

Minutes of Management Board Meeting, Monday, 11th September, 2017

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 4th September, 2017 were agreed, subject to a minor amendment.

2. Matters Arising

a) Meeting with Minister re Unallocated Cases and Implications for Children First Mandatory Reporting

Following on from the note on the previous week's minutes that the timing of commencement of Children First would be discussed with the Minister immediately, FL confirmed that this meeting took place on 5th September, 2017. The meeting was attended by EF, MS, DR and Marie Kennedy. A decision is awaited from the Minister.

3. Brief Updates

BM provided updates on (i) School Age Childcare (Working Group on Standards), (ii) Working Group on Child Minding, (iii) Childcare Fees (Pobal Analysis in Response to Media Coverage), (iv) Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), (v) Youth Affairs (Expected 2017 Spend), (vi) Schools Completion Reform (Staff), (vii) Youth Affairs (Estimates Meeting), and (viii) Children's Equality Commission (DVD).

DR provided updates on (i) Miesian Plaza, (ii) Audit and Compliance of Governance Standards for the Civil Service, (iii) HR (Special Meeting Last Week), and (iv) Tusla Social Work Workforce Planning.

EF provided updates on (i) Guardians ad Litem (Paper on Restructuring of New Body), (ii) Review of Child Care Act 1991 (Report of Recent Open Policy Debate), (iii) Tusla's Alternative Care Strategy, (iv) Section 10 Payments, (v) Psychological Services & Mental Health Protocol, (vi) Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (BOBF) Advisory Council, (vii) Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI), and (viii) Performance Framework.

MS provided updates on (i) Oberstown (Publication of Reviews), (ii) Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Tuam Site and Forensic Archaeologist Report), (iii) Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Consultation with Former Residents in Cork), (iv) Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2016 (Commencement Order), and (v) Ombudsman for Children (Amendments to Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill).

4. Guide for Staff – Dealing with Child Welfare and Protection Concerns

Marie Kennedy joined the meeting for this item and outlined the main points contained within a set of papers that had been submitted in advance of the meeting. This included a *Guide for DCYA Staff* for dealing with reports of child welfare and protection concerns, which had been submitted for consideration and adoption by the MB. Marie also raised issues relating to awareness within Tusla of a centralised point of contact for referrals of such concerns, and there was discussion of roles and responsibilities for a number of associated agencies of the Department.

The MB approved the *Guide for DCYA Staff* subject to agreed amendments, including provision for review after a period of time.

- Marie will discuss data to be collected with Michele Clarke.
- FL will write to the CEO of Tusla regarding the need for clarity in relation to the centralised point of contact for receipt of child protection concerns.
- BM and MS will seek clarity in relation to questions raised regarding roles and responsibilities for a number of agencies associated with the Department.

There was also agreement reached in relation to the commencement of Sectoral Plans and the Child Safeguarding Statement.

5. Secretary General's Meeting with CEO of Tusla (6th September, 2017).

FL outlined the main topics discussed at his recent meeting with Fred McBride, CEO of Tusla, which included Tusla readiness for Children First commencement, estimates for 2018, communications between Tusla and the DCYA, Section 3, Tusla provision of monthly data, unallocated cases, and the performance framework.

- The MB agreed to meet on Tuesday, 12th September, 2017 at 11.15 a.m. to discuss Tusla's estimates submission.
- MB members will email FL with specific examples of where the current communications protocol between the DCYA and Tusla is working / not working. The item will then be discussed at a future MB meeting.
- EF will talk further to Cormac Quinlan of Tusla about Section 3.
- In relation to unallocated cases, DR will talk to Jim Gibson of Tusla about the terms of reference for a national steering group.

6. For Noting

a) Submissions to Minister

EF added an additional item relating to Children First.

b) Communications Update

The date of 11th October was noted for the next oral PQ session.

c) Government Memos

One item was identified for removal from the table of memos and BM will check whether another item needs to be removed.

7. AOB

a) Jacqueline Barron's Departure

FL noted that Jacqueline was leaving the Department on promotion at the end of the week. Jacqueline was thanked for her work and contribution to the MB and the Department. FL advised that JB's replacement will be advised soon.

b) Next Tusla / DCYA Executive Team Meeting

DR advised that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, 14th September, 2017 at 9.00 a.m. in the DCYA.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 27th September, 2017 @ 10.30 a.m.