

**Response to a Question Pursuant to Rule 14
of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees**

Subject: **Shape and strengthen the focus on early years and families**

States' Member: Deputy Garry Collins

Date received 2nd June 2026

Date of reply: 17th June 2026

Question

Following my question to the candidates in the recent Policy & Resources election for a member, can the Policy & Resources Committee confirm what actions so far have been taken to shape and strengthen the focus on early years and families following the approval of the Government Work Plan in January 2026?

Answer

The super priority '***Shape and strengthen the focus on early years and families***' is a workstream within the Government Work Plan '***A place to grow and succeed***' programme.

It will bring forward appropriate legislation, policy, and operational services to drive positive outcomes for children and young people. The objective of this long-term work is to make the Island an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family, and so improve economic resilience.

As the sponsoring committee, our initial focus has been on planning for success.

From a standing start, and seeking to utilise skills and knowledge already within the organisation, we have:

- i. agreed an outline programme brief;
- ii. re-allocated internal resource to lead the work;
- iii. re-deployed in-house key subject matter expertise;
- iv. supported a Government Work Plan funding request to bring dedicated legal resource into the programme team;
- v. engaged with external stakeholders and our partners in this area; and
- vi. drawn on our other internal resources so that the scoping work to identify the first phase of work can begin cross-Committee.

Given the complexity in achieving integrated, effective proposals across mandates, the Committee has written to engaged principal committees inviting a representative to join a political oversight group. This group will be led by Deputy de Sausmarez who has invited the committees to comment on a draft terms of reference for the group, which will be published once finalised.

The programme will also be the vehicle to support the additional workstream “Responding to the Needs of the Island's Young People” added by Amendment to the Government Work Plan which directs extensive consultation and engagement with young people.

It is the Committee’s intention to establish dedicated pages on gov.gg where stakeholders and interested members of the community will find details on the programme and updates as they are released by committees.