

## Media Release

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

### Publication of a report into a Review of Guernsey's Mental Health Services from December 2018

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An independent review of specialist secondary care Mental Health Services carried out at the end of 2018 stated that:

‘Guernsey has good mental health services, which in many ways are as good as or better than those in most countries in the world. The services are well resourced, providing a wide range of clinical interventions to meet the needs of the population.’

In a summary report, released today, the author Mr David Gedze commented that there are very low waiting times, a sufficient number of in-patient beds and a focus on the physical health and wellbeing of patients.

As with any review, Mr Gedze made recommendations to build on the strengths of the existing structure and noted that a number of small changes could improve the service and the perception of the services, as a means of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of care delivery.

The 2018 review proposed:

- A robust management and professional leadership structure to strengthen the identity of the service and improve external communication
- A single community team to streamline pathways and reduce duplication
- A wider range of interventions in the adult in-patient ward
- Minimal changes to improve services in CAMHS and for people with eating disorders and substance use problems
- The introduction of personal health budgets and peer support workers in line with best practice in modern mental health services
- A new approach to quality improvement, engaging staff and service users
- A link with a UK mental health trust to provide mutual benefits

- A creative recruitment and retention strategy with regular campaigns and rotation posts
- Stronger partnerships with the third sector, community and service user groups and a co-production approach to service improvement

Steps have been taken to progress the detailed recommendations of the review and a summary of the key actions taken to date has also been made available by the Committee for Health & Social Care. The documents can be downloaded from [www.gov.gg/article/119652/Health\\_Social-Care--Wellbeing](http://www.gov.gg/article/119652/Health_Social-Care--Wellbeing)

Deputy Al Brouard, President, said that:

*'In the light of the recent political focus on the mental health and wellbeing of the community, the Committee felt that it was important to share a summary of the report prepared by Mr Gedze, together with details of the actions taken in response to the recommendations of this review.'*

*'While there have been calls for a further review of the Service, the Committee's position is that this is unnecessary at this time. However, in the spirit of ongoing continuous improvement, Mr Gedze has been asked to visit the Island in the New Year for further professional dialogue with staff working in this area.'*

Dr Dominic Bishop, Consultant Psychiatrist, added that:

*'Working within Mental Health Services can be both challenging and rewarding and it was pleasing to receive such a positive report from an independent expert. We continue to work to improve the Service that we provide to some of our communities most vulnerable individuals.'*