

## **Jersey Care Commission Meeting**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **1.0 Welcome, Apologies, Introductions & Declarations of Interest**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from one person. No declarations of interest were raised.

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

Three minor amendments to the minutes of the September meeting were confirmed and the minutes were approved. Five actions arising from the September meeting were reviewed. One action had been completed; two others were included in the Chief Inspector's report; one action was included in the agenda and one action was scheduled to be discussed as an agenda item in the January 2021 meeting.

#### **3.0 Chair's Report**

The Chair provided a written report and advised that:

The Chief Executive of the Government of Jersey had resigned and a vote of no confidence in the Chief Minister had been unsuccessful. Chair advised that three ministers had resigned, including the Minister for Children and Housing.

GH met with the Director General of the Department for Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance on 10 November to discuss the recruitment of new Commissioners, Covid-19 vaccination plans, financial plans for 2021 and office accommodation.

GH noted that the interviews for the new Commissioners would be held on 12 November and that five candidates had been shortlisted.

#### **4.0 Chief Inspector (CI) Update**

The Chief Inspector presented a written report and advised that:

The Government of Jersey continues to operate several services which fall within the definition of a regulated activity, but which remain unregistered. A series of meetings and site visits have taken place in respect of these services. The Minister for Health and Community Services has been formally advised of the Commission's concern

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that a number of residential establishments continue to operate at risk, outside the regulatory framework and that the Commission is investigating whether offences have been committed, contrary to Article 3 of the Regulation of Care (Jersey) Law 2014.

The professional registration renewal process was ongoing and there had been an increase in new applications in 2020. There have been three incidents of health care professionals working without registration. These matters had been raised with employers, with procedures introduced to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence.

A new Regulation Officer had been appointed and is due to commence in January 2021.

CI advised about the planned introduction of emergency Covid-19 Regulations.

It was noted that inspections had restarted in June 2020, with 42 having been completed and 12 scheduled to take place before the end of the year. There was no evidence that the pressures associated with Covid-19 has reduced quality of care in the sector. It was also noted that some homes had chosen to be closed to visitors due to the recent spike in Covid-19 cases.

All children's services subject to regulation had been inspected as a matter of priority. An overview report will be prepared.

An incident involving Health and Community Services' arrangements for the transfer of hospital patients to a care home was noted. Appropriate registration or consultation with the Commission had not taken place and the Commission had intervened to suspend these plans, pending an alternative arrangement being sourced.

The revised Code of Practice for Piercing and Tattooing has been distributed across the sector for consultation.

A new care home to meet the needs of young people with a range of addiction and mental health difficulties has applied to be registered. This would become the first non-government operated children's home to open on the Island.

Individual Care Workers intending to receive payment via the Long-Term Care Fund need to be registered with the Commission. It was noted that some Individual Care Workers are not registered, and that further efforts to raise awareness of this requirement is needed to encourage these individuals to register.

A programme of policy and legislation will be introduced and will impact on the work of the Commission. Consequently, the Commission will need to source alternative office accommodation, recruit additional staff and develop new Standards. There will be an expansion of regulated activities to include fostering and adoption, children's social work services and other related activities. In the longer term, regulation will extend to adult social work and mental health provision. Additionally, the new Professional Registration Law is scheduled to be enacted in 2023.

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

Following inspections of regulated activities, several care home and home care managers had been consulted about the inspection process. Mostly, the feedback was positive. One manager suggested the inspection process should focus more upon outcomes, specifically of how outcomes could be achieved and how these might be measured.

A Budget Summary Report was presented which highlighted an end of year positive variance of approximately £10,000.

A Register of Interests has been developed and will be presented to each Board meeting from January 2021 onwards. The Annual Report for 2020 will include Commissioners' Declarations of Interests.

A record of the risks associated with the role and function of the Commission at the current time was presented. The following were noted:

- The Covid-19 pandemic had led to challenges associated with team cohesion and in the need to manage physical distancing in a small office space.
- Some planned inspections could not be carried out in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Detail was provided in relation to the factors which necessitate the sourcing of alternative office accommodation; the criteria which need to be met in sourcing such accommodation; the process which had been undertaken in the search and a summary of each of the properties which had been considered to this point.

## **6.0 AOB**

The Chair advised that an end of year review of the Annual Business Plan, including the impact of Covid-19 and the approval of the Business Plan for 2021 would be considered at the January Board meeting.