

Jersey Care Commission Meeting
Wednesday 9th February 2022

Meeting Summary

1.0 Welcome, Apologies, Introductions & Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies, and no new declarations of interests were made.

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

The minutes of the 17 November meeting were approved, with some minor amendments. Actions from the meeting were reviewed. Four were ongoing and one was tabled as an agenda item.

The minute summary was approved.

3.0 Chair's Report

The Chair provided a written report and advised that:

- A response to the Public Accounts Committee has been shared with Commissioners. The Commission remains content with the working relationship with Government of Jersey via Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SPPP). It was noted that there are some outstanding recommendations from the Governance Advisory Audit.
- The Chief Inspector has identified a webinar on assisted dying, and details have been shared with Commissioners.

4.0 Chief Inspector (CI) Update

CI advised that:

- The care sector has been affected by Covid-19 in terms of infections of care receivers, and staff, causing temporary shortages. Legislation was reinstated which facilitated the suspension of conditions on registration in respect of three providers. In no cases were care receivers deemed to be at risk, and each of the care homes have, since, returned to normal working practices.
- There is an intention to develop the relationship between the Commission and 'My Voice Advocacy'.

CI gave a presentation on her first 30 days in post, and an analysis of the Commission's current position.

5.0 Horizon Scanning – Government Priorities and Regulation in 2022 and beyond

Tom Walker (TW), Director General of the Department for Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance, attended the meeting with colleagues from the Department.

TW outlined significant matters affecting the Government which might also impact on the work of the Commission.

He advised that:

- 2022 is an election year and there will be an intensification of political activity until the election.
- There may be a new Minister for the Environment. Neither of the Ministers for Health and for Education have yet confirmed their intentions to standing again.
- A Review of the Government's response to Covid19 is planned in 2022 so that future planning is in place for similar events and the Commission will have an opportunity to contribute to this.

A petition which calls for independent inspection of all health services in Jersey, including the General Hospital, will be debated in the States Assembly. In the event that new Regulations are introduced, the Commission will need to prepare to regulate and inspect the Hospital, but it is not expected that all aspects of health care services would become regulated at the same time.

6.0 Treasury Update

Tracy Duncan (Treasury) (TD) attended the Board and discussed the close of the 2021 budget, and the budget for 2022 including planned and agreed additional expenditure on office accommodation, recruitment to new posts and legal costs.

TD advised that:

- The fees for 2022 had been uplifted by 2.5%.
- It had been agreed with the Children and Young People, Education and Skills Department (CYPES), that the budget pertaining to fees for services new to regulation would be allocated to the Commission.
- The Commission's Budget Build is supported in principle and the Commission may proceed with the work which is proposed.
- A long-term financial plan will be developed.

The costs of the IT-build relating to professional registrations should be removed from the Budget Build, although £16k has been allocated to enable the initial scoping work to be completed.

7.0 Draft Budget Build

CI confirmed that TW had advised that the Commission could operate at risk in aligning spending with the Budget Build, although the document had not been fully signed off.

The Chair proposed that by the end of 2022 the Commission should build a profile of the Commission's financial needs and requirements over a three year horizon, between 2023 to 2026.

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

HGPS presented two documents:

Budget Summary

The variations in the final year outturn figures in relation to the 2021 budget and in-year variations were discussed. Commissioners noted that a break-even position would be reported as at 31 December 2021.

Projects Update

There are two projects ongoing:

1. Medical Practitioners Cleanse

HGPS confirmed it is intended that the cleanse be completed within two months.

There was discussion of the nature and seriousness of the risk relating to the cleanse. CI advised of political attention on this matter, and a risk of reputational damage whilst the register remains offline. CI confirmed that HGPS had reviewed the process being used to update the register, to ensure it was efficient.

Board members noted this project is rated 'amber' but anticipate that it will be rated green by March 2022.

2. Standards for services new to registration

HGPS advised that the drafting of the new Standards is ongoing. Five sets are completed as initial drafts. Of the remaining five, there is a plan in place to generate two of these, but three sets remain outstanding:

- Care provided by special schools
- Families in residential centres
- Safeguarding for children and young people

A project officer has been assisting the Team in mapping the project and a UK-based consultant is providing professional advice.

Board members noted that this project is rated 'red' but anticipate it will be rated 'amber' by March 2022.

9.0 Integrated Risk Register

The register had been significantly amended into a working document that tracks risks over time. This will enable the Board to have oversight of risks that arose and were mitigated between Board meetings, as these will be recorded as risks removed from the register.

10.0 Communications Overview

An external review of the Commission's communications has been undertaken. The Board agreed that the review highlighted areas where communications could be improved and validated the requirement for a part-time Communications Lead.

CI advised that work was in progress to publish summaries of inspection reports on the website, in addition to full reports.

11.0 Annual Report Discussion Paper

Following guidance from the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) on what makes a good Annual Report, HGPS will include further sections in the 2021 report, which will include the following:

- Accountability overview
- Financial summary
- Sustainability overviews
- Performance summary
- Identification and discussion of specific risks

12.0 Review of Standing Order – Scheme of Delegation

HGPS explained that this document had needed to be amended in September 2021 following the resignation of the former Chief Inspector, but that the changes could now be reversed. This was agreed.

13.0 Forward Look and Any Other Business.

The Chair detailed the itinerary for future Board meetings. No other business was raised.

