

Health, Social Security & Housing Scrutiny Panel

Income Support Sub-Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: **8th December 2009**

Meeting Number: **6**

Present	Deputy G.P. Southern, Chairman Deputy T. Vallois, Vice Chairman Deputy D. De Sousa Connétable D. Mezbourian
Apologies	Connétable S.A. Yates
In attendance	Mr. E. Le Quesne, Advisor S. Le Quesne, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Minutes The Sub-Panel received and approved its minutes of the 24th November 2009.</p>	
<p>Item 2 24.11.09</p>	<p>2. Review update The Sub-Panel received an oral report from the Chairman and was advised as follows -</p> <p>Following the approval of the Sub-Panel's proposed working practice of basing a Scrutiny Officer at The Bridge in order to conduct questionnaire-based interviews with clients, the practical arrangements were confirmed. These included: the fact that the Officer would share office space with another worker; that the weekly rent for the space would amount to £50 for three mornings; that permission had been granted for States IT workers to install networked computer services for use by the Officer.</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Sub-Panel that he had lodged Proposition P.208/2009 <i>Brighter Futures: funding for 2010 and beyond</i>.</p> <p>The Sub-Panel was informed of a meeting to be held between the Chairman and Officers of the Social Security Department and the Statistics Unit, the purpose of which would be to discuss the inclusion of Sub-Panel questions in the forthcoming Jersey Annual Social Survey (JASS). The Sub-Panel then discussed the nature and significance</p>	

	<p>of the JASS, and the type of questions that might be included in it.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that a representative of The Self Advocacy Project had agreed to assist the Sub-Panel in its research by giving clients of the Project the option to fill out the Sub-Panel's questionnaire on deprivation levels. The Chairman also stated his intention to propose the topic of Self Advocacy as a review for the Health, Social Security and Housing Panel's 2010 work programme.</p>	
	<p>3. Sub-Panel Questionnaire</p> <p>Members reviewed drafts of questionnaires on deprivation levels intended for use by the Sub-Panel in its face-to-face and online client assessments, and also by States Members and stakeholders who have access to core client groups. Various amendments were discussed and the Officer was directed to make the agreed changes to the master documents.</p> <p>Draft covering letters intended to accompany mailings of the questionnaires were also reviewed. Some changes were made and the Officer was directed to amend the master documents accordingly.</p> <p>It was noted that the Data Protection Office should be consulted on any potential confidentiality and data protection issues surrounding the Sub-Panel's questionnaires. The Chairman advised Sub-Panel Members that these steps had already been taken.</p>	<p>CLQ</p> <p>CLQ</p>
	<p>5. Income Support – Health Benefits</p> <p>The Sub-Panel considered a letter from a member of the public, who raised the issue of the inadequacy of health benefits under the current Income Support scheme. The Sub-Panel agreed that a response to reassure the sender that these matters are being reviewed by the Sub-Panel in its current work programme should be sent. It was also agreed that the reply to Miss Rabet's letter should be forwarded to Connétable M. K. Jackson, in whose parish Miss Rabet resides.</p>	<p>CLQ</p>
	<p>6. Next Meeting</p> <p>The Sub-Panel noted that the date of its next meeting would be agreed by email.</p>	<p>CLQ</p>

Initials
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Date:
26th January 2010

Deputy G. Southern
Chairman, Income Support Sub-Panel