

Minutes of Management Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2017

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 15th May, 2017 were agreed, subject to two minor corrections.

2. Matters Arising

a) Vote Expenditure Analysis 2017

BM noted a further potential under spend within the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is set out within an Early Years expenditure analysis paper. She will discuss shortly with the Minister and circulate a paper to the MB.

b) HR Update

DR provided an update on numbers of staff on probation within the Department, and urged MB members to drive the probation process.

c) PMDS Update

DR provided an update on PMDS compliance within the Department. FL strongly urged MB and POs to encourage their staff to complete PMDS as soon as possible.

3. Brief Updates

EF provided updates on (i) Child Protection (Bilateral with Department of Health), (ii) Children First (Tusla Resource Documents), (iii) Children First (DCYA Implementation), (iv) High Profile Child Abuse Case, (v) Report of the Special Rapporteur on Child Protection, (vi) Guardians ad Litem (GALs), (vii) National Review Panel (NRP), (viii) Child Care Law Reporting Project, (ix) Review of Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (BOBF), (x) Cabinet Committee on Social Policy and Public Service Reform, (xi) Child Health Policy, (xii) Performance Framework, and (xiii) Psychological Services.

- John Cole to make a presentation on mid-term review of BOBF to the MB.

DR provided updates on (i) Tusla (recent meeting with Minister and Chair), (ii) Tusla (Reorganisation), (iii) Miesian Plaza, (iv) DCYA / UCC Seminar on Retention of Social Workers, and (v) Next Risk Committee Meeting.

MS provided updates on (i) Oberstown (Memo for Government), (ii) Oberstown (HIQA Inspection), (iii) Oberstown (Judgement in Judicial Review Cases), (iv) Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill 2016, (v) Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2016, (vi) Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Statements in Seanad and Dáil), and (vii) Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Tuam Site and International Dimension).

BM provided updates on (i) Early Years (Operations), (ii) City and County Child Care Committees, (iii) Parliamentary Questions, (iv) Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) from the European Commission, (v) Affordable Child Care Scheme, (vi) Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (Peer Review Panel), (vii) Public Information Campaign on September Measures, (viii) Access and Inclusion Model, (ix) Cross Sectoral Team (DCYA, Department of Health, and Department of Education and Skills) (x) Independent Review of Costs, (xi) Early Years (Governance), (xii) Youth Affairs (School Completion Programme), (xiii) Participation and Youth Reform (Value for Money), and (xiv) LGBTI Strategy Consultations.

4. For Noting

a) Submission on Children First Guidance

FL noted that the submission was very well written.

b) Oral PQs

FL thanked everyone who contributed to the last oral PQ session.

c) Youth Justice Reports - Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Project

MS provided an overview of the project, its progress to date, and the role of DCYA colleague, Dr. Seán Redmond within it. It was agreed to invite Dr. Redmond to make a presentation on the project to the MB.

- MS will liaise with JB in relation to a suitable date and issue an invitation to Dr. Redmond.

5. AOB

a) Civil Service Management Board (CSMB) – Action 5 – Cross-Government Action

FL outlined proposals being discussed at CSMB meetings aimed at identifying innovative ways of encouraging cross-departmental action on youth mental health. FL will circulate related material for consideration at a future MB meeting.

b) Updating of Ministerial Briefing

FL requested that MB and POs update their one-page Ministerial briefing material by Friday, 9th June, 2017.

c) Town Hall Meeting

Arrangements for the next town hall meeting were briefly discussed.

- JB will liaise with Communications and Corporate Governance Unit regarding proposed date.

d) Creative Ireland

BM drew the MB's attention to this major, whole-of-government initiative, which was inspired by the success of the 1916 centenary. The DCYA will be expected to be a key stakeholder. BM will provide further updates in due course.

e) Tusla's Annual Report

This report had been circulated to the MB for feedback. DR requested the return of feedback as soon as possible.

f) PQs

DR reiterated a previous call for more timely responses to PQs and improved communication with PQ coordinators.

g) Town Hall Meeting

DR advised that a SurveyMonkey questionnaire would issue later in the week.

h) DCYA Annual Reporting

DR requested that heads of Units ensure that material is finalised promptly.

i) Senior Management Team (SMT) Meetings

FL confirmed that the next SMT will take place on Friday, 2nd June, with other meetings thereafter to take place on the first Friday of each month.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 30th May, 2017 at 2.30 p.m.