



Scrutiny Office

Susan Devlin,
Managing Director, Community and Social Services,
Eagle House
Don Road
St. Helier
JE2 4QB

Our ref: 511/2/3/4

10th January 2018

Dear Susan,

Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel

The Review Panel has been considering submissions received from a variety of organisations in respect of the response to the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry (IJCI), and would like to request an update on the following items in relation to training courses:

1. A submission from the Jersey Association for Family Therapy (JAFT) explained that a local training course in systemic practice has been running for the past 20 years. The Review Panel notes that within the response to IJCI that a local training course is due to be established on the Jersey Practice Model. The Review Panel would be grateful if you could confirm whether or not there is any similarity between these courses.
2. In a submission received from the NSPCC, concern was raised at the lack of on-island training for Social Workers. Please could the Review Panel request an update on any training that is being considered in this respect.
3. Within the headline actions for Recommendation Four, Building a Sustainable Workforce, the Review Panel notes that the training programme for the Jersey Practice Model is due to be established by January 2018. Please could you update the Review Panel on the progress thus far?

The Review Panel would appreciate your response by Friday 19th January 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy S.Y. Mézec
Chairman, Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel

**Health and Social Services
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Private and Confidential

Deputy SY Mezec
Chairman, Care of Children in Jersey
Review Panel
States of Jersey States Assembly
Scrutiny Office

19 January 2018

Dear Deputy Mezec

Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel

Thank you for your letter of January 2018 in which you asked me to respond to three questions. I provide the following response to the questions.

1. A submission from the Jersey Association for Family Therapy (JAFT) explained that a local training course in systemic practice has been running for the past 20 years. The Review Panel notes that within the response to IJCI that a local training course is due to be established on the Jersey Practice Model. The Review Panel would be grateful if you could confirm whether or not there is any similarity between these courses.

Systemic practice and the practice model are two different things, systemic practice is an approach where workers develop skills and knowledge about how individuals are affected by the system in which they live eg a family is a system made up of different parts and how each part operates has an impact on each of the others. It is a method of intervention.

The Jersey Practice Model is a model for all services supporting children which will use one agreed process across the continuum of need. This means that everyone will use a shared language and tools and understand how all the pieces (services) 'fit together'. It is a child centred model and builds a 'team around the child', with one agreed format for assessment, planning and chronology – these will be described as the child's assessment and plan rather than a social work plan or an education plan. This is an approach that has been evaluated in other jurisdictions as positive in contributing to improved outcomes.

Systemic practice and the Jersey Practice Model can exist in a complementary manner and neither has a negative impact on the other.

2. In a submission received from the NSPCC, concern was raised at the lack of on-island training for Social Workers. Please could the Review Panel request an update on any training that is being considered in this respect.

One element of building a sustainable professionally qualified social care workforce is by Jersey growing its own staff. This means having professional practice educators, providing student placements and members of our community having access to degree courses.

Over the last few years there have been small numbers of staff supported to undertake social work courses in the UK. However, we recognise that many people cannot leave the island for the time required because of personal commitments.

There is work ongoing with States' Departments, Highlands College and colleagues in Guernsey to develop an on island social work degree. Work has been undertaken with potential partner universities in the UK to develop a course that will meet accreditation standards. There has been a third potential partner university identified which is currently involved in scoping elements of a future course. It is likely the course will provide places for 12 students. The financial cost implications and other support require to be fully scoped.

One component required prior to an on island course commencing is to ensure there are sufficient practice educators in place and training is arranged for the early part of 2018 in this regard.

3. Within the headline actions for Recommendation Four, Building a Sustainable Workforce, the Review Panel notes that the training programme for the Jersey Practice Model is due to be established by January 2018. Please could you update the Review Panel on the progress thus far?

Work on the Practice model continues at pace. The model processes and documentation has been agreed and signed off. It has been developed and agreed by a representative group of stakeholders including a parent representative.

Interviews took place for the officer to lead training and workforce development of the model. This was a success process and an appointment was made. The successful candidate is due to commence in post shortly. The training programme which will include all services working with children will run across 2018 and have additional support from all the main services.

I hope the above information is helpful and do not hesitate to contact me for further details if required. If the Panel would like a briefing on the Practice Model I would be happy to make arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Susan Devlin
Managing Director
Community and Social Services