

Management Board Meeting Minutes
(Held via Skype)
6 April 2020

Attendance: Secretary General (Fergal Lynch); Bernie McNally; Dermot Ryan; Laura McGarrigle and Conor Rowley. Miriam Kenna reporting.

POs attending: Ger Hughes and Vera McGrath.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 30 March 2020 were agreed subject to minor amendments.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Covid-19: review and update of overall situation

As each MB member had given a detailed update at the SMT meeting on Friday 3 April, the areas covered at the MB meeting were confined to any significant developments since then, or items not discussed at the SMT meeting.

Dermot Ryan included the following in his update:

- Demand from unions for childcare to health workers
- Press office continue to provide extensive daily comms support
- Legal unit has been working closely with all units on key issues relating to our response to Covid-19.

Bernie McNally included the following in her update:

- Work continues on a scheme to provide childcare for frontline workers. A SOG meeting was being proposed to review progress and see who would lead on different elements. An in-house DCYA meeting would be held beforehand.
- Work also continues on the Wage Subsidy Scheme for the childcare sector (WSCS). A draft Memo for Government had been shared with relevant Departments.

Laura McGarrigle included the following in her update:

- Management at Oberstown Children Detention Campus continue to monitor capacity, staff rosters and the overall environment. The school closure there due to Covid has created particular challenges for staff and children.
- Proposals for the youth sector to assist other areas were being developed in conjunction with CR and Tusla.
- Work continues on legal requirements for the Adoption Authority, in particular for children in the adoption process who are about to turn 18 during the year.

Conor Rowley included the following in his update:

- Regular, ongoing communications with Tusla on key issues.

- Tulsa have provided an estimate on Covid related expenditure. This would be followed up in conjunction with Finance Unit as part of a wider issue for the Department.
- Clarification being sought on reports of further children being accepted under the International Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP).

4. Workforce and Staffing Issues

VMcG and GH provided an update on the workforce position. The allocation and reassignment of staff during the current Covid-19 emergency was discussed further and it was agreed that an updated single database of all key business objectives would be completed for the PMO by Thursday 9 April. This would distinguish between business critical and non-business critical items and would again help inform the potential assignment of staff.

V McG reported that the PAS system for drawdown was being adjusted to allow for the quicker movement of staff and, if implemented, would make it all the more important to identify which staff could and could not be offered for reassignment.

5. AOB

There was positive feedback from the SMT held Friday 3 April. It was agreed to hold short SMT meetings more frequently, perhaps on a fortnightly basis, for the duration of the Covid emergency. It was agreed also to consider how best to ensure that APs were kept informed during this period.

6. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 14 April at 10.30.