan developed with partner agencies;
- (vii) Contribute to the development of overall care package in conjunction with other departments and organisations;
- (viii) Curriculum development provides educational experiences that reduce disaffection;
- (ix) Targeted youth outreach work extended;
- (x) A youth mentoring network established in partnership with the Princes Trust and other youth agencies.

**Strategic Plan Priority: 7, 8 and 9**

**Objective 6: To promote the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle**

**Success Criteria:**

- (i) Review of Physical Education in the primary phase completed and new arrangements to enhance provision in place;
- (ii) Partnership with Health and Social Services Physiotherapy Department developed to facilitate joint work in sports centres;
- (iii) Plans in place to enable ESC to respond appropriately in the event of a pandemic or similar emergencies;
- (iv) Exercise Referral Scheme supported maintained and extended to meet demand;
- (v) Healthy Schools programme maintained and extended;
- (vi) Safer Routes to School plan progressed as part of Transport strategy.

**Strategic Plan Priority: 6, 9 and 11**

**Objective 7: To continue the development of programs to raise environmental and social awareness**

**Success Criteria:**

- (i) Curriculum developed to provide greater focus on environmental and social issues;
- (ii) Environmental Co-ordinator appointed;
- (iii) Focused events such as Environment Week further developed;
- (iv) Review of Personal Social and Health Education completed.

**Strategic Plan Priority: 13**

**Objective 8: To promote our unique culture and identity**

**Success Criteria:**

- (i) Improved focus on cultural activities across the Island;
- (ii) Stronger partnership developed with Economic Development to promote culture, tourism and economic activity;
- (iii) Review of investment in Arts Trust and Jersey Heritage Trust completed;
- (iv) Promotion of the Island's heritage, culture and arts maintained via partnership agreements with JHT and other bodies;
- (v) Implementation of Cultural Strategy monitored and reviewed with a fully-costed plan showing the total cost of implementation prepared and presented to the States by April 2010';
- (vi) Environment established to develop creative endeavour;
- (vii) Development of local history, culture and the workings of Jersey's political system delivered through as

part of Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum;

- (viii) All States departments encouraged to consider the impact on heritage and opportunities for the development of the arts as part of their daily business;
- (ix) Increased awareness of our historical and cultural heritage through the school and youth work curriculum schools youth groups, adult education and partnership agreements with voluntary organisations.

*Strategic Plan Priority: 15 and 16*

**Objective 9: To manage staff and resources so as to improve performance and provide value for money**

***Success Criteria:***

- (i) Financial forecasting system in place;
- (ii) Financial balance achieved and total budget and spend profiles consistent with forecast;
- (iii) Costs of each defined service area and relevant overheads identified, so that meaningful comparisons can be made year to year and with other jurisdictions;
- (iv) Management costs minimised to ensure maximum resources are directed to front line services;
- (v) Explicit link between budget prioritisation process and Strategic Plan objectives demonstrated;
- (vi) Review of internal control systems ensures adherence to financial directions;
- (vii) Prioritisation across sections of the department ensures corporate objectives are resourced and achievable;
- (viii) Effective financial planning, monitoring and reporting evident across all sections of the department;
- (ix) Annual review of demographics completed and implications for future services identified;
- (x) Review of funding arrangements for schools completed;
- (xi) Review of management structure of ESC Department undertaken by April 2010 to ensure it is fit for purpose and cost effective.

*Strategic Plan Priority: 4*