

Caranua Board minutes 26th February 2019 – Special Extraordinary Board meeting to discuss orderly wind down of operations

Present: David O’Callaghan, Damian Casey, Katherine Finn, Francis Treanor, Frances Harrington, Phyllis Morgan-Fann, Richard Heeneey

Apologies: Tom Daly, Patricia Carey

In attendance: Rachel Downes, Saragh Fitzpatrick (Secretary), Sinead Dwyer, Jane Merrigan, Ross Carmody

Item	Discussion	Decision Action	Update from last meeting
1. Quorum, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest Declarations	The Chair noted that there was a quorum present and that apologies had been received from two members who were unable to attend. No member had declared an interest in the Agenda.		
2. Minutes	Minutes of the last Board meeting were agreed. Action points from the last meeting were reviewed and discussed. Minutes proposed by: Frances Harrington Seconded by: Richard Heeneey	DOF will pass Board minutes to Head of Communications to publish on the website.	
3. Report from Executive	As this is a special Board meeting scheduled to discuss the orderly wind down of operations, a shortened Executive Report was presented by the CEO, covering the following: 1. Head of HR and Administration Introduction and welcome extended to the new Head of HR and Administration.		

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	<p>2. Interdepartmental Committee Meeting Established to examine access to mainstream services for former residents, at which the CEO was invited to speak on 20th February. The CEO gave information on the work of Caranua and support areas that survivors have identified to Caranua.</p> <p>3. Department of Education and Skills Chairperson, CEO, and DOF to meet with representatives from the Department of Education and Skills on 26th February. A discussion was held around the Departmental answer to a recent Parliamentary question. The Minister makes reference to the funds from the congregations “expected later in the year”. This is the first indication that the funds are not forthcoming by end Quarter 1 as committed. Should these funds not be forthcoming, a communication strategy will be required, in relation to statements and press releases from Caranua.</p> <p>Email correspondence between the Chair, CEO and Department was discussed. This correspondence would give rise to significant concern that outstanding contributions from the Christian Brothers will not be paid over by end Q1 as was previously indicated. It was noted that the Board have no power to force the payment of these outstanding funds and are therefore reliant on the Department of Education to progress the issue.</p>	<p>Board agreed to request an interest free loan from the Department on the strength of the outstanding funds being received from the Christian Brothers to avoid potential financial difficulties.</p> <p>CEO and Head of Communications will draft a strategy for review by the Board.</p> <p>Board agreed that the concern in relation to these outstanding funds should be raised in the strongest possible terms at the forthcoming meeting with representatives of the Department of Education and Skills.</p>	

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	<p>A discussion was held in relation to the possibility of Caranua contacting the Christian Brothers directly to ensure that they have been made aware of the situation in relation to the fund.</p> <p>A further update will be provided to Board members after the Departmental meeting, and also at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>4. Outreach Outreach will take place in London and Birmingham on 27th and 28th February.</p>	<p>This will be queried at the upcoming Departmental meeting.</p> <p>Requested that the CEO put together a dossier of the contacts from the Chair to the Department of Education in relation to these outstanding contributions.</p>	
<p>4. Orderly wind down of Caranua</p>	<p>In progress A discussion was held around the remaining applications requiring determination of eligibility. There is ongoing work in relation to the review of these applications, and a further update will be provided at the next Board meeting. The Board were happy with this analysis and the Chair noted the person-centred approach taken.</p> <p>Applications on hand CEO provided an update on all open applications, as follows: Assessment – 283 Open – 1,066 Pending completion – 863 Re-opened – 13 Advocacy supports – 12 Total – 2,238</p>	<p>Executive will provide an update at the next Board meeting.</p>	

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	<p>Assessments are in progress on all new applications, and the team have identified that there are a greater number of survivors with more complex cases.</p> <p>A discussion was held around the management of the expectations of the open applications. These applications can only be paid from the remaining funds. This means that applications will be dealt with as paperwork is provided by applicants. There is a real risk that there are people who will struggle with the submission of this paperwork. The services team have been making every effort to assist and support applicants in obtaining and submitting paperwork, and will continue to do so.</p> <p>There had previously been some flexibility around the limits, particularly for payments around household goods.</p>	<p>Services team will ensure that applicants are aware that the fund is approaching completion and that there is an urgency to submission of paperwork to ensure that needs are met.</p> <p>Board decision that the guidelines must be adhered to with limited flexibility other than in exceptional circumstances, to ensure maximum fairness in relation to the distribution of the remaining fund.</p>	
5. Any other business	<p>Financial Statements for 2018 Director of Finance presented first draft financial statements to the board.</p> <p>These will be submitted to the Department of Education and the Comptroller and Auditor General on 28th February, in line with deadline.</p>	<p>DOF will add the final draft accounts to the papers for the next Board meeting for review by all members.</p>	
6. Next meeting	<p>Meeting concluded at 12:30. The next meeting is rescheduled from Thursday 21st March to Friday 22nd March.</p>		