

Health & Social Security Scrutiny Panel

Proposed Budget 2026-2029

We are responding to your request for our input in respect of the above proposed budget to tackle preventative health.

We see the proposed investment in the above budget specifically for preventative health as a positive step to try to contain escalating long term health conditions particularly arising in the aged where some may be attributed to life style choices, diet, & non participation in exercise earlier in life.

It is important that dietary education is tackled starting with young people in schools at the start of their lives & presented in an interactive and relatable way which may convince them of the importance of a healthy life style including their food choices. This may prevent childhood obesity & adverse health issues in the future. Investment in the teaching of healthy cooking skills may be beneficial as it is likely that many young people leaving home for the first time (possibly going to university) might not have the necessary knowledge & simply reach for unhealthy ready meals. Added to that, more education emphasising harm that could accrue when drinking alcohol to excess & taking drugs & on the flip side, the benefits of taking regular exercise could improve islanders' health in the long term across the spectrum whether islanders are affluent or not.

Attention to placing more awareness in the community about the importance of arranging routine childhood immunisations, taking up flu, HPV (for teenagers) may be of benefit as well as preventative health screenings that are available.

Whilst preventative screenings are available locally for cervical, breast, retinal diabetic screening and bowel cancers similar to the UK, perhaps a one stop general health screening session could be introduced periodically for people aged 40 -74 to assess for heart, kidney, stroke & diabetes conditions. This assessment is available in the UK which aims for early detection of serious illnesses which left untreated could involve extensive and costly treatment at a later time.

Hopefully, the budget will allow for some preventative health action to be taken in respect of mental health issues suffered by islanders that are prevalent in our community.

We have not been consulted previously on any preventative health areas.

In conclusion, assuming the proposed budget is passed by the States Assembly, we feel that future preventative health measures that are decided upon by the States Assembly, will hopefully, help the public in Jersey to stay healthier in the long term & could save money in our healthcare system going forward.