

Management Board Meeting Minutes
Monday 4th December 2023 @ 10.30am

Attendance: Secretary General (Kevin McCarthy), Sheenagh Rooney, Colm O’Conaill, David Delaney, Carol Baxter, Laura McGarrigle, Anne-Marie Brooks and Dermot Ryan.

Apologies from Lara Hynes.

Stephen Burke reporting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 20th November 2023 were agreed with minor amendments.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Ukrainian Crisis and International Protection updates

SR gave brief update on the Ukraine BOTP situation at present including:

- BOTP arrival numbers are gradually decreasing
- Vacancies are being leveraged and processes for providing accommodation being improved, property portfolio being actively used
- All vacant accommodation is being actively used.
- The Cabinet Committee on the Humanitarian Response to Ukraine will be held on Thursday this week, meetings have been held in relation to policy change for new arrivals.
- Significant number of compliance investigations challenging, people being relocated weekly as a result.
- DCEDIY continues to liaise with Dept of Taoiseach in respect of timing of decision on policy change for accommodation and new arrivals.

DD gave an update on the IP situation at present including:

- Arrivals consistently increasing, large number of beds required weekly.
- Current capacity does not allow for accommodation of all single males.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- DCEDIY in agreement with DSP over revised payments which are in line with current EU directives and in the top tier of EU payments. Payments included in DSP Vote.

4. Building Blocks/Compliance (Ciaran Madden/Fergal Conlan/Emer Musonda)

Ciaran Madden, Fergal Conlan, Emer Musonda and Stuart Lang joined the meeting for this item.

Compliance – Ciaran Madden introduced the item. Emer Musonda presented on a paper on Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC) Division compliance which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This included progress made on Compliance during the 2022/2023 Programme year, year on year levels of non-compliance in the sector, and improvements as well as the challenges encountered.

Building Blocks - Fergal Conlan presented on a Building Blocks paper which had also been circulated prior to the meeting.

This included an update on the NDP capital programme for the Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare sector, available across three Building Blocks grants - Improvement, Capacity and Innovation Grants.

5. Organisation Development

Kate Levey attended for this item. She provided updates on the work of the various subgroups and progress in actions since the last meeting including 'quick wins' with Facilities in Montague Court and positive feedback received.

The SMT subgroup met for the first time last week and the Steering Group for People Strategy is due to be held next Thursday.

KL also suggested organising an internal Dept wide recognition event or showcase of Dept work in advance of the Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards next year. MB discussed the format and benefit of this.

6. Business planning:

- a) Review of 2023 Departmental Priorities – inputs from MB members and
- b) Approach to setting 2024 Departmental Priorities

Kate Levey and Andrew Patterson attended for this item. They presented on the Dept approach to business planning, workforce planning and identifying KPIs to date, as well as suggestions for the coming year.

MB discussed approaches to the identification of 2024 priorities and that each division will be asked to identify 3-5 deliverables and relate them to one of DCEDIY's High Level Objectives as set out as in the Statement of Strategy ahead of the planned further MB discussion on this.

MB discussed the benefit of leveraging common themes and expertise from across the Dept during the process of identifying key priorities as well as assessing the impacts key priorities on corporate resources - ICT, legal, HR etc.

The PMO will circulate a template to MB members and it is intended the Departmental Priorities will be discussed at the next MB meeting.

7. For Noting:

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

8. AOB

(i) Business Continuity

National Emergency Co-ordination Group - AP highlighted the need for divisional points of contact in the event of emergency situations and outlined current work in updating the Department's contingency plan. AP to circulate contact template to MB members.

AMB updated on the response to the recent very serious incident outside a school and early years centre on Parnell Street and noted the very positive engagement and support provided by the Dublin City Childcare Committee to the provider in question, working with the Department, NEPs and others.

[REDACTED]

MB noted that Dept of Taoiseach are developing a cross government approach to the early development of proposals for a child poverty budget 2025, with the intention of a process commencing in Summer 2024 which will require input from DCEDIY.

MB noted the positive outcome of the first phase of EO interviews on foot of the direct recruitment initiative, with a panel of 22 now established.

[REDACTED]

Next Meeting

The next MB meeting will be on Monday 18th December at 10.30am.