

Jersey Care Commission Meeting

Wednesday 4th March 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 January meeting were approved with two minor amendments.

It was agreed that the Head of Governance, Policy and Standards (HGPS) would present a paper at the May board meeting on general governance principles and a work plan in respect of compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

3.0 Chair's Report

The workshop held with Commission staff and Commissioners on 03 March had gone well.

A meeting had taken place with the Head of Finance Business Partnering to discuss the budget and preparation of the annual accounts for 2019. A summary of the 2019 financial position was provided. The Commission will contact the Internal Auditor to identify best practice in financial oversight and to request an advisory assessment of existing financial controls.

The Chair advised that one of the Commissioners will not request a second term on the Board. The Chair will make arrangements for the recruitment of two new Commissioners in 2020.

It is apparent that the demands for legal advice sought by the Commission from the Law Officers Department (LoD) are increasing. There is a need to source alternative provision for such support and arrangements are being made for this.

4.0 Chief Inspector Update

The Chief Inspector (CI) advised that:

A new law has been proposed to cover the registration of all healthcare and medical professionals. This will have resource implications for the Commission.

A meeting has been held with the Intermediate Care Modernisation Manager to discuss the Jersey Care Model and its implications for regulated activities in supporting the delivery of care in the community.

A recent visit to the Shelter Trust's premises included a tour of the 'drunk and incapable' unit. The Shelter Trust has made an application to register three premises for individuals

who experience homelessness, many of whom will also avail of a range of social care and support. The Board requested an update for the May Board in respect of each of these matters.

A complaint made about the Commission by a local dentist has been upheld and an update was provided regarding the outcome of the investigation and actions to be taken by the Commission, including fee reimbursement.

The Commission has been advised that the young care experienced volunteer inspectors (from Scotland) are not available at present. Alternative methods of how best to ascertain what children say about their care are being considered.

A Ministerial Decision has been made regarding the law drafting of amendments to the Regulation of Care (Jersey) Law 2014. The amendments will be consistent with the Government's policy priorities which include the independent regulation of a range of services for children, including CAMHS, social work, fostering and adoption.

Should Jersey become a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which is being proposed, it is likely that the Commission will be appointed as part of the island's national preventative mechanism.

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

Two policies are in draft form: The Inspection Policy and The Escalation, Enforcement and Review Policy. It is important that stakeholders are consulted in respect of each policy. This is ongoing.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Office of the Children's Commissioner will be completed in the coming weeks.

6.0 Draft Annual Report and Accounts for 2019

The HGPS advised that draft annual report has been produced and a graphic design company has been engaged to assist with presentation. The final version will include an audited statement of accounts and will be presented to the May board for approval.

7.0 Complaints Policies

The HGPS presented two Complaints policies - for the investigation and resolution of complaints about the Commission, and for the investigation and resolution of complaints about the provision of care. Each of these documents had been discussed in detail at a workshop with Commissioners and Commission staff on 03 March.

A number of changes were agreed at the workshop. Once these changes have been made, the amended documents will be posted onto the Commission's website.

The HGPS was asked to research the production of complaint leaflets.

8.0 Papers for Noting from Egress

Three papers were noted: The Care Leavers Offer and Intensive Fostering Service reports; The Jersey Public Services Ombudsman Feedback report; The Comptroller and Auditor General Non-Ministerial Departments report.

9.0 Budget

The CI was requested to agree a 2020 budget with the Head of Finance Business Partnering in time for the May Board. The budgetary needs of the Commission throughout 2020 were recorded.

10.0 Register of Interests

The HGPS advised that there are two registers, one for Commissioners and one for staff, in order that any conflicts of interests can be identified. The register for Commissioners will be published on the website.

11.0 Authorisation of Inspectors

The Board noted that the CI is delegated the power to issue warrant cards to staff members for the purpose of undertaking inspections. The Scheme of Delegation must be amended to reflect this.

12.0 Business Plan

The CI presented the business plan which had been discussed at the workshop with Commissioners and Commission staff on 03 March. The document was agreed by the Board. The document will be linked to the Corporate Performance Tool (CPT), the Risk Register, staff appraisals and performance. The CPT will be introduced at the next Board meeting as a means of updating Commissioners about progress of operational activity.

13.0 AOB

The HGPS gave an update on the Social Work degree course provided by Highlands College. He advised that Highlands are proposing to offer CPD courses for Social Workers.

The Chair expressed that the Commission must remain abreast of the Covid-19 pandemic and of its impact in Jersey. The CI advised that a business continuity plan has been devised and that there are likely to be a range of measures introduced which relate to both professional registration and regulation.