

**Open Minutes of the Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at 9 am in the Council Chambers**

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman:	Hon Anthony Green (Hon TG)
	Deputy Chairman:	Hon Cyril Leo (Hon CL)
	Members:	Hon Kylie Hercules (Hon KH) Hon Derek Thomas (Hon DT) Hon Gavin Ellick (Hon GE)
	Non-Voting Members:	Mrs Tracy Poole-Nandy, Director of Safeguarding (TPN) Mr Gillian Francis, Deputy Chief Secretary (GF)
	Secretary:	Mrs Anne Dillon, Temporary Executive Assistant (AD)

Hon TG welcomed members to the meeting with a special welcome extended to Amanda Curry Brown, SHG Senior Economist.

1. Disability Policy

Hon DT raised the issue of persons over the age of 65 years not qualifying for disability allowance under the current Disability Policy. He cited an example of a 72 year old female who is disabled with terminal cancer and who is in genuine need of an allowance to support her.

Discussion ensued and the following points were raised:

- A person who qualifies for disability allowance before reaching 65 years will continue to receive the allowance post 65 years. If the disability develops after 65 years, the person doesn't qualify.
All members agreed that the Policy made no sense in this regard and should be changed.
- The current policy is open to being legally challenged.
- There would be cost implications for changing the Policy but the amount is unknown as there is no supporting data on the number of persons affected. Any cost could be justified as offsetting potential litigation.
- All agreed that the policy needed to change but that this should be done by following the correct processes to ensure that all implications including cost, are taken into consideration. SSRWG is addressing the change in their review but this will take a while.
- It was established that a rep from Social Care Directorate and Hon DT would be visiting the individual at 3pm this afternoon. TPN will assess the individual case and determine if there is a real need and address it.
- It was agreed by all that the removal of 65 years from the Policy should be progressed and updates shared via e-mail. This change would be ratified, or otherwise, at the next meeting of the SCDC.

Committee agreed the way forward i.e. 1. Address the individual's need and 2. Address the policy change by following due process.

(Action: Hon DT/TPN)

2. Social Security Review Update

Hon CL reported that work is ongoing. The group now meets every two weeks and have allocated an additional half hour for each session. The work is complex and aspects of moving to the new system involves moving back to aspects of the old system. Hon CL is content with progress and the quality of input from members. He endeavours to cover as many scenarios

as possible to avoid such situations that Hon DT brought before Committee earlier in agenda item 1. Hon CL stressed not wanting time to dictate the process but to ensure that all aspects are covered satisfactorily. GF highlighted that if any of the changes have financial implications, this needed to be fed into the MTEF process commencing Aug/Sept; she wouldn't want anything to be missed. Ref the draft MTEF time table, it was confirmed that draft budgets needed to be returned by mid-September this year for the 3 year period commencing 1 April 2020.

(Action: AD to forward the SSRWG document to GF; who will speak with NY and NS thereafter)

DT provided some background to the 2011 Policy. He recalled cost being a factor that dictated the outcome at the time. There was an awareness that 'household' would be a big issue and still is.

Hon CL mentioned struggling with the concept that the Social Security Ordinance is aimed at helping the vulnerable but the inclusion of the BIP is helping those who are not.

3. Update on Review of Immigration Ordinance

Hon DT reported that the group now meets every week and are tidying up loose ends. An Immigration Official is expected on island in July and this will be an opportunity for that person to review the work done. The work should be completed by next week. Committee agreed that it was sensible to let the officials see this work before bringing it to the SCDC by the end of July. Hon DT stated that public consultation would probably require two months. He explained that the group built on the draft work done by Lewis Evans. KH stressed the need for the law being set with the needs of Island in mind. Hon DT assured committee that the group have considered this fact throughout the work done; he advocated that the Ordinance is tailored for the Island and its future development. He added that the officials would only provide technical advice. Work on 'Asylum' has been taken out and placed on hold. Land Holding is included. TPN advised on the former that she has met with the Police and FCO in relation to the Social Care aspects, especially for minors.

Hon DT concluded that once the initial draft of the Policy was completed it will be brought to SCDC. The aim is for the Policy to be introduced by end of December 2019.

(Action: Hon DT)

4. Confirmation of Open Minutes

Minutes of the 08 May 2019 were confirmed with a few minor amendments.

- Public attendees are not normally listed so can be removed.
- Under 4. Remove 'the'
- Reword 'Action: TPN to be **sent** a copy of the Ordinance.'

5. Matters Arising

GF confirmed that Nicole Shamier will continue to work with the subcommittee SSRWG.

2. Hon KH to sit with AGs Chambers.

(Action: Hon DT to draft a proposal form for change in time for restaurants)