Minutes of MAC Meeting held on 11th January 2016

Attendance: Secretary General (Fergal Lynch), Liz Canavan, Bernie McNally, Michelle Shannon and Dermot Ryan. Alan Savage and Clare Rudden reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 14th December were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

All matters arising were discussed as part of Brief Updates below.

3. Brief Updates

LC gave updates on: (i) Guardian ad Litem, (ii) UNCRC, (iii) Corporal Punishment, (iv) Aftercare, (v) Special Care Regulations, (vi) Protocol on Brussels II Applications, (v) National Board for Safeguarding Children, (vi) Report of Special Rapporteur, (vii) Children First [Guidance and Implementation Group], (viii) Louise O'Keeffe Report, (ix) EU Peer Review, (x) Goal Grant, (xi) QCBI, (xii) ABC Programme, (xiii) CYPSCs, (xiv) Psychology, (xv) BOBF Sponsors Group, (xvi) CES [Review of 2016 Business Plan], and (xvii) Commissioning.

- Protocol on Brussels II Applications – LC to send copy to FL.
- National Board for Safeguarding Children – LC to send copy of letter to FL.

DR gave updates on: (i) Tusla [Expenditure/Capital Plan], (ii) DCYA 2015 Expenditure, (iii) Financial Policies and Procedures Circular, (iv) Appropriation Account, (v) REV 2016, (vi) Support Services Staffing, (vii) Department Building [Refurbishment and accommodation issues], (viii) Purchase Order System, (ix) UNCRC [Geneva], (x) Tusla [Business Plan and Reports], (xi) CRA Report Card, (xii) Corporate Governance Standard [IPA Workshop], (xiii) IDG on the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language, (xiv) IDG on EU enlargement, (xv) Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child, (xvi) Annual Report 2014, (xvii) DCYA Recruitment, (xviii) Training Needs Analysis, (xix) Tusla [Reorganisation and Recruitment], (xx) Dignity at Work Training, (xxi) Revised Induction Policy and Procedures, (xxii) Children's Detention School, (xxiii) 'Finite Lives' Report, (xxiv) Ethics in Public Office, (xxv) Integrated Reform Delivery Plan, and (xxvi) Gaisce.

- Training Needs Analysis – To be tabled for next week.
- 'Finite Lives' Report – To be tabled for future discussion.

BM gave updates on: (i) Early Years Unit [Staffing], (ii) Pobal [End-2015 position], (iii) Childcare Service Audit, (iv) Pobal [Governance], (v) IDG on Special Needs, (vi) Office of the Government Chief Information Officer [Meeting], (vii) Youth Affairs Funding, (viii) GUI Phase 2, (ix) BOBF Indicator Set, (x) State of the Nation's Children Report, (xi) Head of Research, (xii) Participation Hub, and (xiii) Play and Recreation Policy.

- Childcare Service Audit – BM to present to MAC next week
- Play and Recreation Policy – BM to provide paper to FL.

MS gave updates on: (i) Adoption [Amendment] Bill, (ii) Adoption [Information and Tracing] Bill, (iii) Arc Adoption, (iv) Helping Hands, (v) Oberstown [Recruitment and Buildings], (vi) Oberstown [Chair of Board], (vii) Court Cases, (viii) Bail Supervision Scheme, (ix) Research Evidence into Practice Project, (x) Youth Justice Action Plan Group, (xi) DNA protocol in relation to children detained in Oberstown, and (xii) Commission of Investigation [Mother and Baby Homes] - Discovery.

FL gave and update on: (i) National Participation for Children and Young People Conference.

4. Tusla Performance Analysis – December Report

It was agreed that following receipt of a more updated report a discussion would be held at a subsequent MAC meeting. MAC members commented on the quality of the Tusla material. It was agreed that a more structured input to the Minister (in addition to the Quarterly Meetings with Tusla) would be put in place, consisting of the regular Tusla reports and a covering note from the Division.

5. Tusla Business Plan

Final comments from the Department are due by close of business on Tuesday 12th January and a discussion was had on a range of issues noted by MAC members. DR advised that the intention is to give a draft response to the Minister on 15th January, with a view to issuing the DCYA response to the plan by 20th January.

6. Internet Content Governance

FL circulated an email to MAC prior to the meeting outlining the up to date position, and noted that the draft Government memo has been amended. It was noted that a subgroup of the Children First IDG was being suggested as a useful forum for this issue. DCYA will facilitate any cross-Departmental link-ups on this.

7. For Mention

(i) Role of Legislation Unit

The distribution and assignment of work to the unit was discussed.

(ii) DCYA Business Planning Process

Business Plans are currently being drafted by POs for sign off by MAC members. It was agreed that the approach taken last year - MAC meetings with Units - should be repeated. CR will organise dates for same.

(iii) Corporate Governance Standard for the Civil Service

Following the briefing session on Friday 8th January for members of Management Boards, a discussion was held on how best to drive the implementation and development of the Framework. FL advised would chair a group to advance the process. An initial draft DCYA Framework had been prepared before the final template was finalised and this needs to be compared to the revised template draft. It was agreed that DR and FL would have a discussion on this and DR will prepare a list of issues document for FL in advance.

(iv) Civil Service Renewal – Town Hall

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform have requested that DCYA host a town hall meeting, and a discussion was held on the logistics of same.

8. For Noting

(i) Submissions – The UNCRC Memo for Govt has been circulated.
(ii) FOI Report – FOI requests to be followed up by AS and CR
(iv) Government Memos Report – Memo to be added and MS will give wording.

9. AOB

FL asked MAC for suggestions regarding membership of the Internal Audit Committee. Interaction by the Committee with MAC was also discussed.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 18th January at 10.30a.m.