

# Health, Social Security & Housing Scrutiny Panel

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Record of Meeting

Date: 27th October 2009

Meeting 30

Present	Senator A. Breckon (Chairman) Deputy G.P. Southern (Vice-Chairman) Connétable S.A. Yates Deputy D.J. De Sousa
Apologies	Connétable D.W. Mezbourian
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs C. Le Quesne, Scrutiny Officer Mr. S. Le Quesne, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<b>1. Minutes of previous meetings</b>  The Panel approved, and accordingly signed, the records of its meetings of 13th September 2009 and 16th September 2009.	
<b>Item 4</b> <b>13.10.09</b> <b>517/13(8)</b>	<b>2. Income Support: Benefit Levels Review</b>  The Panel received an oral update from the Sub-Panel Chairman concerning the progress of the early stages of the review. The Sub-Panel Chairman apprised the Panel of his meeting with the Minister for Social Security, during which the Minister was supplied with the terms of reference for the Benefit Levels Review and was asked how the Department would envisage adopting a consensual approach to the work. The Sub-Panel Chairman also alluded to the challenge of making contact with various client groups (such as young, elderly and single parent beneficiaries of Income Support) who may want to make submissions to the Sub-Panel during the course of its review.  Deputy De Sousa stated her desire for childcare issues to be factored into the review, whilst noting that she had also received oral reports from Income Support clients that their cases were not being dealt with effectively by the staff at the Social Security Department.  Connétable Yates inquired whether the Sub-Panel had received any feedback from clients concerning recommendations that were made in <i>S.R.5/2009 A Review of Income Support</i> . It was agreed that the feedback had not been positive.  As background to the review, it was agreed that the Social Security Department should be contacted with enquiries concerning various budgetary cuts outlined in its 2009 Departmental Annual Business Plan.	<b>SLQ</b>
<b>Item 6</b> <b>13.10.09</b> <b>517/8(8)</b>	<b>3. Dental Health Services Review</b>  It was agreed that further research should be undertaken before the final scoping and terms of reference for a review of dental health services could be completed. To this end, it was decided that Deputy	

	<p>De Sousa and the Panel's Officers should attend a pre-arranged briefing at the Dental Department on 23rd November 2009.</p> <p>Officers were instructed to contact the Dental Department and the Social Security Department with a view to obtaining further information on the core client groups to whom the Dental Department is currently providing services.</p> <p>The Panel noted that any actions relating to the establishment or potential membership of a Sub-Panel should wait until a clear scope for a review had been finalised.</p> <p>The Panel requested information concerning the correct procedure for legislative scrutiny of the current provision of dental health services in Jersey.</p>	<p>SLQ</p> <p>SLQ</p>
<p><b>Item 3</b> <b>13.10.09</b></p> <p><b>517/5(8)</b></p>	<p><b>4. Long Term Care of the Elderly (S.R.12/2008) – Minister for Social Security Response</b></p> <p>The Panel acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Minister for Social Security, dated 16th October 2009, regarding the Department's response to S.R.12/2008. It was decided that <i>The (Draft) Island Plan (September 2009)</i> should be consulted and that the relevant excerpts pertaining to the provision of care for the elderly should be put before the Panel at its next meeting.</p> <p>The Panel also requested information on the States of Guernsey's provision of long-term care for its elderly residents.</p>	<p>SO</p> <p>SO</p>
	<p><b>5. Government Actuaries Department [GAD]: Consultation on Pension Provision and Funding</b></p> <p>After consideration of a letter from the Social Security Minister, dated 16th October 2009, in which the matter of further actuarial input on the Social Security Fund was broached, the Panel instructed its Officers to contact the Minister and ask which options for future consultancy work were to be offered to the Government Actuary's Department.</p>	<p>SO</p>
	<p><b>6. Protocol for Public Attendance at Scrutiny Hearings</b></p> <p>The Panel agreed that members of the public attending Scrutiny hearings should abide by the protocol set out in accordance with the approved protocol: <i>Members of the public observing scrutiny public hearings</i>.</p>	
<p><b>Item 5</b> <b>13.10.09</b></p> <p><b>517/9(8)</b></p>	<p><b>7. The Coordination of Services for Vulnerable Children Sub-Panel Review (CSVC)</b></p> <p>The Panel considered a confidential paper outlining the background to Proposition P.145. The Chairman also provided an oral update on relevant correspondence and issues related to P.145.</p> <p>The Panel also requested a short paper summarising the possible areas of contention within the Health &amp; Social Services Department's response to S.R.6/2009.</p>	<p>SO</p>
<p><b>Item 7</b> <b>13.10.09</b> <b>517/1(22)</b></p>	<p><b>8. Rental Deposit Scheme</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Housing Department should be asked to provide the Panel with a timeline for the implementation of the Rental Deposit Scheme.</p>	<p>SO</p>
	<b>9. Housing – Whitehead Report and Evictions Policy</b>	

<b>Item 1</b> <b>16.10.09</b> <b>517/1(22)</b>	<p>It was agreed that the Panel's Officers should contact the Housing Department to remind them of their stated intention to supply the Panel with answers to its written questions on the Whitehead Report.</p> <p>The Panel also instructed its Officers to obtain all relevant information regarding the Housing Department's current and recent policies on the eviction of tenants. Tenant eviction figures for the last three years were also requested.</p>	<b>SO</b>          <b>SO</b>
	<p><b>10. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The next Panel meeting will be on Tuesday 10th November 2009 at 9.30am in the Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p>	

Signed

Date:

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Chairman

Chairman, Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Panel