WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER CENTRAL QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 6th MARCH 2023

Question

Given that the key findings of the Jersey Care Model Review, as detailed within the Jersey Care Model, adopted under P.114/2020, state that "There is an urgent need to change primary care payment mechanisms in the short term with an opportunity to update them in the longer term", will the Minister advise –

- (a) what progress has been made, if any, to change primary care mechanisms; and
- (b) how she proposes to manage the transition of the funding for the preferred funding option, Option
 - (i) for vulnerable groups; or
 - (ii) universal coverage at a total cost of £14.5 million per year?

Answer

As set out in the response to WQ.174/2022 the Minister for Health and Social Services is, in accordance with the Government Plan 2022 and 2023, undertaking a wide review of the Island's health and care costs. This work is underway. Specialist health economists are currently working to estimate total health care expenditure for Jersey (including government and non-government spend) and developing options for change. This review is focusing on funding for the whole health care system, rather than only the primary care payment mechanisms as per Option 2 as described in P114/2020.

The review is examining options for ensuring that any proposed new funding system builds in equity and fairness and works to protect the health of vulnerable groups. The potential implementation of Option 2, as described in P114/2020, and any associated transitional arrangements, will be considered after the review is complete and both the public and providers have been consulted on funding options.