

Management Board Meeting Minutes

(In person)

Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 10.30am

Attendance: Secretary General (Kevin McCarthy); Carol Baxter; Laura McGarrigle; Lara Hynes; Anne-Marie Brooks and Sheenagh Rooney. Apologies: Dermot Ryan

Stephen Burke reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 23 May 2022 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising at this time.

3. Ukrainian Crisis response

MB discussed update on the situation at present:

- Number of arrivals from Ukraine has reduced but is still consistently at a level that is adding considerable ongoing pressure on accommodation availability.
- The continuing growth in wider international protection numbers is adding to overall acute pressures.
- Additional resource of 24 Full-time HSE contact tracing staff has been secured to assist Ukrainian response for the next 3 months, with a specific focus on supporting the vetting process for pledged accommodation. An overall definition of roles is being developed.
- A Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Supports for Ukrainian Refugees will be held next Monday. DCEDIY will be developing papers for this to highlight current and upcoming accommodation pressures and concerns relating to sustainability of current approaches.
- Securing student accommodation with Universities is increasingly challenging; concerns re short term availability and timescale re academic year. Some accommodation only available until end of June. Universities are also concerned about public reputation re difficulties that may arise in moving refugees when academic year begins.
- Citywest contract has been finalised and signed off.
- Recognition Payment legislation for pledged accommodation is in preparation and Minister for Justice is bringing a memo to government on the overall miscellaneous Bill under which it is being progressed. A Business Committee meeting may be required re current amount of legislation with the Dept. with a view to ensuring sufficient legislative time for the Minister.

4. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures Successor Policy Framework Approach discussion

Ruth Doggett and Bridget Wilson joined the meeting and presented on a paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Ruth provided a background on the the National Children's Strategy which led to BOBF, the first national Policy Framework to include children in 2014.

The BOBF successor policy framework will adopt a rights based approach informed by the UNCRC and EU Youth Strategies and align with the Wellbeing Framework for Ireland.

The successor framework should focus on improving outcomes for children and young people and adopt a rights based approach. It should also support better cross-government and interagency

working, particularly for more vulnerable cohorts of children. It will also measure progress for children as well as putting children and young people at the centre of policy and service delivery.

The BOBF Successor project team proposed policy framework is based on four key aims, which will provide cross government guidance at a local and regional level –

- Provides a platform to fully realise the rights of children and young people in Ireland
- Creates an enabling environment
- Spotlights areas requiring coordinated focus
- Identifies the five national outcomes to be achieved for all children

MB discussed the proposed approach and agreed the proposed next steps..

MB thanked Ruth and Bridget for their presentation and for the work carried out in this area.

5. Blended working policy discussion update.

Noreen Leahy and Carol O'Dowda joined remotely for this item.

MB discussed the views of heads of business units and the SMT in relation to the draft Blended working policy and options for flexi accrual. It was agreed to await full outstanding feedback from two divisions before confirming the proposed pilot flexi accrual approach. It is intended to implement the new policy from 1 September, although it was noted that the previous go-live date of 20 June for opening applications through a new shared system has been deferred as a result of IT development delays.

It was noted that a number of facilities management queries arose in the divisional discussions on the new policy and it was agreed to arrange a discussion with the Facilities Management team on these.

The draft policy has also been shared with the Departmental council for observations.

6. SPS Leadership Development Strategy 2022 – 2025 (presentation by DPER officials in person at 11.30)

Cathy Barron and Aoife O'Sullivan from DPER attended and gave a presentation on the SPS Development Strategy and outlined the results of a survey to gauge the effectiveness of supports to SPS members.

MB discussed the benefits of the available supports and learning and development opportunities, including mentoring initiatives, leadership programmes, and community of colleagues.

There was also a discussion on the increasing challenges faced by senior management, such as stress, difficulty managing remote and blended working, staff mobility, public, scrutiny and struggling with unrealistic expectations.

7. For noting

The papers circulated under this heading were noted by MB members.

8. AOB

No AOB at this time.

9. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting was confirmed for Monday 20 June 2022 at 10.30 am. Meeting will take place after the Risk Committee.