

Jersey Care Commission Meeting

Wednesday 15th September 2021

Meeting Summary

1.0 Welcome, Apologies, Introductions & Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies and one new declaration of interest.

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

The minutes of the July meeting were approved, with some minor amendments. Actions from the meeting were reviewed and two were closed. Three matters arising were noted as non-agenda items.

The minute summary was approved. It was agreed that the minute summary remains of benefit and will be continued.

3.0 Chair's Report

The Chair provided a written report and advised that:

- The recruitment of both a new Chief Inspector (CI) and a Commissioner were proceeding as planned.
- The Government of Jersey is reviewing the fees payable for services and professionals registered with the Commission.
- The final report from the Citizen's Jury regarding medically assisted dying is due to be published later in September 2021. If the States Assembly votes to permit medically assisted dying in Jersey, the Commission may have a role in regulating an approvals process.
- The Chair recently met with the interim Chief Executive and Head of the Public Service, Paul Martin. Commissioners noted that Suzanne Wylie, current head of Belfast City Council, has been appointed to the permanent role.
- The Chair recently met with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Jersey Care Federation, who raised specific concerns about Covid and other issues affecting the care industry in Jersey.

4.0 Chief Inspector (CI) Update

The Head of Governance, Policy and Standards (HGPS), presented a written report and advised that:

- No complaints had been received about the Care Commission since the previous Board meeting.

- The cleansing of the medical practitioner database is underway.
- Inspections are taking place weekly; sixteen inspections had been carried out since the previous Board meeting and the Commission is on schedule for all planned inspections to be completed by year end.
- Legal advice had been sought regarding an unregistered care home service, which has since closed.
- One care home had required significant improvement and the Commission's Escalation and Enforcement Policy has been applied. The situation has greatly improved.

4.1 Representation Procedures

Representation procedures were presented which set out the process that will be followed if an individual or organisation wishes to make representation on a notice of proposal made by the Commission. The Board discussed and agreed the procedures.

5.0 The Commission's Response on Draft Regulations

HGPS presented a response to the Consultation on the draft Regulations pertaining to statutory children's services. Commissioners agreed that the response should be submitted, noting some proposed amendments.

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

HGPS provided a verbal update pertaining to two issues, the use of Significant Restrictions on Liberty (SRoLs) and the consultation on Law Drafting Instructions relating to the creation of a Public Services Ombudsman in Jersey.

Four papers were presented:

6.1 Integrated Risk Register

Some risks which had been identified at the previous Board meeting had reduced and it was agreed they could be removed from the register. Commissioners requested that the level of detail in the 'Progress on Actions' section and the colour coding linked to the risk scores be amended.

6.2 Budget Summary

The budget summary was received. Members noted an end of year forecast deficit linked to the anticipated costs in respect of office accommodation and noted that income was in line with expectations.

6.3 Projects Update

Three projects are ongoing.

Medical Practitioner's Register: The project to cleanse the register has begun. The Commission intends to contact medical practitioners to ask them to confirm whether they wish to remain on the register or to be removed from it.

Accommodation: Although significant progress is being made in renovating Capital House, the property is not yet ready for the Commission to occupy. It is anticipated that the fit out will be completed in October and the premises handed over in November 2021.

Standards for services new to regulation: Three sets of draft Standards are prepared and two more are in preparation. External expertise may be needed to support the drafting of the remaining Standards. It is anticipated there will be a focused consultation on the new Standards before they are formally approved for use by the Commission.

6.4 Governance Advisory Review final report

The final report of the Advisory Audit has been received. The Commission has been asked to provide estimated completion dates for each of the ten recommendations. Some have already been completed; others are in-progress and some are partly or wholly outside of the control of the Commission. The latter will be addressed in consultation with the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SPPP).

7.0 Deborah McMillan (DM), Children's Commissioner

The Chair welcomed the Children's Commissioner to the meeting. DM explained her role and the legislation which underpins the work of the Children's Commissioner. She discussed two reports that the Commissioner's office has issued recently: 'Life on the Rock' and 'Our Life in Numbers'. DM also spoke of current issues and initiatives in which the Commissioner is engaged. Members noted areas of common interest and agreed the session had been productive.

8.0 Scheme of Delegation

This document was reviewed, and some time limited amendments to authorisations were made, taking account of the vacancy at Chief Inspector level.

9.0 AOB

No other business was discussed.

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