WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 14TH JUNE 2016

Question

Will the Minister inform members in detail of what plans he has under consideration to review and redesign his department's community and social services provision for adult social care and long term care? What estimates has he made of budget savings arising from these proposals in total and in each year over the period of the 2016-19 MTFP and as a proportion of the total budget for such care? Will he further state whether this review will involve any loss of FTE posts, and if so, how many and in what year? What proposals does he plan to bring forward for older adult nursing home in-patient services as part of the review and redesign process? Is consideration being given to cessation of such services and, if so, what will replace them, what loss of posts would his proposals entail, if any, and what estimates does he have for departmental budget savings, both in non-staff and staff costs in real terms and as a proportion of the older adult budget?

Answer

Health and Social Services is one of the priority areas identified by the Council of Ministers in the States Strategic Plan and as such is receiving almost £40 million of additional annual funding by 2019. This is in addition to £28 million additional annual investment that was agreed in the first Medium Term Financial Plan.

However, the department is always seeking to deliver services to Islanders in the most efficient and effective way possible, while prioritising the safety of patients. As one would expect, services are always under review to ensure value for money. The department is seeking to deliver savings through sustainable efficiencies, service redesign and cost reductions. Future plans are currently being finalised and will appear in the MTFP Addition. This would include changes, if any, to my department's community and social services provision for adult social care and long-term care.

The Medium Term Financial Plan Addition is due to be lodged with the States Assembly on Thursday June 30th and detailed proposals for savings and investment will be made public on that date. States Members will receive a detailed briefing on the plan before it goes into the public domain.

Ministers have been considering the potential impact of the package of measures contained in the MTFP Addition.