

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE BY
DEPUTY T.M. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2009**

Question

“Would the Minister confirm whether responsibility for the Jersey Youth Service has changed from the Assistant Director: Lifelong Learning to the Assistant Director: Sport and Leisure, and, if so, will he, as a result of this change, give assurances that Jersey will not follow the direction of some UK authorities with youth work losing its informal education focus to that of simple leisure provision?”

Answer

Whilst this is an administrative matter for the Department, I can assure the Deputy of St. Helier that Jersey will not follow the direction of some UK authorities and that youth work in Jersey will not lose its informal education focus as a result of the structural changes that have taken place within my Department.

Whilst Assistant Directors within DfESC have clearly defined responsibilities, they also have a collective responsibility for the overall management of the service.

The change of the Principal Youth Officer’s responsibility from the Assistant Director Lifelong Learning and Culture to that of Assistant Director Sport and Leisure is an administrative change to balance workload between Assistant Directors, to ensure that the Youth Service has adequate access to the senior management of the Department, and to enable us to explore the natural synergies which exist between community development work, youth work, sport and leisure.

There has been no change in the philosophy which underpins youth work practice and the Youth Service – supported by the Assistant Director Sport and Leisure will continue to work towards the achievements of its published strategy.