

## **Minutes of Management Board Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Attendance: Secretary General (Fergal Lynch), Liz Canavan, Bernie McNally, Michelle Shannon and Dermot Ryan. Alan Savage reporting.

### **1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May were agreed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Business Plans – discussions with MB members will conclude shortly, and will necessitate some adjustments to current business plans.

Peer Review – an update was received from REU, with some improvements identified.

Town Hall – confirmation of a venue for 30 June is awaited. A number of topics were proposed for discussion on the day.

Meeting with Tusla CEO – FL circulated a note to MB colleagues.

Tusla Draft Report – featured on news over weekend. Tusla provided a note for information.

### **3. Brief Updates**

**LC** gave updates on: (i) QCBI, (ii) Review of Child Care Act, (iii) Prevention and Early Intervention [Meeting with DPER], (iv) SOG on Social Policy, (v) Children First Act, (vi) CoE Strategy on Children's Rights, and (vii) Report of Special Rapporteur on Child Protection.

- Review of Child Care Act – LC to provide FL with CES international literature review.
- CoE Strategy – LC to provide FL with paper drafted by C. Keenan.

**MS** gave updates on: (i) Oberstown [IR issues, Building, HIQA and Recruitment], (ii) Adoption, (iii) Commission of Investigation [Mother and Baby Homes], and (vi) New AP in IYJS.

- Commission of Investigation – MS to set up meeting for Minister.

**DR** gave updates on: (i) Tusla Performance Review, (ii) Tusla Board appointments, (iii) HR Issues, (iv) Finance Issues, (v) Estimates Process, (vi) Tusla Annual Review of Adequacy, (vii) HIQA Reports, (viii) Internet Content Governance, (ix) Press Office, and (x) Annual Report 2015.

**BM** gave updates on: (i) AIM Launch, (ii) Childcare Service [Clare/Limerick], (iii) CCS Scheme [Programme Refugees], (iv) Childminding Ireland, (v) DSP Meeting, (vi) Afterschool [PfG/100 Day Commitment], (vii) Youth Affairs Seconded, (viii) School Admissions Bill, (ix) Participation [Transgender Consultations], (x) Afterschool Consultations, and (xi) Research [FPA].

**FL** gave updates on: (i) Au Pairs Bill, and (ii) DES Statement of Strategy

### **4. Single Affordable Childcare Programme**

Laura McGarrigle, Marion Martin and Toby Wolfe joined the meeting for this item and presented the Business Case for the Single Affordable Childcare Scheme, seeking approval to move forward with the objectives and approach set out. An ambitious timeframe of September 2017 has been set. A dedicated Design Team includes Marion Martin as project manager and Toby Wolfe (seconded to the Department for this project as an economic expert on the area of Early Years and qualified Economist). It is intended that a draft policy paper and initial costings will be ready to present to the MB by end-June 2016. The issue of price caps for service providers were discussed in the context of the first iteration of the scheme. It was noted that an independent review of costs

is critical (and is contained in the PfG). BM pointed out the importance of noting that in addition to supporting the workforce, the objectives also set out to support families where no-one is in employment, from a child welfare and development perspective. The aim is to have a scheme with a robust platform, sound financial management and good governance. Pobal's current role in administering the funding programmes and the PIP system was discussed in the context of governance and procurement. It was proposed that a business analyst be employed to assess whether the PIP could operate as a platform on which to build the new model, and that legal advice be sought as to the legislative framework on which the scheme will sit and any procurement requirements for the development and administration of the scheme. It was agreed that the Minister and Adviser be kept informed, and that a policy paper be presented for a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy in September 2016. TW is building a cost model and is separately working on a paper to go to FL by end-week, relating to PfG proposals regarding universal childcare supports for children aged 9-36 months.

The ESRI's SWITCH model was also discussed. The merits of the Department joining the SWITCH Research Programme Steering Group include access to expertise and resources, in addition to facilitating the Department with other linkages. The next meeting of the Steering Group takes place on 22 June. By joining, DCYA would need to commit to the Steering Group and multi-annual funding (to be negotiated). It was noted that DCYA requirements are simpler than those of DoH (another SG member) and should result in lesser costs, and that the "micro-simulation" model would suit DCYA's purposes. Procurement issues shouldn't arise as it is a research based programme, developed over 20 years. It is believed that DPER would welcome the fact that DCYA is using the SWITCH cost model.

- LM to engage with the ESRI and revert to MB with a proposal.

## **5. Children First Implementation in DCYA**

LC presented on the paper prepared by Marie Kennedy. The following were agreed:

- (i) DCYA Sectoral Plan needs to be revisited and units ensure their sectors are up to speed.
- (ii) Internal arrangements re: vetting need to be looked at.
- (iii) The need for strong arrangements with Tusla on child protection concerns notified to DCYA.
- (iv) Section 27 of the children First Act needs to be commenced (Sept/Oct 2016)

It was noted that the provision related to the Children First IDG was commenced, and that DCYA will be writing to relevant parties to seek nominees.

- LC to check re: membership of IDG

## **6. For Noting**

- (ii) FOI Report – FL will speak to the Minister about publishing (on the DCYA website) the briefing provided to the Minister on the work of the Department.
- (iii) Comms – Adoption event of 13<sup>th</sup> June: MS will prepare material for Minister.

## **7. AOB**

No other items arose.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 10:30a.m.