



***Meeting of
Children Acts Advisory Board
Tuesday 10th February 2009
Phoenix House***

Minutes

- Present:** Michael Donnellan (Acting Chair)
Nuala Doherty, Cathal Flynn, Charlie Hardy, Phil Hanna,
Roger Killeen, Gerry O'Neill, Michelle Shannon,
Dermot Stokes,
- Apologies:** Jacinta Stewart, Cathleen Callanan, Finbarr Murphy,
- In Attendance:** Aidan Browne, Finbarr O'Leary, Jane Craig, Robert Murphy,
Clodagh Thorne,
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Declaration of Interest in agenda items, by Board Members

- No conflict of interests declared.

1) Minutes

- The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted and subsequently signed by acting Chair, Michael Donnellan.

2) Matters Arising

- It was mentioned that the Laxton Report '***A review of the future requirements of Special Care & High Support Provision in Ireland – A strategic Response 2008***' has been signed off. Gerry O'Neill will update the board on a potential date of launch and this item will be on the March 2009 board agenda.

3) Chief Executive Report

The Chief Executive reported on the following topics:

- **Government Decision**

No further action has been taken with regard to the Government decision to subsume CAAB into the OMCYA. A meeting is scheduled with the OMCYA for February 25th to discuss future plans.

- **Guardian ad litem guidance**

Guardian ad litem guidance will be further discussed at scheduled meeting with the OMCYA on February 25th.

- **Evidence to Practice Seminar**

The next Evidence to Practice Seminar is scheduled to take place on May 21st in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin on the topic of '*Restorative Practice*'. Further updates will be given to the Board at the March meeting.

- **"Different" Response Model**

A team of managers and practitioners travelled to both Minnesota and Derry between the 20th January and 6th February to experience the DRM in action. The key elements of the DRM in practice were briefly discussed.

- The board requested that the Executive make a presentation on to them on DRM, when further information is available.

- **Court Reporting**

The next, and final, issue of Family Law Reports (Courts Service) will include a report on child care proceedings and an interview with CAAB with regard to Special Care.

- **Special Care Discharge Working Group**

A draft paper has been produced by the CAAB to assist the working group.

- **Children's Services Awards**

The CAAB Awards will take place on 19th February in Croke Park.

- **OMCYA Strategy Meeting**

A presentation was made to the OMCYA by CAAB which endeavours to benchmark progress on the Implementation of the Children Act.

The Board has requested Benchmarking figures and trends at the March Board meeting.

- **C&AG Audit**

The C&AG audit for 2008 has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of this week.

4) Subcommittee Reports

a) Finance

The Finance report was circulated and it was noted that CAAB accounts are in a healthy state.

A resolution was passed stating that the draft financial statements for 2008 were approved by the Board on the basis that there would be no material changes made to them. This was proposed by Roger Killeen and seconded by Dermot Stokes and subsequently approved by the board.

It was noted that the revised allocation for 2008 has been drawn down in full.

b) Research

Dr Dermot Stokes reported on the Research Committee meeting held on Tuesday the 27th of January. It was explained that at each meeting agencies provide a summary of their current or planned research projects. Dr Stokes provided a summary of some of

the key projects currently undertaken by members of the Committee. He also provided a summary of progress on the range of research projects being managed by the CAAB, either internally delivered or externally commissioned. Dr Stokes stressed the benefit of the Research Programme in terms of its collective focus and emphasis on service issues. It was noted that a lot of work is underway and requested that a more detailed note be provided to the Board in relation to the research projects being undertaken by the CAAB.

5) Consideration of Reports

a. Case Management (CAAB/Garda Síochána)

Rose Sweeney, Advisory Officer of CAAB gave a presentation on Case Management. The following is a summary.

The Garda Case Management Pilot Project began in the North Central Division in an attempt to deal with the increasing problem of young people in conflict with the law. The Garda Case Management Pilot Project is essentially a co-ordinated and consistent management process. This process places one Garda as a Case Manager for each individual young person. They are responsible for leading, co-ordinating and managing the young person's charges.

A key responsibility of a Case Manager is to work closely with the young person, their family and all other relevant agencies that may be involved as a result of the incurred charges. The Project therefore, attempts not only to influence at an organisational procedural level but also on a practical level through inter-agency working and communication with all relevant parties with the hope of improving outcomes for the young person.

It was mentioned that other agencies working with young people, that do not currently operate a case management process, should consider the extent to which aspects of the Case Management Process developed in the Pilot Project in Dublin Metropolitan North Central Division could be adapted and adopted to support their roles in helping to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people.

For further information please contact Rose Sweeney on 01-6724106.

b. Views of some stakeholders on Inter-agency co-operation

Robert Murphy made a presentation entitled Inter-Agency Co-Operation in Children's Services in Ireland: The Views of some stakeholders. A handout was circulated and further information regarding this presentation can be found on www.caab.ie

c. Young People on Remand (OMCYA)

Finbarr O'Leary report to the Board on a presentation made by Centre for Social and Educational Research (DIT) on research into 'Young People on Remand' (part of the National Children's Strategy research series of the OMCYA. Following discussion, the conclusions drawn in order to promote these recommendations could be divided into 3 distinct points:

- a) What can be achieved in the short term;
- b) What can be achieved in the long term;
- c) What is not possible to achieve;

d. Annual Conference Report (CAAB)

A draft report outlining the 2008 National Conference report was circulated to board members. This report is in its final draft stage and will be ready for publication shortly. This report will also be available on the CAAB website.

It was decided that the Annual Conference Report for 2008 would be available on-line only in order to keep costs down. All presentations made at the 2008 Annual Conference are available on the CAAB website.

6) Data Gathering Template

A data gathering template relating to the collection of information in Special Care Units and Children Detention Schools has been sent to the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) and Gerry O'Neill's Office (HSE) to be filled in and CAAB are awaiting feedback. The Executive is expecting to report this information to the board at the March meeting.

7) AOB

Board Members who had not returned declaration of interest forms were requested to do so immediately.

The next Board Meeting will take place in CAAB Offices on 24th March 2009 at 2pm.