

Management Board Meeting Minutes
Monday 22 July 2019, 10.30

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

Apologies: Dermot Ryan and Éimear Fisher

POs Attending: Clare McNamara and Lara Hynes

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 24 June and 8 July were agreed, with minor amendments.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Bail Supervision Scheme Evaluation and 'Greentown' from the REPPP

Dr. Sean Redmond and Noreen Leahy attended for these items. SR presented on two new developments in relation to youth justice: (a) an impact evaluation of the pilot Bail Supervision Scheme and (b) the design of a new intervention to trial the “Greentown” model, which seeks to respond to the influence of criminal networks on children.

SR outlined the very positive evaluation results of the Bail Supervision Scheme (BSS) which demonstrated a significant decrease in offending rates for the BSS group, both during and after intervention, compared to the non BSS cohort. The practical benefits to young people, in terms of reduced detention, and to the system as a whole, were noted.

The MB welcomed the findings, and supported in principle the case for seeking to extend the BSS beyond its current location in Dublin. It was agreed that a submission to the Minister would be prepared which sets out how the scheme could be extended, firstly within Dublin (Court 55) and then to other parts of the country on a selected basis. The costs involved would be part of the Estimates process for Budget 2020. It was noted that a summary of the evaluation report would be ready in early September, and that the Minister might wish to publish it at that stage.

SR then presented on the “Greentown” programme, summarising the progress to date, and setting out a proposal to trial the model used there (incorporating child welfare, law enforcement, community development and economic opportunity) for three years over two locations. The MB clarified various aspects of the proposal and supported the application for funding to the Dormant Account Fund.

FL thanked SR for the presentations and for the extensive work now in place under the REPPP.

4. GALS Update

Lara Hynes and Kate Levey joined the meeting for this item. LH updated the MB on progress in relation to the development of GAL legislation and the establishment of a GAL Executive Office.

The MB welcomed Kate Levey, PO, on her formal commencement in the project. It was noted that the GAL Bill was going to Government on 25 July for approval to publish. KL confirmed that the focus of her initial work would be on a Project Initiation Document. Recruitment of staff would also be key to the project.

5. a) Proposal for engagement of constituent strategies in BOBF

Conor Rowley, Leah Steadman and Denis Ryan for items 5 (a) and 5(b).

The MB considered a short paper which proposed a process for the engagement of relevant DCYA units with key BOBF structures, including the Advisory Council, BOBF Policy Consortium, Sponsors Group and CYPSCs. The aim is to ensure that engagement with these groups is applied in a standardised manner, particularly for the strategies and initiatives that come under BOBF.

The approach proposed in the paper was agreed by the MB. It was noted that the process was not intended to supersede or interfere with the existing arrangements for the development of policy; the intention, rather, was to standardise processes and provide an indication of content in the development of policies relating to BOBF and its constituent strategies.

It was noted that a number of key policies, including BOBF itself and the National Youth Strategy, would expire in the period to the end of 2020. It was agreed that CR would prepare a short paper for the MB's consideration as to how these and related areas might be addressed. He would discuss with relevant POs and revert. One of the issues for consideration would be whether the next iteration of an overarching strategy to follow BOBF should encompass, in one document, the other strategies that fall due for renewal (eg. Youth, Participation) rather than having separate strategy documents for these areas.

b) Proposal for engagement with Tusla

CR presented a short paper on how structured engagement with Tusla might best be organised beyond the major regular items discussed at the monthly DCYA/Tusla SMT meetings. He noted that issues such as EWS, alternative education, PEI (including PPFS, Meitheal, CYPSC plans) tended not to receive much attention at the monthly meetings for reasons of time and logistics.

The MB agreed with the importance maintaining attention on these and other less prominent areas. It was agreed that the MB would consider further how this would best be done. The paper proposed a group of DCYA/Tusla personnel to meet every quarter or six

months. This was one of a number of possible approaches that might be taken. Options could be considered further in the context of the organisational review.

6. For Noting

The MB noted the documents circulated in advance including:

- Internal audit reports on (Disbursement of DCYA funds to Pobal; Implementation of recommendations regarding the Youth Service Grant Scheme; and Grant Drawdowns and Disbursements to ETBs. All had been discussed at the June meeting of the Internal Audit Committee).
- The June 2019 Expenditure Analysis for Vote 40.

7. AOB

FL noted that Clare McNamara would be leaving the Department on transfer at the end of August. He wished her the very best and thanked her for all her work and contribution to the Department.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MB will take place on 9 September 2019.