

Management Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 18 October, 2017, 11:00

(Postponed from 16 October).

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 9 October, 2017 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Brief Updates

MS provided updates on (i) Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes (Forensic Archaeologist Report) (ii) Oberstown (iii) Adoption (Amendment) Act 2017 (Commencement Order) and (iv) Adoption Information and Tracing Bill.

BMcN provided updates on (i) Affordable Childcare Scheme (ii) OCGIO (Peer Review Group) (iii) Tenders for Early Years-related work and (iv) LGBTI+ Youth Strategy.

EF provided updates on (i) Children First Act 2015 (oversight working group) (ii) GAL (iii) Mental Health (working group with Department of Health) and (iv) ESRI reports.

4. School Completion Programme – proposed strategic reform

Claire McNamara, Simon Conry, David Logan and Joanne Byrne attended the meeting for this item and presented on the proposed strategic reform of the School Completion Programme. The report focused on the options available and there was a detailed discussion on these options, the case for and against each, and the estimated costs and practical implications of different options. The preferred option, as recommended by the Expert Group, was discussed and agreed that while not ideal, would be the most advisable approach to present to the Minister for her consideration. If agreed by the Minister the proposals would then be the subject of a Memorandum for Government.

5. PMDS compliance and report from HR

Vera McGrath and Aidan Madden joined the meeting for this item. VMcG gave an update on the rate of PMDS compliance in the department. FL again stressed the importance of speedy completion and pointed out that performance management on the basis of agreed goals was be a basic requirement for every official. FL asked that all MB members should strongly pursue staff compliance with their respective POs in advance of the next report which is to issue on 24 October. A further report would be reviewed at the MB meeting of 6 November, by which time FL emphasised that there needed to be considerable progress.

AM noted the recent Civil Service Employment Engagement Survey had been completed by 97% of staff, a great result and all involved were thanked.

VMcG also updated the MB on other staffing issues including priority posts, which would be subject to a note by DR on 23rd of October, mobility and external HR issues.

6. Secretary General's Meeting with CEO of Tusla (13th October, 2017).

FL updated the MB on the main issues discussed at his meeting of 13 October with Fred McBride, CEO of Tusla. These included Budget 2018, Performance Framework, Communications, Family Resource Centres, Children First Implementation, provision of monthly data, School Completion Programme and Early Years Inspectorate.

7. For Noting

(i) Communications Update

FL thanked all involved in the preparations for Oral PQs on 17 October.

8. AOB

B McN raised the issue of the need for DCYA to be involved in the National Emergency Co-ordinating Committee in light of recent Red weather alerts due to Hurricane Ophelia.

FL noted that the Minister had complimented the quality of the Brexit information briefing she had received for the special Cabinet meeting of 13 October and he suggested that it could be circulated to all MB members for information.

A provisional date of Thursday 7 December was set for the next DCYA Town Hall meeting. CCGU will arrange venue. FL invited MB to revert with suggested topics.

It was noted Tusla will be before the PAC and Ger Hughes will be DCYA representative attending.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 23 October 2017 at 10:30.