

## **Management Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday 26 March 2018, 10:30am**

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

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

The minutes of meeting of 12 March 2018 were agreed.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

FL welcomed the presentation given by UL School of Law students of 21 March 2018 on legal and policy instruments to protect children from adults grooming them for crime. He had invited Dr. Sean Redmond to present at the next Town hall meeting scheduled for 10 May 2018.

#### **3. Brief Updates**

MS provided updates on (i) Tusla (incorrect birth registrations, impact of GDPR on accessing information for tracing), (ii) Commission on Mother and Baby Homes (Tuam Consultation Report to be published shortly; Selection Forum meeting this week – Memo for Government on 15 May 2018); (iii) Oberstown (HIQA inspection, OCO investigation), (iv) Youth Employability Initiative (group meeting on 27 March 2018), (v) LGBT Strategy and (vi) youth participation.

DR provided updates on (i) Oberstown (Deputy Directors agree in principle to remuneration-at AP 1 scale to provide out-of-hours cover on campus) (ii) GUI (DR chaired roundtable event) (iii) PfG updates (update due for D/Taoiseach), (iv) memo on prioritisation of high level policy areas, and (v) Miesian Plaza (joint tenant meeting with OPW, Health, PER, Finance and DCYA).

EF provided updates on (i) North South Ministerial Council officials meeting (discussion on child protection) (ii) Multi agency child centres (development of pilot centre (iii) child homelessness (iv) Child Care Law Reporting Project (Dr. Carol Coulter awarded grant) (v) ABCs (Minister has approved migration to Tusla) (vi) BOBF (DSP has agreed to co-chair sponsors group with DCYA), and (vii) SCP (submission being finalised).

BMcN provided updates on (i) Expert Group Report on Childminding (publication on 26 March, action plan to be developed by DCYA) (ii) in-school therapy supports (iii) EY Strategy (Minister to meet officials to discuss Strategy) (iv) Referendum on Article 41.2 (women in the home) (v) parental leave (discussion at Cabinet Committee (vi) Independent Review of Costs (field work starts on 27 March 2018) (vii) ACS (Childcare Support Bill going to Report stage on 27 March 2018, RFT for IT system, joint presentation to DPER on ACS (viii) accommodation of ACS staff based in Mount Street in Miesian Plaza and (ix) Early Years Capital (€6.8m available but applications for funding in excess of €30m).

#### **4. BOBF Mid Term Review**

Conor Rowley and Leah Steadman joined the meeting for this item. They updated the MB on the BOBF Midterm Review, including the process and findings. The MB acknowledged the valuable work that had been done and discussed the implications of a number of themes emerging from it. It was agreed that the next steps would comprise:

- finalisation of the review, taking account of MB members' comments
- submission to Minister
- presentation of review to Consortium
- discussion of Review at Senior Officials Group and
- Memo for Information to Government.

CR confirmed that he hoped to finalise the Review in the next couple of weeks.

#### **5. Project Team for establishment of Guardian *ad Litem* Office**

Lara Hynes joined the meeting for this item. She outlined the business case for establishing a Project Team to have a GAL executive office in place a year after the enactment of the legislation. LH highlighted that this was a totally new service which needed to be designed to a detailed level of precision. She noted that there was a need for an excellent case management system for the GAL. The MB agreed in principle to the proposals for a project team, with final details of the number and phasing of staff to be discussed further with HR. FL believed that the project team needed to be established as soon as possible

#### **6. For noting**

The MB noted (i) the update from the DCYA Children First Oversight Group from the meeting of 9 March and (ii) the Expenditure Analysis for February 2018.

#### **7. AOB**

FL informed the MB members that a Memo would be brought to Government on a particularly sensitive child protection case on 27 March 2018. While there was no evidence of any serious failures in case management, the Minister intended to commission a short focused review to be led by the Special Rapporteur on Child Protection.

FL summarised the main results of Civil Service Engagement Survey 2017 which would be published on 28 March. A notification would issue to all staff in advance of publication. Each Department would receive a detailed breakdown of its own results in mid-May. The DCYA results could then be discussed at MB, SMT and possibly at a Town Hall meeting.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 9 April 2018 at 10:30.