



| States Assembly

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Records of Meetings

2026

The following records of meetings have been approved by the Panel.

Signed

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Chair

Deputy Victoria Li

États de Jersey



L's États d'Jèrri

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

Date: 20th July 2026

Present	Deputy Victoria Li, Chair Connétable Mark Labey, Member Deputy Chris Rebindaine, Member
Absent	Connétable Dave Curtis, Member Connétable Tina Palmer, Member
In attendance	William Bryne, Chair of the Jersey Foster Carers Association Rosalyn Sharp, Research and Project Officer

Agenda matter	Action
1. Private meeting: foster care in Jersey The Panel met with a member of the public, who provided foster care in Jersey, to discuss the current fostering system in Jersey, experiences of foster carers, and areas of concern. A private file note was made of the meeting, classified as exempt in accordance with Absolute Exemption 26 of the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 (as amended).	RS
2. Follow-up questions Following the private meeting, the Panel considered its next steps and agreed that a number of questions regarding educational decision-making for children in care, including working with foster carers for the best outcomes of the child, should be raised with the Minister for Children and Families. The Panel therefore agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister seeking clarification on these matters and requested that Officers make the necessary arrangements.	RS

Children, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

Date: 13th August 2026

Present	Deputy Victoria Li, Chair Deputy Chris Rebindaine, Member Connétable Tina Palmer, Member
Apologies	Connétable Mark Labey, Vice-Chair Connétable Dave Curtis, Member
In attendance	Kaya Camara, Acting Committee and Panel Officer Rosalyn Sharp, Research and Project Officer Matthew Wellman, Communications Officer

Agenda matter	Action
1. Procedural and Administrative Matters The Chair welcomed the Panel to its inaugural meeting following its constitution on 14th July 2026. Following requests for nominations to the role of Panel Vice Chair as required under Standing Orders (SO) [S.O. 135(5)], Connétable Mark Labey was appointed Vice Chair of the Panel. As the Connétable was unable to attend the meeting, the Panel requested that Officers contact him following the meeting to confirm his appointment. The Panel noted the proposed timetable for its 2026 regular meetings, agreed that they would be held on Thursday mornings between 9:30 -11:30am and requested Officers to circulate the Microsoft Outlook calendar invitations for the remainder of the year. The Panel also noted and agreed the proposed timetable for its 2026 quarterly hearings and requested Officers to make the necessary arrangements with the relevant Ministers accordingly. The Panel noted and discussed how its working practices aligned to the Codes of Practice (CoP) for Scrutiny Proceedings, CoP for Engagement between Scrutiny and the Executive and SO and agreed the administration of its work in accordance with those. In particular, the Panel noted and agreed the requirement under SO [SO.138(6)] whereby evidence should be taken in public unless the Panel decides otherwise. The Panel also noted the arrangements for briefing oral witnesses and the approach for managing written evidence under the CoP for Scrutiny Proceedings [CoP, para 73] to ensure open access to information, that data protection legislation was adhered to [CoP, para 74] and noted the arrangements for publication of submissions on the States Assembly website [CoP, para 75]. The Panel noted that its preference was always to receive evidence in public wherever possible, whether through written submissions or public meetings. The Panel also noted and discussed the appropriate handling of individual matters and agreed that it would not consider individual matters as areas for review in line with the relevant CoP for Scrutiny Proceedings [CoP, para 47].	RS/KC RS RS

13.08.2026

2. Declarations and Conflicts of Interest

The Panel noted the declaration of interests section in the Scrutiny and Public Accounts Committee Proceedings Code of Practice. The Chair declared that she was a Governor at St Michael's Preparatory School as well as founder and CEO of Learn.je, an educational platform. Connétable Tina Palmer declared that she was a Governor at Highlands College but advised that she was in the ninth and final year of her term of office and had one remaining Governors' meeting to attend before the conclusion of her appointment.

The Panel agreed that this should be a standing item on the Panel's agenda going forward.

3. Working Practices

The Panel noted the working practices for Scrutiny Panels in accordance with the [CoP for Scrutiny Proceedings and Engagement with the Executive](#) as well as the role of the Committee and Panel Officer.

The Panel agreed that the default would be for all its scheduled Panel meetings, any public meetings (public hearings) and private meetings (briefings) to be held in person. However, the Panel noted its support for a flexible approach, with provision for hybrid meetings and the ability for participants to attend remotely via Microsoft Teams when necessary.

The Panel noted and agreed that its meetings and briefings would be transcribed via Microsoft Teams and that the transcription would be available to the Panel and Officers in accordance with the States Greffe's data retention policy. It was noted that the transcription would be used to inform records of meetings and file notes. The Chair agreed to raise any concerns relating to the transcription process for consideration by the Scrutiny Liaison Committee (SLC).

The Panel agreed that the dedicated Microsoft Teams channels would be used to administer the work of the Panel including the distribution of correspondence and documentation and approval. The Panel noted that certain documentation would also be shared in confidence in that way, including Ministerial Decisions and Council of Ministers Papers where relevant, and in such circumstances confidential information should not be shared outside of the Panel.

The Panel agreed that by default documentation would not be printed unless specifically requested and that the Panel would be mindful when requesting for documentation to be printed in order to align with the environmental best practice.

It was noted that ordinarily Scrutiny Panels would hold public hearings for evidence gathering sessions about the work programmes of their respective Ministers and Assistant Ministers on a quarterly basis, which would be webcast live and transcribed.

It was agreed that a draft question plan would be circulated for comment and approval virtually via Microsoft Teams or discussed at a scheduled Panel meeting (depending on the Panel's meeting schedule and timings) to provide sufficient time for the Panel to review, amend and approve the question plan ahead of any hearing. It was agreed that the Panel would meet ahead of any hearing to undertake the necessary preparations including to allocate questions to Members and discuss the finalised question plan.

4. Scrutiny Member training The Panel noted that the Scrutiny Liaison Committee (SLC) was considering wider training opportunities and that details would be provided to the Panel in due course. The Panel noted and discussed training opportunities which could include in-house training to be delivered by Panel Officers such as support for Microsoft Teams. The Panel agreed that individual Members would liaise with Officers to arrange such sessions. The Panel considered the opportunity to visit the House of Commons at Westminster and requested that Officers arrange the visit accordingly. It was noted that any training needs could be identified and brought forward at future meetings as the Panel became more familiar with its working practices.	RS/KC RS/KC
5. Work programme The Panel noted the Legacy Report of the former Panel [S.R.14/2026] and discussed the suggestions for future Scrutiny work to inform its upcoming work programme. The Panel received and noted a briefing paper detailing its remit areas. The Panel also considered background information relating to each Department. The Panel discussed its work programme and agreed to revisit the work programme once it had identified and agreed its key priorities, at which point these would inform the development of its future programme of work. Officers were requested to update the work programme accordingly following further direction from the Panel.	RS/KC
6. Site visits / briefings with the relevant Ministers and Departments The Panel discussed the arrangement of introductory visits with the Departments and Ministers within its remit. The Panel agreed an initial programme of site visits that it wished to undertake at the earliest opportunity. The Panel considered that the visits would assist in developing their understanding of the services and functions within the Panel's remit. Officers were requested to make the necessary arrangements. The Panel noted that a private briefing on the Consultation on Hate Crime had been provisionally scheduled for 18th August 2026 and a private briefing on Online Harms Content Removal had been provisionally scheduled for 10th September 2026.	RS/KC

7. Correspondence The Panel considered correspondence received during the election period concerning concerns relating to Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) policy for ADHD medication. The Panel discussed the matters raised and agreed to keep the issues under review as part of its ongoing work. The Panel received and noted correspondence from the Minister for Children and Families regarding safeguarding. The Panel discussed the contents of the letter and considered the issues highlighted therein. The Panel agreed to keep the issues under review as part of its ongoing work. The Panel considered draft correspondence to the Panel's relevant Ministers, the Minister for Children and Families, Education and Lifelong Learning and Justice and Home Affairs. Following discussion, the Panel approved the correspondence and requested that it be issued accordingly. The Panel received and noted a response from the Minister for Children and Families regarding foster care. The Panel discussed the response and the information provided and agreed to keep the issues under review. The Panel requested that a private briefing be scheduled regarding the Virtual School and requested the Officers to make the necessary arrangements. The Panel considered a draft letter to the Minister for Children and Families regarding concerns relating to deprivation of liberty. Following discussion, the Panel agreed not to issue correspondence on the matter. The Panel requested that a private briefing be scheduled and requested the Officers to make the necessary arrangements. The Panel considered correspondence from a member of the public expressing concerns regarding the provision of foreign languages within schools. The Panel noted the concerns raised and acknowledged the Panel's broader interest in the school curriculum and secondary education provision. The Panel agreed to consider the matter further as part of its wider work programme in the future.	KC KC
8. Quarterly Hearings The Panel noted that its first Quarterly Hearing with the Minister for Children and Families was scheduled to take place on 10th September 2026. The Panel discussed potential topics for inclusion in the hearing and identified a number of areas of interest for further scrutiny. Following discussion, the Panel agreed that the proposed topic areas would be reviewed electronically via Microsoft Teams. The Panel agreed it would provide any comments or approval through Microsoft Teams.	
9. Future Meetings The Panel noted that its next scheduled meeting was due to take place at 9:30am on 10th September 2026 in the Le Capelain room, States Building.	