

Review Panel – Care of Children in Jersey

Record of Meeting

Date: 26th January 2018

Present	Deputy S.Y. Mézec, Chairman Deputy T.A. Vallois, Vice-Chairman
Apologies	Senator S.C. Ferguson
Absent	Deputy M.R. Higgins
In attendance	Ms L. Clark, Chairperson, Independent Visitors for Young People Ms J. Lydford, Deputy Chairperson, Independent Visitors for Young People Mr P. Pinel, Independent Visitor for Young People Mr A. Harris, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
511/2/3/1	<p>1. Meeting with representatives of the Independent Visitors for Young People</p> <p>The Review Panel received Ms L. Clark, Chairperson, Independent Visitors for Young People, Ms J. Lydford, Deputy Chairperson, Independent Visitors for Young People and Mr P. Pinel, Independent Visitor for Young People, to discuss the submission that had been made on behalf of the Independent Visitors for Young People (IVYP).</p> <p>The representatives explained that the IVYP were a group of volunteers who conducted visits to children's homes in order to establish if there were any concerns from the resident young people. The group would then report any concerns back to the Children's Policy Group, however it was noted that this group was now the Children and Vulnerable Adults Group (CAVA). It was noted that in order to carry out this role, the IVYP were independent of the States of Jersey and as such were able to build significant relationships with the young people resident in the homes.</p> <p>Under Recommendation Three of the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry (IJCI) report it was recommended that the current IVYP arrangement be terminated as it lacked the power of a formal inspection process and would produce unnecessary duplication alongside that process. It was then explained that the IJCI report went on to recommend that the States of Jersey utilised the experience of the IVYP within inspection teams. Furthermore, under Recommendation three in <i>P.108/2017 'Independent Jersey Care Inquiry report: implementation of recommendations'</i>, a headline action was to bring forward a plan to phase out the IVYP.</p> <p>It was explained that the IVYP had been informed through the Jersey Evening Post (JEP) that their role was due to be phased out, and no communication had been had in advance of this by any department. It was noted that a meeting was held with the Chief Minister on Monday 15th January, where assurances were sought in relation to the interim and future arrangements of the IVYP. The Chief Minister had apologised for the oversight in this matter and offered to provide clarification as soon as possible. It was explained that clarification had yet to be received by</p>	

	<p>the IVYP. Since the announcement in the JEP it was explained that a significant number of volunteers had left their role in the IVYP and only 5 volunteers remained. The Review Panel agreed that it would send a letter to the Chief Minister requesting that interim and future of the IVYP be clarified immediately.</p> <p>The representatives explained their disappointment that the IVYP had not been approached to provide a submission to the Review Panel. It was noted that one of the members had happened upon a letter that had been sent to another organisation and agreed to produce a submission on behalf of the IVYP. The Review Panel thanked the representatives for making the submission and offered its apologies for not making contact in the first instance.</p> <p>The Review Panel noted that no invitations had been extended by the IVYP to meet with the Care Commissioner or the recently appointed Children’s Commissioner. It was hoped that the experience of the IVYP would be utilised when developing any future actions in relation to the inspection process and listening to the voice of young people in care.</p>	AH
511/2/3	<p>2. Comments on P.108/2017 ‘Independent Jersey Care Inquiry report: implementation of recommendations’</p> <p>The Review Panel approved its comments on <i>P.108/2017 ‘Independent Jersey Care Inquiry report: implementation of recommendations’</i>.</p>	