

Probation and After-Care Service

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Dear Deputy Ward

Government Plan Supplementary Questions

I am very pleased to answer the following supplementary questions:

“What progress has been made with the review of the Probation Service”

The review in relation to how the Probation Service works with the Prison Service and its overall governance took place the week beginning 30th September. The draft report is expected on 18th October.

“The Business Plan for additional funding of £35,000 p.a. for the partial financing of the Portuguese Offender worker mentions a total of £195,000 p.a to cover this role and 3 other roles. How is the remaining £160,000 being funded? Was the additional £160,000 covered by BASS funding as well?”

A bid was submitted for £195,000 but after discussions with the Justice and Home Affairs department I have been able to reduce this request to £175,000 after confirmation that 20% is already paid by the Probation Service in relation to the Court Liaison Officer post detailed below.

The extra bid will provide for the continuation of the three roles that currently receive BASS funding in addition to the Portuguese Offender Worker post. The roles of these three posts are as follows:

1. The **Court Liaison Officer** role provides an integral link between the Courts, the Probation Service and the Alcohol and Drug Service. Since the inception of the role the post holder has qualified as a Probation Officer. The post provides the courts with assessments and treatment options to give offenders the opportunity to enter into community based treatment programmes instead of receiving prison sentences which are likely to be more expensive and less effective. The assessment part of the role has developed and has negated the need for frequent expert reports to be commissioned by the criminal and family courts which were proving expensive. In terms of treatment, all young

offenders are provided with substance misuse education, the post holder delivers regular Alcohol Study Groups and monitors drug treatment orders imposed by the court.

This request is being made as the role is central to the department's Business Plan of providing information services and effective supervision to the island's criminal justice system. It also contributes to the third key departmental objective of monitoring and enforcing Court Orders to protect the public. It is an existing post that is consistent with the three main objectives of the BaSS strategy:

- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour through treatment initiatives
- Encouraging social inclusion
- Reducing the harm caused by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

It is also consistent with the government's current strategic aims of putting children first and improving the well-being and mental and physical health of islanders. In addition, the positive work of the post holder encourages a safer use of substances which is likely to contribute to a safer St Helier. Key threads that run throughout all these posts are the contribution to a safer and more inclusive society that works for the common good.

2. The **Restorative Justice Officer** request is made in order to continue a project primarily aimed at repairing the harms suffered by victims of crime by encouraging the offender to make suitable reparation. However, an important associated aim is to use restorative justice to help offenders to recognise the impact of their behaviour and to assist their successful reintegration into the community.

Victims are able to receive explanations and apologies from the offender who will be encouraged to make reparation for the harm caused. The method can involve calling together the offender and his or her family and the victims of the offending with their supporters to a conference to discuss and attempt to right the harm that is caused by the crime. The post holder also works at HMP La Moye and has been instrumental in organising meetings between perpetrators, victims and their family and friends in order to reduce the risk of conflict upon release from custody.

This work is consistent with the department's Business Plan of working effectively with offenders as it allows them to understand the impact of crime on victims and to make amends where appropriate. It is also consistent with the Strategic Priority of Improving Health and Social Well-being as the post has demonstrated an ability to provide satisfactory outcomes that have reassured victims whilst also promoting the successful re-integration of offenders into their communities.

A key strategic priority that is delivered by this project is prioritizing the needs of children. A significant amount of work is undertaken at Parish Hall level trying to divert children from the formal criminal justice system. The post holder also works with the Education Department as part of the early help "Right Help Right Time" initiative encouraging children and families to resolve conflict in the communities. Increasingly,

the worker is being invited to schools to help mediate between students where there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The concept of restorative justice features heavily on the Youth Justice Review 2018 and an island wide restorative justice strategy is recommended. I am confident that this will be an area of future growth and will entail consideration of extending this current part time post.

3. The **ADAPT Domestic Violence Programme** is currently delivered by the Probation Service following the winding up of the Jersey Domestic Violence Forum charity which was unable to sustain the programme due to a lack of funds. The programme is highly successful. Figures from the States of Jersey Police which include callouts and Police intelligence show that more than two thirds of those attending the programme have not caused concern two years afterwards.

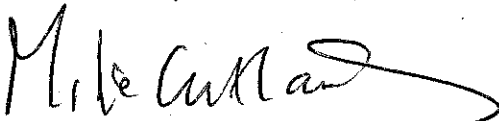
The delivery of the programme is entirely consistent with the strategic priorities of putting children first and improving well- being. The course contains a module about the effect of domestic abuse on children and several men are referred by the Children's Service as the programme is available to men who are subject to Probation Orders and those who either self-refer or have been referred by other agencies. The positive feedback by victims, in terms of the impact of the programme, indicates that it is making a positive contribution to the well-being of the island. **ADAPT is the only domestic abuse programme currently being delivered in Jersey.** The effectiveness of the programme has been endorsed in the last three years in separate reports by the Safe Lives charity and the London City University.

Unfortunately the current funding from BASS for these posts of is now insufficient and an extra £29,000 is requested in addition to the £146, 000 the department receives. This is primarily in relation to the funding of the ADAPT programme. As highlighted above, the current funding is insufficient for staff wages. It also does not allow for training and consultancy with the Hampton Trust. The Victim Support Worker role is under developed.

In addition it has also been necessary to request further money for the Portuguese Offender Worker as the current sum no longer covers 50% of the post holder's salary.

I hope this provides a satisfactory explanation to the questions.

Yours sincerely



Mike Cutland
Chief Probation Officer