**Management Board Meeting Minutes**

**(Held via Skype)**

**Monday 24 May at 10.30 am**

**Attendance:** Secretary General (Fergal Lynch); Bernie McNally; Dermot Ryan; Carol Baxter; Laura McGarrigle; Conor Rowley; Anne-Marie Brooks. Miriam Kenna reporting.

**POs attending:** Seosamh Mac Cairthaigh and Shane O'Connor.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of meeting of 10 May 2021 were agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Cyber Security issues**

DR briefed on the Department's position in relation to Cyber Security following the recent cyber attack on the HSE and Tusla systems. He noted the recent emails sent by himself and IT unit regarding the need for vigilance and proper procedures. He welcomed the level of attendance at the refresher briefing sessions held by Ray O'Neill over the last week. DR noted that the Department's service provider, OGCIO, was performing a range of checks on all of its servers, as well as 'hardening' its systems to ensure maximum security.

CR gave an update on the latest position in relation to Tusla, where many if its key systems had been affected because they share a platform with the HSE. The NCCIS and the child protection notification system was now operating manually. Tusla was heavily involved in work to recover these and other systems, and had briefed the Minister, Joint Oireachtas Committee and opposition spokespersons.

FL thanked DR and CR for these updates and MB members welcomed the valuable briefings provided by Ray O'Neill.

**4. DP – initial discussion for bilateral on 26 May**

The MB considered the latest documentation provided by relevant Assistant Secretaries containing specific details of how NDP funding could be spent on key priorities. DR reported on the current position, in advance of a preparatory meeting with the Minister on 25 May, to be followed by a bilateral with DPER on 26 May.

It was confirmed that the meeting with the Minister would include DR, CB, CR and AMB and Minister's adviser as well as the Secretary General, and that Finance Unit, led by DR, would attend the bilateral with DPER. Finance Unit would then report back to the Minister. It was expected that by that stage, the discussions on NDP allocations would shift to a Ministerial/adviser level.

**5. Review of the Child Care Act**

Lara Hynes and Catherine Roe joined the meeting for this item. They presented on the basis of a comprehensive paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting. They highlighted the main issues including: purpose of the review; guiding principles; inter-agency co-operation; the voice of the child (which was one of the biggest issues that came from the consolation process); section 3 investigations; court proceedings and jurisdiction; and alternative types of court orders including supervision orders, interim care orders and care orders.

MB members welcomed the depth and range of issues examined, which had followed an extensive analytical phase and consultation process, and noted the value of reforming not only relevant parts of the legislation but also non-legislative elements including practices and procedures.

CR thanked all for their comments and said that the next steps would involve proposals to the Minister and a Memo for Government. FL thanked LH and the team for their work and acknowledged the considerable effort by a number of people to get to this point.

**6. ELC/SAC Profit and Surplus**

Hazel O'Byrne and Nuala Connolly joined for this item. They presented on a paper that summarised an analysis by Crowe of the surplus/deficits experienced by ELC/SAC services. This was prepared as part of the work of the Expert Group on a new Funding Model. HO'B summarised the main findings and implications, which demonstrated that excess profits were not being made in the sector, and that financial sustainability remained an issue for a significant proportion of providers.

The MB welcomed the paper and discussed it implications, including its relevance to the current discussions on the National Development Plan, and the detail it provided regarding the income to profit ratio (ICR) of different types of providers. AMB said that the aim was to finalise a draft of the full Expert Group report by September, in time for the Estimates process. In terms of publishing the information in the current paper, the Minister would consider the matter in the context of the overall Expert Group's report. The analysis would be available to DPER for the Estimates discussions.

The MB thanked HO'B and NC for their work on this area, and for the presentation.

**7. Event proposals - marking 10th anniversary**

Pamela Carter and Nuala Walsh joined for this item. The (former) DCYA is 10 years old on 2 June, and the first anniversary of the new DCEDIY is in October. On the basis of a paper circulated in advance, it was agreed to hold an event in October/November, ideally at a time when an in-person gathering would be possible. It was agreed that it would also be valuable to hold some form of virtual event before the summer break. PC and NW agreed to consider possible details further.

**8. For Noting**

The brief updates on each MB area were noted, as were the other items listed for noting.

**9. AOB**

BMcN informed the MB that Minister O'Gorman would be on Claire Byrne Live today Monday 24 May.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next MB meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 10:30.