



***Meeting of
Children Acts Advisory Board
Tuesday 30th September 2008
Phoenix House***

Minutes

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

Declaration of Interest in agenda items, by Board Members

- No conflict of interests declared.

1) Minutes

- The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, agreed and subsequently signed by the Chairperson, Jacinta Stewart.

2) Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.
- Due to an unexpected shortfall in attendance of board members, quorum was not met.

3) Chief Executive Report

The Chief Executive reported on the following topics:

- **Correspondence** was received from the HSE notifying CAAB of the appointment of Mr Peter Kieran as chair to the group which will review the purpose and function of St. Josephs School in Clonmel since it ceased operating as an Industrial School.

Updates on the current status of

- **Special Care Criteria (up-date)**

- **Rates Appeal Update**

It was decided to seek legal opinion on the merits of making the appeal.

- **Budget Update**

- **National Implementation Group [T16]**

- **Benchmarking Project for the OMC+YA**

- **Specialist Accommodation Forum (SAF Conference)**

This years SAF conference which was scheduled to take place in November 2008 at Malahide has been cancelled due to a lack of bookings.

- **CAAB submission on draft NEWB Statement of Strategy 2008-2012**

- **DRM (A different response model)**

- **ISPCAN Conference Hong Kong, China**

4) Subcommittee Reports

a) Finance

- The finance report was circulated and it was noted that the CAAB have spent approx. 59% of the revised budget for the year to date.

5) 2nd CAAB National Conference

- The bookings for the conference are slower than expected.
- Given the calibre of the speakers and the accessible location of the conference it has the potential to be an excellent conference. However, funding was seen to be an issue for agencies in sending delegates, in the current budgetary climate.
- There is a very good bookings from the Community and Voluntary sectors, with students on discounted places also making up the numbers. Owing to the location most of the bookings are on a daily basis.

6) GAL (advice to the Minister)

- A working document and covering advisory memo for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs was circulated for comment. The following points were noted:
 - A meeting of the GAL sub group was held on 11th September.
 - Certain issues were raised regarding the working document and it was agreed to re-consider this document following board member submissions for discussion at the next board meeting.
 - A re-drafting of a proposed bullet point change to the guidance document dealing with GAL independence was agreed

7) Quarterly stats on Special Care

- The quarterly statistics on applications for Special Care were circulated and discussed. Comparisons were made between the periods in 2007 vs 2008. It was noted that applicant numbers were down from 2007 and questions were raised as to reasons behind the reduction. It was decided that CAAB would pursue this matter with the HSE.

8) Research Programme Update

- The research programme update was circulated and discussed in detail. No issues arose.

9) AOB

- No other business was raised.

The next Board Meeting will take place in CAAB Offices on 28th October at 2pm. Lunch will be available from 1pm onwards.