



Common Strategic Policy Review Panel

Public Hearing

Witnesses: Minister for Social Security and Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

Monday, 27th October 2025

Panel:

Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North (Chair)

Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade (Vice-Chair)

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of St. Saviour

Deputy C.D. Curtis of St. Helier Central

Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade

Deputy A.F. Curtis of St. Clement

Witnesses:

Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central, the Minister for Social Security

Deputy R.J. Ward of St. Helier Central, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

Ms. S. Le Sueur, Chief Officer, Employment, Social Security and Housing

Ms. S. Duhamel, Associate Director, Public Policy, Cabinet Office

Mr. K. Posner, Interim Chief Officer, Children, Young People, Education and Skills

Mr. J. Williams, Programme Director, Children, Young People, Education and Skills

[11:15]

Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North (Chair):

We are online. Good morning, still morning. Welcome to the Common Strategic Policy Scrutiny Review Panel public hearing. Today we have with us the Minister for Social Security and the Minister

for Education and Lifelong Learning. We will concentrate on general question of Common Strategic Policy delivery. How did it work across the departments? We will also ask about the risks and risk management outcomes and impact for the people of Jersey. But before we go to the questions, let us do the introductions. Deputy Inna Gardiner, President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee and Chair of the Common Strategic Policy Scrutiny Panel.

Deputy H.M. Miles of St. Brelade (Vice-Chair):

Deputy Helen Miles, Vice President of the Scrutiny Liaison Committee and Chair of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of St. Saviour:

Deputy Louise Doublet, I am Chair of the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel.

Deputy C.D. Curtis of St. Helier Central:

Deputy Catherine Curtis, I am Chair of the Children, Education and Home Affairs Panel.

Deputy A.F. Curtis of St. Clement:

Deputy Alex Curtis, Member of the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel.

Deputy M. Tadier of St. Brelade:

Deputy Montfort Tadier, I am Chair of the Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Thank you, and Minister please?

The Minister for Social Security:

Deputy Lyndsay Feltham, the Minister for Social Security.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Deputy Rob Ward, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

Interim Chief Officer, Children, Young People, Education and Skills:

Keith Posner, Interim Chief Officer in C.Y.P.E.S. (Children, Young People, Education and Skills).

Programme Director, Children, Young People, Education and Skills:

Jonathan Williams, Programme Director for C.Y.P.E.S.

Chief Officer, Employment Social Security and Housing:

Sophie Le Sueur, Chief Officer for Employment, Social Security and Housing.

Associate Director, Public Policy, Cabinet Office:

Sue Duhamel, Associate Director in the Cabinet Office.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Thank you. I will start with a very simple question. I will start with the Minister for Social Security. In what ways does your department's budget contribute directly to the delivery of the 13 Common Strategic Policy priorities?

The Minister for Social Security:

In relation to the budget, we have obviously got the reduction of G.P. (general practitioner) fees, which is funded through the Health Insurance Fund. So that does not necessarily, because it comes through the H.I.F. (Health Insurance Fund), appear in the budget and Government Plan documents that get debated. But that is something that is obviously within the budgets that Sophie is responsible for. Again, the transition to the living wage, we have the money from the Better Business Support Package, which again then gets put into the budget of the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development. We have the Registered Employee Support Scheme money within our E.S.S.H. (Department for Employment, Social Security, and Housing) budget. I am just double checking that I am not missing anything else, but I think at the end of the day, anything to do with affordability and enabling people to live on the Island and help with the cost of living. So, for example, what we are doing in this budget this year in relation to the childcare provision, which is coming from that reduction in the States grants, so that the work that we have done around the reduction in the States grant to free up money so that they are available for other C.S.P. (Common Strategic Policy) priorities is, I think, a really important piece of work that I have been able to support other Ministers with.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Okay, thank you. Minister.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

So what is the question again?

Deputy I. Gardiner:

What priorities from the Common Strategic Policy within your remit and if any other priorities are at risk for non-delivery due to the budgetary or resource constraint?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Well, I am pleased to say that as long as the Government Plan is agreed and the money comes forward, that the 3 priorities that I have, which are, I am pleased to say the first 3, although they are not in that order, but as I have said before in other hearings, as Minister you would want them to be in that order, of course you would, but extending nursery and childcare provision, the money is budgeted for and that is the right amount of money. I am sure we will get questions later. The school meals are in place and the money is for there. There is an increase in the provision. We have done a lot of work on the lifelong learning skills and development with some of the things that we have brought forward in terms of higher education funding and the funding in those areas and the living wage support scheme as well. So there is things there. I have got to say that mine is more the delivery of things and spending the money, which is very pleasing to do, rather than providing the money from the funds, to be quite frank.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

A question. In terms of the delivery of the legislative programme under your ministerial remit, what draft legislation will no longer be delivered in this term? Are there any legislation?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Not really. I do not think there are.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Can I ask about the review of the Education Law that was previously planned?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Yes, the review of the Education Law, I think, is something for a new term because it is a huge piece of work and needs to start at the beginning. I have always taken the approach to say that what small parts of the Education Law can be changed are obvious now. I think any things that we want to do just involve small changes there, particularly higher Education Law. They have been quite simple to do. However, we are doing a lot of work, which is not to do with the C.S.P. admittedly, around governing bodies and the relationships with schools and structures of schools and that work needs to come through. That would be like, if I can say, a symbiotic relationship with the Education Law as we make those changes.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

How long would it take and how much would it cost to fully review the Education Law?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Good question. I am not prepared for that because this is a C.S.P. hearing, but I think in terms of time, I could not give an estimate on time or cost to review the entire Education Law.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Are you able to start any of the work at the end of this term to prepare for the next term?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

What do you think we have started? I mean, we have undertaken some work around some areas and the budget and the laws around governing bodies, the work we are doing there, the work around, but that is more to do with provision of higher education funding, which is a slightly different area. We have also got the S.E.N. (Special Educational Needs) provision. The S.E.N. provision we presented to the Assembly the other day. We have been very open and transparent about that. It may need some law changes, but I think we need to look at our structure and see what law changes are necessary and what we can do without those law changes. I think we can make change without law changes. However, what I would hope, and whoever is in this position in the next 4, 10, 12, 15 years, doing the right thing in those terms will drive the right changes to law as well.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Okay. Increased provision of lifelong learning and skills development, and it is connecting to the Education Law. Was it any work done for increasing age for educational funding up to 18, 19, to ensure that everyone has a chance?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Yes, that is something that we are working on. One of the things I would want to do, we are looking at actively at the moment and the work is ongoing, whether it will be ready before the next election, hopefully it will become an issue around it because I think it is so important, is to look at making apprenticeships a statutory requirement, a statutory right, sorry. So that they are treated in a slightly different way. In the changing world of qualifications, the changing world of provision and the changing world of need for our Island, that is something we could certainly do. There is money, we have made changes to distance learning and access to distance learning, make it equitable to the funding for in-person learning, which I think is a good step forward.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

The question is, any changes to the Education Law for the statutory provision for education up to 18, 19 will be done during this term?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I am not going to bring forward making the compulsory age to 18 in this term. I do not think we are in a position yet to make that meaningfully. I would rather do the work on what that means first.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Can I ask a cross-cutting question and the other Minister will be familiar with this line of questioning. Data shows us that there are around 21,000 Islanders living in poverty and 4,000 of those are children living in relative poverty. How have you worked together to tackle this? Indeed, have you worked with wider ministerial departments? Does this budget go far enough to tackle child poverty?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Well, there is 2 things here. One is in terms of the C.S.P., which is what we are talking about, I believe, in this hearing.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Yes, of course.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

The 3 things that I think are in it from my perspective, the provision of 15 hours of 2 to 3 nursery care, I think will go some way towards addressing need because that is real money. It is worth up to £6,127, I have got the correct figure in my head now, for every family with a 2- to 3-year-old, which I think is real support. I think the school meals is a very important thing for families. They are free if you are on Jersey Premium. I would love to have extended that to everybody, but financially I think that is very, very difficult to do. However, they are also subsidised, so a hot meal is more affordable than it would have been and I think that makes a difference in terms of feeding our children in schools, so I think that is a good thing to do. In terms of the wider Government Plan, there is a huge debate there to be had. We could spend 2 hours talking about whether we are addressing child poverty enough as an Island. You know my political views on that. I do not think we are going to really address child poverty until we change our tax system and have more equity on who pays and what we can spend.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

What would that look like?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Well, it would mean, for example, having one type of tax system. I will refer you to my manifesto. That has been in there for many, many years.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

About the school meals, in terms of targeting the school meals, and again the Minister will be familiar with this, we understand that the free school meals are targeted at pupil premium, which is income support families plus those who have not been here for 5 years but would otherwise be eligible. My

panel are certainly aware that there may be families that fall outside of this but are still in great need. Could you have a look at that targeting with the funds that would be available?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I think, yes, we would always want to do that. If you make them universal, obviously they are not targeted, they are universal. I think that is a decision to be made for future Governments as to whether we want to do that. I personally would support that, but that is for future Governments. In terms of other targeting, the budget is spent on what we are doing now. The meals themselves are subsidised, they are £2.50, which I do not know if you can put a packed lunch together for £2.50 anymore. Packed lunches were the bane of my life when my children were at school and so I do have to declare an interest that I am absolutely biased against packed lunches and if you just send them and say that food is there. I think, yes, we would want to do as much as we possibly can and I understand there is that next group of people who are not being affected by that. I think, yes, there is always more we can do, but at the moment we are trying to make sure that those school meals are absolutely ingrained in what we are doing into the future.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

We understand that parents can make a request and there is a discretion for headteachers. I am not sure the public know that, so I wanted to mention it.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

But I do not want to put that pressure on headteachers alone. I mean, they do, and I think headteachers do a fantastic job when it comes to that.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Can I have one final, and if you were going to slightly extend that targeting, where would you target it at?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I think perhaps there are other things that can be claimed in Social Security which you are the expert on and I am not and perhaps targeting around those areas would be one thing to do.

The Minister for Social Security:

I can add to this as well because we had a conversation just last week around the elements in the budget around the back-to-school bonus and how that is being implemented in a way to encourage families that may not have put the application for Pupil Premium in, which then leads to obviously the school getting benefits, but also school meals as Rob has just said. Ensuring that people know that they can and that they are getting what they are eligible for is a real key component. Obviously,

we have had the conversation across the table before around the back-to-school bonus as well, but also the higher minimum wage and helping families that are struggling.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I will hand it to Deputy Miles because of the time, I am mindful of the time.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Just one really tiny point. There is absolutely no stigma attached to applying for Pupil Premium and I want to say publicly please do make sure you apply.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

It is important, thank you.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

I have just got some follow-up questions about the C.S.P. in its entirety. Scope is narrowed to 12 core priorities. The 13th was added, the carbon neutrality. Do you think narrowing the focus to a limited set of priorities has worked?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I think there is a reality to that in that there is one year until the election. If you want to get anything done, you are going to have to narrow your priorities. Otherwise, you will end up making generic statements that you cannot succeed in.

[11:30]

There is also a lot of things that are business as usual that, if you put into a C.S.P., they are going to get done anyway, so you have to challenge yourself as a Government. I do not think it has. I think there could always be more, but I think these things will be different at the beginning of a 4-year term than at the end of a 4-year term in terms of getting things done.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Does the Minister for Social Security want to add anything to that?

The Minister for Social Security:

Yes, I think what was important for me when we developed the C.S.P. is being very outcomes focused. You will know, again, I brought an amendment to the previous C.S.P. to then have a direct link into the Island outcome indicators as well, which have been improved. Before I came into this hearing, I did have a look to see where we are tracking, and it is difficult because obviously we do

not have all of the latest data. One thing that I am pleased of that we have achieved as part of the increase in the minimum wage is that we now have seen real wages increasing at a higher level than the cost of living. That does mean that people are better off because of that increase in wages. Obviously, I am keen to see outcomes-based accountability and I am pleased that this C.S.P. was based on that.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I could also add, for example, I will give a tangible example, that the learn and grow development of 2-year-olds Island outcome indicator, we are seeing a slight increase in those 2-year-olds reaching their developmental stages. I think some of the work we have done with pilot schemes for 2- to 3-year-olds targeting those who perhaps need the most support is showing some real fruition now and I do not want that to end and I want that to continue. That is a really good indicator we need to keep going. I mean, I know there are indicators and any stats is a stat, but I think it is important.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

In terms of the current budget, both as Ministers obviously you have had to operate around the Council of Ministers table. I can imagine that the discussions have probably been frank and forthright about proportion of budget compared to perhaps the other priority, the big one of health. So looking at the current budget and what you have achieved, what would you ideally have liked to see in there that is not included?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I think we would therefore be changing the priorities. I think I am pleased that the money for 2- to 3-year-olds is there. I believe that was accepted around Council of Ministers because of the importance, the tangible effect we can have for families with 2- to 3-year-olds and I think that is very good. What else would I like to have seen? I think these are things that are deliverables and so you are asking me to replan the C.S.P. in the C.S.P. hearing. I do not think I can do that.

Deputy H.M. Miles:

Okay, thank you. Is there anything that you would like to add, Minister?

The Minister for Social Security:

I was pleased that we have got some practical things in this budget. I am conscious that I have got a short time available to deliver, so I am pleased with where we have got to. Obviously we all have our own manifestos. We would all like to see our manifestos funded. That is where you would start when you are looking at, if it was my budget and my budget alone, you would look at your own manifesto commitments and committing to that. But I think, considering that we came in mid-term into Government, I had an 18-month plan which I have ensured was a deliverable plan to make sure

that we could focus on achieving things. We have got things like the whistleblowing legislation currently being worked on and that will be delivered towards the end of the term. I am keen to see the work that is being done on minimum income standards being completed so that then we have a better ability to look at what those key critical issues facing people affordability-wise are. I think then that puts us in a really good position for the people planning the next Common Strategic Policy to be well informed in relation to social benefits, for example.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Thank you. Deputy Tadier, it is about the risks.

Deputy M. Tadier:

Thank you, Chair. Are the allocations to your department, Minister, informed by the Community Risk Register and are you aware of any key risks in your relevant area? If I could direct that to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning first, thank you.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Are you referring to the C.S.P. deliverables, the risk to the C.S.P. deliverables? Because the biggest risk obviously would be that the money is not allocated in the Government Plan through the debate. That would be a risk. If we do not allocate the money that is put there for nurseries, then it is going to be difficult to deliver that funding when the money is not there, for example. The other risks are similar to the school meals, there are always risks to delivery of any project, which is tangible delivery of a project. In terms of lifelong learning, it is a very difficult one because there are so many things going on, but the risks to delivery there I suppose are in the area of making sure that we are directing the training and directing the need in the right place, but Skills Jersey have done an enormous amount of work on that and I think we are in a better place. We have been in a good place for some time, I believe, because they know the skills that we need. So there are less risks there. The biggest risks I think are just simply that money is not allocated as we need to that we have identified in its use, if that is answering your question, Deputy? It probably is not, I do not know.

Deputy M. Tadier:

I think the real risk; I suppose the real question for us is that the risk of the budget not being passed is fairly negligible. So, if we proceed on the basis that the monies that have been sought are allocated, can we talk about maybe the vocational training, the skills upgrading? You are obviously relying on other partners, both within Government and outside of Government, to deliver some of these key strategic priorities. Could you talk to us about the risks of it falling down at any one of those points?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Yes, of course. Whenever we deliver training and education on this Island, there are 2 main risks. One is staffing the training itself. Staffing is always going to be difficult for an Island and that skills delivery is always going to be difficult. So that is one of the areas of risk. But I think with the partners that we have, Highlands College being a really big one of those partners, I think we have a good relationship there and we are very clear as to what is happening in the future and what can and cannot be delivered. The other risk I suppose to delivery is getting companies and businesses on side to deliver, to enable that training to happen. I think at the moment we are in a position where businesses do understand the importance of training and development. But obviously, as pressures push on those, that is one of the first things that can go and I would try to urge them to not drop your training because you have got to think long term. If we get our people trained and we get our people in place for this Island, it means that we can deliver those things going into the future.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

There is a supplementary from Deputy Curtis.

Deputy A.F. Curtis:

I am curious, Minister, because you have mentioned that the key risk in particular to this hearing, which is the C.S.P., is allocation of funding. And you have highlighted that one of the wins that you think is the right priority is funding, for example, in 2- to 3-year-olds. But a key area that your fellow Minister has been questioned on is the Social Security Fund and the Reserve Fund in particular and allocations and the tension that there is clearly a reduction in funding the Social Security Fund to deliver funding of other things. In particular, one of them would be C.S.P. commitments. I wonder, as a Member of Council of Ministers sitting around the table making that decision, there has been talk of the risk that there is in lowering the fund there versus your risks delivering the C.S.P., how you have balanced and how your voice has been heard around the Council of Ministers in making this prioritised judgment in part to fund C.S.P. now versus reductions. This is one for the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I will make a point because I know the Minister for Social Security has made this point numerous times, but I will make a similar point from my view. If it was said to me: "Okay, so how are you going to fund this?" We have a number of ways to fund this. One way is to reduce, not to remove, but reduce the amount of money going into an incredibly healthy fund this year, which will have a direct impact for families on this Island. Would I have agreed that money if it was being spent on something else? I do not know. A project that I did not agree with? Perhaps not. Because, if we are going to not put that extra money in, and I think the discussion around that needs to understand that a significant amount of money is still going into the Social Security Fund and it is an incredibly healthy position. We can allocate this money from Government to make tangible change in the next one, 2,

3 years and not end that fund in the way that some people are perhaps suggesting. Is that a good use of that money? The answer is yes, because it is a tangible use of it. It means we can get on with doing something now and there will be benefits longer term.

Deputy A.F. Curtis:

Okay, but just to be clear, that risk balance that you see in reducing that funding is in 2 parts. One, because you believe it is a tangible delivery of aims that you want to see delivered that are prudent, but crucially that the reduction in fund from your perspective as judging part of the approving kind of body of the budget to the Assembly is it is not a risk. It sounds like you feel there is not much of a risk in reducing the funding because it is very healthy in your view and the balance is fine.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

There is always a risk when you move money in Government. There will always be a risk. The level of that risk needs to be considered. That is an incredibly healthy fund. I think, remember you are just not putting that additional money in. There is still money going into that fund. So I think, if you are calling it, risk is fine as a word, yes, I think that is a risk that is worth taking on that proportionally small amount of money for that fund to make a proportionally large impact for people on this Island, families, young children and the other things that are being funded through the use of that money. So I think that is a sensible use of that money longer term.

The Minister for Social Security:

Can I just answer that as well in relation to my assessments when looking at it, because one of the things that I did want to ensure is that we were dealing with things that were on the Corporate Risk Register. So, when I was being asked for money from other Ministers and the proposed solution was putting a smaller grant into the Social Security Fund, one of the things that I did think about was what the risks were on that Corporate Risk Register. That is why we see things in there that is being funded, such as funding for the emergency services, funding for children's residential care facilities, but also funding for things like digital health. We know that our I.T. (information technology) systems run a big risk currently. We currently have our large programme ongoing, our transform programme, which is around resolving a key risk within my department, which has been properly escalated by my Chief Officer on to the Corporate Risk Register. So your questioning is absolutely right. We absolutely needed to focus on what the corporate risks were to ensure that we had money going into the right places to ensure that we could reduce or mitigate the risk involved with those.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

It is really helpful, but I would like to challenge obviously the investment in digital health. It is one of investment. Saying this, that the Minister for Health and Social Services said that the extra funding that health received would go towards ageing population and day-to-day spending that are not going

to disappear after 4 years. As the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning said, this money used for 2, 3-year-old, which also will not be disappeared in 4 years. We know that this investment would continue. Now there is 2 different versions, and I would like to see what is happening. One, it is one of investment that might be relevant, which is on corporate, and one is ongoing spending that currently allocations came from the Social Security Fund. How you would suggest to fund these items beyond 4 years, not continue to withhold funds from the Social Security Fund?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Sorry?

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I am asking about sustainability. This is the 2 different approaches, which are 2 different outcomes.

The Minister for Social Security:

One of the biggest risks to the Social Security Fund is that we do not have a working age population on the Island paying into the Social Security Fund. So for me, this is one of the things that we need to balance. We had this discussion with my panel just last week about intergenerational fairness as well, and ensuring that we are thinking about the future generations in addition to current pensioners. I cannot reiterate enough, current pensioners have nothing to fear from the proposals in this budget. But what we do need to do is ensure that we are planning in the best way possible for future generations. That is why I have also asked for an additional review from the actuaries related to the Social Security Fund so that, again, this is putting the next Government in a good place to be making longer-term decisions. It is important that we have factual information before making any longer-term decisions. But again, things like the extension in nursery and childcare provision is really important in terms of ensuring that we do have a working age population on our Island.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I completely agree. I do not think that anyone around this table disagree with investment in the nurseries and work to subsidise 2 to 3. The question is, this needs to continue beyond 4 years and where the funding would come beyond 4 years, or it still needs to rely on the Social Security Fund.

[11:45]

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Can I add something to reflect on this? In terms of the fund itself, the Health Insurance Fund, for example, is going to be empty in 10 years if the current spending continues. I am not sure about the other funds, but that is 2 and a half political terms. What we would like to understand is what direction do you think it needs to go in to tackle that and prevent those funds being emptied?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

If you are asking me to make policy for future Governments, which is what you seem to be doing, our policies were really clear in our manifesto in terms of ways to raise money for a Social Security Fund, for example. There are caps in the Social Security Fund that we have brought to the Assembly 4 or 5 times and have not been voted for that would be raising money for the Social Security Fund to top that up, or we could use those funds in other directed areas. We have a different tax system for some than others, and perhaps that needs to be addressed. Within education, one of the things I would say is that as numbers drop in education, it may not be a situation where we need additional funding. We just need to keep the money that is there now so that we can use it more effectively with smaller numbers of children coming through. So there are ways in which we can fund into the future, but making policy in 4 years, I do not know. I mean, that is really difficult because we do not know what the economic situation would be then, we do not know what hue of Government we would have.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Can I clarify? So I am talking about this political term and thank you for clarifying about some of those policies and you mentioned raising the caps and reforming the taxation system. You are both in the same party I think, let us state that?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

But these are political questions that are being asked now, that is fine, I can answer them politically as long as they are recognised as political questions into the future. It has gone way off the C.S.P. now, but that is okay.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Are those policies, in terms of achieving what is in the C.S.P. now and into the future, are those policies, are other Ministers becoming more receptive to those? Do you feel that there is a shift in terms of those being accepted?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I do not think that I can answer about the political, I do not think I can answer as to where Overton window is going to be situated for future Governments. I think that is way beyond the C.S.P. hearing. I know where I would like it to be shifted, obviously.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

No, no, it is not about the C.S.P. When we have a decision you have 13 priorities and to achieve this priority within the C.S.P., the only way to achieve the priority is to reduce funds to the Social

Security Fund, not through the raised incomes, not through the making changes within the current budget. It was, currently, this is the only way to achieve C.S.P. priority. So it is not about political question or not political question, it is the fact.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I am sorry, you have asked me an overtly political question. Do I think they have shifted towards my party's line of thinking? I did not ask about the line of thinking.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I did not ask about the line of thinking.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

That seemed to be where it came from.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Okay, let us get to your point, to the Deputy Tadier.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I hope so.

Deputy M. Tadier:

In a similar line of thinking, the question we did ask the previous Minister, who is obviously not a party Member, I do not think, and something that he gave was an interesting answer, was that he said that the people in Jersey seem to expect better public services, so he was talking about healthcare, but also that we are working within the constraints of a headline tax rate of 20 per cent. So I suppose moving past this C.S.P., and I know strictly we are only here to ask about it, but are there risks if we continue to fund the Social Security Fund or continue to not put money in, it might be affordable in the short term, but at what point do you think future Governments need to make some strategic decisions about tax and spending, I suppose is the question being asked perhaps?

The Minister for Social Security:

I can answer that in relation to the advice that we received from the actuary and the actuarial review, which is very much around giving the future Assembly, because it will not just be the future Government, it will be the future Assembly voting on things. The advice or the information that they need to make decisions in relation to the States grant on an ongoing basis. We did commit to these priorities and making these priorities happen. We are and were, as a Council of Ministers, working within the parameters of where we are with the Assembly and other decisions that the Assembly have made this term of office, and Rob mentioned some of the propositions that have been put

forward to the Assembly around changes in taxation and contributions that did not go through. So this is very much us dealing with the revenues that we have coming in as approved by the Assembly. Again, the C.S.P. was approved by the Assembly and it was quite clear what those commitments were when the Assembly approved the C.S.P. as well. So we have to work within those parameters. Yes, we are a Council of Ministers, but we also are there to implement the decisions of the Assembly.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Thank you very much. We will move to the G.P. fees and I am handing to Deputy Tadier back.

Deputy M. Tadier:

Thank you, Chair. So turning to the Minister for Social Security, the Common Strategic Policy commits to reducing G.P. fees. What specific funding or policy measures in the proposed budget support this commitment?

The Minister for Social Security:

The reduction of G.P. fees was achieved pretty much as soon as we entered into office. So we increased the subsidy available to G.P.s for visits, also for some of the other services as well, such as telephone consultations. We have also implemented the free G.P. visits for the full-time students as well. Of course, we have the free G.P.s for children. So that was already implemented. It is not a matter for this particular budget. We have discussed the H.I.F. Deputy Doublet mentioned, and we have discussed that in my scrutiny panel as well. The work that I am supporting the Minister for Health and Social Services on to look at health funding holistically, because of course the money that we put into primary care and encouraging people to seek early intervention and resolve matters as soon as possible then leads to savings in secondary care. So this is very much continuing a cross-Government piece of work. What I will say is the way that our current agreement with G.P.s exists means that G.P.s then charge their own co-payments on top of that. It is really important that people know that information about G.P. charges is available on the Government website so that they can make decisions around who they are going to choose as their G.P. and be fully aware of what additional costs G.P.s may be charging. I am just trying to think if there was any elements of your question I may have missed there.

Deputy M. Tadier:

No, I think that seems so. Are you saying that this period will not be unrolling any new reductions in terms of G.P. visits?

The Minister for Social Security:

Not at this point in time. Where I am focusing is the additional money to extend Pension Plus to pensioners, to more pensioners, because I was concerned that there is quite a hard cut-off between

those pensioners that get access to other benefits and those that do not. So this is about smoothing that cut-off out. What that will also do is enable those pensioners that become eligible for Pension Plus to also access the health access scheme which will lead to cheaper G.P. fees for them. So that is where my focus is within this particular budget.

Deputy M. Tadier:

Do Ministers have any concerns about the fact that a G.P. visit can vary in terms of its length or in terms of the interaction you have with the patient and G.P.s? So one might last 5 minutes and be charged the same amount as a more complex meeting that takes place for 25-30 minutes. Are there any concerns about ensuring value for money for patients and for Government in this?

The Minister for Social Security:

Yes, I am always concerned about ensuring value for money. At the moment we have got the agreement with the G.P.s that we have got. That is something that I cannot be changing in this term of office. We also have an active live piece of work going on with pharmacy at the moment to try and improve what we have in regard to what pharmacy services can be done. We did the work regarding nurse prescribers as well. So there is all sorts of facets of work to ensure that the services available to people outside of the hospital are at the very best level that they can be. I can see Sue wants to add something.

Associate Director, Public Policy, Cabinet Office:

In terms of the quality of patient experience, there is a different payment-based stock which is called the quality improvement framework. The cash going into that it is also increasing over the next few years. So that is a very outcome-based measurement whereby you set targets, a clinical target is set each year for what doctors should do in terms of their patients. And they will get points, if you like, for hitting those targets, and there is cash associated with those points. So that is ongoing, and each year those targets get harder to achieve. So we are pushing doctors to improve their clinical outcomes year after year after year.

Deputy M. Tadier:

Who assesses those targets?

Associate Director, Public Policy, Cabinet Office:

The targets are set by a clinical panel with the Government, with the Minister taking final responsibility, and then they are assessed through the computer system that runs the clinical information that sits behind medical practice and personal health.

Deputy M. Tadier:

Thank you. Minister, can I ask about the proposed budget so that £59 million in health benefits from the Health Insurance Fund, how much of this is allocated to subsidising G.P.'s fees and to what extent is that level of funding sustainable and sufficient in the long term?

The Minister for Social Security:

I would need to get back to you in writing on that because off the top of my head I would not have that information. The H.I.F. funding going out to G.P.'s is not part of this particular budget process. I have obviously engaged with my scrutiny panel about the H.I.F. itself and also the work that I am doing with the Minister for Health and Social Services, but the Minister for Health and Social Services is leading around the whole health system and sustainable funding into the future for health. So it all does need to be seen in the round like that.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Thank you.

Deputy M. Tadier:

I am happy to pass on, Chair.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Yes, thank you. Deputy Doublet please.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Thank you. You mentioned some targeting of free G.P. appointments to children, for example. How can you further target those free G.P. visits or reduce fees for any other groups? Is that something that can be achieved within the current budget as it is proposed?

The Minister for Social Security:

I think, like I said, the targeting of the health access scheme to further pensioners is something that is a priority for me in this term of office. We have not got a lot of time left to be implementing new schemes. Last year, we focused on implementing the leg wound, the free leg wound dressings, which was the result of a successful States proposition and I was pleased to expedite that work and get that done because I know that makes a real difference, a day-to-day difference to people. So I am focused on what I can achieve and what I can deliver and everything that we do of course needs to also be negotiated with the service providers. So it is not necessarily a quick fix.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

When the funding is being targeted in terms of reducing the G.P. fees, how do you evaluate whether that funding has been targeted effectively so that you know whether to make any changes?

The Minister for Social Security:

I think that as well comes back to looking at what the outcomes are. One issue ...

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Is that the quality improvement framework that was mentioned?

The Minister for Social Security:

That is different. We have got that in relation to G.P.s and pharmacies as well. There is some quality work going on there.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

I think we might need to get this bit in writing as a follow-up. I will just ask a final one. Minister, do you believe that a different model should be considered for funding primary care that may include capping fees?

The Minister for Social Security:

My manifesto position on health care being free at the point of need is quite clear. I have obviously gone as far as I can possibly do given the parameters that have been set by the Assembly and the budgets available. But my manifesto position has not changed and I will continue working towards that.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Can I just say as well, free G.P. fees for children is really important and I think it has another impact which is about giving reassurance to parents. Because, if you are struggling, your child is ill and you are not sure, making that choice as to whether to go to G.P. or not is not something we should have to make for our children, and you do not have to now and that is good.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I think it is good. Going back to the G.P. fees and I am moving towards the ageing population; would you give a bit more details because ageing population is part of the Common Strategic Policy as a whole and also G.P.s are part of the Common Strategic Policy. What are this pensioners can expect through this work that you are doing to smoothen the hard cut?

The Minister for Social Security:

So obviously I have not got the budget approved as yet. That comes in and what we will then do is be able to finalise the details.

[12:00]

Just thinking off the top of my head, and correct me if I am wrong, I think it was about 1,000 pensioners that we were hoping to be able to bring into the new eligibility for Pension Plus. So the outcome will be that 1,000 pensioners will get access to the Pension Plus benefit. They will also then get the access through H.A.S.S (Health and Social Security) to the cheaper G.P.s as well. That is the outcome that I am working on at the moment.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Are you aware if any modelling is underway or has been done to assess the fiscal pressures arising from the demographic change, including obviously impact on the ageing population on public finance?

The Minister for Social Security:

There is lots of work happening across Government with regard to the ageing population. Of course, we have got cross-Government ministerial groups that work on things like ...

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Which ministerial groups are looking around the ageing population?

The Minister for Social Security:

So around the ageing population, we have the H.A.W.A.G. (Housing and Work Advisory Group) Plus group which looks at population and the demographic changes that are happening to population and what the risks are around that. With regard to cost of living, I also sit on the cost-of-living ministerial group as well. That is the ministerial group that is commissioning, via the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development, the work on minimum income standards as well. I was pleased, because we thought that we would only be able to afford with the money that we have got to do 2 different types of households, but it came out when we procured that piece of work that we can do multiple different types of households, so that information will be far richer than what I originally thought we would get, which is a good thing.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

One thing, it is from Common Strategic Policy, I will read it out: "We will make preparations for our projected demographic changes including our ageing population following birth rate and rising level of disability to ensure sustainability of our house provision. This would require understanding implication of the cost of the ageing population." Have you seen any data that can show how much it will cost now and it will cost in the future?

The Minister for Social Security:

I have seen multiple different reports and multiple different presentations all around that theme, because that is a theme that has a strand across the whole of Government. I know Sue is doing an awful lot of work in relation to population.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Have you seen the data how much unpaid care costs?

The Minister for Social Security:

I have not seen that specific piece of data to my recollection.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Is there any data that exists that can present unpaid care costs and how much Islanders who care for their people will add to the economy and how much it will require from the Social Security and others to support if it will not be in place?

The Minister for Social Security:

I am sure I can ask Statistics Jersey what they have.

Associate Director, Public Policy, Cabinet Office:

By definition, you cannot count something which is unpaid and sits outside Government systems. What you can do is we could give you information from the long-term care scheme. Long-term care scheme is set up to support people being cared for at home as well as in care homes. Within individual budgets of each individual person, there will be an allowance for the amount of support being provided by the family and the amount that is being provided through paid carers. Our system is already supporting informal carers through that combination of matching up what the family would like to do themselves with what needs to be brought in from outside. The long-term care also allows for respite budgets to be allocated and saved up to create respite breaks during the year as well as on a weekly basis.

The Minister for Social Security:

Can I just check, is the panel asking for care in relation to all care, so we are talking about parental responsibility, as well as people ...

Deputy I. Gardiner:

We will put it in writing questions, so we will put questions in writing and we will clarify there. I think it is important.

The Minister for Social Security:

Care takes a lot of different ...

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Yes, absolutely, we will get back to you with written questions.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Can I ask a clarification? You mentioned that with your additional funding, you could fund an additional 1,000 pensioners for the Pension Plus. How many are currently receiving it?

The Minister for Social Security:

I am not sure that number is right. It is £1,000.

Chief Officer, Employment, Social Security and Housing:

It will be people with a £1,000 tax liability.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Do you know the current numbers of who is receiving it and the numbers of who will receive it after the new funding?

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Let us grab these questions and we will follow up with written questions.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

If you can find it before the end of the hearing, that would be helpful.

The Minister for Social Security:

My apologies if I got my answer wrong.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

It is fine, we will follow it up. If you find the numbers before the end of the hearing, great. If not, we will follow up with written questions.

The Minister for Social Security:

As I said to my panel just last week, these projects will be scoped following the budget being approved. What I do not want to do is waste a lot of officer time scoping up something that is not going to be implemented because there is not the will of the Assembly to provide the budget.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

I am going to ask questions to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, but just quickly, a question to the Minister for Social Security. You mentioned about the ministerial groups including work on the ageing population. We heard earlier about the determinants of health group, which will include the Minister for Social Security. Will this also be looking at the ageing population?

The Minister for Social Security:

I am sure it will be. I think that is one of the Minister for Health and Social Services' groups that is being set up. I work closely with the Minister for Health and Social Services. We have got lots of things that we do need to work together on because my responsibilities coincide with some of his. It is important that we have systems that operate and work together. We are very, very cognisant of the impact of the ageing population on future health spends. I had a presentation with the Minister for Treasury and Resources and the Minister for Health and Social Services had a presentation just a couple of weeks ago and that was very much one of the topics and that is really why we know that the piece of work being undertaken about the full cost of healthcare across primary and secondary healthcare is so important.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Thank you. Minister, how is your department working to ensure that early years funding supports parents, particularly those on low incomes, to return to work or access training? For parents receiving income support, how would this impact their benefits if they took up part-time work? This is to both Ministers.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

In terms of focusing on the C.S.P., the 15 hours for 2- to 3-year-olds I think will have an impact for those wanting to return to work in a number of different ways. One might be parents who will say, "I can return to work part-time because I have childcare that I can afford." I think too many parents on the Island go back to work and are using their wages to pay for childcare. That is a reality I think for many families. So I think it can encourage people to get back into the workplace in that way. So that is one way in which we can do that. The other thing is that those parents who can access this money who are already paying for childcare may continue working in the jobs that they are in rather than stopping working because of the cost of that childcare. Because there comes a balance point. I know I had it when we had young children, where is it worth you both going out to work or is it worth one of you staying at home? With that support for childcare, I think we can keep people in the workforce. I also know that as Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning there is a majority of women who work in education. Women who are having children, if they want to come back for 2 days a week, for example, initially with that childcare available to them and come back part-time we certainly want to be flexible to enable that to happen within one sector, as an example.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Okay, thank you. But will that impact on people's benefits if they are getting income support already? How will that be balanced?

The Minister for Social Security:

Because of the earnings disregard, people are always better off when they are working rather than not working. So this is a positive thing. More parents can take jobs and afford childcare. We obviously have our childcare components of income support. In fact, Rob and I were talking on the way here about the work that we need to do across departmentally to ensure that people get the best outcome possible. But I do want to reiterate that, because of the disregard in income support, people will be better off for working.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Can I just clarify that the money that goes towards to pay for nursery fees will not affect income support. If somebody goes back to work and earns that is a separate thing in their earnings and income support. But parents are not going to lose out because they are having nursery fees paid. That is a very separate thing. I think it is really important parents get that message. That is not what that is about. It is not going to be seen as an income for them because it came from nursery care. So that is a really important point. So thank you for raising that and letting me make that point.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

So, has any consultation been carried out with the business community to see whether there is part-time work available that people might want to use?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I have been focused on the delivery of the nursery hours to be quite frank. I suppose ...

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

So that is a no then. This one is for the Minister for Social Security. How is your department working with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, employers and training providers to ensure that early years funding and childcare access supports parents to work or upskill?

The Minister for Social Security:

Obviously we are in initial stages of conversations. We had a discussion just the other day with both myself and Rob and officers around possible implementation of the early years. I am very keen, as I hope the panel are aware, to work collaboratively. I think it is really important that Ministers and departments work together to ensure that there are not unintended consequences because there is

a lack of communication. So I think what I can give my commitment to is that we will continue to have that collaborative work. Obviously, my department through the back-to-work area will also provide the additional support to people who are looking for jobs. They have the connections with employers as well and the jobs in Jersey side of things.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Minister, if you mentioned already back to work, have assessment been done or have any initial engagement was done with the businesses that will be able to provide a position employment options for between 12 to 15 hours if somebody would like to go back to work? Because it is kind of 12 hours probably with pick up and the other part of the question if back to work would have a design programme training for parents who have been out of work for a long time and they need different skills to go back to work because they would have an opportunity as we have now options for the funding.

The Minister for Social Security:

I think it is important to remember there might be the free hours, that does not prohibit people from working more hours as well. But also we do have the income support components that support kind of wraparound care as well. So we do need to check across the system. It might help I think if we do some kind of case studies around how this might work practically and then we can present that through to the panel.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I mean you have 2 months. Hopefully the budget will be approved and you would have 2 months before this would be implemented with the public. Parents would have a clarity that covers 15 hours, it is clear from the education perspective we are going back to the social security, what they can receive, which support, which training, how to interact with all wraparound as it will be presented.

Chief Officer, Employment, Social Security and Housing:

So, for those under 3, for parents of children under 3, there is not an obligation at that stage that you must look for work. But absolutely our back-to-work team are very focused on ensuring we can give the best possible support and we do have really targeted training specifically for parents returning to work. We run workshops and sometimes by bringing those together in groups we find that connecting with other parents who are also making that step back into work who have maybe had a few years out, it can be really powerful and part of that we often bring in employers. We do find that there is many employers who absolutely recognise that flexibility around working hours in certain industries in particular, we have worked quite closely with employers. So I think having that tailored support and everyone who is looking for a job can have a tailored one-to-one advisor. But the group

training that is sort of really focusing on, often it is a lot around confidence building and things like that, going back after that gap is something that back-to-work is really focused on.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

I am minded about the time; would it be okay to have extra 10 minutes? We have 2 more areas that we will finish within 10 minutes.

The Minister for Social Security:

I do have a drop-in starting at 12.30 p.m.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Okay, so 5 minutes. Let us get on with the questions.

[12:15]

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Can I ask the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, around the 15 hours for the 2- to 3-year-olds. Is that primarily to address the affordability of child care or does it address other aims such as accessibility and equality.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Yes, I would say that all of those 3 go hand in hand. It is about quality of child care as much as anything else. It is about accessibility and it is about financially helping families because it is a huge expense. So it is really difficult to prioritise any one of those. I will say however some of the work we have done with some of the groups, and our pilots have shown that that intervention early on, particularly where there are additional needs, is really, really paying for itself in terms of those children, for example, simply being ready for school. If you catch up that early, the benefit later on is just really difficult to measure, because it is enormous.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Thank you. Given the struggles with recruitment that the sector is facing, what support is being given to providers to enhance the quality of provision?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Yes, we are going through the second area. Perhaps you should say something here, Jonathan. Do you want to address that point about training.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

No, it is okay, because we have literally 10 minutes, apologies.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

We are trying to go for the second phase of the training programme and recruitment training, C.P.D. (Continuing Professional Development) and Workforce Plan. This is the first time we have included childminders which I think is a step forward because it gives choice and we have had some excellent discussions with childminders about what is it you need, how do you access that, and I think those are positive discussions that I have certainly learned from. We have learned from to get this right well into the future and make it that word sustainable that you have used into the future. It is always going to be a challenge. I will say however that, when we did the pilots, our recruitment was very, very strong. There were lots of people who want to be involved in those.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

You mentioned challenges. What are the main challenges?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

The challenges are going to be that, to be quite frank, childcare and looking after children early years has not been something we valued enough as a job in our society. I do not know if I am pushing at an open door when I say it is no coincidence that the vast majority of them are women in those posts, and perhaps it is just part of the reflection of the way our society sees those jobs. It should not be the case. So we have a piece of work to do there, and I will use this opportunity to say publicly, it is a really valuable area of our workforce that makes a massive difference for children, families and the future of this Island. So I would encourage people to get involved. It also requires skills. You need to have those skills and so it is a very skilled and valued part of our workforce.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Thank you. Is there a longer-term plan that you are kind of on track and working towards that includes fulfilling the Policy Development Board recommendations?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Yes, there was a lot of recommendations there, but I think this goes a long way towards meeting some of those. Is there something specific there I missed? Jonathan?

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

Is your long-term ambition still to have a transformation fund to enable a graduate workforce in the private settings?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Yes, in the long term I think that would be a very good thing to do but that is a long-term commitment. We have got to balance that really carefully because we want to make sure that our training is a graduated level of provision so that we can staff and we do not want this to be counterintuitive so we end up without a workforce. That is not going to work for us. But I think again this is valuing the profession, is it not? If you see another profession and say this could be a graduate profession into the future, that is a good thing I think in the future.

Deputy L.M.C. Doublet:

I have one more. In terms of child development, obviously 15 hours is the starting point for this universal offer. What is your view on what is best for child development in terms of are we working towards a 20 hours a week offering or would it be more?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

That was a really interesting discussion. I think that we need to work towards, and this is about funding, sustainable funding in the future, and I think it would be something that should be part of our debates in the coming years over elections, for example, is if we want to invest in our children and give those extra hours for families so they can return to the workforce, so that children can socialise in the way we want to with high-quality childcare, we are going to have to pay for it. We stuck on 15 hours for 38 weeks a year. I always get that wrong, that is why I checked, because we have got the money for it.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Thank you.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

Yes, so we still have a lot of questions but while we have got you both here this one is a good one. So will you commit to recommendation 13 of the Mason review and extend educational provision up to 25 years of age for people with special educational needs, ensuring that the transition from child to adult learning is part of a Jersey-wide plan for lifelong learning and support?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Do you want to talk about the transition work that is going on because I know that ...

The Minister for Social Security:

Obviously, there is a priority within the disability and inclusion space and within work that my team do around the transitions into adulthood for people with learning disabilities. We have got 4 Ministers involved in that piece of work. So that is myself, Rob, the Minister for Health and Social Services, and the Minister for Children. Also the relevant departments. Again, it is really important that this

is a collaborative piece of work, that we also hear from the disability and inclusion advisory group. One of the key priorities that my disability and inclusion team are working on collaboratively with the relevant departments.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

I think as well that the work that will go on following the S.E.N. review as to how we deal with all of those areas around, not just records of need, but whatever a record of need becomes because it is changing elsewhere. We have therefore, for young people as they go through the education system, good evidence of their needs. Why we do not extend that to 25 to enable them into the support in the workplace, I really have never understood. So, yes, I would like to see that happen. Can we guarantee that will happen before next election? I cannot make that guarantee right now but it is certainly something I think should go into now and beyond because it makes sense. It is a simple way, and I think it will make the process for social security and all of the organisations that support people up to 25 a lot easier. The example is what has happened with care leavers up to 25, that has got a very structured process in place. I am sure there will be errors somewhere along the line because there always are in whatever we do. But that is a model I think that we can use for the future.

Deputy C.D. Curtis:

So you cannot say that you will both commit to this extra support for people up to 25 with special educational needs, but you think it would be a good thing to do?

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning:

Well, no, I think we can commit to saying that, yes, that is exactly something that will happen, and a lot is already happening. So, for example, Skills Jersey, for example, when people are at university, if they are working on-Island they get support. There is a lot of support in education. We talk about the education part of it. But yes, I would say I would be absolutely committed to that because it is the right thing to do. But we cannot promise that is going to happen overnight. I think we need some work to be done on a number of things. But I think as we take on those challenges openly and transparently, which is what we have been doing, that is one of the things I think is absolutely achievable for us or any Government into the future.

Deputy I. Gardiner:

Thank you very much. Any urgent questions from anyone? No. Thank you very much for extra time and thank you for your answers. The public hearing is closed.

[12:23]