

COISTE CUAIRTE PHRÍÓSÚN CHNOC SEIMRE TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2011

CLOVERHILL PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Tugann sé pléisiúr do Choiste Cuirte Chnoc Seimre ár dtuarascáil bhliantúil le haghaidh 2011 a chur faoi bhráid an Aire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, an tUasal Alan Shatter.

An Coiste

Buaileann an Coiste le chéile de ghnáth ar an dara Déardaoin gach mí. Bhí seacht mball fós sa choiste le linn 2011. Freastalaíodh go maith ar na cruinnithe i gcónaí. Ar bhonn uainchláir thug dhá bhall den choiste cuairteanna gan fhógra ar an bpríosún gach mí lena chinntiú go leantar den phríosún a reáchtáil ar mhodh sábháilte, daonnúil, agus éifeachtach. Le linn na gcuirteanna míosúla seo rinne na baill cinnte de go ndearna siad turais chuimsitheacha ar gach láthair den phríosún. Leanamar dár gcleachtas labhairt leis an bhfoireann oibre inmheánach agus sheachtrach araon lena ndearnamar teagmháil sna láithreacha seo agus le príosúnaigh ar bith sa chóngaracht. Chomhaontaíomar an clár oibre agus leagamar amach é ag tús na bliana maidir le ceisteanna a raibheamar ag iarraidh monatóireacht agus scrúdú a dhéanamh orthu. Leagamar síos cuspóir dúinn féin maidir le buaileadh le foireann seirbhíse ghairmiúil agus neamhphríosúin araon agus foireann sheachtrach a oibríonn i láithreacha sainiúla sa phríosún d'fhonn tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar an obair luachmhar a dhéanann siad. Leanfaidh an coiste de bheith aireach ar an ngná le breathnú ar cheisteanna slándála agus fochultúrtha príosúin i gcomhthéacs an phríosúin.

Príosúnaigh os Comhair an Choiste

D'iarr 33 príosúnach an coiste cuairte a fheiceáil in 2011. Bhuail an coiste le 21 de na príosúnaigh sin. As an dá phríosúnach déag nár bhuail siad leo: dhiúltaigh dhá phríosúnach, bhí príosúnach amháin ar TR athnuaite seachtainiúil, rinneadh cúigear acu a aistriú go dtí príosúin eile, scaoileadh amach duine amháin acu agus bhí triúir acu sa chúirt agus níor tháinig siad ar ais faoi choimeád.

Lean an coiste de mhonatóireacht a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn príosúnach aonair a tháinig as a gcomhair agus mar thoradh air seo bhuail an coiste le roinnt príosúnach cúpla uair mar chuid dár nós imeachta athleanúnta. Le taobh seo, bhí dhá phríosúnach ann ar buaileadh leo níos mó ná uair amháin ar a n-iarratas féin. Buaileadh le príosúnach amháin trí huair.

Ba iad na príomhcheisteanna a d'ardaigh na príosúnaigh os comhair an choiste in 2011 ná iarratais ar chillíní single, cillíní neamhthobac, iarratais ar chuirteanna i mbosca teaghlaigh, siopa Milseán an phríosúin, iarratais ar aistriú go dtí príosúin ina bhfuil cuairteanna neamhscagtha go príomha agus bhí méadú ar líon na ngearán leighis. De gháth ní heisítear beinsidhé-asaipín nó cógais ar bith eile den sórt sin i gCnoc Seimre, agus is seo polasaí an Stiúrthóra Cúram Sláinte atá freagrach as an gcúram Sláinte i seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann. Rinneamar uiríll thar ceann na gcónaitheach don Ghobharnóir agus táimid sásta gur bhreathnaigh an Gobharnóir orthu go léir agus ab fhéidir agus nuair a bhí sé praiticiúil phléigh bainistíocht an phríosúin iad.

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Leanann Príosún Chnoc Seimre de phríosúnaigh athchuir a choinneáil agus dá bhrí sin is féidir le daonra an phríosúin a bheith neamhbhuan. Táimid an-aireach maidir leis seo agus d'fhonn a chinntiú go bhfeicimid a mhéad príosúnach agus is féidir nuair a thugaimid cuairt, déanaimid ár ndícheall a bheith ar fáil go héasca, ionas go mbeidh beagán moill ama i gceist go ginearálta maidir leis na príosúnaigh a fheiceáil go hiarbhrí ó dháta a n-iarratais iarbhrí ach níleamar ábalta na príosúnaigh ar fad a fheiceáil anseo de bharr an aistrithe príosúnach agus láithreachtaí cúirte. Ar laethanta na gcrúinnithe míosúla rinne dhá bhall príosúnaigh ar bith a bhí ag iarraidh muid a fheiceáil a éascú trí bhuaileadh leo roimh an gcrúinniú. Leanaimid dár gcleachtas dul síos go dtí an ceann staighre áit a bhfuil cóiríocht na bpríosúnach agus buaileadh leis na príosúnaigh ansin.

Plódú

Bhí sé seo ina ábhar is cúram leanúnach fós in 2011. Ba é an líon is airde a bhí faoi choimeád ar lá ar bith ná 487 príosúnach i mí an Mhárta agus Bealtaine arb ionann é sin agus laghdú 18 ar an bhfigiúr is airde in 2010 de 505 agus tá sé seo 56 thar an acmhainn. Leanfaidh an Coiste de mhonatóireacht a dhéanamh air seo le linn 2012.

Fuaireamar gearáin arís i mbliana ó Phríosúnaigh gur cuireadh daoine a cimithe ina gcillín le linn na hoíche ar thocht, tarlaíonn suaitheadh nach bhfuil gá leis do na príosúnaigh atá sa chillín cheana de bharr seo agus d'fhéadfadh sé cur le teannas a bheadh an príosúnach ag mothú cheana. Cé go nglacann an coiste go gcaithfear cóiríocht a chur ar fáil don duine a chimítear, mura mbeadh plódú ina fhadhb ní bheadh sé seo ina fhadhb. Arís ba mhaith linn ár dtuairim a thabhairt chun suntais go bhfuil nasc follasach idir plódú agus teannas i bpríosúin, tá sé seo ar leith ó na buarthaí sláinte agus sábháilteachta le haghaidh na foirne agus príosúnach araon.

In 2011 leanamar de mhonatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an gcás maidir le daoine cimithe ag teacht isteach mall agus tá an chuma ann go bhfuil feabhas tagtha air seo ó athraíodh na socruithe foirne don réimse in 2009. Tá súil againn go leanfar de na socruithe seo a fheidhmiú go héifeachtúil in 2012 agus déanfaimid monatóireacht air.

Arís athluaimid an tuairim atá curtha in iúl againn i ngach tuarascáil ó bhí 2007 gur cheart do phríosúnaigh a chimíonn Biúró Náisiúnta an Gharda Síochána um Inimirce a bheith ag dul go dtí ionad coinneála slán, agus ní i gcomhthéacs príosúin. Arís sonraímid go mothaimid gur cheart don Aire athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an réimse seo ina iomláine.

Stailceanna Ocras

Le linn na bliana bhí príosúnach amháin ar stailc ocras a réitigh Gobharnóir an phríosúin gan idirghabháil ó dhuine ar bith eile. Bhain an stailc ocras lena chás baile agus rochtain ar a chuid páistí.

Náisiúnaigh Choigríche

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Tá níos mó náisiúnaigh choigríche coinnithe anseo ná tá i bpríosún ar bith eile sa tír. Is ionann líon na náisiúnach coigríche fós agus thart ar thrian de dhaonra Chnoc Seimre. Le linn 2011 cimíodh 1,393 náisiúnach coigríche chun phríosún Chnoc Seimre agus is cásanna inimirce céadatán ard den líon seo. Ní labraíonn na fir seo mórán Béarla nó ní labraíonn cuid acu Béarla ar bith. Arís ba mhaith leis an gCoiste na tráchtanna a rinneamar inár dtuarascálacha uile ó bhí 2006 ann a athlua agus iarraidimid ar an aire athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an réimse cumarsáide atá ina fhadhb fós atá ag méadú. Ní mór ceisteanna cumarsáide agus míthuisceana soiléire a ardaítear trí bhacainn teanga ar bith a phlé ar bhealach réamhghníomhach.

Arís tá an coiste ag athlua a thráchtanna a rinneadh ar dtús in 2006 maidir leis an ngá le ról an Oifigigh Phríosúin a fhorbairt, trí oifigigh phríosúin a bhfuil scileanna teanga acu a eacrú go sainiúil nó oiliúint a chur ar oifigigh phríosúin atá ag fónamh cheana ar scileanna teanga. Athluaimid gur cheart scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht maidir le Gobharnóirí Príosúin nó gráid bhainistíochta eile a bhfuil suim acu i scileanna teanga a fhoghlaim agus tugaimid chun suntais na buntáistí soiléire agus iad ag déileáil le gearáin agus an muintín a chuirfeadh sé sa phríosúnach toisc go mbeadh sé ábalta cumarsáid a dhéanamh ina mháthairtheanga fiú mura mbeadh ann ach an bunleibhéal líofachta.

Leanann an coiste dá thuairim a athlua go bhfuil príomhtheangacha ann a labhraíonn príosúnaigh de náisiúntacht choigríche go coiteann a thig a shainaithint agus ba chóir tús áite a thabhairt do na teangacha seo ar ar cheart oiliúint a thabhairt nó foireann shainiúil a earcú nó a fháil amach an bhfuil na scileanna teanga seo ag foireann atá ag fónamh. Tá 4 bhall foirne de náisiúntacht choigríche a labhraíonn roinnt teangacha i nCnoc Seimre anois.

Bulaíocht agus Ciníochas

Ní thuairiscigh Príosúnaigh ar bith teagmhais bhulaíochta nó chiníochais ó chomhphríosúnaigh le linn 2011. Leanfaimid de dhlúthmhonatóireacht a dhéanamh air seo le linn na bliana seo chugainn.

Aonad Speisialta

Athluaimid arís an tuairim a chuireamar in iúl ar dtús in 2007 gur cheart na príosúnaigh seo a choinneáil i saoráid saincheaptha. Bhí tionchar diúltach ag oscailt an aonaid seo ar phríosúnaigh a bhí coinnithe ansin faoi chosaint toisc go ndearnadh iad a aistriú go dtí réimeas níos sriantaí agus níor tháinig feabhas ar an réimeas sin go fóill.

Príosúnaigh faoi Chosaint

Thugamar chun suntais i dtuarascálacha roimhe seo chomh mór is a bhféadfann céatadán dhaonra na bpríosúnach a bheith ina bpríosúnaigh faoi chosaint ar lá ar bith.

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Leanann sé seo de strus ollmhór a chur ar acmhainní an phríosúin agus d'fhéadfadh sé a bheith ina thromluí lóistíochúil don mBainistíocht agus don fhoireann. Caithfear na príosúnaigh seo go léir a leithscaradh agus d'fhéadfadh tuilleadh leithscartha tarlú sa leithscaradh sin. D'fhéadfadh réimeas príosúin níos sriantaí a bheith ann mar thoradh air seo.

Athluaimid ár dtuairim a tugadh chun suntais i dtuarascálacha 2008- 2010 gur léiriú díreach é an méadú i líon na bpríosúnach faoi chosaint ar an gcultúr droinge atá sa tsochaí, níor tharla rud ar bith in 2011 a d'athraigh ár dtuairim maidir leis seo.

Sonraímid arís i dtuarascáil nár dearadh Príosún Chnoc Seimre d'fhonn an leibhéal seo leithscartha a sholáthar le príosúnaigh a chosaint nó níor beartaíodh riamh é. Tá deacrachtaí leanúnacha ann fós le haghaidh bhainistíocht an phríosúin agus le haghaidh príosúnach nuair a iarrann príosúnach cosaint, go minic ní bhíonn a fhios acu cé a bhfuil siad ag iarraidh cosanta uathu nó b'fhéidir go mbeadh eagla orthu a rá go bhfuil cosaint de dhíth orthu. Arís i mbliana bhuaileamar le roinnt príosúnach a bhí faoi chosaint i ngeall ar nádúr a gciona agus príosúnaigh eile a raibh eagla orthu faoina sábháilteacht féin de bharr a gcleamhnuithe droinge nó achrann. Rinne beagnach gach duine dóibh seo gearán faoi na réimis shriantacha faoi chosaint, ach ghlac siad leo go raibh sé ar mhaithe lena sábháilteacht féin ag an am céanna.

Bearta slándála

Tugadh isteach na bearta slándála méadaithe a tugadh isteach in 2008 ar dtús faoi choimirce an aonaid tacaíochta Oibriúcháin agus táthar fós á reáchtáil go réidh. Déantar roinnt shuntasacha urghabhálacha fós a thuairiscítear do na Gardaí.

Fóin Phóca

Leanann smuigleáil fóin phóca isteach sa phríosún de bheith ina fadhb maidir le príosúin ar fud an domhain agus leanann foireann Phríosúin iarracht a dhéanamh go dícheallach na hiarrachtaí seo a thascradh gach lá. Tá díomá orainn a shonrú nár ndearnadh an córas blocála fóin phóca a bhí beartaithe do Chnoc Seimre isteach go fóill agus tá súil againn go dtabharfar isteach in 2012 é.

Drugáí

Ba mhaith linn béim a chur ar ár ndíomá nach bhfuiltear ag baint úsáide as an madra bolaíochta drugaí éigníomhach níos mó le linn na seachtaine i gcomhar leis na nósanna imeachta cuardaigh. Athluaimid ár moladh a chuirimid in iúl ar dtús i dtuarascáil 2010 agus a chuireamar in iúl don Uasal Brian Purcell nuair a bhuaileamar leis go mbeadh Cnoc Seimre ag fáil madra lánaimseartha i mbliana. Cé go nglacaimid leis go ndéantar na cuairteanna anseo a scagadh go ginearálta, mothaíonn an coiste go ngníomhaíonn madra bolaíochta mar iombhagairt.

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Fuaireamar roinnt gearán i mbliana arís ó phríosúnaigh a rinne agóid i gcoinne cuardach a dhéanamh ar a gcuartheoirí toisc go raibh cuairteanna scagtha anseo. Déantar gach cuairteoir agus gach ball foirne a thagann isteach go príosún Chnoc Seimre a chuardach, an coiste san áireamh.

Rinne an coiste cuairteanna scagtha a aithint i gcónaí mar mhodh éifeachtach neamhchoimhlinteach, mar aon le ceapadh le heangach ar an gclós aclaíochta, maidir le stop a chur le drugaí a smuigleáil isteach sna príosúin. Cé go gcuireann cuairteanna scagtha srian ar theagmháil le teaghlach agus cairde príosúnaigh ar leibhéal daonnúil, is é ár dtuairim, go bhfuil sé chun leas an phobail. Tá smuigleáil drugaí ina fadhb go fóill sa chóras príosúin. Inár dtuarascáil in 2008 mholamar go láidir ar dtús scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht aonad Saor ó Dhrugaí a a bhunú laistigh den phríosún seo agus arís molaimid go láidir an fhéidearthacht a scrúdú maidir le staidéar féidearthachta a dhéanamh. Tá díomá orainn a shonrú nach bhfuil forbairtí ar bith déanta sa réimse seo ach glacaimid gur féidir leis seo a bheith deacair ar leibhéal Praiticiúil i dtimpeallacht ar timpeallacht athchuir í go príomha.

Comhairleoirí Andúile Ché na gCeannaithe

Tá comhairleoirí andúile ó Ché na gCeannaithe ag feidhmiú anseo go hiomlán ó bhí mí na Nollag 2008 ann. Soláthraíonn siad seirbhísí comhairleoireachta andúile ar an láthair i gCnoc Seimre mar chuid den “Straitéis um Dhrugaí a Choinneáil amuigh as an bPríosún” (2005).

Is iad aidhmeanna agus cuspóirí na seirbhíse comhairleachta seirbhísí comhairleoireachta andúile ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil ina dtairgtear idirghabhálacha comhairleoireachta bunaithe ar fhianaise le pleananna agus spriocanna cúraim sainithe go soiléir. Cuireann Comhairleoirí Andúile Creidiúnaithe an tseirbhís ar fáil. Áirítear ar idirghabhálacha Comhairleoireachta: idirghabhálacha gairide; Agallóireacht inspreagtha agus teiripe Feabhsúcháin Inspreagtha; clár éascaithe 12 chéim; forbairt straitéisí malartacha chun déileáil le deacrachtaí agus cineálacha cur chuige um laghdú gortuithe. Leantar den tseirbhís comhairleoireachta a oibriú laistigh den chleachtas is fearr; sa tsamhail um ‘Chontanam cúraim’.

Cuimsíonn foireann comhairleoireachta Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 1 chomhairleoir lánaimseartha agus comhairleoir deonach ó bhí mí na Samhna ann a oibríonn dhá lá sa tseachtain. Tá ceannaire na foirne bunaithe i bPríosún Chruithneachtáin. Thuairiscigh siad dúinn gur leanadh de rochtain mhaith a bheith acu ar chliaint in 2011 i ndiaidh an fheabhsaithe in 2010.

Leantar den tseirbhís a oibriú laistigh de thimpeallacht ildisciplíneach sa phríosún agus leantar den fhócas a bheith ar chúram agus bainistíocht cásanna. Leantar de raon idirghabhálacha comhairleoireachta agus straitéisí scoir a chur ar fáil sa tseirbhís. I ngeall ar nádúr príosún athchuir, ní bhíonn príosúnaigh ansin ach ar feadh tréimhse

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ghairid. Tá cosc athiompaithe agus idirghabhálacha fócais gairide agus straitéisí scoir ina gcuid dhílis den na hidirghabhálacha do na cliaint.

Is iad an Fhoireann Shíciatrach, an Fhoireann Meatadóin, na Séiplínigh, an Gobharnóir agus a oifigigh athchuireann príosúnaigh nó is féidir leo féin iad féin a athchur. Tá an modh féin-athchuir ag éirí níos minicí de réir mar atá níos mó eolais á fháil ar an tseirbhís ar fud phobal an phríosúin mar acmhainn agus tacaíocht luachmhar dóibh siúd atá spreagtha chun aistriú go téarnamh ó Andúil. Uair amháin a iarchuirtear an cliant, déanfar measúnú air laistigh de sheachtain amháin de ghnáth agus má chomhlíonann sé na critéir ar fad cuirtear ar riar cásanna an chomhairleora é láithreach.

Léirítear i staitisticí arna soláthar ag na seirbhísí comhairleoireachta go ndearna siad measúnú in 2011 ar 181 cliant. Agus bhí riar cásanna de 231 cliant úr acu cuid acu ar a ndearnadh measúnú in 2010 agus nár bualadh leo go dtí tús na Bhliana Úir. Chuir siad iomlán de 735 seisiún comhairleoireachta ar fáil ar fud 2011 agus bhí teagmháil iomlán cliant de 968 ann.

Ní bhfuair an coiste gearán ar bith faoin tseirbhís in 2011. Bhuaileamar le roinnt príosúnach a chur in iúl dúinn go raibh siad ag dul chuig na comhairleoirí andúile. Leanfaimid de mhonatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an réimse seo le linn 2012.

Cúram Sláinte

Leanamar dár gcleachtas bualadh go rialta leis na gairmithe cúram sláinte atá ag obair sa Phríosún. Leanann Oifigigh Altra agus 2 dhochtúir cháilithe lánaimseartha de chúram altranais a chur ar fáil, mar aon le dochtúir ionaid más cuí. Cuimsítear cúram Fiaclóireachta ó ospidéal Déidliachta Bhaile Átha Cliath, radharceolaí agus coslia más cuí ann.

Thuairiscigh an Gobharnóir dúinn i mí Eanáir gur tháinig líon mór príosúnach i láthair le siomptóim H1N1, agus maidir leis seo cuireadh plean teagmhasach na bPríosún i ngníomh agus rinneadh na príosúnach a aonrú. Sa deireadh bhí dhá chás deimhneach ann agus tháinig biseach ar an mbeirt acu. Rinneadh vacsaíní a thairiscint agus a thabhairt don grúpa a bhí i mbaol.

I Márta rinneadh an plean teagmhasach seo a úsáid arís nuair a cuireadh a briseadh amach amhrasta de TB (a dearbhaíodh ina dhiaidh sin) i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre in iúl don choiste ar dtús. Bhí baint an-mhór ag an rannóg cúram sláinte mar aon leis an tSláinte Phoiblí leis an scagadh agus an tástáil ollmhór ar chónaithigh agus ar an bhfoireann. Áiríodh air saoráid x-ghnáthaithe ollmhór iniompartha inar ndearnadh na príosúnaigh agus an fhoireann araon a x-ghnáthú. Chuimsigh sé seo an próiseas um

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raonú teagmhála agus ghlac sé seo a lán ama. Bhí an tSláinte Phoiblí freagrach as an mbriseadh amach a bhainistiú.

Gach lá bíonn meánlón idir 80 – 100 — príosúnach ar chothabháil mheatadóin nó cláir dhíthocsainithe. Bhí na figiúirí sin chomh ard le 110 príosúnach anuraidh. Is é seo céadatán suntasach de dhaonra na bpríosún. Leantar de na clinicí andúile a bheith ann ceithre huair sa tseachtain agus bíonn foireann leighis chuairte agus comhairleach i gceannas orthu. D’ainneon líon ard na bPríosúnach Andúil atá a láimhseáil ag Cnoc Seimre, ba é post an altra Andúile an chéad phost a ciorraíodh mar chuid den phróiseas athraithe chun feabhais (margadh Pháirc an Chrócaigh). Mothaíonn an coiste nach bhfuil mórán amhrais ann go mbeidh iarmhairt aige seo ar chaighdeán na Seirbhísí Andúil ag Cnoc Seimre. Maíonn an coiste go ndéanfaí athbhreathnú air seo mar bheart práinne.

Tá seirbhís inrochtana le haghaidh Ionfhabhtuithe Gnéas-tarchurtha atá nasctha leis an gClinic GUIDE in Ospidéal San Séamas. Tionóllann lia comhairleach cuairte clinicí ar feadh lá iomlán amháin gach dhá sheachtain. D’éirigh le hollfheachtas méarthástála agus frithstiogma VEID i nCnoc Seimre ag sroicheadh thart ar 50% de na cónaithigh. Ba thionscadal comhpháirtíochta é seo idir rannóg cúram sláinte Chnoc Seimre, Ospidéal San Séamas agus deonacha ó Chros Dhearg na hÉireann a bhí gníomhach i dtacaíocht.

Fuarthas meaisín ECG san aonad Cúram Sláinte le linn 2011 agus fuair an fhoireann altranaís treoir ar an dóigh lena oibriú. Ba é buntáistí a bhain leis seo bhí na príosúnaigh ábalta a ECG a fháil déanta ar an láthair agus, laghdú i gcostais choimhdeachta.

Tá ceannairí Altra i rialú Diaibéitis, cúram Gortuithe agus Ionfhabhtaithe. Tá na haltraí ar fad oilte i nGarchabhair Cheirde. Leanann siad de chlinicí Fleibeatóime a thionól, bhí Vaccainí stiúrtha ag altraí iontu lena n-áirítear príosúnaigh i mbaol H1N1, Cur chun Cinn Sláinte agus comhairle d’othair VEID. Rinneadh gach ceann acu a mhéid is a bhí indéanta le linn na dtréimhsí ar inis siad dúinn go raibh easpa foirne i gceist leo. Tá altra amháin oilte mar Altra Oideas agus tá altra eile faoi oiliúint mar altra oideas. Feicimid seo mar fhorbairt an-dearfach.

Arís le linn 2011 bhuaileamar le roinnt príosúnach a rinne gearán faoin gcóireáil leighis a fuair siad ó Dhochtúir an Phríosúin. Nuair a d’fhiosraíomar an scéal chonaiceamar gur bhain sé go ginearálta leis an gcógas a d’ordaigh an Dochtúir. Níor cheapamar go raibh ceann ar bith de na gearáin a d’éisteamar leo ina ngearáin dhlisteanacha, ach nílim cáilithe sa leighis, áfach.

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An tSeirbhís inrochtana um Shíciatracht Fhóiréinseach

Leanann an an tOspidéal Lárnach Mearbhaill de Sheirbhís inrochtana um Shíciatracht Fhóiréinseach a chur ar fáil i gCnoc Seimre. Cuirtear an tseirbhís ar fáil cúig lá in aghaidh na seachtaine sa chás go ndéantar gach duine a chimítear a scagadh agus más cuí déanann an fhoireann Shíciatrach scrúdú orthu. Cuimístear comhairleach, dhá chláraitheoir agus trí Altra Shíciatracha san fhoireann. Soláthraíonn siad seirbhís athstiúrtha cúirte luachmhar, agus bíonn siad ar an láthair le déileáil le fadhbanna meabhairshláinte. Bhí tionchar suntasach aige seo ar na seirbhísí Síciatracha a chuirtear ar fáil do phríosúnaigh. Mothaímid go bhfuiltear ag tabhairt aghaidhe go dearfach ar cheisteanna meabhairshláinte i gCnoc Seimre.

Síceolaí Príosun

I ngach tuarascáil ó bhí 2008 ann thugamar chun suntais nach bhfuil síceolaí príosún i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre go fóill. Tá an t-easpa leanaúnach seirbhísí Síceolaíochta agus an t-easpa leanúnach rochtana orthu ina ábhar is cúram tromchúiseach go fóill i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre. Tá an t-easpa seirbhíse seo tugtha chun suntais don choiste ag na séiplínigh, foirne cúram sláinte an phríosúin agus na príosúnaigh. Maímid go ndéanfaí athbhreithniú ar an gcinneadh an Síceolaí príosúin a thabhairt as seo mar bheart práinne.

Bás faoi Choimeád – teach Cúirte Chnoc Seimre

Fuair príosúnach amháin bás i gkillín coinneála i dteach Cúirte Chnoc Seimre in 2011. Bhí an Príosúnach faoi choimeád Chorparáid Choimhdeachta na Seirbhíse Príosún nuair a chur sé lámh ina bhás féin. Cuirimid ár gcomhbhrón in iúl do theaghlach an duine éagtha. De réir mar a thuigimid tá fiosruithe leanúnacha inmheánacha agus seachtrach á gcur i gcrích.

Oideachas

Tá tionchar suntasach ag an oideachas ar ghnáthamh laethúil na bPríosúnach agus is luamhán sábháilteachta tábhachtach é maidir le leadrán a mhaolú. Thuairiscigh an múinteoir príomhoide dúinn gurbh bhliain dhúshlánach a bhí sa bhliain acadúil 2010 – 2011 don aonad Oideachais. Rinne i bhfad níos mó iarratas á ndéanamh ag príosúnaigh le freastal ar an scoil, ach níor tháinig athrú ar bith ar na hacmhainní i gcomhthéacs leithdháileadh múinteoirí agus bhí laghdú ar an mbuiséad le haghaidh ábhar agus trealaimh. Tháinig méadú ar an líon a bhí ag úsáid cláir ama, ach bhí laghdú suntasach i leibhéil na mac léinn a bhí ag teacht go dtí an aonad Oideachais. Bhí a lán príosúnach eile faoi Leibhéal 3 agus dá bhrí sin níor bhain siad teastasú amach nó bhain siad teastasú amach ag luas i bhfad níos moille. Mar sin féin sa chúig bliana ó osclaíodh an t-aonad tá feabhas sna staitisticí bliain ar bhliain. Rinneadh 531 iarratas ar an scoil, cuireadh agallamh ar 407 le haghaidh na scoile, d'fhág 124 an príosún sular glaodh orthu le haghaidh agallaimh agus bhí clár ama leagtha amach le haghaidh 321 i gcomhair ranganna.

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Tionóltar ranganna san Ealaín, Ceardaíocht, ECDL, agus ESOL. Cúrsaí Fetac i Litearthacht Ríomhaire, Feidhmiúcháin Ríomhaire, iontráil Sonraí, scileanna TF, Próiseáil Focal, Cumarsáid, Matamaitic, Éifeachtacht Phearsanta, Cúram agus Cur i Láthair Pearsanta, ag Maireachtáil i Sochaí Éagsúil, Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise, Scileanna Ateangaireachta agus Corpacmhainn ar son na Sláinte. Ranganna ceoil chomh maith i dTeoiric Cheoil Ghrád 1, Giotár agus Méarchlár an Choláiste Ríoga, bunleibhéal agus feabhsaitheoirí. Tá scrúduithe ríomhaireachta Mous, ábhair an teastais Shóiséaraigh, na hArdeistiméireachta agus leibhéal Fetac á nglacadh agus á ndéanamh ag mic léinn. Tionóltar ranganna fosta i mBéarla, Litearthacht, Uimhearthacht agus Innealtóireacht Fuaim le haghaidh feabhsaitheoirí. Tá mac léinn amháin in 2011 ag staidéar i gcomhair a chéime máistreachta leis an Ollscoil Oscailte.

Cruthaíodh an an clár ionductaithe le haghaidh gach mic léinn úir san aonad Oideachais a tugadh isteach i mí Mheán Fómhair 2010 a bheith ina thionscnamh an-rathúil trínar bhfreastalaíonn mic léinn, i ndiaidh agallamh a chur orthu, ar chur i láthair uaire ina léirítear *Conas a dhéantar an scoil a réachtáil, Cé iad na múinteoirí, Cad iad na cúrsaí atá ar fáil, Conas teastasú a bhaint amach, Gníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim, Iompraíocht a bhítear ag súil léi*. I ndiaidh an ionductaithe seo buaileann an mac léinn leis an múinteoir príomhoide arís lena gclár ama ranganna a eagrú.

Forbraíodh réimse na nEalaíon Chruthaitheach in 2011. Mar aon leis na ranganna ealaíne agus ceoil leagtha amach ar chlár ama rinneadh na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leans a sholáthar do na mic léinn chomh maith.

- Lá na nEalaíon – áit a seachadadh na ceardlanna ceoil agus ealaíne
- Tionscadail dhá sheachtain chónaitheachta ealaíontóirí
- Ceardlann ar scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach

In 2011 sannadh teagascóir 1:1 do gach mac léinn a d'iarr tacaíocht litearthachta. Rinneadh gach mac léinn a mheas ag úsáid Uirlis Mheasúnaithe Litearthachta na Seirbhíse Oideachais do Phríosúin. I ndiaidh an mheasúnaithe rinne gach mac léinn plean foghlama a chaibidlíú leis an teagascóir agus eagraíodh a gclár agus a gclár ama leis an Múinteoir Príomhoide ansin.

Tionscnaíodh treoirthionscadal idir an t-aonad oideachais agus an leabharlann d'fhonn rochtain a fháil ar mhic léinn litearthachta a raibh drogall orthu teacht go dtí an t-aonad oideachais. Shainaithníodh foireann leabharlainne an phríosúin mic léinn ar an gceann staighre ag a raibh deacrachtaí litearthachta agus dhéanfadh siad tacaíocht litearthachta a thairiscint dóibh. Níl mórán dul chun cinn déanta leis an treoirthionscadal go dtí seo ach tá dóchas againn go bhféadfaí dul chun cinn a

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dhéanamh in 2012. Tionóladh dhá lá litearthachta san aonad d'fhonn cad atá ar fáil i gcomhthéacs litearthachta a chur in iúl do na mic léinn.

Rinneadh an próiseas measúnaithe san aonad oideachais a fhorbairt tuilleadh in 2011 agus tá sé tagtha ar aghaidh ó dhá mheasúnú aonaid in aghaidh na bliana go dtí measúnú ar gach cúrsa ag na mic léinn agus na múinteoirí araon. Teastaíonn tuilleadh forbartha ar an obair seo agus tá sé curtha in iúl dúinn ag an múinteoir príomhoide go bhfuil plean le haghaidh na forbartha leanúnaí i bhfeidhm le haghaidh 2012.

Chuir an múinteoir príomhoide in iúl dúinn gurb iad a príomhchuspóirí le haghaidh 2012:

1. Tuilleadh forbartha a dhéanamh ar an gclár ionduchtaithe go measúnú do gach mac léinn
2. Bunchlár oideachais a fhorbairt do gach mac léinn faoi Leibhéal 3.
3. Leanúint d'oibriú i gcomhpháirtíocht leis na gCros Dhearg
4. Deiseanna úra a fhorbairt sna healaíona cruthaitheacha
5. An próiseas measúnaithe a luathú.

Tá an t-oideachas fós ina cheann dár bpríomhthosaíochtaí, agus ba mhaith leis an gcoiste seo an tseintimint sin a athlua. Tá sé ríthábhachtach don choiste go bhfuil príosúnaigh ábalta a ndeiseanna oideachais a uasmhéadú. Mholfaimid gur cheart cúrsaí athleanúna a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh ar mian leo leanúint dóibh nuair a fhágfaidh siad Príosún Chnoc Seimre.

Leabharlann

Is é seo saoráid mhealltach, fhairsing sa phríosún agus is ionad móréilimh é le haghaidh ciontóirí a úsáideann é le haghaidh caitheamh aimsire agus iasachtaí a fháil. Nuair a bhíonn sé ar oscailt baineann céadatán mór de dhaonra an phríosúin leas as.

Tá an leabharlann leagtha amach ar chlár ama i gCnoc Seimre le bheith ar oscailt seacht lá gach seachtain le haghaidh thréimhsí na maidne, an iarnóin agus tráthnóna. Tá trí oifigeach príosúin sannta le hoibriú sa leabharlann agus an tseirbhís sa leabharlann a chur ar fháil le haghaidh gach tréimhse. Ceapadh an clár ama le freastal ar gach aonad sa phríosún agus cinntear an méid am leabharlainne a leithdháiltear ar gach aonad tríd an líon ciontóirí i ngach aonad.

Tá sé curtha in iúl dúinn ag Leabharlannaí an phríosúin gurb í Leabharlann Phríosún Chnoc Seimre an leabharlann is rathúla ar fad i measc phríosúin Bhaile Átha Cliath agus is é an t-aon príosún do dhaoine fásta atá ainmnithe le hoscail, ar bhonn comhsheasmhach. Chuir sí in iúl dúinn fosta gur thug foireann an phríosúin agus príosúnaigh leabhair go flaitiúil don leabharlann i rith na bliana, atá an-chuidiúil don tseirbhís i bhfianaise ciorruithe buiséid le déanaí. Ciorraíodh an buiséad ó €90,000 in 2008 go €30,000 in 2011.

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Méadaíodh an stoc sa leabharlann le 185 leabhar ficsein úr agus 185 leabhar neamhfhicsin úr, 251 leabhar teanga iasachta úr, 22 DVD, 5 CD ceoil úra (le héisteacht leo sa leabharlann). Ba é an líon iarratas ar leabhair a rinneadh na 296 i gcomparáid le 232 in 2009.

Le linn 2011 rinne an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne a dícheall gníomhaíochtaí a chur ar fáil sa leabharlann le linn na dtréimhsí ina raibh an scoil dúnta, le cuidiú agus tacaíocht ón nGobharnóir, ón bPríomhoifigeach agus ó oifigigh na leabharlainne. Maoiníonn an príosún na himeachtaí seo é féin. Ar an drochuair, de bharr easnaimh foirne sa phríosún, b'éigean imeachtaí le linn thréimhse na Cásca chur ar ceall.

Bhí imeachtaí ar siúl i rith mhí Lúnasa. Áiríodh orthu seo iad seo a leanas:

- ❖ Seisiúin Féinfhollasaithe inar déileáileadh le Láimhseáil Feirge.
- ❖ Ranganna **Snáthaidbhrú** le cuidiú le strus a fhuascailt agus mioncheisteanna leighis cosúil le srannadh a láimhseáil.
- ❖ Ranganna **Ealaíon agus** Ceardaíochta lena n-áirítear cártaí beannachta a dhéanamh ag úsáid éifeachtaí 3-D.
- ❖ **Teiripe Drumaí** ag úsáid roghnúcháin de dhrumaí Afracacha, le cuidiú le déileáil le móthúcháin trí rithim.
- ❖ Seans le **héin chreic**e a fheiceáil agus léacht ar a gcúram agus a nósanna. I measc na n-éan bhí ulchabháin, fabhcúin agus seabhaic.

Faigheann an Leabharlanní Sinsearach staitisticí gach seachtain a léiríonn na náisiúntachtaí atá i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre faoi láthair. Úsáidtear an fhaisnéis seo nuair a bhítear ag cinneadh an dóigh a gcaithfear an buiséad um theanga iasachta. Tagann iarratais ar ábhar léitheoireachta i dteangacha úra trí oifigigh na leabharlainne go minic chomh maith.

Tá na seirbhísí seo a leanas ar fáil dóibh siúd na náisiúnaigh Éireannacha iad i Leabharlann Chnoc Seimre:

- ❖ Leabhair sa Fhraincis, Spáinnis, Polainnis, Rúisis, Liotuáinis, Seicis, Araibis, Sínis, Iodáilis, Ollainnis, Gearmáinis, Portaingéilis. Teanganach úra a cuireadh ar fáil in 2011 ná Ungáiris, Bulgáiris, Laitvis agus Vítneaimis.
- ❖ Irisleabhair sa Phortaingéilis agus sa Pholainnis
- ❖ Scannáin teanga iasachta ar DVD ar féidir féachaint orthu sa leabharlann, ag úsáid na teilifíse nó ríomhaire.
- ❖

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- ❖ Bioblaí in iliomad teangacha agus foclóirí pearsanta ar iarratas, chomh maith le foclóirí le haghaidh tagartha amháin sa leabharlann.
- ❖ Féadfaidh príosúnaigh de náisiúntacht ar bith nach bhfreastalaítear orthu sa leabharlann leabhair a iarraidh ina dteanga féin agus cuirfear iad seo ar fáil, má bhíonn siad ar fáil ó sholáthraithe, agus má bhíonn go leor maoinithe ar fáil. Féadfar teagmháil a dhéanamh leis na hambasáidí ábhartha i gcomhair tacaíochta.

An Halla Aclaíochta

Leantar de na Hallaí Achlaíochta sa phríosún a reáchtáil go maith agus tá siad dea-fheistithe. Soláthraítear Corpoideachas, Caitheamh Aimsire, Spóirt agus gníomhaíocht fhisiceach a bhfuil an gá leis ar ardchaighdeán iontu. Tá an Halla Aclaíochta ar fáil do na príosúnaigh go léir. Tá dhá Mhúinteoir Corpoideachais ann agus líon oifigeach oilte in NECF a oibríonn le chéile mar fhoireann d'fhonn cláir ghairmiúla agus seirbhís ghairmiúil ar feabhas a chur ar fáil. Lean siad d'oiliúint a chur ar líon cónaitheach suas go dtí caighdeán FETAC i gcorpacmhainn. Le linn 2011 ghlac duine de na múinteoirí Corpoideachais príomhról i dtionscnamh na Croise Deirge a thabhairt isteach.

An Chistin

Freastalaítear sa Chistin do riachtanais chothaithe daonra príosúin atá ag éirí níos éagsúla i gcónaí. Freastalaítear inti chomh maith do riachtanais chothaithe na bpríosúnach ó phríosúin eile a choinnítear sa teach cúirte ag am lóin.

Baintear úsáid as biachlár rothlach 28 lá, lena n-áirítear rogha veigeatórach a cheap diaitéitigh. Tairgtear rís go gnáthamh i gCnoc Seimre mar mhalairt ar phrátaí. Leanann oifigigh a bhfuil cáilíocht ghairmiúil acu de bhia maith beathúil, agus príosúnaigh a oibríonn le chéile mar fhoireann a ullmhú d'fhonn na caighdeáin is airde a bhaint amach. Soláthraítear suas le 1500 clúdach bia sa Chistin gach lá níos mó ná Cistin Óstáin ar bith. Tá cáilíocht an bhia a sholáthraítear agus an caighdeán sláinteachais thar barr. Aithníodh é seo leis an bhfíric gur bronnadh an Dámhachtain Cáilíochta agus Feabhais, Marc Q EIQA, is é an dámhachtain Emerald a dámhachtain is airde agus is é seo 9ú bliain a fuarthas é seo i nCnoc Seimre.

Faoi latháir tá roinnt príosúnach ag déanamh Cúrsa Ullmhúcháin Bia atá faoi choimirce City and Guilds. Oibríonn idir 16 agus 18 bPríosúnach sa Chistin gach lá.

Rinneadh an biachlár 28 lá a athrú i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2011. Go dtí seo ní bhfuairamar aiseolas ar bith ó na príosúnaigh faoin mbiachlár úr. Tugann an coiste moladh don fhoireann maidir leis an gcaighdeán a choinnítear sa chistin.

An Siopa Milseán

Tá Siopa Milseán sa phríosún atá dea-stocáilte a reáchtálann na oifigigh phríosúin agus tá príosúnaigh i dteideal míreanna a cheannach nuair atá sé leagtha amach ar

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chlár ama gur féidir leo seo a dhéanamh. Le linn 2011 fuair gearáin faoi phraghsáil sa siopa milseán agus nach raibh adhmhálacha á dtabhairt do phríosúnaigh. Déanfaimid dlúthmhonatóireacht ar an réimse seo in 2012.

Ceardlanna Oibre agus Oiliúna

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2011 osclaíodh an chéad cheardlann i gCnoc Seimre i nGlantachán Tionsclaíoch agus le linn 2011 chuir siad oiliúint ar 32 príosúnach. Cuireadh oiliúint ar na príosúnaigh uile a oibríonn i nglantachán sa phríosún go dtí caighdeán tionsclaíoch agus úsáideann siad córas dathchódaithe agus insíodh dúinn go dtabharfar teastasú isteach in 2012.

Tá na ceardlanna seo a leanas le hoscailt in 2010: scileanna Tionsclaíocha, ceardlann Ríomhaireachta agus cistin oiliúna. Mholamar ar dtús inár dtuarascáil 2007 go ndéanfaí scrúdú ar an bhféidearthacht ceardlann a bhunú i gCnoc Seimre agus go ndéanfaí deiseanna oibre agus oiliúna amhail gearrchúrsaí cosúil le pas sábháilte, cócaireacht phraiticiúil, ceardlann leabharlainne, ceardaíocht srl, a scrúdú maidir leis an bhféideartacht iad a sheachadadh. Táimid sásta leis an bhforbairt sa réimse seo in 2011. Déanfaimid monatóireacht ar an dul chun cinn ansin le linn 2012. Roimhe seo ba sa Chistin agus sa Neachtlan amháin a bhí deiseanna oibre agus oiliúna ar fáil do phríosúnaigh i gCnoc Seimre.

Cúram Tréadach

Is é an tAthair John O'Sullivan an Séiplíneach i gCnoc Seimre ach ní raibh sé i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre don chuid is mó den bliain is a chuaigh thart. Leanann an tSiúr Carmel, an tSiúr Margaret agus an tSiúr Anne de chúram tréadach a chur ar fáil agus riachtanais an Phríosúin go hhiomlán, príosúnach, teaghlaigh phríosúnach agus Oifigigh Phríosúin a riar. Freastalaíonn séiplínigh chuairte faoi seach ar shainchreidimh eile agus táimid buíoch dá seirbhísi do phobal an phríosúin. Le linn 2011 cuireadh roinnt aifreann sa Pholainnis ar fáil. Chuir sagairt chuairte aifreann eile ar fáil in 2011.

Scéim na nÉisteoirí

Bhunaigh an coiste um fheasacht ar fhéinmharú scéim na nÉisteoirí anseo in 2002. Má aistrítear príosúnach ar Éisteoir é i ndiaidh a oiliúna, féadfaidh sé, faoi réir ceadá ó údarás Príosúin agus a mhiana féin, dul isteach i scéim Éisteoirí sa phríosún úr a aistríonn sé go dtí, más ann dó. Tá líon mór dóibh siúd a fuair oiliúint i gCnoc Seimre ina nÉisteoirí i bpríosúin eile. Tá iar-Éisteoir amháin ó Chnoc Seimre ina Éisteoir sa Ríocht Aontaithe, i ndiaidh a aisdúichithe.

Le linn 2011 táimid sásta a thuairisciú gur éirigh leis an gcoiste stiúrtha úr um Éisteoirí a bunaíodh in 2011 scéim na n-éisteoirí i bpríosún Chnoc Seimre a thabhairt

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ar ais agus go bhfuil líon príosúnach oilte anois mar éisteoirí. Ba mhaith linn moladh a thabhairt do na Samáraigh, d'fhoireann an phríosúin agus do na príosúnaigh a ghlacann páirt sa scéim seo, a cheapaimid a bheith an-tábhachtach maidir le cuidiú le príosúnaigh eile le deacrachtaí ar bith a bheadh acu. Leanfaimid de mhonatóireacht a dhéanamh air seo le linn 2012.

An Chros Dhearg

Tionscadal is ea tionscnamh na Croise Deirge a chomhreáchtáil an t-aonad oideachais, na seirbhísí leighis agus an Chros Dhearg. Cuirtear oiliúint ar roinnt príosúnach mar dheonacha na Croise Deirge. Tá an tionscadal seo ar an gcéad chineál dá leithéid sa phríosún áit ar bith sa domhan toisc go gcuirfí bac ar dhuine ag a bhfuil taifead coiriúil a ó bheith ina bhall den Chros Dhearg de ghnáth. Mar sin féin, aontaíonn an Chros Dhearg go bhféadfaí oiliúint a chur ar ghrúpa príosúnach i bPríosúin Chruithneachtáin agus Chnoc Seimre laistigh de na príosúin an dóigh chéanna a gcuirfeadh siad oiliúint ar dhaoine mar is gnáth. Mar chuid den oiliúint seo, aontaíonn príosúnaigh go gcloífidh said le cód na Croise Deirge agus go seasfaidh siad le prionsabail na Croise Deirge.

D'oibrigh an grúpa seo ar líon tionscnamh laistigh den phríosúin:

- ❖ Clár faisnéise le haghaidh príosúnach maidir leis an mbriseadh amach TB le déanaí i gCnoc Seimre.
- ❖ Córas feabhsuithe ar úsáid mhapaí a bhfuil feabhas ollmhór curtha aige ar chleachtais ghlantacháin ar na cinn staighre.
- ❖ Líonra tacadóirí i measc príosúnach le feabhas a chur ar chothú sláinte sa phríosún.

Mar chuid den tionscadal ghlac na deonacha páirt in oiliúint Gharchabhrach ansin. Rinneadh aon mac léinn déag a theastasú ag Fetac Leibhéal 5 i nGarchabhair Cheirde.

I ndiaidh chlár na Croise Deirge a chur i gcrích i Meitheamh 2011 rinne na deonacha cúrsa oiliúna arna réachtáil ag an FSS le bheith ina n-éascaitheoirí scoir den tobac. Chuir ceithre phríosúnach an oiliúint i gcrích agus faoi láthair tá príosúnach amháin ag obair le grúpa príosúnach san aonad oideachais ar chúrsa sé seachtainí um scor den tobac. Déantar cúrsaí scoir den tobac a réachtáil ar bhonn lánaimseartha san aonad oideachais anois.

Rinne na príosúnaigh atá ina ndeonacha de chuid na Croise Deirge cur i láthair don choiste. Measann an coiste gurb é seo seo ceann de na tionscnaimh phríosúnaigh is fiúntaí agus is sásúla go pearsanta a bhfuil feicthe acu i bpríosún ar bith.

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Ionad na gCuartheoirí

Tá an t-ionad atá á chomhreáchtáil ag Cumann Uinseann De Pól agus an Cumann Cairde (Quakers) ar oscail 6 lá sa tseachtain le hocht mball foirne agus roinnt deonacha. Soláthraíonn siad seirbhís beár tae/caife/sneoiceanna saor in aisce, comhairle agus tacaíocht do thuismitheoirí, tacaíocht do theaghlaigh, seirbhís faisnéise agus clár deonach. Déanfaimid monatóireacht le linn 2012 ar an iarmhairt a bheidh ag srianta buiséid ar bith ar an ionad.

Cigire na bPríosún

Thug cigire úr na bPríosún, an Breitheamh Michael Reilly cuairt ar an bpríosún in 2011. Níor bhuail an coiste leis ach tá súil againn bualadh leis in 2012.

Cruinniú le Stiúrthóir Oibríochtaí Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann.

Bhí sé beartaithe go mbuailfeadh an coiste le hArd-Stiúrthóir Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann i mí an Aibreán ach ní raibh sé ábalta freastal, agus ina ionad sin bhuaileamar leis an Stiúrthóir Oibríochtaí, an tUasal Williamh Connolly agus bhí cruinniú faisnéise oscailte againn leis. Sílimid go bhfuil na cruinnithe sin ina fhorbairt an-réamhghníomhach agus an-dearfach agus go soláthraítear deis mhaith iontu le faisnéis a fháil, ceisteanna a shoiléiriú agus a thabhairt chun suntais agus tuairimí a mhalartú. Tá súil againn bualadh le hArd-Stiúrthóir úr Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann in 2012 le haghaidh cruinniú faisnéise oscailte cosúil leis sin agus a fhís don tseirbhís a choisteáil.

Cuairt choiste Cuairte Phríosún Mhuinseo

I mí an Mhárta 2011 thug choiste Cuairte Phríosún Mhuinseo cuairt ar Phríosún Chnoc Seimre.

Fuaireamar aiseolas an-dearfach uathu ar an gcuairt seo.

Cuairt Ghrúpa na gCathaoirleach

Toghadh an tUasal Coyle, Cathaoirleach Choiste Cuairte Chnoc Seimre ar an bpost mar Chathaoirleach ar ghrúpa na gcathaoirleach i mbliana. Thionóil an grúpa seo ceann de chruinnithe an Ghrúpa a tionóladh anseo i mí an Mheithimh agus rinne siad turas ar an bpríosún. Le linn na bliana, d'fhreastail an tUasal Coyle, an Cathaoirleach ar roinnt cruinnithe Cathaoirlígt ar fud na tíre i líon príosún. Tá na cruinnithe seo ina acmhainn luachmhar chun críche faisnéis a mhalartú agus eolas bunaithe ar phríosún a fháil. Is bealach é chomh maith le fadhbanna a théann i gcion ar gach príosún a shainaithint. Bhuaile ionadaithe ó ghrúpa na gcathaoirleach go rialta leis an Uasal Purcell, Ard-Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Príosún le linn 2011.

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Cuairt ar Phríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh

I mí Lúnasa thug an coiste cuairt ar Phríosún Chaisleán an Riabhaigh. Tá cuirteanna faisnéise dá leithéidí an-tábhachtach maidir le cad atá in easnamh ón bpríosún i gcomhthéacs saoráidí do phríosúnaigh a thabhairt chun suntais.

Ba mhaith linn na deis seo a ghlacadh le buíochas a ghabháil le Gobharnóir Phríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh, an tUasal Reilly agus lena Ghobharnóir Cúnta Liam Reilly agus lena fhoireann ar fad as an gcúirtéis a thaispeáin siad dúinn agus as an am a chaith siad ag tabhairt freagra ar ár gceisteanna. Go háirithe an Bainisteoir Tionsclaíoch Jack Bissett agus an Maoirseoir Tionsclaíoch Conor Coen agus Cathaoirleach Phríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh Michael Nevin. Chuaigh na

ceardlanna i láthair Grove Phríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh agus ionad athchúrsála an phríosúin ina luí go mór ar an gcoiste.

Físchomhdháil

Chuir an coiste fáilte roimh fhorbairt comhdháil chuairte dhlíthiúil a bhí ina threoirthionscadail i gCnoc Seimre ó bhí mí Feabhra 2007 ann. Maíomar ar dtús in 2008 go ndéanfaí an tseirbhís seo a fhorleathnú go dtí cleachtais aturnaetha, príosúin agus cuirteanna eile. Tá díomá orainn a shonrú nach ndearnadh seo a fhorleathnú go dtí seo.

Cuireadh in iúl dúinn go bhfuil na saoráidí físchomhdhála le haghaidh na gcúirteanna réidh anseo lena n-úsáid ag na cuirteanna in 2010 agus cuireadh tús le treoirthionscadal i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre le Cúirt Dúiche Chnoc Seimre i mí Feabhra 2011. Rinne an Cúirt Choiriúil Speisialta agus Cúirt Dúiche Luimnigh an tsaoráid seo a úsáid le haghaidh éisteachtaí chomh maith. Bhí físchomhdhálacha ag bPríosún Chnoc Seimre le Príosún Mhaigh gCabraí agus Cuirteanna Bhéal Feirste chomh maith le linn 2011. Feicimid é mar fhorbairt dhearfach a rachaidh chun sochair bhainistíocht an phríosúin agus an phríosúnaigh mar an gcéanna ach ceapaimid nach bhfuailtear á úsáid go leor go forleiththeadach faoi láthair.

Oiliúint Ionductúcháin agus Réimis Fheabhsaithe

Le linn 2011 bhí cur i láthair againn ón nGobharnóir Cúnta Donnacha Walsh maidir leis an oiliúint ionductúcháin bheartaithe do na príosúnaigh ar fad agus réimis fheabhsaithe atá le tabhairt isteach i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre le linn 2012. Cuirimid fáilte roimh na tionscnaim sin agus déanfaimid monatóireacht air seo le linn na bliana.

Conclúid

Ba mhaith linn buíochas agus aitheantas a thabhairt do rannchuidiú na gníomhaireachtaí éagsúla a thug a gcuid ama agus seirbhísí ar bhonn

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laethúil/seachtainiúil chun sochair sheirbhís an phríosúin. D'fheidhmigh an coiste a dhualgais go dícheallach agus atá tiomanta iad a fheidhmiú go hiomlán in 2012. Leanaimid de chaidreamh iontach a bheith againn leis an nGobarnóir agus lena fhoireann.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leis an nGobharnóir Quigley, an Leas-Ghobharnóir Gerry Bracken, an Leas-Ghobharnóir Gavigan agus rúnaí an choiste, an tUasal Maria Connolly agus leis an bhfoireann go léir as a gcuidiú agus a gcomhoibriú le linn na bliana.

Ar deireadh ba mhaith linne, an coiste, buíochas a ghabháil leatsa, a Aire agus tá muintín againn gur chuidíomar le linn na bliana agus gur féidir leanúint de cuidiú a thabhairt.

Michael Coyle
Cathaoirleach

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Baill an Choiste:

Pearsa Peggy Downey _____
(Leaschathaoirleach)

Fintan Hudson _____

Eddie Martin _____

Christine Ryan _____

Mary O'Neill _____

Pearse O'Hanrahan _____

Dátaithe: _____

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The Visiting Committee to Cloverhill Prison has pleasure in submitting our annual report for 2011 to the Minister for Justice and Equality Mr Alan Shatter.

The Committee.

The Committee generally meet on the second Thursday of each month. The committee member's numbers remained at seven during 2011. All meetings were always well attended. On a rota basis two members of the committee each month conducted unannounced visits to the prison to ensure that the prison continues to be run in a safe, humanitarian and efficient way. During these monthly visits the members made a point of conducting comprehensive tours of the prison to all areas. We continued with our practice of talking to both internal and external staff working in these areas whom we encountered and any prisoners in the vicinity. We agreed and set out at the start of the year an agenda of issues that we wished to monitor and explore. We set an objective for ourselves to meet both professional non prison service staff and in house staff who work in specific areas in the prison to gain a better understanding of the valuable work they do. The committee will continue to remain conscious of the need to consider both security and prison sub cultural issues in the prison context.

Prisoners Before The Committee.

There were 33 prisoners who requested to see the visiting committee in 2011. The committee met with 21 of these prisoners. Of the twelve they did not see: two prisoners declined, one prisoner was on weekly renewable TR, five were transferred to other prisons, one had been released and three were in court and did not return to custody.

The committee continued to monitor the progress of the individual prisoners who had come before them as a result of this a number of prisoners were seen by the committee on several occasions as part of our follow up procedure. Aside from this, there were also two prisoners who were seen more than once at their own request, one prisoner was seen three times.

The main issues raised by prisoners before the committee in 2011 were single cells requests, non smoking cells, family box visits requests, the prison Tuck shop, transfer requests mainly to go to a prisons with non screen visits and an increase in the number of medical complaints. Cloverhill prison does not generally issue benzodiazepines or other such medicines, which is the policy of the Healthcare Directorate who are responsible for Health care in the Irish Prison service. We made representations on behalf of the inmates to the Governor and were we are satisfied that they were all considered by the Governor and if possible and practical were addressed by prison management.

Cloverhill Prison continues to mainly accommodate remand prisoners and therefore the prison population can be somewhat transient in composition. We are very conscious of this and in order to ensure we see as many prisoners as possible when we

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visit, we endeavour to make ourselves readily available, so that there is generally little time delay in actually seeing the prisoners from the date of their actual request but we

are unable to get to see all the prisoners here because of the turnover and court appearances. On monthly meeting days any prisoner who wishes to see us was facilitated by two members meeting them before the meeting. We continue our practice of actually going down to the landings where the prisoners are accommodated and meeting the prisoners there.

Overcrowding

This still remains a continuous cause for concern in 2011. The highest number in custody on any day was 487 prisoners in April and May which is a drop 18 on 2010's highest figure of 505 and is 56 over capacity. The Committee will continue to monitor this during 2012.

Once again this year we have received complaints from Prisoners that committals have been put in their cell during the night on a mattress, this causes unwarranted disturbances for the prisoners already in the cell and it can add to the tensions a prisoner may already feel. While the committee accepts that the committal must be accommodated, if over crowding was not a problem this would not be an issue. Yet again we wish highlight that in our opinion that that there is an apparent link between overcrowding and tensions in prisons, this is apart from the health and safety concerns for both staff and prisoners.

We have in 2011 continued to monitor the situation with regards to late committals which appears to have improved since the staffing arrangements for the area where changed in 2009. We hope that these arrangements continue to operate as effectively in 2012 and we will monitor this.

Yet again we reiterate our opinion expressed in every report since 2007 that prisoners committed by the Garda National Immigration Bureau should be going to a secure holding centre, not into a prison context. Once again we state that we feel that this whole area needs to be reviewed by the Minister.

Hunger strikes

During the year there was 1 prisoner who went on hunger strike which was resolved by the prison Governor without intervention by anyone else. The reason for the hunger strike was his domestic situation and access to his children.

Foreign Nationals

There are more foreign nationals accommodated here than in any other prison in the country. Foreign nationals continue to make up about a third of Cloverhill's population. During 2011 there were 1,393 foreign nationals committed to Cloverhill prison a large percentage of this number are immigration cases. These men speak little or no English. Once again the committee wishes to reiterate its comments made in all

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its reports since 2006 and calls on the minister to review the area of communication which remains an increasing problem. Obvious communication and misunderstanding issues that are raised by any language barrier need to be addressed in a proactive way.

Again the committee are reiterating its comments first made in 2006 of the need for the development of the role of the Prison Officer, by either specifically recruiting or training up serving prison officers in language skills. We reiterate that the possibility of Prison Governor's or other management grades who are interested in learning language skills should be explored and highlight the obvious benefits when dealing with complaints and the confidence it would instil in the prisoner as he can communicate in his own mother tongue even if it is at a basic level of fluency.

The committee continues to reiterate its opinion that there are core languages commonly spoken by foreign national prisoners that can be identified and these languages should be the priority languages in which training should be given or specific staff recruited and or identify if there are serving staff with these language skills. Cloverhill has now 4 foreign national staff who speak a number of languages.

Bullying and Racism

We have not had any reports made to us by Prisoners during 2011 of any incidents of bullying and racism from fellow prisoners. We will continue to monitor this closely during the coming year.

Special Unit

We once again reiterate our opinion expressed first in 2007 that these prisoners should be accommodated in a purpose built facility. The actual opening of this unit resulted in a negative impact on prisoners who were accommodated there on protection as they were moved to a more restrictive regime and this regimes has still not improved.

Protection Prisoners

We have highlighted in previous reports what a significant percentage of the prison population the number of prisoners on protection can be on any given day. This continues to place a massive strain on the prison's resources and can be a logistical nightmare for Management and staff. All of these prisoners have to be segregated and within that segregation there can be further segregation. This may lead to a consequential restricted prison regime.

We reiterate our opinion highlighted in 2008- 2010 reports that the increase in protection number is a direct reflection of the gang culture present in society, nothing happened in 2011 to alter our opinion on this.

Once again we state in a report that Cloverhill Prison was not designed or was it ever envisaged that it would have to provide this level of segregation to protection

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prisoners. There are ongoing difficulties that remain for prison management and for prisoners that when a prisoner request protection often they may not know who they need protection from or are they may be afraid to say from whom they need protection. Yet again this year we have met a number of prisoners who have been on protection due to the nature of their crime and others who are afraid for their own safety because of their gang affiliations or feuds. Almost all of whom have complained about the restrictive regimes on protection, but accepted it was for their own safety at the same time.

Security measures

Increased security measures introduced were first introduced in 2008 under the auspices of the Operational support unit are continuing to run smooth here. There continues to be a number of significant seizures which are reported to the Gardaí.

Mobile Phones

The smuggling of Mobile phones into prison continues to be a problem for prisons worldwide and Prison staff continues to daily diligently try to intercept these attempts. We are disappointed to note that the proposed introduction of a mobile blocking system to Cloverhill has still not been yet introduced and hope it will be introduced in 2012.

Drugs

We wish to highlight our disappointment that the passive drug detection dog continues to be no longer used during the week in conjunction with the search procedures. We reiterate our recommendation first expressed in the 2010 report and expressed to Mr Brian Purcell when we met him that Cloverhill receives a full time dog this year. Whilst we accept that the visits here are generally screened, it is felt by the committee that the presence of the dog acts as a deterrent.

Again this year we received a number of complaints from prisoners who objected to their visitors being searched because there were screen visits here. All visitors and staff who enter Cloverhill prison are searched including the visiting committee.

The committee have always recognised screen visits as a proven efficient non confrontational method, together with the netting on the exercise yard, for reducing and stopping drugs being smuggled into prison. Whilst on a humanitarian level screen visits restrict contact with a prisoner's family and friends, it is in our opinion for the greater good. The smuggling in of drugs continues to remain a problem in the prison system. In our 2008 report we first suggested and strongly recommended exploring the possibility of establishing a Drug Free unit within this prison and again we strongly suggest exploring the possibility of doing a feasibility study. We are disappointed to note that there has been no developments in this area but accept that this may be difficult on a Practical level in a predominately remand setting.

Merchant Quay Addiction Counsellors

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Addiction counsellors from Merchants Quay are now fully operational here since December 2008. They provide an on site addiction counselling service in Cloverhill as part of the "Keeping Drugs out of Prison Strategy" (2005).

The aims and objectives of the counselling service is the delivery of high quality addiction counselling services offering evidence-based counselling interventions with clearly defined care plans and goals. The service is provided by Accredited Addiction Counsellors. Counselling interventions include: brief interventions; motivational Interviewing and Motivational Enhancement therapy; 12-step facilitation programme; relapse prevention; cognitive-behavioural therapy; development of alternative coping strategies and harm reduction approaches. The counselling service continues to work within international best practice; in the model of 'Continuum of care'.

The Cloverhill Prison counselling team consists of 1 full time counsellor and a volunteer counsellor since November who works two days a week. The team leader is based in Wheatfield Prison. They have reported to us that their access to clients has remained good in 2011 following on from the improvement in 2010.

The service continues to work within a multi-disciplinary setting in the prison and the focus continues to be on care and case management. The service continues to provide a range of counselling interventions and exit strategies where appropriate. Due to the nature of a remand prison, prisoners are often there for a short time. Relapse prevention and brief focus interventions and exit strategies are an integral part of the interventions for the clients.

Referrals come from The Psychiatric Team, The Methadone Team, The Chaplains, Governor and his officers or prisoners may self refer. The method of self referral is becoming more frequent as the service is becoming more widely known throughout the prison community as a valuable resource and support for those motivated to move into recovery from Addiction. Once referred, the client is usually assessed within one week and if meeting all the assessment criteria is taken on the counsellor's caseload immediately.

Statistic supplied by the counselling services show that in 2011 they assessed 181 clients. And had a total caseload 231 new clients some of which were assessed in 2010 and were not seen till early in the New Year. They provided a total of 735 counselling session throughout 2011 and there was a total client contact of 968.

The committee received no complaint about the service in 2011. We did see a number of prisoners who informed us that they were seeing the addiction counsellors. This is an area we will continue to be monitored during 2012.

Health Care

We continued our practice of regularly meeting with the health care professionals working in the Prison. Full time nursing care continues to be provided by qualified Nurse Officers and 2 Doctors, along with locums where necessary. Healthcare also

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includes Dental care provided by Dublin Dental hospital, a visiting optician and chiropodist as required.

The Governor reported to us in January that a large number of prisoners presented with symptoms of H1N1, that the Prisons contingency plan for a pandemic was put into action and prisoners isolated. In the end there was 2 positive cases who both recovered. The at- risk group for this were offered and received vaccinations.

In March this contingency plan was again used when the committee were first informed of the suspected (and subsequently confirmed) outbreak of TB in Cloverhill Prison. The healthcare department was heavily involved along with Public Health in the mass screening and testing of inmates and staff. It also included the accommodation of a portable mass x-ray facility where both prisoners and staff were x-rayed. This included the process of contact tracing which took a considerable

amount of time. The management of the outbreak was the responsibility of the Public Health.

There are on average daily between 80 - 100 prisoners on methadone maintenance or detoxification programmes. These figures have been as high as 110 prisoners last year. This is significant percentage of the prisons population. The addiction clinics continue to be held four times a week with a visiting medical staff and a consultant in charge. Despite the high number of Addiction Prisoners being managed at Cloverhill, the Addiction nurse post was the first post cut as part of the transformation process (Croak Park deal). The committee feel that there is little doubt that this will have a consequence on the quality of Addiction Services at Cloverhill. The committee urge that this be decision be reconsidered as a matter of urgency.

There continues to be an in-reach service for Sexually Transmitted Infections linked to the GUIDE Clinic in St James Hospital. Prison clinics are held for one full day every two weeks by a visiting consultant physician. A mass HIV rapid testing and anti-stigma campaign was successful in Cloverhill reaching approximately 50% of inmates. This was a partnership project between the Cloverhill healthcare department, St James Hospital and the Irish Red Cross volunteers who were active in advocacy.

The Healthcare unit acquired an ECG machine during 2011 and the nursing staff have received instruction on how to operate it. This has had the advantage of prisoners being able to have their ECGs performed on-site and a, reduction in escort costs.

There are Nurse Leaders in Diabetes, Wound care and Infection control. All the nurses are trained in Occupational First Aid. They continue to hold Phlebotomy clinics, have had nursed led Vaccinations including at risk prisoners for H1N1, Health Promotions and advice for HIV patients. All of which is as far as is practicable during the periods of which they have informed us that they have been short staffed. One

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nurse is trained as a Nurse Prescriber and another nurse training as one. We see this as a very positive development.

Once again during 2011 we saw a number of prisoners that complained about the medical treatment they received from the Prison Doctor. On inquiring we found that they generally related to the medicine prescribed by the Doctor. We did not feel that any of the complaints we heard were legitimate complaints, however we are not medically qualified.

Forensic Psychiatry in- reach Service

There continues to be a Forensic Psychiatry in- reach service provided by the Central Mental Hospital in Cloverhill. This service is provided five days per week where all committals are screened and where appropriate are seen by the Psychiatric team. The team consists of a consultant, two registrars and three Psychiatric Nurses. They provide a valuable court diversion service, along with being on site to deal with mental health issues. This has had a significant impact on the Psychiatric services provided to prisoners. We feel that prisoner mental health issues are being positively addressed in Cloverhill.

Prison Psychologist

In every report since 2008 we have highlighted that there continues to be no prison psychologist in Cloverhill Prison. The continued absence of and access to Psychology services continues to be a serious cause of concern here in Cloverhill Prison. This lack of service has been continuously highlighted to the committee by the chaplains, the prisons healthcare teams and prisoners. We urge the decision to take the prison Psychologist from here be reconsidered as a matter of priority.

Death in Custody – Cloverhill Court house

There was one death of a prisoner in 2011 in Cloverhill Court house holding cell. The Prisoner was in the custody of the Prison Service Escort Corp when he committed suicide. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of the deceased. There are we understand both internal and external ongoing investigations being conducted.

Education

Education has a significant impact on the daily routine of Prisoners and is an important safety lever in alleviating boredom. The head teacher has reported to us that the academic year 2010 – 2011 was a challenging year for the Education unit. There were many more applications by prisoners to attend school, yet resources in terms of teacher allocation remained the same and the budget for materials and equipment was reduced. Numbers accessing timetables increased however there was a noticeable drop in the levels of students who were arriving into the Education unit. Many more students were below Level 3 and therefore did not attain certification or achieved certification at a slower pace. However in the 5 years since the unit has now been open the statistics have improved year on year. There were 531 applications for the

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school, 407 were interviewed for school, 124 had left prison before they were called for interview and 321 were timetabled for classes.

Classes are held in Art, Craft, ECDL, and ESOL. Fetac courses in Computer Literacy, Computer Applications, Data entry, IT skills, Word Processing, Communications, Maths, Personal Effectiveness, Personal Care and Presentation, Living in a Diverse Society, Information Technology, Interpersonal Skills and Health Related Fitness. Also music classes in Royal College of Music Theory Grade 1, Guitar and Keyboard, beginners and improvers. Students have taken and are pursuing Mous computer exams, Junior certificate, Leaving certificate subjects and Fetac levels 3-6. Classes are also held in improvers English, Literacy, Numeracy and Sound Engineering. There is currently in 2011 one student studying for his master's degree with the Open University.

The induction programme for all new students to the Education unit introduced in September 2010 has proved to be a very successful initiative whereby students after interview attend a one hour presentation which outlines *How the school runs, Who the teachers are, What courses are available, How to gain certification, Extra curricular activities, Expected behaviour*. Following on this induction the student meets with the head teacher again to arrange their timetable of classes.

The area of Creative Arts was developed in -2011. Along with the timetabled art and music classes the following activities were also delivered to students.

- An Arts Day – where music and art workshops were delivered
- Two 2 week artist in residence projects
- A creative writing workshop

In 2011 all students requesting literacy support were assigned a 1:1 tutor. Each student was assessed using the Education Service to Prisons Literacy Assessment Tool. Following assessment each student negotiated a learning plan with the tutor and their programme and timetable were then arranged with the Head Teacher.

A pilot project between the education unit and the library to access literacy students who were reluctant to come to the education unit was initiated. Prison library staff would identify students on the landings with literacy difficulties and offer literacy support in the library. The pilot has not progressed much to date but we are hopeful it may in 2012. Two literacy days were held in the unit to inform students what is available in terms of literacy support.

The evaluation process in the education unit was further developed in 2011 and has moved from on from two unit evaluations per year to evaluation of each course by both students and teachers. This work requires further development and we are informed by the head teacher that a plan for the ongoing development is in place for 2012.

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The head teacher has informed us that her main objectives for 2012 are:

6. To further develop the induction programme to assessment for all students
7. To develop a basic education programme for all students presenting below Level 3.
8. To continue working in partnership with the Red Cross
9. To develop new opportunities in the creative arts
10. To streamline the evaluation process.

Education remains one of our primary priorities, this committee wishes to strongly reiterate that sentiment. It is of paramount importance to the committee that prisoners can maximise their educational opportunities. We would recommend that follow up courses should be made available to prisoners who wish to pursue them when they leave Cloverhill Prison.

Library

This is an attractive, spacious facility in the prison and it is a popular venue for offenders who use it for recreation and for borrowing. When open it is utilized by a large proportion of the prison population.

In Cloverhill the library is timetabled to open seven days each week for the morning, afternoon and evening periods. Three prison officers are assigned to work and provide the service in the library for each period. The timetable was devised to cater for every unit in the prison and the amount of library time allocated to each unit is determined by the numbers of offenders in each unit.

We have been informed by the prison Librarian that Cloverhill Prison Library is by far the most successful library among the Dublin prisons and is the only adult prison library to open the majority of the time that it is designated to open, on a consistent basis. She also informed us that during 2011 the prison staff and prisoners very generously donated books to the library throughout the year, which is very helpful to the service in view of recent budget cuts. The budget was cut from €90,000 in 2008 to €30,000 in 2011.

The stock in the library was increased by 185 new fiction books and 185 new non fiction books , 251 new foreign language books, 22 DVDs, 5 new music CDs (for listening in the library). The completed number of book requests was 296 this compares with 232 in 2009.

During 2011 the Library Service endeavoured to provide activities in the library during school closure periods, with the help and support of the Governor, Chief Officer and the library officers. These events are funded by the prison itself. Unfortunately, due to staff shortages in the prison, events during the Easter period had to be cancelled

Events ran throughout the month of August. These included the following:

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- ❖ Self Discovery sessions dealing with Anger Management.
- ❖ **Acupressure** classes to help relieve stress and manage minor medical issues like snoring.
- ❖ **Arts and Crafts** classes including making greeting cards using 3-D effects.
- ❖ **Drum Therapy** using a selection of African drums, to help with dealing with emotions through rhythm.
- ❖ A chance to see **birds of prey** with a lecture on their care and habits. Birds included owls, falcons and hawks.

The Senior Librarian receives weekly statistics outlining the nationalities currently in Cloverhill Prison. This information is used when deciding on how to spend the foreign language budget. Requests for reading material in new languages also regularly come through the library officers.

The following services are available to those of non-Irish nationality in Cloverhill Library:

- ❖ Books in French, Spanish, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Lithuanian, Czech, Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Dutch, German, Portuguese. New languages provided in 2011 were Hungarian, Bulgarian, Latvian and Vietnamese.
- ❖ Magazines in Portuguese and Polish
- ❖
- ❖ Foreign language films on DVD which can be viewed in the library, using the television or PC.
- ❖ Bibles in a variety of languages and personal dictionaries on request, in addition to dictionaries for reference only in the library.
- ❖ Prisoners of any nationality not served by the library may request books in their own language and these are provided, if available from suppliers, finance permitting. The relevant embassies may be contacted for support.

Gymnasium

The Gymnasiums in the prison continues to be well run and are well equipped. It provides quality Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and much needed physical activity. The Gymnasium is available to all prisoners. There are 2 PE Teachers and a number of NECF trained prison officers who work together as a team to provide excellent professional programs and service. They have continued to train a number of inmates up to FETAC standard in fitness. During 2011 one of PE teachers took a lead role in the introduction of the Red Cross initiative.

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Kitchen

The Kitchen caters to and meets the dietary needs of a continually and increasingly diverse prison population. It also caters for the dietary needs of prisoners from other prisons that are held in the courthouse at lunch time.

A 28 day rotating menu is used, including a vegetarian option which has been devised by dieticians. In Cloverhill rice is routinely offered as an alternative to potatoes. Good nutritious food continues to be prepared by the professionally qualified officers, and prisoners who work together as part of a team to achieve the highest standards. The Kitchen provides up to 1500 food covers a day more than comparable to any Hotel Kitchen. The quality of food provided and the hygiene standard is excellent. This has been recognised by the fact that the Kitchen has been awarded the National Quality and Excellence Award Q Mark EIQA, the Emerald award is its highest award and this is Cloverhill's 9th year to achieve this.

At present a number of prisoners are undertaking a Food Preparation Course which is under the auspices of the City and Guilds. The number of Prisoners working in the Kitchen is between 16 to 18 daily.

The 28 day menu changed in October 2011. To date we have not had any feedback from prisoners on the new menu. The committee commend the staff on the standard maintained in the kitchen.

Tuck Shop

The prison has a well stocked Tuck Shop run by prison officers and prisoners are entitled to purchase items there when they are timetabled to do so. During 2011 we have received complaints about pricing in the tuck shop and receipts not being given to prisoners. We will monitor this area very closely in 2012.

Work and Training Work Shops

In October 2011 the first workshop opened in Cloverhill in Industrial Cleaning and during 2011 they trained 32 prisoners. All the prisoners working in cleaning in the prison have been trained to an industrial standard and use a colour coded system and we have been told that certification will be introduced in 2012.

In 2012 the following workshops are due to open: Industrial skills, Computer work shop and a training kitchen. We first suggested in our 2007 report that the possibility of setting up a work shop in Cloverhill be explored and work and training opportunities such as short courses such as safe pass, practical cookery, library work shop, craft making etc, be explored for possibility of delivery. We are very happy with the development in this area in 2011. We will monitor there progress during 2012. Prior to this in Cloverhill the only work and training opportunities available for prisoners were in the Kitchen and Laundry.

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Pastoral Care

The Chaplain of Cloverhill prison is Fr. John O'Sullivan but he has not been in Cloverhill Prison for most of last year. Sister Carmel, Sister Margaret and Sister Anne continue to provide pastoral care and to Minister to the needs of the whole Prison, prisoners, prisoners families and Prison Officers. Other denominations are served by respective visiting chaplains and we are grateful for their services to the prison community. During 2011 there were a number of Polish masses conducted. Visiting priests conducted other masses in 2011.

Listeners Scheme

The Listeners scheme which was set up here in 2002 by the suicide awareness committee. If a prisoner who is a Listener moves after training, they may, subject to Prison authority permission and their own wish to, join a Listener scheme in the new prison they transfer to, if there is one. A large number of those who were trained in Cloverhill are Listeners in other prisons. One former Cloverhill Listener is now a Listener in the UK, following repatriation.

During 2011 we are pleased to report that the new Listener steering committee set up in 2010 has successfully resurrected the listener's scheme in Cloverhill prisons and that a number of prisoners are now trained as listeners. We wish to praise the Samaritans, prison staff and the prisoners who take part in this scheme, which we see as being very important in helping other prisoners with difficulties they may have. We will continue to monitor this during 2012.

Red Cross

The Red Cross initiative is a project jointly run by the education unit, the medical services and the Red Cross, a number of prisoners were trained as Red Cross volunteers. This project is the first of its kind in prison anywhere in the world in that a criminal record will normally preclude someone from becoming a member of the Red Cross. However the Red Cross agreed that a group of prisoners in Wheatfield and Cloverhill Prisons could be trained inside the prisons in the same way as they would train people normally. As part of this training, prisoners agree to abide by the Red Cross code and uphold the principles of the Red Cross.

This group worked on a number of initiatives within the prison:

- ❖ An information programme for prisoners on the recent TB outbreak in Cloverhill.
- ❖ An improved system of mop use which has vastly improved cleaning practices on the landings.
- ❖ A network of advocates among prisoners to improve health promotion in the prison.

As part of the project the volunteers then participated in First Aid training. Eleven students were certified at Fetac Level 5 in Occupational First Aid.

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Following the completion of the Red Cross programme in June 2011 the volunteers then undertook a training course run by the HSE to become smoking cessation facilitators. Four prisoners completed the training and one prisoner is currently working with a group of prisoners in the education unit on a six week smoking cessation course. Smoking cessation courses now run on a full time basis in the education unit.

There was a presentation made to the committee by the prisoners who are Red Cross volunteers. The committee consider this one of the most worthwhile and personally rewarding prisoner's initiatives they have seen in any prison.

Visitors Centre

The centre which is jointly run by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul and The Society of Friends (Quakers) is open 6 days a week with eight staff members and a number of volunteers. They provide a free tea/coffee/snack bar service, parenting advice and support, support for families, information service and a volunteer programme. We will monitor during 2012 what impact any budget restrictions have on the centre.

Inspector of Prisons

The new inspector of Prisons Judge Michael Reilly visited the prison in 2011. The committee did not meet him but hope to meet him in 2012.

Meeting with the Director of Operations of the Irish Prison Service.

The committee were scheduled to meet the Director General of the Irish Prison Service Mr Purcell in April but he could not attend, we met instead with the Director of Operations Mr William Connolly and had a frank information meeting. We view these meetings as a very proactive and a positive development and a good opportunity for acquiring information, clarifying and highlighting issues and exchanging opinions. We hope to meet the new Director General of the Irish Prison service during 2012 for a similar frank information meeting and to hear his vision for the service.

Visit of the Mountjoy Prison Visiting committee

In March of 2011 the Mountjoy Prison Visiting committee visited Cloverhill Prison. We received very positive feedback from them on this visit.

Visit of the Chairperson's Group

Mr Coyle the Chairman of the Cloverhill Prison Visiting Committee was elected to the position of Chairman of the chairperson group this year. This group held one of Groups meetings here in June and had a tour of the prison. During the year Mr Coyle the Chairman attended a number of Chairman's meetings around the country in a number of prisons. These meetings are an invaluable resource for the purpose of sharing information and acquiring prison based knowledge. It is also a way of identifying problems that affect all prisons. Representatives from the chairpersons group regularly met Mr Purcell the Director General of the Prison service during 2011

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Visit to Castlerea Prison

In August the committee visited Castlerea Prison. The value of such fact finding visits are very important in highlighting what is missing from this prison in terms of facilities for prisoners.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governor of Castlerea Prison Mr Martin Reilly and his Assistant Governor Liam Reilly and all his staff for their courtesy which they displayed to us and the time they took to answer our questions. In particular Industrial Manager Jack Bissett and Industrial Supervisor Conor Coen and the Chairman of Castlerea Prisons Michael Nevin. The committee were in particular very impressed with the workshops in Castlerea Prisons Grove area and the prisons recycling centre.

Video Conferencing

The committee welcomed the development of legal visit conferencing which has remained as a pilot in Cloverhill since February 2007. We first urged in 2008 the expansion of this service to other solicitor's practices, prisons and courts. We are disappointed to note that to date that this has not been expanded.

We were informed that the video conferences facilities for the courts are ready here for use by the courts in 2010 and a pilot started in Cloverhill Prison with Cloverhill District Court in February 2011. This facility has also been used for hearings by the Special Criminal Court and Limerick District Court. Cloverhill Prison have also had video conferences with Maghberry Prison and Belfast Courts during 2011. We see it as a positive development which will benefit the prison management and the prisoner alike but which we feel is at present under utilized nationwide.

Induction Training and Enhanced Regimes

During 2011 we had a presentation from Assistant Governor Donnacha Walsh on the proposed induction training for all prisoners and enhanced regimes which is due to be introduced in Cloverhill Prison during 2012. We welcome these initiatives and will monitor this during the year.

Conclusion

We would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all the different agencies who give their time and services on a daily/weekly basis to the benefit of the prison service. The committee has exercised its duties diligently and are committed to

exercising them in full in 2012. We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Governor and his staff.

We would like to thank Governor Quigley, Deputy Governor Gerry Bracken, and Deputy Governor Gavigan and the committee's secretary Ms Maria Connolly and all the staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

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We the committee finally wish to thank you Minister and trust we have been of service during the year and can continue to be of service.

Michael Coyle
Chairman

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Committee Members:

Person Peggy Downey _____
(Vice Chair)

Fintan Hudson _____

Eddie Martin _____

Christine Ryan _____

Mary O'Neill _____

Pearse O'Hanrahan _____

Dated: _____