

Minutes of Management Board Meeting held on 23rd May 2016

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16th May were agreed with one amendment.

2. Matters Arising

FL advised that the Memorandum for Government regarding the Proposal for Budget 2017 was discussed at the weekly meeting of Secretary Generals and he will update further when he has more information on this.

3. Brief Updates

LC gave updates on: (i) QCBI, (ii) Preparing for Life, (iii) Case Studies, (iv) CRA [Report Card], (v) TENI [Meeting], (vi) Disability, (vii) GOAL, (viii) Children First Meeting, and (ix) Homelessness.

- Preparing for Life – LC will provide summary to FL

MS gave updates on: (i) Amalgamation Order for Oberstown Detention Centre, (ii) Oberstown [IR Ballot and Buildings], (iii) HIQA Overview Report, (iv) Adoption [Amendment] Bill, (v) AAI [Corporate Plan], and (vi) Commission of Investigation [Mother and Baby Homes].

DR gave updates on: (i) DCYA Relocation, (ii) DCYA Alteration Work, (iii) HR [New AP and TCO's], (iv) Mentoring of new staff members, (v) HR [Oberstown and AAI], (vi) DCYA Partnership Committee, (vii) Foster Care Case, (viii) HIQA Annual Review on Children's Services Regulatory Activity, (ix) Closure of Residential Centre, (x) C&AG Audit of Appropriation Account, (xi) Staffing Issues [Meeting with DPER], (xii) New Financial Reporting Template, (xiii) NCCIS, (xiv) Peer Review Group, (xv) Internal Audit Report on Tusla Governance, and (xvi) Tusla Performance Figures.

- HIQA Annual Review on Children's Services Regulatory Activity – DR will provide a paper to FL and the Minister on this.

BM gave updates on: (i) Childcare Regulations [Tusla Roadshows], (ii) ECCE Contracts, (iii) Level 7 College Course, (iv) Childcare Service Audit, (v) DEIS Review, (vi) Early Years Strategy, (vii) Access and Inclusion Model, (viii) Youth Employability Funding, (ix) New AP in Youth Affairs, and (x) QCBI Meeting.

4. Programme for Government

FL circulated a note from the Department of the Taoiseach prior to the meeting which outlined commitments for the DCYA to be included in the Programme for Government. The Minister will have a bilateral with the Taoiseach on Thursday 26 May to discuss these commitments. The MB members considered the list of commitments noting that some of them can be amalgamated. A document is in preparation to (i) give a commentary on the 27 lead commitments which D/Taoiseach has identified, (ii) suggest what can be achieved in twelve months and, (iii) identify other priority issues not included in the Programme for Government. FL asked that MB members provide feedback so that a comprehensive document can be prepared by Thursday in advance of the bilateral.

5. GUI – Promoting the use of data for policy analysis and decisions across Government

Claire Finn and Clare Farrell attended the meeting for this item and presented on the document circulated in advance of the meeting. By 2019, the State will have invested approximately €47m in GUI and the Study Team has generated a significant amount of longitudinal data. It was noted that in order to ensure maximum return on this investment, it is essential that policy makers are engaged with and are facilitated to use this data to its full potential, so that the findings from the study make a clear contribution to policy and service provision and ultimately to improving the lives of children and their families. The barriers and facilitators to bridging the gap between policy and practice were discussed and some practical pointers for greater uptake of GUI evidence were suggested. It was advised that an action plan would need to be incorporated into the core work of GUI and may require additional resources in respect of finances or dedicated time and personnel. The next steps in this process will be (i) the consideration of a Final Discussion paper by both DCYA and the Study Team, and (ii) development of a detailed action plan between DCYA and the Study Team.

6. BOBF Indicator Set

Claire Finn and Clare Farrell presented on the document circulated in advance of the meeting. The purpose of the indicator set is to act as a barometer of progress on the five national outcomes in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF) and to inform future policy development. The aim of the indicator development process is to agree a final indicator of approximately 60 indicators which are most relevant and important to the five national outcomes in BOBF. The work completed to date on (i) data preparation and, (ii) indicators selection was outlined and the current work and next steps were discussed. FL thanked the Research and Evaluation Unit for their work on this process.

7. For Noting

(i) Submissions – Noted.

(ii) FOI Report – A number of requests have been received regarding briefing provided to the Minister on the work of the Department and it is intended to publish this briefing shortly.

8. AOB

LC asked MB members to revert to her on the risk management template regarding the EU/UK relations referendum and to remind their teams to provide feedback on the Commissioning document.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 30 May at 10:30a.m. It will be preceded by a meeting of the Risk Committee meeting at 9.30a.m.