



EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

15th September 2005

Investing in
Our Future: A
Vision for
Early
Childhood
Education and
Care for
Children in
Jersey
(R.C.54/2005)
548/4(8) ✓

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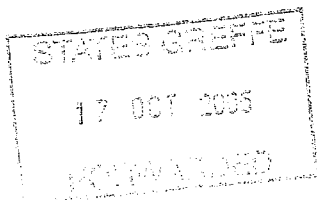
A7. The Committee, with reference to its Act No. A5 of 22nd July 2005, recalled that it had requested a joint meeting with representatives of the Education, Sport and Culture Committee to discuss the report entitled 'Investing in Our Future: A Vision for Early Childhood Education and Care for Children in Jersey' (R.C.54/2005 refers).

The Committee welcomed a delegation of the Education, Sport and Culture Committee consisting of: Senator M.E. Vibert, President; Deputy J.B. Fox; Mr. M. Lundy, Assistant Director; and, Ms. Y. Thebault, Early Years Adviser.

A presentation to the Committee was delivered by the Assistant Director, Education, Sport and Culture. He explained that Objective 3.7.1 of the Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010, which called for an integrated and sustainable approach to education, formed the basis of the Education, Sport and Culture Committee's proposals for early childhood education and care. Childhood development was acknowledged as the main theme of the report, although the relevance of other factors, such as the desirability of encouraging mothers to return to employment, was acknowledged. A case for change had been identified based on the affordability, equity and accessibility of existing childcare provision. Options for promoting and funding improvements were discussed. Attention was given to the subject of wrap-around care. It was contended that the benefits of wrap-around care did not necessarily outweigh the disadvantages and that the lack of continuity resulting from exposure to several different childcare environments could be unsettling for children. Senator M.E. Vibert brought the presentation to a close by explaining that the Education, Sport and Culture Committee wished to constitute a working party, comprised of officers from both Committees, to develop an integrated childcare strategy based upon R.C.54/2005. He proposed that the working party should be chaired by the Assistant Director, Education, Sport and Culture and that its first task should be to produce a position paper.

The Committee expressed some concern regarding the current workloads of its officers and agreed that there was limited scope for officers to take on further work. It nevertheless recognized an effective integrated childcare strategy would have a significant positive impact upon the aims and objectives of the Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010. **On that basis the Committee agreed to support the formation of a working party, comprised of officers of the Committee and the Education, Sport and Culture Committee and chaired by the Assistant Director, Education Sport and Culture, to produce a suitable position paper for analysis.**

The Greffier of the States was requested to send a copy of this Act to the Education, Sport and Culture Committee.



Greffier of the States