

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE  
TO QUESTIONS POSED BY DEPUTY TOM RYLATT PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

**1. Question**

In March 2024, Guernsey and Jersey formed an alliance committed to working together “on health and care challenges”, under the following guiding principles:

- Taking a ‘whole system’ approach to make health and social care services more integrated and resilient across Jersey and Guernsey;
- Focusing on opportunities for joint working and collaboration for the benefit of both jurisdictions; and
- Enabling health and social care service developments that are affordable, sustainable and deliver the best outcomes for both communities.

Can the Committee provide an update on the progress made since this commitment, including any specific recommendations of the alliance that have been delivered jointly with Jersey and any areas where progress has been limited or not realised?

**Answer**

At Officer level there is operational engagement with Jersey, Isle of Man and Gibraltar around wider strategic challenges for health and care delivery as Crown Dependencies and an Overseas Territory.

However, Jersey and Guernsey have forged an alliance model specifically because of our geographical location and shared challenges across the Bailiwicks. Both communities aim to enable Islanders to live longer, healthier and productive lives, through providing safe, sustainable, affordable and integrated services in partnership with others. Our challenges are not unique but are complex given our small island operating contexts. We have the following areas in common:

- The need for more prevention and early intervention
- Demographic changes and increasing complexity of need
- Rising drug costs and medical inflation
- Affordability of new treatments and technologies
- Procurement challenges as small islands
- Ageing health and care infrastructure
- Access to off-island provision for acute and complex care
- Need to improve digital and technology estate
- Workforce planning

The alliance has evolved since its inception, but the guiding principles remain relevant. The following table illustrates this working partnership:

SUBJECT AREA	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<b>Pharmacy / Medicines Optimisation</b>	Quarterly Chief Pharmacist meeting between Guernsey and Jersey to share strategic priorities, operational challenges and collaborative opportunities across pharmacy services.
<b>Medicines Governance and Controlled Drugs</b>	Shared learning and discussion regarding controlled drug governance, medicinal cannabis regulation, prescribing oversight and emerging regulatory frameworks across both Bailiwicks
<b>Pharmacy Training and Workforce Development</b>	Regular sharing of pharmacy training resources, policies, competency frameworks and workforce development opportunities to support recruitment, retention and professional development across both islands.
<b>Medicines Optimisation and Formulary Working</b>	Collaborative discussions regarding formulary management, NICE implementation, high-cost medicines and approaches to medicines optimisation and sustainability.
<b>Medicines Procurement and Supply Resilience</b>	Informal collaboration and intelligence sharing around medicine shortages, supply chain resilience and procurement challenges affecting island communities.
<b>Pharmacy Professional Networks and Benchmarking</b>	Participation in Crown Dependency pharmacy leadership networks to benchmark service models, share best practice and explore opportunities for future collaborative working.
<b>Jersey and Guernsey Public Health Alliance</b>	<p>Meets three times a year</p> <p>Shares best practice, experience and learning to improve efficiency.</p> <p>Acts as critical friends to improve the quality of public health approaches.</p> <p>Jointly develops training opportunities across the islands.</p> <p>Shares resources to improve efficiency, quality, and outcomes</p> <p>Expands sources of knowledge on public health matters</p>
<b>Public Health Intelligence</b>	<p>Monthly meetings</p> <p>Knowledge sharing between analysts with areas of expertise shared which may otherwise need to be contracted out</p> <p>Joint Cancer Registry report with shared costs and the availability of comparative data</p>
<b>Director of Public Health Regular Meetings</b>	<p>Usually monthly meeting</p> <p>Facilitates peer support</p> <p>Shares documentation - for example on research conducted on particular topics - saves time and reduces costs as we are able to</p>

	achieve more with a limited number of people in each team
<b>Public Health Population Screening Leads meeting</b>	Regular (approx. 6/year) meetings Joint working on sun safety Clinical Advisor for our Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme is Consultant Ophthalmic and Vitreo- Retinal Surgeon Collaboration on behavioural science training and work
<b>Public Health joint training opportunities with shared cost</b>	Example upcoming STAC (Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell) training - costs shared with Jersey Public Health
<b>Children and Family Community Services</b>	There are different structures in Jersey with Children Services forming part of the Education Department. However, we work collaboratively on areas of mutual challenge and interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning opportunities</li> <li>• Secure provision for children and young people</li> <li>• Out of Jurisdiction placements</li> <li>• Sharing challenges relevant to each island operating context</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	In the early stages of exploring benchmarking opportunities and our approaches to efficiencies and savings across the islands
<b>Strategic Workforce Planning</b>	Initial meeting between Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey. Jersey and Guernsey now linking to explore Bailiwick opportunities.
<b>Client Team</b>	Monthly meeting with Isle of Man and Jersey covering subject areas like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-island processes</li> <li>• Relationships with NHS providers</li> <li>• Primary care data reporting</li> <li>• Channel island liaison team Southampton</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement</b>	Joint procurement of air ambulance between Jersey and Guernsey
<b>Resilience</b>	Jersey and Guernsey working with the Normandy office to establish an MoU that will enable us to call upon French assistance in extremis. Both islands have had cause to use French helicopters to transfer acute casualties to Caen in recent years. It has been agreed to establish an MoU but also explore other opportunities across health and care.
<b>Chief Officer Group</b>	Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey and Gibraltar meets quarterly to explore risks and joint opportunities for influencing relationships with the NHS collectively.

<b>Medical Director/Responsible Officer</b>	Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey and Gibraltar meet bi-monthly via teams to discuss topics of mutual interest
<b>Digital and IT</b>	Shared learning and engagement around EPR implementation in Jersey and Guernsey including lessons learned. This is now evolving into digital health and care strategic planning opportunities across both islands and sharing of approaches.
<b>Health and Care</b>	Regular engagement with Chief Nurse and Deputy Chief Nurse Sharing policies and procedures Discuss proposals from RCN or NMC to understand impact in island context Maternity colleagues now having placements in Jersey Guernsey representatives visited Jersey in April covering a range of topics and Jersey will visit Guernsey in July. Next step is to forge greater working links at Associate Director level.

## 2. Question

What consideration, if any, has the Committee given to the establishment of a formal Joint Health Authority between Guernsey and Jersey or whether further structures are required to deliver more effective joint working?

During the last term of Government, The Committee *for* Health and Social Care accompanied by Officers visited Jersey to explore joint working opportunities. The subject of a Joint Health Authority was discussed at this meeting but was not supported politically in either Bailiwick at that time.

Ends.

**Date of receipt of questions: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Date of response: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**