

## **Minutes of Management Board Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> May were agreed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

All matters arising were discussed as part of brief updates.

### **3. Brief Updates**

**BM** gave updates on: (i) Meeting with Minister, (ii) Re-registration of existing early years services [Tusla], (iii) Early Years (Pre-School) Regulations [Child Protection Statement], (iv) Compliance Issues [Limerick case], (v) Access and Inclusion Model [HSE], (vi) Meeting with IMPACT [Schools Completion Programme], and (vii) Early Years [Staffing].

**DR** gave updates on: (i) Foster Care Case, (ii) DCYA Partnership Committee Meeting, (iii) Ministerial Appointments, (iv) Tusla COO [Sanction for Contract], (v) Tusla Performance Reports, (vi) Tusla Board Vacancies, (vii) Briefing material for Minister [FOI Requests], and (viii) DCYA Relocation [Visit to Miesian Plaza and Meeting with DoH re ICT].

- Tusla Board Vacancies – DR will provide submission to FL.

**MS** gave updates on: (i) Attendance at UPR Meeting [Geneva], (ii) Oberstown [Ballot and BAM Meeting], (iii) Amalgamation Order for Oberstown Detention Centre, (iv) Child Law Centre [Round Table on Child Justice], (v) Bail Supervision Scheme, (vi) Research Project with University of Limerick, (vii) Commission of Investigation [Mother and Baby Homes], and Adoption [Amendment] Bill.

**LC** gave updates on: (i) GAL, (ii) CRA [Child Summit], (iii) Children First Meeting, (iv) SAVVI Report, (v) ECJ, (vi) Disability, (vii) GOAL, (viii) ABC, (ix) Tusla AP Grant [Outcomes], (x) QCBI [Bilaterals], (xi) Early Years Strategy, (xii) Children First Subgroup Report and, (xiii) Case Studies.

- Children First Meeting – LC provided note to FL

### **4. Review of Tusla Monthly Reports**

Denis O'Sullivan, Michele Clarke, Gordon Gaffney, Sinead McEvoy and Simon Conry attended the meeting for this item and presented on the May 2016 Agency Performance Analysis Report circulated in advance of the meeting. It was advised that good progress has been made on reducing the number of unallocated cases which have decreased by almost 20% since the beginning of the year. Overall staffing levels have also improved and Tusla Recruit is beginning to have an impact as a means of recruiting social care workers. The four contractually committed projects under the Capital Plan are on target. The importance of provision being made for ICT improvements was noted and Mr O'Sullivan advised this will feature in next month's report to the Management Board. The presentation of the breakdown of regional staffing was also considered.

FL asked that the Performance Reports be provided to the Minister and her advisor each month for information. Denis O'Sullivan advised that he will add some extra context to the papers circulated for this meeting and provide this to the Minister.

#### **5. EU Peer Review**

Conor Rowley attended the meeting for this item. A note was circulated in advance of the meeting by Policy Innovation Unit which included an overview of the EU Peer Review process, and a report on the event drafted by the European Commission. The Department held a European seminar in collaboration with the Department of Social Protection and the European Commission which key stakeholders and representatives of the European commission attended. The theme of the seminar examined how to mainstream learning in early intervention and prevention approaches to improve outcomes for children. The MB noted details of the key learning points which emerged from this Peer Review. Mr Rowley advised that the Expert Report of the Peer Review event will inform the finalisation of a paper on mainstreaming the learning, which has been developed by a subgroup of key informants and chaired by the DCYA.

#### **6. Arrangements for operation of new Government**

FL gave an update regarding the meeting held between Secretary Generals and the Taoiseach last week, and advised he will update further when more information is received. FL advised he spoke to the Minister regarding overall priorities and in addition, the Minister intends to identify a list of key items to be achieved in the first 100 days. Consideration was given to what should be included in this list and a number of items were identified. The commitments included in the new Programme for Government were discussed and it was agreed that each MB member will examine the various commitments and identify in a short document (i) the items already in progress/relevant to our existing work and (ii) any new or varied commitments not already being pursued. These will be considered at next Monday's MB meeting.

#### **7. For Noting**

- (i) Submissions – FL will discuss with the Minister.
- (ii) FOI Report – A number of requests have been received regarding briefing provided to the Minister on the work of the Department.

#### **8. AOB**

FL advised that following the appointment of a new Government as the Minister and advisor become familiar with the DCYA's overall brief, MB members should pay particular attention to PQ replies in their respective divisions. FL will also review these replies and discuss with the Minister if necessary.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 23 May at 9:15a.m.