

Management Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 23rd October, 2017, 10.30

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

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 18 October, 2017 were agreed with minor adjustments.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Brief Updates

BMcN provided updates on (i) Early Years supports for refugees resettlement (ii) Early Years Forum (iii) Workforce strategy for Early years sector (iv) ACS (v) In-School Speech and Language Initiative (vi) Reform of Schools Completion Programme (vii) Preparation of a School Completion Strategy under the Programme for Government and (viii) National Youth Strategy.

MS provided updates on (i) Adoption (Browne Case) (ii) Adoption Authority (Board vacancy) (iii) Ombudsman draft report on refundable fees for inter-country adoption assessment (iv) Oberstown - Joint Oireactas Committee Visit and update on legal cases and (v) Adoption Information and Tracing Bill.

DR provided updates on (i) Tusla (2018 Performance Statement) (ii) Workforce planning office notice (iii) Updates to progress report on Programme for Government and (iv) Mieisan Plaza.

EF provided updates on (i) Children First Act 2015 (Inter Departmental Group and Tusla Working Group) (ii) Output from Open Policy Debate on Review of the Childcare Act 1991 (iii) Childcare Law Reporting Project (procurement) (iv) Child Poverty (v) *Growing Up In Ireland* and (vi) Teleconference with Australia's National Children's Commissioner.

4. Revised Corporate Risk Register

John Lohan attended the meeting for this item. Following further work since the Risk Committee meeting of 9 October, the draft Corporate Risk Register was locked down. In line with normal practice a copy would now be sent to the Minister.

5. Children First Act – DCYA Governance

EF had circulated in advance a draft letter to be sent to all DCYA-funded services regarding their Children First obligations. The MB agreed that it should issue as proposed.

6. Commission on Mother and Baby Homes – current issues.

James Gibbs and Mary Johnson joined the meeting for this item. JG gave an update on current issues relating to the Commission on Mother and Baby Homes including (i) timescale (ii) Tuam Expert Team Report on burial site and (iii) next steps arising from the facilitated process with former residents. The complexity and sensitivity of these matters were noted, and possible approaches to some elements of them were discussed. It was agreed that the MB would consider these matters again in the near future.

7. Human Resources

Vera McGrath attended for this item and circulated a confidential note on progress in relation to recruitment for priority posts. The approach was noted and supported by the MB. It also agreed to the appointment of the next person on the internal PO panel.

8. For Noting

(iii) Communications Update

EF confirmed that the Minister will meet with International Experts re the Quality & Capacity Building Initiative in London on the 4 December 2017.

9. AOB

FL asked MB members to return their comments on the DCYA/Tusla communications item that he had emailed them about recently.

EF noted that draft 2021 Census questions had been sent to all POs for comment.

DR noted that Tusla had appeared at the PAC and Ger Hughes was the DCYA representative attending. There would be a number of follow items to be dealt with.

DR noted that DPER had agreed viring arrangements between subheads for Family Resource Centres.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 6 November 2017 at 10:30.