

## **Management Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday 9 September 2019, 10.30**

**Attendance:** Secretary General (Fergal Lynch) Éimear Fisher and Bernie McNally.  
Miriam Kenna reporting.

**Apologies:** Dermot Ryan

**POs Attending:** Ciara Pidgeon and Conor Rowley

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

The minutes of meeting of 22 July were agreed, with minor amendments.

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

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Preliminary considerations in preparation for the design and development of BOBF 2**

Conor Rowley presented on a paper regarding the case for developing a composite policy framework for children and young people to replace/update the strategies that will expire within the next twelve months. He noted that BOBF itself, and two of its constituent strategies (relating to Youth and Participation) would run their course during 2020.

‘BOBF 2’ would effectively serve as a ‘master document’ for the development and direction of DCYA, linking with the next Statement of Strategy and other key planning documents including *First Five*, the Tusla Performance Framework and wider public service reforms. The paper proposed a composite approach to updating/replacing the existing strategies, in a process which would involve extensive cross-unit work and consultation on a whole-of-government basis. Significant internal engagement with the MB and POs would be required, with a government-wide initiative to create a meaningful children and young people strategy for a ten-year period, running in line with the *First Five* Strategy for babies and young children to 2028.

The MB welcomed the paper as a valuable starting point for discussions on strategic planning in the coming years. The following points were made:

- it would be vital to have real collaboration across Government, particularly with selected key Departments, including at SG level;
- preparation and development of the framework would require substantial input across the Department, including the SMT, and it would need to be supported accordingly (including in the context of the reorganisation project);
- the focus should be on a relatively small number of high impact actions rather than a large set of individual actions;
- effective consultation would be key, and would have to be carefully planned;
- the commitments to be included should bring added value, rather than simply reiterating the existing commitments across Government;

- while the paper referred to a strategy for 6-24 year olds, following on from *First Five*, the new framework would need to deal with 0-6 age group as well as with 6-24 to ensure complete integration of policy and approach.

The MB agreed that this approach was worthwhile exploring further. It was agreed that the BOBF Advisory Council would be consulted for its preliminary views at its meeting of 11-12 September, and that the SG would have an initial discussion with the Minister. The SG noted that this was at an exploratory stage, and that when conclusions had been reached, the Minister would probably be best advised to bring a Memorandum for Government to secure agreement and substantial buy-in from other Departments and agencies.

#### **4. Agenda Items for Strategic and Operational Discussion**

The MB reviewed a note on items discussed in previous meetings, and considered a list of suggested items for discussion at MB meetings scheduled for the rest of 2019 and into 2020.

MB members suggested some additional items. Each MB member will consider items for discussion and advise FL and MK of most appropriate dates for inclusion on MB meeting agendas.

#### **5. Update on 2020 Pre Budget Submission**

Ger Hughes joined the meeting for this item. A pre-budget submission had issued to DPER and a meeting was planned for Tues 10 Sept with DPER to commence discussions on this. A meeting with the Minister on estimates was planned for 12 September. The MB had a brief discussion on the approach for the upcoming meeting and some key items were noted. It was agreed to review the position after the meetings this week.

#### **6. For Noting**

The MB noted the documents circulated in advance.

#### **7. AOB**

FL noted that a meeting regarding the draft An Garda Síochána/Tusla data-sharing agreement would take place on 13 September. It was of key concern to the Department that the agreement would be finalised as soon as possible, and both DCYA and Tusla were working to achieve this.

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

The next meeting of the MB was confirmed for 23 September 2019 at 9.30am.