

## **Management Board Meeting Minutes Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 @ 10.30am**

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

Apologies from Lara Hynes and Sheenagh Rooney

Miriam Kenna reporting.

### **1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were agreed with minor amendments.

### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Ukrainian Crisis and International Protection updates**

Update on the Ukraine BOTP situation noted including:

- Accommodation outlook is currently positive
- The Government has now agreed the proposed policy changes in respect of a time limited accommodation offering and reduced social welfare rates while in State provided accommodation for new arrivals.
- Legislation will be required to give effect to the new rates of payment and timely DCEDIY input will be important.
- Plans to operationalise the new policy offering will now be advanced with work continuing on standing up new arrival centres

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

- Numbers applying continue to remain high adding pressure to an already difficult accommodation situation.
- A number of single male IP applicants remain without an offer of accommodation and are being provided with the new alternative reception conditions payment.
- Update provided on incident in Oughterard over the weekend involving an apparent arson attack on accommodation intended for single male use..
- [REDACTED]

### **4. Organisation Development**

Kate Levey attended for this item and shared the 5 new project plans related to Programme 1 – Quick Wins. MB feedback was provided and it was agreed to proceed on the basis of the plans set out, including intended further discussion at MB meeting of 22 January, to include the Department’s mobility policy.

Progress update on the other programme strands was also noted.

### **5. End of year Review/Setting Departmental Priorities 2024**

Kate Levey and Adam Gunning attended for this item.

a) Review of 2023 Departmental Priorities

MB noted positive progress on 2023 priorities with significant delivery and development across all areas of the Department's work.

MB acknowledged the work of all units in the department and extended their thanks to all teams for their contribution throughout 2023.

b) 2024 Departmental Priorities

Each division identified 3-5 deliverables relating to one of DCEDIY's High Level Objectives as set out as in the Statement of Strategy and these were circulated to the MB prior to the meeting.

MB discussed the key priorities, with each A Sec giving a detailed overview of their areas and wider organisational dependencies. A number of specific priorities were identified in respect of which particular wider organisational support would be required in 2024.

The PMO will revise the priorities template to reflect the discussion and circulate it to MB. They will also circulate the updated list of priorities along with a template for Unit Business plans to all divisions in early January.

**6. For Noting:**

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

**7. AOB**

Minister O'Gorman made a visit to the Childcare facility which was at the centre of a stabbing incident in late November.

Minister of State Rabbitte will attend a dinner with Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros along with the Taoiseach and other officials.

A two day hearing on special care case continues in the Supreme Court, on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Marie Kennedy, of Alternative Care Policy Unit, has been the Departmental lead in relation to the case, and is attending the hearings. The judgment is expected to issue in the early part of 2024.

DD said that the High Court cases arising from the period of unaccommodated IPs applicants earlier this year is being referred to the European Courts of Justice to determine if the State is liable.

CB said that the Minister approved publication of the *Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making: Action Plan 2023-2028*.

It was agreed that the venue for the MB meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan would be Citywest.

It was agreed to confirm that the Printworks in Dublin Castle would be used on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March for a likely all staff Townhall. Details to be finalised nearer the date.

**Next Meeting**

The next MB meeting will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 10.30am.

