



## **Chair's Report**

**31 January 2024**

### **Inspection of the General Hospital, Adult Mental Health and Ambulance Services.**

The service agreement with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is signed and representatives of CQC visited Jersey on 12 December to meet with the Chief Inspector and Team. This event included an observational visit to the General Hospital in St Helier.

I met with the Principal Standards Office and Chief Inspector (CI), by Teams, on 07 December and again on 17 January to receive updates on progress in respect of preparation of the draft standards and indicators, which will be subject of consideration at both the February Board Workshop and Board Meeting.

### **Draft Annual Report 2023**

The Comptroller & Auditor General has provided encouraging feedback on the content of the Commission's 2022 Annual Report, with credit due to all involved in its preparation. The Head of Business and Performance will update the Board on progress with preparation of the 2023 Annual Report, with the intention of having the final copy ready for approval in March.

### **Business Plan and Key Performance Indicators for 2024**

The Head of Business and Performance will also provide an update on the development of the Business Plan and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), ref Board agenda item 8.

The focus in 2024 is on delivering the planned programme of annual inspections of over 100 regulated activities, publishing the first suite of inspection reports of children's services new to regulation, preparing the way for the extension of the Commission's regulatory reach to incorporate acute care, ambulance services and adult mental health services (from 2025 onwards), and implementing the new digital professional regulation portal.

## **Professional Registration.**

The public consultation on a proposed new Law on professional regulation - 'Health and social care professionals registration' closes on 26 February, but the outcome may be impacted by changes at Ministerial level.

This proposed new law involves:

- all professionals being registered with the Care Commission
- the Commission maintaining and publishing up-to-date registers of professional groups
- all professionals paying the same nominal registration fee and renewing their registration annually for the same fee
- health and social care employers having a duty to ensure that their employees are registered with the Commission in order to practice in Jersey

Government of Jersey's Policy Lead will provide an update at the February Board Workshop and the Commission will need to decide if it intends to respond formally to the public consultation.

## **Inspections of Children's Services new to Regulation.**

Inspections of Social Work Support to Children and Families (including the role and work of Independent Reviewing Officers) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) took place in Q4 2023. These reports are currently being prepared for open publication and will be released on 06 and 13 February respectively. The CI will provide an update in her report to the February Board.

Planned inspections of other children's services, including fostering and adoption and the Child Contact Centre will take place in 2024.

## **Quarterly Liaison Meeting with SPPP**

The final quarterly liaison meeting of 2023 took place on 14 November. The minutes of the September meeting have been approved and added to Sharepoint.

The first quarterly meeting of 2024 is scheduled for Thursday 21 March. Other dates for 2024 have been agreed and Commissioners are invited to attend at least one meeting this year. These meetings are conducted remotely, unless coinciding with on island Board events.

The CI has advised that following the November meeting she received an unexpected instruction from SPPP to find recurring savings of the order of £68k from our annual budget allocation.

A letter from the CI was submitted to the Accounting Officer seeking clarification as to the rationale for this reduction. A response from The Deputy Chief Executive in January confirms the saving requirement and advises that further reductions in public expenditure may be necessary in 2025 and beyond.

The CI will provide a full update in the Finance Section of the Board meeting.

## **Assisted Dying**

The Assisted Dying Policy Lead contacted the Commission by email on 24 January to provide a draft copy of the Assisted Dying Proposals Report, which takes account of the ethical review and consultation feedback. Section 11 covers Regulation and Oversight, including the proposed role of the Care Commission.

The Assisted Dying Policy Lead has asked for any further comment by 15 February, noting that the intended date of lodging of the report to the Council of Ministers may be delayed as a consequence of the recent political changes (ref para 12 below).

## **Children's Commissioner**

A new Children's Commissioner has been appointed with effect from March 2024. Once in post, I will issue an invitation to attend a future Board meeting.

## **Safeguarding Partnership Board**

Recruitment is under way to appoint the Chair of the Guernsey and Jersey Safeguarding Partnership Board. Once the new Chair is established, I will issue an invitation to attend a future Board meeting.

## **Political Developments**

Changes in membership of the Council of Ministers include the following appointments: -

Chief Minister  
Environment  
Children and Education  
Health and Social Services

Profiles of these and the other Ministerial appointees are available on the GoJ website. The Environment portfolio includes responsibility for the Care Commission.

## **AOB**

I would like to congratulate our fellow Board Member, Dr Kathryn Chamberlain, on the award of an OBE in the New Year's Honours list.