



Deputy Karen Wilson  
Minister for Health and Social Services

**BY EMAIL**  
9th December 2022

## **Health and Social Security Panel Quarterly Hearing**

Following the Quarterly Hearing on 1st December, the Panel would like to ask a number of additional questions about a number of areas contained in your Ministerial Plan. We would be grateful if you could provide a response by **20th December 2022**.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

1. What recruitment drive is currently being undertaken to fill existing vacancy gaps?
  - a) Would the Minister provide the Panel of the most up to date vacancy figures across the service?
  - b) Which areas within health and community services are having the most difficulties recruiting to (we note that mental health is one area)?
2. During the Quarterly Hearing, you were asked what the number of interim employees and management posts there are in the Health Department. You explained that you would provide the Panel with a breakdown at a later date. Please could the Panel receive that breakdown?

### **Health and Community Services Board**

3. The Panel notes that the Chair of the new HCS Board has been appointed, and thanks for the Minister for offering a private meeting with the Panel following the appointment. Would the Minister explain to the Panel, what process was used to ensure complete independence?
  - a) How did you come to the decision that the appointed Chair was the best candidate?
  - b) Do you consider there to be any issues of conflict of interest in regard to this appointment?

### **Waiting lists**

4. Could the Minister detail which specific departments are of particular concern in respect of their current waiting lists?
5. What progress has been made in recent months in reducing waiting lists?
6. How will the digital health care plans transform health care services, ensuring shorter wait lists?



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7. The Chief Minister stated in a hearing with the Corporate Services Panel that, among other things, cultural changes were needed to help reduce waiting lists. We are aware that a new "Speak up Champion" has been engaged to help with cultural changes. How is the new 'Speak up Champion' supporting change in the work culture within HCS and what feedback has been given that supports this?
8. What are the current readmission rates?

## **Sustainable Health Care Funding**

9. When do you aim to produce and publish a Primary Care Strategy in collaboration with the Minister for Social Security?
10. What discussions have taken place with the Primary Care Board in respect of the work your department is undertaking on Sustainable Health Care Funding?
11. During the public hearing held with the Panel on the 7th November, you informed the Panel that yourself and the Minister for Social Security would be reviewing the Health Access Scheme. When is this work due to begin and when is it due to be completed?
  - a) You also stated that the longer-term goal would be to expand these services to nearer 30% of the population, which could have various indicators such as long-term health conditions and possibly age factors. How do you plan to put this long-term goal in place and, when?
12. During the Quarterly Hearing on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, the Panel asked where the budget for the Sustainable Health Care funding is coming from. We were told the Jersey Care Model Funding which was indirectly from the Health Insurance Fund. We then asked how much that is costing and were told we could be provided with that figure at a later date. Please could you provide that figure?

## **Jersey Care Model**

13. Recommendation 7 of the JCM Review states that the use of the term JCM should cease and that each project should be considered on its own merit as a service development. How will the Minister ensure that each service development will link to the other and achieve an overarching objective?
14. How do you intend to tighten operational controls and increase oversight of implementation?
15. The Review states that the JCM pause has delayed the projects in the planning and design stages which plan to recruit or implement additional clinical services from Q3 onwards and, that there are no new lines of expenditure for these projects. When are the delayed projects due to restart?
16. Do you consider the new discharge policy and its implementation to be successful?
17. What are your views regarding the HCS 24 programme?



- a) Do you believe the programme is working well?

## **Mental Health**

18. When are you hoping to finalise scoping and publish a service-user led mental health strategy?

- a) Where is the funding for this work coming from as, the Panel are aware that mental health in young people funding has moved to CYPES?
- b) The Ministerial Plan states that work will be undertaken on improving quality and access to services for young people affected by severe mental illness. How do you intend to do this?
- c) How do you intend to improve quality and access to services for young people affected by less severe mental illness?

19. We asked in a letter dated 24th October 2022, how the £449,000 requested funding for Orchard House will be spent. The Panel were informed that £149,000 would be spent on 'cashflow in 2023 (payments of retentions)' and £300,000 would be allocated for 'Estimated outturn costs'. A further question was asked on 17th November, asking for an explanation of what is meant by 'payments of retentions' and 'estimated outturn costs', please could you provide a response in this format? Would you please explain what the estimated outturn costs are aimed to cover and how the estimation was generated?

- a) In addition, the Panel were informed that as of 26th October, £6,069,725 of the allocated budget (8.6m) had been spent. How much of the allocated budget has now been spent to date?
- b) Please provide an update on how the building work is progressing and when it is due to be finalised.

## **Public Health**

20. The Panel understands that you are aiming to support the development of more accurate information about health trends in Jersey during 2023 in order to improve and protect health and monitor progress over time. How exactly will you support this development?

21. Please can you provide a progress update regarding the development of a new public health law.

- a) In your view, what are the principal defects of the existing Law that have led to this development?
- b) Please explain how the law will provide measures to support the control of infectious disease threats and hazards?



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- c) How will the law address the health inequalities and ensure a focus on health outcomes across all activities?
- d) Are you still on track for a 2024 debate?

22. When is the Public Health Strategy due to be finalised?

23. Your Ministerial Plan states that you are going to conduct a Health and Protection Review in order to inform recommendations on how to protect Islanders from infectious disease and other environmental threats. When will this review take place and what is the estimated timeframe for publication of the recommendations?

- a) What new arrangements will be put in place to improve the data on infectious diseases?

## **Women's Health**

24. You have indicated that you will improve the health and wellbeing of woman and girls by beginning work to inform a women's health strategy. Please provide an estimated timeframe for when the strategy may be published.

25. How will the Minister work with the Minister for Education to support Education programmes and schools regarding sexual development, menstrual health, and pregnancy?

26. How will the Maternity Improvement plan be adapted to support pre and postnatal mental health services?

## **Assisted Dying**

27. How is the development of the new law progressing?

28. In your Ministerial Plan you stated that you would support the development of end-of-life and palliative care services to ensure no one chooses an assisted death due to the inability to access high quality end of life or palliative care services. Would the Minister explain how she would support the development of these services?

- a) Is the work still on target for a debate in 2024?

Yours sincerely,

**Deputy Geoff Southern**  
**Chair, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel**