

Management Board Meeting Minutes

(Held via Skype)

Monday 25 January 2021

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

POs attending: Eibhlin Byrne and Grainne Morrissey

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 11 January 2021 were agreed with minor amendments.

2. Matters Arising

FL reported that (i) the Department of Foreign Affairs has been notified by HR about the Department's interest in an attaché post for DCEDIY. It was noted that funds would have to be identified for this if the post was filled, most likely later this year; (ii) the Department's response to DPER's request for a submission on the review of the National Development Plan had been cleared by the Minister and forwarded to DPER (iii) the Minister had approved the approach set out in CR's note on prioritisation of Covid vaccinations and (iv) nominees had been requested for the PO sub group on agenda setting for the SMT.

3. Divisional Objectives

Denis O'Sullivan and Ger Hughes joined the meeting for this item. GH gave a demonstration of the proposed template, showing how it would link each division's objectives with other relevant information with the use of pre populated cells, HR and other stats. The model is user friendly, allowing the user pick from drop down lists and only edit certain cells.

MB thanked GH and team for the work on this. It was agreed that divisional objectives would be submitted by COB Wednesday 27 January and that GH would circulate the business planning template to the MB shortly.

4. Tusla Business Planning 2021

John Lohan and Ruth Doggett joined the meeting for this item and discussed the papers circulated prior to the meeting. RD gave a presentation outlining Tusla's key actions and priorities under the draft Corporate Plan 2021-2023 and the Business Plan 2021.

The MB members agreed with the overall approach and welcomed the progress that has been made in Tusla's processes and services. The importance of continued engagement with Tusla, using the agreed mechanisms as set out in the oversight agreement, was reiterated.

The importance of continuing to work towards measurement of outcomes was also noted. Some MB members indicated that they would send back comments on specific items within the plans over the course of the week.

The MB thanked JL and RD for their work in this area and for the informative presentation.

5. The Lives of Traveller and Roma Communities in Ireland

Michele Clarke and Bairbre Meaney joined for this item and presented based on a paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting. MC outlined the significantly poorer outcomes for both Traveller and Roma communities when compared to the general population. This arose in such areas as morbidity, mortality, representation on the Child Protection Notification System, detention in Oberstown and a range of other indicators. The MB agreed that there was now scope to bring a purposeful focus within the Department on improving the lives of Traveller children while also seeking to harness the role, expertise and contribution of other Departments, Agencies and Stakeholders. Following discussion, the MB agreed that SMT would be invited to select a number of topics, including this one, for further analysis and discussion.

The MB's previous agreement to nominate a PO sub group to propose an agenda for SMT meetings was relevant in this regard. The sub group would now be asked to consider the Traveller and Roma issue as one item for the SMT's attention. In line with the shared wish of the MB to foster strategic consideration of policy issues at SMT level, the SMT could be used as a platform to explore the development of a Departmental policy approach to improving the lives of Traveller and Roma children.

6. For Noting

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

7. AOB

FL reminded MB members that he would like to be circulated for his information with any briefing material on key issues that was being supplied to the Minister.

8. Next Meeting

The next MB meeting was confirmed for Monday 8 February 2021 at 10:30.