

Minutes of Management Board Meeting Held on 3rd April, 2017

Attendance: Secretary General (Fergal Lynch), Michelle Shannon, Éimear Fisher, Bernie McNally and Dermot Ryan. Jacqueline Barron reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Two Meetings

The minutes of the meetings of 13th and 27th March, 2017 were agreed, subject to minor typing corrections.

2. Matters Arising

A meeting between the Management Board (MB) and the Senior Management Team (SMT) was scheduled for Friday, 5th May, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

3. Brief Updates

EF gave updates on (i) Section 3 of the Child Care Act 1991, (ii) Child Protection, (iii) Louise O’Keeffe, (iv) Guardians Ad Litem, (v) Special Care Regulations, (vi) Psychological Services, (vii) Centre for Effective Services, (viii) Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) Tallaght, and (ix) Children First Interdepartmental Group.

BM provided updates on (i) Affordable Child Care Scheme, (ii) Affordable Child Care Scheme Bill, (iii) Early Years Strategy, (iv) Request for Tender for Early Years Education in Ireland Tool, (v) Research (Growing Up in Ireland), (vi) Educational Welfare, and (vii) Participation Hub.

DR gave updates on (i) Protected Disclosures, (ii) Strategic Work Force Planning, (iii) Finance, and (iv) Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Inspection Report on Foster Care Services.

MS provided updates on (i) Oberstown (17 Year Olds), (ii) Oberstown (HIQA Inspection), (iii) Judgement in Judicial Review on Oberstown cases, due on 6th June, (iv) Oberstown (Operational Review), (v) Amendment to Criminal Justice Act 2006 (Suspended Sentences), (vi) Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes, (vii) New Legal Advisor, (viii) Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill 2016, (ix) Impact of Media Coverage of Tuam Mother and Baby Home, and (x) Register for Donor Assisted Reproduction (Department of Health).

4. Miesian Plaza Project Governance Structures

Proposals in a paper provided by DR in relation to the establishment of a Project Board for the Miesian Plaza Project were approved.

- The Project Board will further consider its Terms of Reference.
- MB members will email DR with their respective SMT nominees.

5. Agency Performance Analysis: Tusla

Denis O’Sullivan, Michele Clarke, Gordon Gaffney, Ger Hughes and Vera McGrath joined the meeting for this item. A comprehensive Agency Performance Analysis briefing document, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, formed the basis of the discussion.

Among the topics discussed were unallocated cases, work force planning, and the consequent impact on children at risk and commencement of the Children First Act 2015.

The need for good integration between Tusla's HR and Finance Units was emphasised. Progress in Tusla's steps to recruit planned additional staff was reviewed and concerns were expressed about the lack of progress to date.

Clarity was again being sought in relation to Tusla's budget and the social work hours it covers.

- It was agreed that these issues would continue to be raised with Tusla, including at the next quarterly meeting with the Minister and Chair of Tusla on 10th April.

6. Corporate Risks

The MB formally signed off on the Corporate Risk Register, which would be reviewed again in the next quarter. FL thanked those involved in preparing the document for their good work.

7. For Noting

- a) The provisional date for the next oral parliamentary questions (PQs) session is Tuesday, 16th May, 2017. FL thanked everyone for their work on the oral PQs of 28th March.

8. AOB

- a) FL noted that work is ongoing to re-arrange business plan meetings with the MB.
- b) Following the most recent Civil Service Management Board meeting, FL outlined the key findings of a Customer Satisfaction Survey.
 - FL will circulate a copy of the survey to other MB members for their information.
- c) The Communications and Corporate Governance Unit is beginning to draft the Department of Children and Youth Affairs Annual Report for 2016. DR asked that other MB members request that their senior managers give it appropriate attention in order to ensure timely completion.
- d) EF mentioned an upcoming information session on Wednesday, 12th April on giving children in direct provision a voice and on how they can make a complaint to the Ombudsman for Children.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 10th April, 2017 at 9.00 a.m.