

Mental Health Strategic System Partnership Board

Terms of Reference

Background

The mental health landscape in Jersey has changed considerably since the COVID-19 pandemic began. This change has given rise to opportunities to improve and develop mental health and wellbeing services.

COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of resilience, social networks and access to health and wellbeing services. It has not affected all islanders equally, with those most affected including children and young people, people with serious mental illness, older people, those with insecure employment, and suboptimal housing and family circumstances. Public perception has evolved, with greater willingness to discuss mental health and wellbeing and an improved appreciation of the role of wellbeing in the maintenance of good health.

Public Health was reformed as a department within Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SPPP) in 2021, with the appointment of Jersey's first Director of Public Health. A Public Health Strategy has been under development throughout 2022 and it is anticipated that this will highlight mental health as a priority area.

An external review of adult mental health services in Jersey was undertaken and reported on in late 2021. This identified a number of strengths, but system-wide working and senior leadership and direction were lacking. Consequently, a new Director of Mental Health & Adult Social Care was appointed and entered office in January 2022.

The previous Mental Health Improvement Plan – which had been developed following a Scrutiny review of mental health services – has continued to be delivered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan had resulted in work being undertaken on the development of a number of areas including infrastructure, workforce, and pathways. There are some actions within the plan that remain outstanding or partially completed, but now require updating.

Overall, this landscape now provides an important opportunity to develop mental health services in Jersey as a single coherent system, with full engagement from partners. Importantly this includes service users and their carers.

Purpose of the Board

The purpose of the board is to collectively develop an integrated mental health system. It will promote mental and emotional wellbeing and seek to reduce stigma and mental health inequalities. It will put service user care and experience at the heart of delivery and utilise the collective strengths of effective partnerships. The Board will provide updates and assurance on progress to the Health Minister and other stakeholders through the HCS Board and the Public Health Programme Development Group.

Function of the Board

The Mental Health Strategic System Board is a forum for key stakeholders to discuss and take decisions on an integrated approach to improving and promoting mental health and wellbeing.

The Board will act as a multi-agency partnership and will be collectively responsible for the successful achievement of a coherent, integrated and improving mental health system.

Initially the Board will review progress against the previous actions from the Mental Health Improvement Plan and other actions that have been commenced or completed in the preceding two years. The Board will subsequently develop and oversee a future plan for the development of integrated mental health services. This will include clear priorities and objectives for the system partners collectively.

As the Board develops, there will be opportunities for members to discuss and agree collective priorities for mental health investment, service development and financial allocation. It will contribute to system-wide discussions regarding efficiencies, service change and the development of a commissioning strategy for mental health services.

Role of Board Members

Board members will:

1. Work in partnership across organisational boundaries, to achieve the purpose of the board.
2. Provide oversight, advice, support, and constructive challenge regarding the mental health system.
3. Share information to and from their own organisations and based on their own experience.
4. Play an active role in discussions and decision making.
5. Engage in appropriate challenge and support of partners.
6. Take responsibility for undertaking agreed actions.

Board Culture

Members will be respectful and ensure their language and behaviour are appropriate at all times. All Members are equal, and every Member's contribution is valued. Constructive challenge is welcomed and will be embraced by members. All members will be empowered and supported by the Board to make a meaningful contribution.

Meeting Frequency

Meetings will be held quarterly from 10:00am to 12:00pm on Wednesdays. These will be in person and will adopt a workshop format, with all members invited.

There will be additional, topic-specific meetings, held as required. Attendance at these will be determined by the Board and will be limited to those members with a strong focus on the topic being discussed.

Membership

Job Title	Organisation
Director of Public Health (Co-Chair)	Government of Jersey (Public Health)
Executive Director of Mental Health & Adult Social Care (Co-Chair)	Government of Jersey (Health & Community Services)
Consultant in Public Health	Government of Jersey (Public Health)
Clinical Director of Adult Mental Health	Government of Jersey (Health & Community Services)
Executive Director	Mind Jersey
Chief Executive Officer	My Voice
Head of LINC Services	Listening Lounge
Executive Officer	Jersey Recovery College
Executive Officer	Focus on Mental Illness
Chief Executive Officer	Dementia Jersey
Head of Commissioning & Service Redesign	Government of Jersey (Children, Young People, Education & Skills)
Head of Health & Wellbeing	Government of Jersey (Children, Young People, Education & Skills)
Equal by experience (service user)	
Equal by experience (carer)	
Chief Officer, States of Jersey Police	Government of Jersey (Department of Justice & Home Affairs)
Governor, States of Jersey Prison Service	Government of Jersey (Department of Justice & Home Affairs)
Head of Prison Healthcare	
Chief Probation Officer	
Ambulance Service Representative	
Chief Social Worker	Government of Jersey (Health & Community Services)
Residential Service Provider	
Minority / Vulnerable Population Group Representative	Caritas, Shelter
Associate Director of Improvement & Innovation	Government of Jersey (Health & Community Services)
General Practitioner	

It is anticipated that Board members will act as conduits for those in their networks. Additional attendees will be invited to join meetings in instances where the Board requires input beyond that possible from its members.

Quorum

It is expected that all members will do their utmost to attend all meetings, as all members are vital to the progression of this workstream.

The Board will be considered quorate if there is at least one senior representative from Public Health, one senior representative from HCS, at least two members from the charity and voluntary sector, and at least two Equals by Experience.

Governance Structure

The Board will formally report to both the HCS Board, which is chaired by the Minister for Health and Social Services, and the Public Health Senior Leadership Team.

Redacted minutes of Board meetings will be publicly available. The names of equals by experience will be removed, along with any information that could lead to their identification.

Board Key Relationships

The Board will have key relationships with other structures within the mental health system, including the (operational) Mental Health Network. Its interface with other groups will feature formal and informal reporting mechanisms.

Meeting Administration

The Co-chairs will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda, with administrative support from Health and Community Services (HCS).

HCS will also be responsible for the administration, clerking, and hosting of the Board meetings. Papers will be distributed to Board members at least five working days in advance of meetings and minutes taken will be distributed to Board members within five working days following meetings. The Co-chairs will approve minutes before distribution.

August 2023