

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION  
BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. JOHN  
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**Question**

Will the Minister provide members with the following information –

- (a) the budget allocated for birth parent support and advocacy services for each of the next three years;
- (b) the anticipated start date for these services; and
- (c) the expected benefits of introducing these services in reducing expenditure on social care interventions for new parents?

**Answer**

- (a) the budget allocated for birth parent support and advocacy services for each of the next three years;

A budget of £70,000 was allocated in 2021 for a pilot with an external voluntary organisation. The pilot has not been possible. No separate budget has yet been allocated for 2022 although it is expected that a pilot can be prioritised from existing resources.

- (b) the anticipated start date for these services; and

A pilot was anticipated to start in 2021 but this has not been possible. We are now planning to produce a specification for the service and to commission an external service provider.

- (c) the expected benefits of introducing these services in reducing expenditure on social care interventions for new parents?

The specification has not yet been produced. The anticipated benefits include a reduction in the repeat removal of children from the same family, thereby reducing the need for state intervention and oversight.