

Extracts from the States Strategic Plan

Included amongst the 'new priorities' identified in the Plan was to "develop an integrated Social Inclusion Strategy to include:

- **Early years childcare**
- Access to high quality affordable housing
- Anti-discrimination policies
- Policies to address social inequity"

Objective 2.7 was "access to high quality learning opportunities." This would be indicated by, among other things, a "higher proportion of children [who] have access to affordable early years education and care."

Action 2.7.1 says that the following will be done:

Bring proposals to the States in 2006 for an Early Years Strategy which will increase the number of children with access to affordable and equitable early years education and care

Extracts from the 2007 Departmental Business Plan

Objective 1 of the Plan is to "ensure the maximum achievable and equitable benefit from the Department's investment in Early Years education and care."

The Performance/success criteria for this objective is:

- An increase in the number of 3-5 year olds receiving "early years" programmes.

One objective of the Division of Life-Long Learning is "contributing to the establishment of an integrated policy and strategy of childcare and early years based on well defined regulatory policy and partners agreement between all stakeholders." This will be indicated by the "level of satisfaction". The target are to "carry out consultation exercise to determine impact of regulatory policy and review policy in light of feedback." This will be done by November 2007. The risks to this work are that "outcomes of consultation process on integrated strategy of childcare are unpredictable [and that] community aspirations may exceed government ability to deliver"

One objective of the Division of Schools and Colleges is "to develop and implement an integrated strategy for early years." The indicator for this is that "all 0 to 5 year olds have access to affordable high quality early childhood education and care programs [and that] a review of support for families with children 0 to 5 completed." The targets are "Cross Department Senior Officer Group established to develop strategy [and that] any necessary structural recommendations [are] implemented." This will be done by 2008. The risks are "inefficient use of resources, difficulty establishing cross agency communications [and that] private sector not sufficiently supported and/or support not forthcoming from private sector."