

Submission:

Mrs Valerie Payne.

Personal views as a professional with 40+ years of experience and a Masters in Early Years and Childhood Education.

- Directors of Education over the years have looked to UK to influence decision making, which has resulted in missed opportunities for Jersey as a result. This should not be allowed to continue.
- Top down approach is not good. Bottom up would take account more of the highly trained and professional teachers.
- Early Years Childcare Partnership (EYCP) did a good job and is being re-instated by current director.
- Different staffing ratios between Day Care and Nurseries provide different levels of care (Different product)
- More staff are needed in Nurseries.
- Department could work more closely with private sector to create a better service overall.
- Jersey has a huge amount of expertise in this area, but needs more active staff.
- Different qualifications needed for private day care / States nursery staff.
- Realistically, no change needs to be made to the current framework if:
 - i. More training is provided for staff
 - ii. Teacher Assistants should be Nursery Nurses
 - iii. EYCP should be up and running (It is understood that a chairman is being sought)
 - iv. Children's environment / socialisation makes huge difference.
 - v. Communication needs improvement between Parents / Teachers and the Department.
- If provision for 3 year olds was improved, the need for change (perceived or real) would not be necessary.
- The current system probably works for large majority of children and parents.
- Summer born and vulnerable children may be disadvantaged with current system.