**Appointment of Chief Officer to the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board**

For immediate release: September 17, 2019: The Board of the NPHDB today announced that it has appointed Mr. David Gunning as Chief Officer of the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board, the organisation that has the statutory responsibility to plan, design, build, furnish and equip the new children’s hospital. Mr Gunning takes up the position with the NPHDB this week.

In this important, newly created role, Mr. Gunning will be responsible for delivering on the responsibilities of the NPHDB, including strategy and oversight on all aspects of the project. He joins from the Royal Hospital Donnybrook where he was Chief Executive Officer, having previously served as a non-executive director with the organisation.

From 2006 to 2013 David was Chief Executive Officer of Coillte Teoranta.  In that role he was responsible for the organisation’s 1,000+ employees working in its extensive operations in Forestry, Building Materials and Renewable Energy. During this 7-year term, David worked closely with the Board of Directors and led a team to implement a new vision and strategy to ensure the company’s long-term sustainable development and growth.   Prior to Coillte, David spent more than 20 years’ leading high growth global technology businesses based in Ireland, the UK, Finland and the USA.

Commenting on the appointment of David Gunning as Chief Officer of the NPHDB, **Chair of the NPHDB Fred Barry said**: ***“****We are delighted that David Gunning is assuming the role of Chief Officer. David’s extensive management and leadership skills together with his strong track record on financial, IT, operations and cost management, are very relevant to his new position. The new children’s hospital project is moving into a new phase; design and planning are complete and, as can be seen from the campus, construction is well advanced. This complex build will require strong financial oversight and an ability to manage a broad range of construction partners as well as other stakeholders. David’s extensive experience in the private and public sector, as well as most recently from the Royal Hospital will be invaluable in the years ahead as we complete a project that will have a positive impact on generations of young people and their families.”*

Commenting, **Mr. David Gunning** said: *“I am looking forward to taking on the challenge of leading on this important project. I understand the complexity and challenges associated with this Project, however, I am proud to have the opportunity to help deliver a project of such strategic national importance.  I am looking forward to working with the Board, the Department of Health, the HSE and the teams at the NPHDB and Children’s Health Ireland to deliver a new children’s hospital of which we can all be proud.”*

The National Paediatric Hospital Development Board is the statutory body appointed to design, build, furnish and equip the new children’s hospital on the campus shared with St. James’s Hospital, Dublin 8 as well as the two Paediatric Outpatients and Urgent Care Centres, at Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 and at Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin 24.

The role for Chief Officer was advertised in May 2019 through the Public Appointments Service (PAS).

**Ends//**

**Media Contacts**:

Q4 Public Relations:

Angie Kinane 087 8126249 / Sinéad McGovern 087 6411725

**Notes to editor:**

In January 2019 the HSE commissioned a review to be undertaken by PwC into the escalation of cost of the project and recommendations were made within the published report in April 19 2019.  The Board of the NPHDB reviewed the report, acknowledged and noted the issues raised and recommendations set out in it and is developing an implementation plan against this.  One of the recommendations was to strengthen the Executive with separate Chief Officer and Project Director roles.

Since the publication of the PwC report the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board has established a PwC Implementation Committee to address the recommendations of the report.

Principal Responsibilities for the NPHDB Chief Officer include:

• Carry out an examination of structures, responsibility, capacity, skills and experience of the Board staff to ensure that the capacity and capability is in place to deliver the project;

• Oversee the development, execution and monitoring of systems and plans including an annual business plan which ensures the delivery of key project objectives and targets;

• Oversee the development of effective systems to ensure the delivery of the project on time and within budget;

• Ensure resources are effectively managed to optimise safety, quality, cost and timely delivery;

• Oversee the design of appropriate financial controls, establish and implement accounting and reporting procedures;

• Keep the financial position of the Board under review;

• The Chief Officer will be the Accountable Officer.

The process of recruiting a Project Director for the NPHDB is currently underway.