

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

3rd November, 2026

Proposition No. P.2026/82

Policy & Resources Committee

The States of Guernsey Annual Budget for 2027

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy M Leadbeater

Seconded by: Deputy M Malik

1. To insert, in Proposition 16, immediately after the words “paragraph 6.27” the following:

“, subject to an additional £998,000 of expenditure for the Committee
for Home Affairs for the purpose of protecting vulnerable groups”

2. To insert, in Proposition 17(b), immediately after the words “paragraph 6.27” the following:

“, subject to an additional £699,000 of expenditure for the Committee
for Home Affairs for the purpose of protecting vulnerable groups”

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The propositions contribute to the States’ objectives and policy plans of the Government Work Plan 2026-2029, specifically the “Safe and Secure Population” objective of the “Island Resilience” area of focus and supports the principles and outcomes of the Justice Framework 2022-2029.
- b) In preparing the propositions, consultation has been undertaken with the Committee *for Home Affairs*’ operational Service Areas and the Policy & Resources Committee.
- c) The propositions have been submitted to His Majesty’s Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.

- d) This amendment would result in an additional £998,000 of expenditure for Option A and an additional £699,000 of expenditure for Option B.
- e) Drafting advice has been sought from the States' Greffier and the States' Treasury.

Explanatory note

Protecting the most vulnerable in our community must be an enduring government priority.

The Committee *for* Home Affairs (the Committee) would like to see greater investment in this area so that we have the strategies and policies in place and the services have the resources they need to truly place victims at the centre of the justice process. However, recognising the States' current financial position, this amendment does not seek investment, it is an amendment which will support the maintenance of existing services.

As an Assembly we have supported new legislation which demonstrates the importance of tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence, however, these provisions are already stretching services. An increasing caseload sets a risk of cases not being handled as well as they should be and victims potentially being put at risk. This amendment will go some way to ensuring that the legislative tools, services and strategies can be deployed to greatest effect.

Generally, the increased demand for services in relation to domestic abuse and sexual violence should be seen as a positive. It is indicative of an increased confidence in the criminal justice system. When it is largely accepted that these crimes go under reported success can be measured in increased reporting and demand. This does mean that it is essential that we maintain this confidence and that our services and those of our commissioned third sector partners are resourced to meet demand.

Successful prosecutions are also leading to an increasing number of offenders entering into sex offender treatment intervention and perpetrator programmes. Rehabilitation must be a key feature of an end-to-end justice system.

Responding to the increasing volume and complexity of offenders (particularly those convicted of sexual offences) requiring specialist assessment, formulation, treatment and risk management. Additional specialist consultation and staff supervision and training is required to effectively manage the risk of serious harm presented by offenders whilst in prison, through the gate and under statutory supervision in the community.

Developing trauma-informed practice in offender rehabilitation and response to victims in order to improve outcomes for those affected by serious harm in our community.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups		
	Option A	Option B
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) – Pilot service previously funded through the Government Work Plan, established Service unfunded in 2027.	£401,000	£401,000
Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence and Commissioned Services – including frontline services supporting the application of new legislation including protection orders and meeting the needs of victims and survivors.	£195,000	£104,000
Guernsey Prison, Probation Service & End-to-End Offender Management – responding to the changing and increasing prison population, requirement for specialist treatment programmes, officer training and the development of victim centred rehabilitation.	£319,000	£138,000
Family Proceedings Advisory Service - additional officer capacity responding to increasing demand, there is a need to manage delays to safeguard and promote the interests of children and young people involved in Family Court proceedings.	£ 83,000	£56,000
Total	£998,000	£699,000

This amendment is all the more critical as in 2027 the Committee will support the transition of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) from its pilot status to a permanent service.

The SARC has been funded as a pilot service, which means it is not a feature of the Committee's 2026 budget allocation, and through the traditional budget setting process the Service would be unfunded in 2027. However, the Committee's view is that the SARC provides a critical frontline service which must be maintained and cannot be placed at risk. This makes the success of the Committee's budget amendments all the more important as other frontline services will be impacted by this added cost pressure and have to absorb the financial impact of this critical service.