

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

25th June, 2019

Proposition No. P.2019/40

Policy & Resources Committee

Policy & Resource Plan 2018 Review and 2019 Update

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy H J R Soulsby

Seconded by: Deputy R H Tooley

To insert, after Proposition 3, the following Propositions:

"

4. To note that, since the publication of the Committee *for* Health & Social Care's "Committee Policy Plan Update" at Appendix 3(f) of the Policy & Resource Plan, the Committee has now identified certain gaps in services between primary and secondary mental health care, in both Guernsey and Alderney, by means of an evidence-based service-mapping, gap and issue analysis;
5. To note that the Committee *for* Health & Social Care will add an action to address these gaps in community-level mental health and wellbeing provision, in collaboration with States Committees, the Government of Jersey and the Third Sector, to its priorities for 2019-20, in fulfilment of the commitment in the Policy & Resource Plan to give parity between mental and physical health and wellbeing; and
6. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to work together with the Committee *for* Health & Social Care to ensure that appropriate provision is made in the 2020 States Budget in respect of this priority area, subject to the submission of a suitable business case (or cases)."

Rule 4(3) Information

At this stage there is no financial commitment. Any additional funding will be subject

to the relevant business case (or cases) and subsequent approval through the Budget process.

Explanatory note

In its Committee Policy Plan (Appendix 3(f) to the Policy & Resource Plan), the Committee *for* Health & Social Care (CfHSC) highlighted that it would focus on identifying perceived gaps in services between primary and secondary mental health care. This supports a successful amendment to the part of Appendix 1 of “The Policy & Resource Plan – Phase One” ([Billet d’État XXVIII of 2016](#)) entitled ‘Healthy Community’. Resolution 3h) included the requirement to recognise the need to treat mental health with equal consideration and priority to physical health.

Since preparing its Policy Plan submission, the CfHSC has completed a thorough evidence-based service-mapping, gap and issue analysis of mental health and wellbeing services. The findings of this mapping exercise are available from www.gov.gg/mentalhealthwellbeingplan. This has highlighted gaps in provision for Islanders experiencing significant stress or distress, but who do not require the services of the Secondary Care Mental Health Services and Consultant Psychiatrists. This includes the management of psychosocial difficulties that cause stress and distress, but in the absence of severe mental health disorders.

A physical space for people with mild or moderate stress and distress is lacking, with the default position often being police cells or the Emergency Department. Arguably both do not meet the needs of such service users well. Access to a recovery-orientated environment could assist the police and emergency services to access the right care for people, at the right place and the right time, that is conducive to promoting recovery.

The CfHSC proposes to meet these needs through the development of a range of options working in close conjunction with other key stakeholders such as Guernsey MIND and others in the Third Sector, the Police and the Government of Jersey to reinforce the role of good mental health and wellbeing in stronger, more connected and supportive communities. This work will build on a range of complementary services to include, for example, signposting to services and activities, access to a programme of social prescribing, peer support, mental health advocacy and support for people experiencing low to moderate amounts of stress and distress.

There is potential to introduce some of these services in partnership with Jersey, which shares similar challenges in supporting Islanders experiencing mental health problems. In particular, a shared telephone helpline could be a joint initiative to support Bailiwick of Guernsey and Jersey residents. Such opportunities will be explored further through the Joint Channel Islands Political Oversight Board.

It is anticipated that some of this provision would be self-funding but further work is required with other States Committees, the Government of Jersey, Third Sector groups

and others before definitive costs can be determined.

This amendment reinforces the States of Guernsey's commitment to achieving a healthy community and is aligned with the priorities of the Policy & Resource Plan Theme: Our Quality of Life. People with good mental health and wellbeing have better physical health and life expectancy, better learning outcomes and educational achievement, creativity, increased productivity and community engagement, and in general, a higher quality of life. This supports the 20 year vision of the Policy & Resource Plan for Guernsey to be among the happiest and healthiest places in the world.