

## **Management Board Meeting Minutes Monday 13 January 2020**

**Attendance:** Secretary General (Fergal Lynch), Bernie McNally, Dermot Ryan, Laura McGarrigle. Miriam Kenna reporting.

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

The minutes of meeting of 16 December 2019 were agreed with minor amendments.

### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. National Model of Parenting Support Services**

Ciara Pidgeon and Zara Lafferty attended for this item. They outlined the proposed overall approach to the preparation of a National Parenting Model, which would be led by DCYA, with input from a Project Team comprising key agencies and stakeholders such as Tusla, HSE, CYPSCs, ABCs, FRCs, Home School Liaison Co-ordinators, Healthy Ireland and PHNs. The unit was proposing a pathfinder approach, similar to that taken by the Mental Health pathfinder, but they acknowledged that there were also other possible ways to develop the model. It was also proposed to tender for external advice and support. It was noted that Participation Unit and Research and Evaluation Unit in DCYA were already involved in the work to date.

The MB strongly supported the need for a National Parenting Model, noting that it had been identified as a key element of *First Five* as a means of supporting parents from an early stage. The main points made during the subsequent discussion were: the need to be clear about policy responsibility and ownership so that other Government Departments and agencies buy into it; how best to fund, implement and maintain the model across agencies; the particular role of Tusla from a universalist rather than solely targeted perspective, including the argument that it should be key to PPFs; and the importance of developing and presenting the model to parents in a supportive way, rather than being seen as judgemental or patriarchal. The MB considered that the development of the model should be recommended to an incoming Minister in the context of key priorities and any Programme for Government.

It was agreed that CP and ZL would supply further information on the way in which the model was proposed to be developed and that it would be considered further following the appointment of an Assistant Secretary to the Division.

### **4. MB items for discussion**

FL circulated an outline note of possible agenda items for 2020. MB members suggested a range of items, and there was also a discussion on the most appropriate timing of individual items, having regard to the forthcoming general election and any new Programme for Government. Issues relating to organisational restructuring, a new Statement of Strategy and a successor strategic document to *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures* would be key to

the MB's agenda for the year. It was agreed that (i) a revised and updated note on agenda items would be circulated for the next meeting (ii) this would include a number of half-day 'away' meetings for major strategic issues and (iii) the arrangements agreed with the SMT at its meeting of 10 January 2020 regarding PO attendance would be put in place.

## **5. For Noting**

The paper on *Children in need of care and protection – current options, challenges and options for systemic adjustment, in the context of the review of the Child Care Act 1991 (Part II)* was noted and MB agreed a further discussion would be arranged.

## **6. AOB**

### *- Restructuring*

FL reminded the MB that Ger Hughes would chair a group of selected POs to discuss organisational restructuring. He asked that MB members would nominate a PO to represent their division.

### *- Performance ratings under PMDS*

There was a short discussion regarding the Department's rating results (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) under PMDS for 2019. It was agreed to schedule a substantive discussion on the matter, with HR unit in attendance.

### *- Business Planning*

It was confirmed that Business Planning meetings would commence on 14 January.

### *- General Election*

FL asked that, with an election date likely to be announced soon, MB members ensure that they can finalise any outstanding issues with the Minister as soon as possible.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the MB was confirmed for Monday 27 January 2020.