

## **Minutes of Management Board Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

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

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

The minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were agreed with one amendment.

### **2. Matters Arising**

All matters arising were discussed as part of brief updates below.

### **3. Brief Updates**

**BM** gave updates on: (i) Childcare Service Audit, (ii) Community Childcare Services (iii) Conference in Cork [Child Care], (iv) Upcoming IMPACT conference, (v) IDG [Special Needs] and (vi) Educational Welfare [Court Case].

**DR** gave updates on: (i) Appropriation Account, (ii) HR [Recruitment in Department], (iii) OPW [New office plans in Department], (iv) Internal Audit Report and (v) Tusla Capital Plan.

**LC** gave updates on: (i) Trevor Reddy Case [Section 3 Challenge], (ii) National Review Panel and (iii) ABC.

**MS** gave updates on: (i) Adoption [Amendment] Bill [Publication], (ii) AAI [Press Query] and (iii) Oberstown [Staffing].

### **4. ABC Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (c/f from 7<sup>th</sup> March)**

Conor Rowley attended for this item and presented, with LC, on the main elements of QCBI. This is an evolving proposal, which will be linked closely to the initiatives contained in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures. The Management Board discussed the main elements of QCBI, with particular reference to concepts, communication and practical approaches to incremental implementation. MB members were very supportive of the proposed approach, welcoming it as a valuable initiative. It was agreed that:

- Work on development of the proposal would continue
- A short “lay persons” description would be prepared for communication purposes, with use of practical examples or case studies to demonstrate its practical benefits.

It was noted that the QCBI proposals had been outlined to the Policy Consortium and the Advisory Council of BOBF, as well as to the Departments of Health and Education and Skills.

### **5. UNCRC Report**

Following the UNCRC hearing of 14 January 2016, the Management Board considered the various recommendations made by the Committee in its final report of 4 February. The recommendations relating specifically to DCYA and Tusla were noted, as were those for which DCYA had a co-ordinating role. It was agreed that in general the recommendations were already covered by actions under BOBF and/or other work being done by Government Departments and agencies. However it was important to ensure that momentum was maintained in Ireland’s implementation of the various items. LC advised that she has met with the CRA regarding the outcome, and the Department has agreed in principle to co-host a high level symposium with

them in September 2016 to explore the concluding observations. The intention is that this event could be a precursor to a Child Summit event in 2017.

- LC will circulate a note of the meeting with CRA to MB members

## **6. AOB**

FL circulated a letter sent from Martin Fraser, Secretary General to the Government, to the Secretaries General Group, asking any major issues arising before the summer recess in July be notified to his office by the 18<sup>th</sup> March. This was discussed by MB members and it was agreed to notify Mr Fraser's office of a number of items.

FL also circulated two letters from Robert Watt, Secretary General in DPER, relating to (i) Revised Guidance on Protected Disclosures and (ii) Expenditure Management under the Preventative Arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, both of which were formally noted.

FL circulated a note of his meeting last week with Fred McBride, CEO of Tusla.

LC noted that Risk Register corporate risks have been "locked down". One of the mitigating actions under Policy Development Capacity and Responsiveness is to make arrangements for rapid access to research support for policy development. LC offered to develop framework RFT on behalf of all divisions to advance this measure. BMcN and LC to discuss further. DR advised MB members of the tight budget for consultation services.

LC mentioned the DPER-led Commissioning project and advised she will organise a meeting for MB members and Tusla separate to the Management Board in the coming weeks.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30a.m.