

Jersey Care Commission

Chair's Report

September 2023

1.0 Meeting of Chief Inspector

I have continued my regular weekly meetings with the Chief Inspector, by Teams. Our discussions have covered a range of strategic and operational matters impacting on the work of the Commission.

2.0 Meeting with Strategic Policy Planning and Performance (SPPP)

The next quarterly liaison meeting with SPPP is scheduled for Monday 11th September. This will follow a standard format, including financial, regulatory, policy and governance matters. A verbal update will be provided at the September Board and the minute will be shared with Commissioners, once approved.

3.0 Draft Calendar of Board Meetings (2024)

A draft calendar of meetings for 2024 was included with my latest 'Update' issued to Board members on 25 August. The Forward Look for 2024 will be discussed at the September Board with the intention of identifying strategic issues requiring Board consideration in 2024, key people in the Government of Jersey and in other arms-length organisations who should be invited to meet the Board next year, and to explore possible topics for relevant training.

4.0 Governance Review

Following discussions at the July Board, I had a planned meeting with Mark Silver, Head of Business and Performance (HBP), on the theme of Board Governance (25 July). The topics discussed included the BDO Advisory Audit Report and Recommendations (2020/21), the current Governance Framework as defined in the Constitution and Framework Agreement, the findings and recommendations from the Comptroller and Auditor General in various 'Think Piece' reports.

On 02 August I met with both the CI and with HBP to progress discussions on Governance, including preparations for the September Board Workshop. I then met with the CI and Sebastian Perez, Head of Office of the Office of the Chief Executive, who agreed to facilitate the workshop. We agreed that it would be helpful to use a SWOT analysis to identify progress and formulate the direction of travel. I believe the session will help to strengthen our governance and accountability framework, prior to any benchmarking with other similar sized arms-length organisations.

5.0 Inspections of Services New to Regulation

The CI has kept me informed of progress on the plans for the initial inspections of children's services, including meetings with representatives of the services subject to inspection. The CI has successfully brokered a service agreement with the Royal College of Psychiatrists who will partner the Team on the inspection of CAMHS services in October, engaged the Picker Institute in the design and implementation of the survey questionnaire for service users, their families and staff members and has confirmed the engagement of independent experts who will participate in the blended, integrated inspection teams.

6.0 Scheme of Delegation

The Scheme of Delegation is included as an agenda item in the September Board. It has been revised twice since its initial approval, mainly to reflect changes in the leadership of the Commission at CI level. Recent events and associated advice from the Law Officers Department have identified the need for a further and more radical review, which was not possible in the time available since that advice was received. I have, therefore, proposed to the CI that the Scheme remains as an agenda item, recognising that further and more detailed consideration will be necessary following the September Board to take full account of the latest advice received under legal privilege.

7.0 November Board Meeting

The final Board meeting of 2023 will take place remotely, by Teams, on Wednesday 16 November. The Board will meet in confidential session at 10.00am, followed by the regular open Board meeting. There will be no Board workshop in November.