

Jersey Care Commission Meeting

Wednesday 8th January 2020

Meeting Summary

1.0 Welcome, Apologies, Introductions & Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed all present and noted there were no declarations of interest.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting, Matters Arising and Review of Actions

The minutes of the November meeting were approved with four minor amendments.

It was noted that both of the vacant Regulation Officer posts had been successfully recruited to and that the new staff members would meet Board members in March.

The follow up inspection report of Children's Services had been published in December. Media interest had focussed upon the issue of workforce retention.

3.0 Chair's Report

The Chair advised that the Commission will maintain contact with Ofsted because it is likely that their advice and support will be needed in respect of inspections of children's services.

Preparations are being made for Jersey to become cosignatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Children and Young People's Commissioner's office is undertaking a review of legislation in Jersey. This may require that the Regulation of Care (Jersey) Law 2014 be amended.

Two documents have been added to Egress: Response to the Care Inquiry Update Report, 08 Nov 2019, Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel Report 11 Nov 2019.

4.0 Chief Inspector Update

A number of children's residential services have become registered and a press release was issued in respect of this.

The majority of professional registration renewals were completed by the 31 December deadline.

Two information sessions took place in November on the subject of inspections. These were well attended, and the feedback was positive.

The implications for the Commission of Jersey adopting the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) were discussed. A briefing paper will be produced and discussed at a future Board meeting.

5.0 Head of Governance, Policy and Standards (HGPS) Report

Two policies are complete and ready for stakeholder consultation.

A policy regarding complaints about regulated services was discussed. This will be revised following feedback from Board members.

An outline of the first annual report was discussed. The report will be ready in draft form by the end of February.

6.0 Review of Strategic Risk Register

The risk register was considered by the Board and a number of updates were made.

7.0 Papers for Noting

No new papers were discussed at this meeting.

8.0 Consulting with the Care Sector

Jim Hopley, Chair of Jersey Disability Partnership attended the meeting and provided an overview of the range of challenges affecting the care sector, particularly in respect of recruitment.

9.0 Children's Service Inspection

Charlie Parker, the Chief Executive of the Government of Jersey, and Mark Rogers and Mark Overs representing Children's Services attended the meeting. They provided an overview of planned improvements over the course of the next 12-18 months as well as of the challenges affecting Children's Services. There was discussion of how inspections in this area would take place in the future.

10.0 Review of Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Jersey

The Board acknowledged receipt of a draft framework agreement for 2020 and agreed the need for a more detailed analysis of the content of this agreement.

11.0 Budget

Tracy Duncan, Head of Finance Business Partnering, Government of Jersey, attended the meeting and presented figures relating to the Commission's budgetary position. The Commission had a projected underspend of £64,407 at year end. It was discussed that the Commission has experienced difficulty in obtaining accurate and detailed accounts throughout 2019.

12.0 Business Plan (End of Year Review)

It was agreed that this matter had been adequately discussed in item 5.

13.0 AOB

There was no other business.