



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY		
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING		
26th September 2014 AT 8.00AM		
4th Floor, St. Stephen's Green House, Earlsfort Tce, Dublin 2		
Present	Norah Gibbons Gary Joyce P.J. Fitzpatrick Noel Kelly Sylda Langford Gary Ó Donnchadha Rory O'Ferrall Noelle Spring	Chairperson Deputy Chair Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member

In Attendance	Gordon Jeyes Fred Mc Bride Pat Smyth Paul Harrison Kay Keilthy	CEO Chief Operations Officer Director of Finance Director of Policy & Strategy Board Secretary
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Apologies	Ita Mangan	Board Member
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SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

CHAIRPERSON

1.0	Declarations of Interest	8.00am
1.1	None	
2.0	Minutes of Board Meeting held on the 25th July 2014	
2.1	The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on the 25 th July 2014 were formally approved by the Board subject to agreed changes.	
3.0	Matters Arising	
3.1	Matters arising covered under agenda	
3.2	Action log updated as follows:	
3.2.1	Brian Lee, Director of Quality Assurance and Risk to update Board at 31 st October meeting on Early Years.	
3.2.2	Board Meeting to be scheduled for 1 st Qtr. of 2015 outside Dublin. The meeting to include presentation by area manager in relation to service delivery.	
	<i>Prospectus Team - David Duffy, John Crimmins, David Breslin, Anne McMurray Joined the meeting</i>	8.10am
4.0	Prospectus Presentation	
4.1	The Prospectus Team presented their presentation on the Development of Three Year Corporate Plan – Directional Document	
4.2	The Board agreed to consider the strategy development process presented by Prospectus and revert with any comments.	
4.3	The Board thanked the Prospectus Team for their presentation.	
5.0	Financial and HR Reports	
5.1	The Board noted the Financial Performance Report for July 2014	
5.2	The Board noted the paper on the Financial Outturn for August 2014 showing an overspend of €31.633 million. The main area of overspend continued to be legal, private residential and foster care, agency pay and foster care and other allowances. Grant payments in Family Support Services were ahead of profile for the month contributing to an overspend of €3.9 million in the month.	
5.3	The Board noted the Financial Performance Report showing a spend for the period August year to date of €398.677 million against a budget of €367.044 million considered in the context of the number of children in care increasing by 1.8% from January to August 2014 and the numbers in private residential placement increasing by 9.6% from December 2013 to June 2014.	
5.4	The projected deficit for the full year based on the run rate for June is projected at €34.067	
5.5	The Board noted that the demand for residential places remains high and is a key challenge in meeting the cost containment targets set out in the revised cost containment plan in June 2014. The Board noted the legal spend will be in line with the 2013 figure of €34 million due to significant activity and prior year costs that have been billed in 2014.	

5.6	The Board was advised of a recent Labour Court Ruling in relation to sleep over arrangements for residential staff which could impact on the Agency's current staffing of residential units. The Executive agreed to work through the implications of the Labour Court ruling and advise Board.	
5.7	The Board agreed with the Executive that a new strategy in relation to the re-generation of provision of foster care was required.	
5.8	The CEO distributed a paper at the meeting detailing the Budget Pressures, Budget Reform 2014 and Budget 2015.	
5.9	The CEO advised that there have been detailed discussions between DCYA colleagues and DPER regarding Budget allocation. Budget discussions have been described as challenging. The Agency requires a minimum budget of €651 million for 2015. A budget less than €651 million would lead to very significant reductions being proposed in specific service areas.	
5.10	The Board agreed to issue a letter to the Minister, James Reilly. The purpose of the letter was to advise the Minister of the serious concerns expressed by the Board in relation to severe budgetary pressures being faced by the Agency, outline features unique to the Agency and provide a background to the Board's concerns. A copy of the letter to issue to Board members.	
5.11	The Chair of the Quality Assurance & Risk Committee (QA&C) informed the Board that the QA&C had discussed the risks and associated consequences of the Agency not receiving sufficient resources and it was agreed that this represented a key risk factor for the agency.	
5.12	The Board agreed that a risk document should be prepared outlining the resources required by the Agency, identifying any shortfall and the consequent risks.	
5.13	The Board noted the Employment Reports for July and August 2014	
6.0	Capital Programmes Revision	
6.1	To be submitted at Board Meeting scheduled for the 15 th October 2014	
7.0	Cost Containment	
7.1	Taken under agenda item 5.2	
8.0	Reports	
8.0	The Board noted the following reports : Measure the Pressure QTR 2 Report National Performance Report June National Performance Report July National Performance Report QTR 2 Business Plan Update QTR 2	
8.1	The Board welcomed the Measure the Pressure QTR 2 Report and asked that the Quality Assurance & Risk Committee review the report in greater detail. Gary Ó Donnachda observed that the report showed that there was grid lock in the system at some points. He suggested it would be helpful to see a best	

	practice vision from other jurisdictions.	
9.0	CEO Report	
9.1	The CEO advised that HIQA were due to release reports in respect of Ballydowd and Coovagh House.	
10.0	AOB	
10.1	None	