



MORE THAN **1,300** SURVEY RESPONDENTS

UNDER 13s: **319**

MET WITH **14** GOVERNMENT AND THIRD SECTOR BODIES

13-17s: **516**

VISITED **16** SCHOOLS, HEARING FROM MORE THAN **300** CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OVER-18s: **230**

Over a ten-week period between April and June 2024, the Office of the Children's Commissioner asked Islanders of all ages what they thought the focus of our work should be in our next Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2027.

We ran a number of online surveys and also visited children in 16 schools across the Island. We also asked relevant Government of Jersey officials and other organisations what they thought we should focus on.

This report shows the number of people who responded to our surveys and the priority issues that they raised. It also gives some information on issues raised by children in schools.

- Educational inequality • Children experiencing poverty
- Play and leisure • Mental health and wellbeing • Children in care
- Children in the youth justice system

WE WILL:



Work to make as many people aware of children's and young people's rights as possible



Involve children in our work through our Youth Advisory Group and in other ways



Give children, adults and organisations information and advice about rights



Make sure that the Government properly thinks about children's rights when making decisions and laws



Work to have children's and young people's rights included in Jersey's laws and policies



Work with our partners in other countries and international organisations to promote rights and learn from them



Run our office in an open, accessible and responsible way

Your Island Your Rights

Strategic Plan 24-27: Summary Report

The Office of the Children's Commissioner for Jersey is the independent organisation that works to promote and protect children's and young people's human rights.

- @childcomjsy
- @OCCJersey
- @childcomm



Office of the Children's Commissioner for Jersey
Brunel House, 3 Old Street
St Helier JE2 3RG
Tel: 01534 867310
Email: hello@occj.org.je

www.childcomjersey.org.je

CHILDREN aged under 13 years

What do you like about life in Jersey?

The natural environment and the climate
OVER 240 RESPONSES

Opportunities for play, leisure and activities
OVER 150 RESPONSES

How easy it is to get around
OVER 70 RESPONSES

'It has a lot of heritage that you can go and see.'
(Age 6-9, Male)

'It's beautiful.'
(Age 10-12, Female)

'It's safe and the people are welcoming.'
(Age 10-12, Female)

'I also think teaching is great.'
(Age 10-12, Female)

'It's a small place but it has a big community.'
(Age 10-12, Male)

Lack of opportunities for play, leisure and activities
OVER 150 RESPONSES

The environment and weather
OVER 130 RESPONSES

How expensive it is to live in Jersey
OVER 100 RESPONSES

What don't you like about life in Jersey?

'Vandalism - when our parks get ruined.'
(Age 10-12, Female)

'Not enough outdoor activities cheap enough for families.'
(Under 5, Male)

'That they started to take things that children like in Jersey down, like playparks and the cinema.'
(Age 6-9, Female)

'Maths and English is too hard even mummy's and daddy's find it hard and don't remember it being that hard in primary school.'
(Age 6-9, Male)

What would you like to change?

More play and leisure facilities
OVER 280 RESPONSES

Reduce the cost of living in Jersey
OVER 70 RESPONSES

School
OVER 40 RESPONSES

'More disabled parks for disabled people.'
(Age 10-12, Male)

'The cost of living crises.'
(Age, 10-12, Female)

'bullying - there is lots of it in my school'
(Age 10-12, Female)

YOUNG PEOPLE aged 13-17

What issues are still important to you/children?

Access to healthcare
89% OF RESPONDENTS

Emotional and mental health
85% OF RESPONDENTS

Poverty
82% OF RESPONDENTS

'Differences between banter and bullying and more depth into it.'
(Age 13-15, Male)

'I've never heard someone say they enjoy schol, and ppl that have disadvantaged to those environments hate it even more. Its not built to fit anyone minds and it needs to change especially when school generally holds back more abled people for various reasons.'
(Age 16-17, Male)

What other issues are important to you?

Education/school
OVER 60 RESPONSES

Health/mental health
ALMOST 50 RESPONSES

Cost of living/poverty
OVER 30 RESPONSES

'Make sure that everyone is able to access education outside and inside schools, especially for those who suffer from severe social anxiety or other reasons that limit their time in school.'
(Age 16-17, Female)

'...the activities for older teens like 15-17yrs old. we don't have much to do on this little island and it gets boring so most of us just either stay home or go to maybe places that aren't so safe to be.'
(Age 13-15, Female)

If you were Commissioner, what would you change?

Improved leisure facilities/opportunities
APPROX 140 RESPONSES

Education
OVER 70 RESPONSES

Better education on, and awareness of, children's rights
OVER 70 RESPONSES

'I would make sure that everyone that all children and young people in poverty would be helped and have a nice home to live in and have nice food to eat without worrying if they have enough money to pay for bills.'
(Age 13-15, Female)

'Sort the issues out with school, lack of staff, lack of education, lack of support, and lack of ability to care for the students mental health. Schools focus on education over than mental health, which is their job, but there should be a balance of understanding as well as educating.'
(Age 13-15, Female)

'Places in jersey where kids can go adults complain about kids sitting inside on devices all day when the government is talking all our entertainment away the pools, the cinema, a good restaurant, parks, shops they are ruining all the places for us to go.'
(Age 13-15, Female)

'More opportunities and free sporting facilities for teenagers. For example, there are a lack of places for older teenagers to go and be with friends. Often we have to meet in town or in parks which, if in a big group, I understand others can find irritating or intimidating...'
(Age 16-17, Female)

ADULTS over-18s

What issues are still important to you/children?

Emotional and mental health
97% OF RESPONDENTS

Play
96% OF RESPONDENTS

Education
96% OF RESPONDENTS

'Children are being failed by not receiving individualized help through education, and often leaving school with no qualifications. They often aren't even put forward for exams. How many are leaving education without sitting any exams?'
(Age 25 and over, Female)

'Access to preventative mental health care for young people and help with understanding themselves and acceptance for our Neurodiverse children.'
(Age 25 and over, Female)

What other issues are important to you?

Education/school
115 RESPONSES

Health/mental health
ALMOST 20 RESPONSES

The environment
12 RESPONSES

'Equality of access to all services. Provision of youth services. Address poverty for families, housing. Equal opportunities. Wrap around care provision. Nursery provision with support for children with needs. Money available to access equipment necessary for need.'
(Age 25 and over, Female)

'I would love our island to take a bold and brave stance regarding smart phone access for under 16's.'
(Age 25 and over, Female)

If you were Commissioner, what would you change?

Education
MORE THAN 40 RESPONSES

Improved leisure facilities/opportunities
ALMOST 40 RESPONSES

Social media/online safety
26 RESPONSES

'I would get behind every family focused charity in Jersey and tell government that these charities are the experts in family issues and that sustainable funding is needed for these charities. I would also lobby for a new town primary school...'
(Age 25 and over, Female)

'Tackle the huge issues around poverty Start to really truly understand what real life is like in jersey for children & young people so you can make a genuine difference to their lives.'
(Age 25 and over, Female)