

Minutes for GDA Meeting

7pm

29th October 2008

- 1. Roll Call and Apologies. K Leach. Peter and Margaret Keeling, Jackie Tebbutt, Jenny Browning, Aindre Reece-Sheerin**
 - 2. Chairman's Welcome.**
 - 3. Speaker. Mr David Hughes. Chief Officer HSSD was introduced by Rob Platts. Mr Hughes would allow a brief question and answer period after his talk, but the chairman asked members to refer to general HSSD enquiries rather than personal specific questions.**
- Mr Hughes outlined the ways in which HSSD plan services. There are three routes by which a new service is proposed:
 - a. Through the Government Business Plan . These ideas come from politicians, not civil servants.**
 - b. Via the Director of Public Health (Dr Jeffs) who identifies health trends of concern such as the recent obesity, drugs and smoking initiatives.**
 - c. By the service providers. Sometimes services are no longer required and money can be diverted eg TB, Duchess of Kent, but generally new services are an additional requirement.****
 - HSSD's operational plan summary is in the Business Plan but there's a bigger plan behind that with more detail.**
 - Three aspects to prioritising resourcing:
 - a. Increasing costs (medical inflation, cost of staff)**
 - b. Increasing demand for existing services**
 - c. New services****
 - HSSD has a £90,000,000 budget, and employs 2,000 staff. Organisation chart for HSSD was tabled.**
 - Sometimes when HSSD are allocated their new budget for the year can only afford the increasing costs, very little left for new developments.**
 - Costs of recruitment, wages, development of new services and medication all increase annually, generally at a higher rate than inflation.**
 - The civil servants recommend priorities and prepare documents, which are then debated by HSSD deputies.**
 - 12 months ago, HSSD did an exercise with States members to make them aware of the implications of not providing services. Showed them that if they stop services they end up spending money in other ways eg off-island placements. Off-island budgets are now ringfenced so that on-island services don't have to subsidise them.**

- **Second exercise asked the Deputies to try to prioritise HSSD's list of new projects awaiting introduction. A copy of the list was tabled. Deputies picked:**
 - a. **Mental Health relocation (timing issue)**
 - b. **Palliative Care**
 - c. **Mental Health legislation (with law officer, needs funds to implement)**
 - d. **Colorectal and cervical cancer screening (got extra money from T&R)**
 - e. **Children's legislation (now through the States)**
- **HSSD tries to avoid responding to loudest voice. It's a juggling act, there's never enough money. Try to work on the basis of the greatest good for the greatest number. But can't ignore small groups. The projects aren't easy to prioritise against each other.**
- **Sometimes priorities have got distorted because there is only a small amount of money available or staff levels are limited so they pick a service at the right level of resource, rather than most important one.**
- **There is little that HSSD does that is based on law. There's an Education law and the NHS has a legal framework. But HSSD's work is all discretionary.**
- **Any increase in funding to HSSD requires cuts in services for other departments. Could always use more but already have a large slice.**
- **Health and Social services are two distinct areas in UK but here in Guernsey combining the two works well.**
- **HSSD are planning a full spending review working from the 'bottom up', not just 'last year's budget plus inflation'.**

Mr Hughes was asked how the GDA could work with HSSD. He felt that the Alliance could provide a common voice for highlighting services which are not provided.

Mr Hughes asked what would be our priority, and questioned if we would all nominate the same areas of concern.

He agreed that a 20% rate of income tax cannot sustain the full wish list of services which Islanders may wish to see provided.

John Gollop felt that legislation was required, as health does not have at present the legislation in place which education has.

Jenny Hooper and Beryl Vaudin were concerned about future provision for young disabled people. B Vaudin asked if Social Security still provided equipment for people on low income as the GSPD was asked more and more to fund items which she felt should be States funded.

Mr Hughes was thanked for giving up his time and, due to the interest in his talk, he was asked if he could come again at a future date.

One further point was made by Mr Salmon who felt that hearing aid practitioners on the island should be registered as he felt certain

dispensers of equipment were not qualified or adept at the services, which they were providing.

The meeting continued as per Agenda

4. Minutes of previous meeting. Signed as a correct record. Copies of the minutes were at present posted on the MS Web site for members not on email. This link is http://www.guernseymms.org/index.cfm/the_menu_id/125
5. Matters Arising from Minutes. Letter from D Hughes re Wheel Chair Report. This will be circulated
6. Reports on priority areas.
7. Access –
 - a) Report on opening of Smith Street Post Office
There are still some issues to resolve, but the ramp would have been steeper, and the hearing loop would not have been included, without GDA involvement.
 - b) Dave Purdy has requested to be involved with new Fruit Export project. Ongoing
 - c) Agree further action, if any, on HSBC access issue. Continue to pursue. Jannine Le Sauvage has suggested GDA involvement with planning committee. Meeting to be arranged.
8. Legal & Chair -
 - a) Report on presentation to SPG,
Meeting was not entirely satisfactory as some of the SPG members came across as being defensive of Guernsey's current stance on disability, rather than supportive of the goals of the GDA. Rob Platts has been told to expect a note of apology from the SPG in relation to the late arrival of some members and the subsequent difficulties caused to the GDA presentation. We await a response from the SPG to the three action areas requested by the Alliance during the presentation. The full text of the presentation can be viewed at http://www.guernseymms.com/pages/myfiles/gda_presentation.doc
 - b) Choice of States Champion, Ongoing. States members will be asked by Hunter Adam by email to nominate for this position. The Health Minister will also be writing to request that the Chief

Minister appoint a Disability Officer whose role would be to co ordinate the working all departments.

c) Lloyds TSB Grant application. This will be discussed on 7th November.

9. P.R

Update on logo and information for deputies.

- **The photo call went well. Thanks recorded to photographer Chris George, SGB for the barriers, The Ron Short Centre and Beau Sejour. Also to everyone who turned up.**
- **Logo Ongoing**
- **At Exec meeting held last week It was decided to improve communication by hosting a simple web site limited to contact and “about us” information. The contact information should include an email address and Rob Platts will try to obtain a free web address ie www.gda.org.gg It was also agreed that the GDA should have a listing in the telephone book. To achieve this cost effectively and flexibly, it was agreed to source a mobile telephone. Aindre has volunteered to see if he could persuade Sure to sponsor a phone for us.**

10. Support and Service. Update on issues highlighted. Written report attached.

11. AOB Suggested future speakers. Group to discuss.

- i. Head of Social Sec. Malcolm Nutley, Karl Guille from Roads Service, Heads of TV companies, Editor of the Press). Stephen Langford. W.B. to contact. Who ever is nominated for the position of disability champion**
- ii. Sarah Bamford**
- iii. Equality training. Aindre Reece Sheerin has offered to train members of the GDA. Two Saturday mornings were envisaged 12 members per session.**

AOB. W.Beaven had been invited to represent GDA on CAB. Agreed B.Vaudin had visited Le Murier School. The GDA could visit by prior arrangement.

12. Date of next meeting 26th November

13. Meeting Closed 9.10