Management Board Meeting Minutes
Monday 27 November 2017, 10:30

Attendance: Secretary General (Fergal Lynch), Bernie McNally, Dermot Ryan (for section 5), Éimear Fisher and Michelle Shannon. Miriam Kenna reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
The minutes of the meeting of 20 November, 2017 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

3. Brief Updates

BMcN provided updates on (i) Early Years (September Measures) (ii) ECCE rules for children with a disability (iii) Child Care Support Bill 2017 (iv) Executive Board of ACS (vi) Joint Oireachtas Committee on 8th Amendment, and attendance of Youth officials.

MS provided updates on (i) Oberstown (ii) Adoption (Regulations) (iii) Adoption (Information and Tracing) Bill (iv) Garda Youth Diversion Project (v) Mother and Baby Homes (Government Memos) (vi) Joint Oireachtas Committee (appearance of HIQA in relation to its report on Oberstown)

EF provided updates on (i) Section 12 report (ii) Child Rapporteur Report for 2016 (iii) Children First (Tusla Oversight Group) (iv) GAL (Memo for Government) (v) National Review Panel (vi) Psychologist Services and Mental Health (vii) Child Care Law reporting project (viii) ABC and (ix) SAVi II.

4. Suspended Sentences
Dolores Moran and Roisin Webb joined the meeting for this item. They presented a paper outlining options for dealing with suspended sentences for children and young people. This followed recent court cases and legal advice that current legislation does not permit the use of suspended sentences in the case of children and young people. DM and RW outlined a number of options, including possible alternatives to the use of suspended sentences. The focus needed to be on achieving the best possible outcome for children, including the maximisation of scope for rehabilitation and return to the community. It was noted that the outcome of a 'case stated' to the High Court was awaited and that the IYJS would consult on options for the future with the Department of Justice and Equality, the Gardai, Probation Service, Courts Service and other stakeholders before making a recommendation to the Minister. The MB thanked DM and RW for the very useful paper and noted the value of the discussion.

5. Organisational Structures, Department

Following the SMT meeting of 3 November, MB members consulted with their respective units for initial feedback on possible approaches to organisational re-structuring within the

Department. These examples had been prepared by a group of POs as a means of prompting discussion at SMT level. MB members fed back on the main comments offered at the recent discussions. These views were noted by the MB and will form a useful context for the forthcoming SMT meeting of 1 December.

6. AOB

FL thanked all involved in the preparation of answers for Oral PQs scheduled for 28 November.

FL noted that some inputs were outstanding for the Children's Rights Alliance Report Card and asked that these be provided as quickly as possible.

It was noted that the next Minister/MB meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 29 November and the next Town Hall meeting would take place on Thursday 7 December.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 4 December 2017 at 10:30.