

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Phríosún Mhuinseo 2011

Curtha faoi bhráid an Uasail Alan Shatter, an tAire Dlí agus Cirt in Eanáir, 2011

Tugann sé pléisiúr dúinn an tuarascáil bhliantúil le haghaidh 2011 a chur faoi bhráid an Aire Dlí agus Cirt. Go deimhin tharla a lán athruithe agus feabhsuithe ar an bpríosún. Sciatháin athchóirithe, clár glantacháin agus péinteála. Tá toilteanas ó chroí ann ar thaobh na bainistíochta agus na foirne a bheith bainteach go hiomlán le feabhsuithe a moladh más féidir. Mar sin féin is ár bhfreagracht é tuairisciú a dhéanamh a mhéad is féidir de réir mar a fheicimid ar cad atá breithnithe agus pléite sa phríosún le dhá mhí dhéag anuas, maith nó olc.

Is ceist an-tromchúiseach é plódú fós, le barraíocht príosúnach i gcillíní beaga, na bhfuil deartha le haghaidh an lín áitritheoirí sin. Thuairiscíomar in 2010 go nglacfaimid cur chuige maidir leis na feabhsuithe geallta ar an bpríosún agus go bhfanfaimid leo. Tá sé deacair mar sin féin barraíocht daoine atá teoranta i spásanna beaga le suas le 23 uair sa lá a bhreithniú. Ní leithscéal é srianta airgeadais go leanfaidh an cás seo i bhfad eile. Ní mór an clár athchóirithe agus leithdháileadh tuilleadh spásanna a luathú, agus ní mór scrúdú leanúnach a dhéanamh ar an gcúis le príosúnaigh a choinneáil sa phríosún, agus malairtí a lorg, d'fhonn líonta a laghdú.

Tá gá práinne le clár feabhsaithe oideachais, ar a n-áirítear, i bhfad níos mó rannpháirithe.

Ní raibh glaineacht an phríosún ina ceist ó bhí mí Eanáir 2010 ann, agus tá moladh le tabhairt do gach duine atá bainteach sa chlár seo as a n-iarrachtaí leanúnacha. Thugamar faoi deara nach bhfuil cothabháil na ndoirteal ar chaighdeán inghlactha agus tá gá le clár um chothabháil choiscitheach, faoi mar a mholadh.

Páirtithe Oibre :

Ní fhacamar dul chun cinn ar bith go fóill maidir leis seo.

Troscán i gCillíní :

Le linn na bliana thugamar faoi deara nach raibh mórán nó rud ar bith sna gcillíní san íoslach ach amháin leapacha, ach tá an gceist seo réitithe go ginearálta. Is í an mhórfhadhb sa réimse seo cáilíocht mhí-oiriúnach agus struchtúr na leapacha. Ba cheart iad seo a athsholáthar gan mhoilleanna toisc go mbriseann siad suas go héasca. Rinneamar tuairisciú air seo inár dtuarascáil 2010, agus scríobhaíomar chuig an SPÉ maidir leis an gceist seo in 2011 agus táimid fanacht le freagairt.

Le linn 2011 bhí ar phríosúnaigh codladh ar thochtanna ar an urlár. Mholamar go ndéanfaí roinnt seomraí caitheamh aimsire a úsáid mar chóiríocht de chineál suanleasa, don am i láthair, go dtí go bhfuil an fhadhb phlódaithe réitithe nó fuascailte go méid áirithe. Rinneadh gníomh maidir leis seo, ach b'fhéidir go bhféadfaí athbhreithniú a dhéanamh air d'fhonn an cineál seo úsáide a mhéadú, sa chás gur féidir é a úsáid le haghaidh príosúnach oiriúnach.

Láithreacha na gCuariteoirí :

Tá níos mó forairdill agus slándáil níos déine de dhíth sna láithreacha cuairte d'fhonn dul i ngleic le seachadadh míreanna coiscthe. Líonta níos lú príosúnach/cuariteoirí i seomra faoi leith ar bith, agus cuairteoirí agus páistí a chur níos cóngaraí don oifigeach freastail. B'fhéidir go mbeadh éifeacht iombhagartha ag Oifigeach ag siúl suas agus anuas le linn cuairteanna. San fhadtéarma ní mór breathnú ar chuairteanna scagtha.

23 Glásála Uaire :

Táimid fós ag fanacht le hathruithe suntasacha sa chleachtas seo. Tá inní orainn fosta faoin easpa d'am cúí caitheamh aimsire agus easpa de chóras aclaíochta bríoch ar bith. Is buairt sheasta é na héifeachtaí fadtéarmacha a bhíonn ag an gcineál seo aonraithe ar riocht meabhrach daoine. Is féidir linn maolú a lán príosúnach thar thréimhse ama fheiceáil ar bhonn leanúnach.

Íoslach:

Tá príosúnaigh á gcoinneáil fós ar feadh tréimhsí an-fhada i láthair an chithfholcadáin maidir le héisteacht P 19 agus maidir le haonrú ó sciatháin le linn an lae, ag bogadh go cillíní le aghaidh codlata amháin. Ní réiteach sásúil é seo. Tá beagnach gach rud atá ráite againn faoin íoslach fós fíor. Tugadh deimhniú dúinn, ag deireadh 2011, go bhfuil feabhsuithe ar tí tarlú.

Seirbhísí Leabharlainne

Ba cheart go mbeadh leibhéal na forbartha leabharlainne i bpríosúin mar chuid de chlár cuimsitheach oideachais, athchóirithe agus caitheamh aimsire príosúin. Ba cheart do leabharlanna atá tiomanta do dhaoine atá ag cur pianbhreitheanna coinneála isteach a chur san áireamh an dóigh a bhfuil na hacmhainní agus seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn leabharlanna poiblí faoi láthair ábhartha do riachtanais na bpríosúnach.

Soláthraítear eolas i leabharlanna príosúin a fhreastalaíonn ar riachtanais faisnéise, chaitheamh aimsire, foghlama ar feadh an tsaoil agus aistrithe príosúnach, á n-ullmhú le haghaidh a a gcuimsithe rathúil sa tsochaí. Ba cheart breathnú ar leabharlann príosúin mar chloch choirnéil i straitéis litearthachta an phríosúin. Tá rannpháirtíocht príosúnach i mbunchlár litearthachta agus foghlama ina bhonn le haghaidh athchiontú a laghdú.

Leanann an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne i bPríosún Mhuinseo ag cloí lena hoibleagáidí oideachais agus caitheamh aimsire, ach ag leibhéal a bhfuil an-laghdú tagtha air. Tá bac ar a cumas seirbhís lánchuimsitheach a chur ar fáil, den chuid is mó, de bharr easpa foirne.

Uaireanta Oscailte na Leabharlainne

Laghdaíonn uaireanta oscailte na leabharlainne le haghaidh 2011 go suntasach ó bhí 2010 ann, agus tá laghdú tagtha ar líon na bpríosúnach a bhfuil ag fáil rochtana ar an leabharlann. I

mí na Bealtaine i mbliana, rinne an Leabharlannaí Sinsearach, i ndiaidh comhairliúcháin leis an nGobharnóir, cinneadh leabharlannaí a shannadh le hoibriú sa leabharlann gach Céadaoin d'fhonn cuidiú leis na huaireanta oscailte a mhéadú. Cuireann sé seo deis ar fáil do phríosúnaigh bualadh le leabharlannaí gairmiúil. D'éirigh go han-mhaith leis an mbeart seo ar a lán bealaí; mar sin féin, níor tháinig méadú ar na huaireanta dá bharr. Cuireadh an tionscnamh seo i bhfeidhm i ngeall ar neamhleorgacht seirbhís leabharlainne cuífheidhmithe le haghaidh príosúin den mhéid seo.

Cé go bhfuil easnamh ag baint leis an mbeart seo maidir le seirbhís leabharlainne inmharthana a sholáthar, cuireann sé bonn ar fáil maidir le clár struchtúrtha ar féidir feabhas a dhéanamh air, ó seo amach. Tá comhairliúcháin ar siúl le bainistíocht an phríosúin ag féachaint d'uaireanta oscailte na leabharlainne a shíneadh.

Tá sé de thairim an Choiste Cuairte go bhfuil deis ann anois do bhainistíocht an phríosúin breathnú ar leithdháileadh príosúnaigh iontaobhais ar an leabharlann ag féachaint do sheirbhís leabharlainne mhéadaithe a chur ar fáil go dtí leibhéal sásachta.

Oiliúint Foirne

Úsáidtear an córas bainistíochta leabharlainne *Liberty 3* sa leabharlann, a tugadh isteach in 2009. Nuair a tugadh isteach é bhí sé beartaithe go gcuirfí oiliúint maidir leis an gcóras úr seo ar fhoireann an phríosúin atá leithdháilte ar dhualgais leabharlainne. Le himeacht ama, áfach, feictear nár tharla sé seo. Is féidir oiliúint le haghaidh oifigeach a dhéanamh ar mhodh bunúsach, nach nglacann mórán ama ar shiúl ó bhundualgais. Tá tuilleadh breathnaithe de dhíth sa réimse seo.

Cruthaíonn úsáid na bpríosúnach as an gcóras bainistíochta leabharlainne ar líne a dheacrachtaí féin toisc go gcaithfidh an rannóg TF pasfhocail ábhartha a thabhairt dóibh le rochtain ar an gcóras a cheadú. Go dtí seo, níor cuireadh an beart seo i bhfeidhm agus tá gá breathnú air láithreach. Níl ag úsáid *Liberty* sa phríosún faoi láthair ach na leabharlannaithe, a chiallaíonn go bhfuil córas páipéar neamh-chomhoiriúnach i bhfeidhm chomh maith. Cruthaíonn sé seo deacrachtaí raonaithe a bhaineann le hiasachtú leabhair agus iad a fháil ar ais, agus baineann gné chostais leis seo.

Bailiúchán na Leabharlainne

I ngeall ar neamchinnteacht uaireanta oscailte na leabharlainne tá deacrachtaí tagtha chun cinn maidir le leabhair a tugadh ar iasacht a fháil ar ais. Tá iallach ar an bhfoireann cóipeanna den leabhar céanna atá cailte a chur ar fáil ar fud an phríosúin, agus i bhfad níos mó stoic ná a bhfuil gá leis a sholáthar, d'fhonn seilfeanna na leabharlainne a athshlánú. Ní húsáid éifeachtúil é seo as buiséad na leabharlainne. Labhair baill de chuid an choiste cuairte le príosúnaigh a cheapann gur féidir leo na leabhair a choinneáil chun críche staidéir, agus nach bhfuil orthu iad a thabhairt ar ais. D'fhéadfadh *boscaí bailithe* a thabhairt isteach ar na cinn staighre nó sa *Chiorcal* cuidiú le déileáil leis an bhfadhb maidir le leabhair chailte nó ligthe amú.

Ta saoráidí leabharlann beag ar fáil anois san Aonad Leighis, san Aonad Deighilte agus san Íoslach. Is mionleibhéal seirbhíse iad seo agus níl siad sásúil.

Tá foireann na Leabharlainne ag iarraidh seirbhís imleor agus ghairmiúil a chur ar fáil sa phríosún. Agus é seo á chur san áireamh, fáiltíonn an Coiste Cuairte roimh cheapachán *duine idirchaidrimh* ag bainistíocht an phríosúin d'fhonn gach cúrsaí ar a bhfuil aird de dhíth a chomhordú, faoi mar a mholtar inár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil 2010.

Moltaí

D'fhonn an tseirbhís leabharlainne an tseirbhís seo a mhéadú do phríosúnaigh déanann an Coiste Cuairte na moltaí seo a leanas:

- (a) An líon oifigigh phríosúin oilte i nósanna imeachta leabharlainne a mhéadú,
- (b) Na nósanna imeachta a chuíchóiriú le cur ar chumas oifigigh leabharlainne oilte córais TF a úsáid,
- (b) Breathú ar leithdháileadh príosúnaigh iontaobhais le cuidiú le foireann na leabharlainne,
- (c) Córas 'bosca bailithe' a thabhairt isteach sa phríosún d'fhonn go dtabharfar leabhair a tugadh ar iasacht ar ais go gasta.

Corpoideachas

Tá céadatán ard príosúnach ina ndaoine atá faoi dhian-mhíbhuntáiste, agus a bhfuil il-eispéiris teipeanna acu. Go minic bíonn a bhféiniómhánna íseal maidir le rannpháirtíocht shóisialta. Is féidir le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt na féiniómhánna sin a ghlacadh agus a bhfuinneamh a chur i ngníomhaíochtaí cuidiúla. Is é an phríomhaidhm atá le corpoideachas príosúnach go n-éireofar le smacht ón taobh isteach a fhorbairt.

Is féidir le smacht an choirp tionchar dearfach a bheith aige ar smacht nó rialú meabhrach. Tá ceithre halla aclaíochta laistigh d'ionad Phríosún Mhuinseo suite i Sciathán 'A', Sciathán 'D', san Aonad Leighis agus san Aonad Deighilte. Tá siad seo go léir éascaithe ag teagascóirí corpoiliúna láncháilithe a thugann comhairle ar sceidil chorpoideachais oiriúnacha do gach iontrálaí úr ar ghníomhaíochtaí na hallaí aclaíochta agus a ullmhaíonn na sceidil sin. Tá gach halla aclaíochta feistithe le trealamh comhaimseartha atá oiriúnach le haghaidh corpoiliúint struchtúrtha a dhéanamh. Is iad na huaireanta oscailte 10am-12pm; 2pm- 4pm, agus 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Tá an Coiste Cuairte sásta gur déileáladh le deacrachtaí a bhain le cothabháil threalamh na hallaí aclaíochta, mar a tugadh chun suntais i dTuarascáil Bhliantúil 2010, ar mhodh sásúil. Leanaimid d'fhairsingiú a lorg le haghaidh na saoráidí sin.

An tSeirbhís Séiplíneachta

Agus cúram tréadach agus eaglasta na bpríosúnach agus a dteaghlach curtha faoina gcúram agus á thabhairt acu, cruthaíonn séiplínigh dlúthnaisc leis an bpobal i gcoitinne. I bhfís na seirbhíse séiplíneachta dearbhaítear dínit an duine, agus féachtar de bheith ina ghuth dóibh siúd a bhfuil a saoirse bainte díobh. Is fíís í ina maítear ar shéiplínigh seasamh fáidhiúil maidir le ceisteanna um cheartas sóisialta.

Cuidíonn séiplínigh le príosúnaigh ag a bhfuil fadhbanna teaghlaigh agus a lán lán ceisteanna inní eile. Is féidir breathnú ar shéiplínigh mar *chomhlaí sábhála* do phríosúnaigh ag a bhfuil buarthaí pearsanta agus teaghlaigh.

Agus ualach oibre atá ag méadú i gcónaí, tá bac ar shéiplínigh laistigh den phríosún de bharr easpa líonta agus soláthar cóiríocht oifige chuí. Le linn na bliana thug an Coiste Cuairte chun suntais bhainistíocht an phríosúin, agus Ard-Deoise Bhaile Átha Cliath, an gá leis an dara séiplíneach a leithdháileadh ar Phríosún Mhuinseo. Tá séiplíneach páirtaimseartha i Muinseo faoi láthair a bheadh ábalta bheith rannpháirteach go hiomlán leis an tseirbhís agus atá toilteanach é seo a dhéanamh.

Fuairéamar a lán iarratas le linn na bliana ó phríosúnaigh ag gearán faoin deacracht teagmháil a dhéanamh le Séiplíneach agus faoin mbrú follasach orthu leis an tseirbhís a chur ar fáil. Tá moladh le tabhairt do na Séiplínigh as a dtiomantas agus ba chóir beagán cuidithe a thabhairt dóibh dá bharr seo. Thuairiscíomar ar an gceist seo in 2010 chomh maith, ach saothar in aisce a bhí ann.

Tá sé de thuairim againn nach bhfuil an aird phráinne atá de dhíth maidir leis an gcúrsa seo á fáil.

An Neachtlan & Eadaí

An Láthair Fáiltithe

Nuair a thagann na príosúnaigh chun an phríosún déantar iad a chlárú ag an láthair fáiltithe de réir na rialachán arna leagan amach. Glactar fardal de na míreanna uile a thugann gach príosúnach isteach sa phríosún agus déantar iad a thaifeadadh ar an gcóras rianaithe TF.

Cuirtear gach mír a bhaintear de phríosúnach faoi chumhdach an Ghobharnóra.

Déantar fiosrú iomlán maidir le gearáin faoi mhíreanna atá ar iarraidh. Mar sin féin, tá roinnt gearán faighte ag an gCoiste Cuairte ó phríosúnaigh maidir leis an bhfad ama a ghlacann sé leis na fiosraithe a chur i gcrích. Ní mór athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an gcúrsa seo.

Teastaíonn aird láithreach maidir leis an gcóras aerchóirithe sa láthair fáiltithe.

Cuireann an Coiste Cuairte fáilte roimh shuiteáil cheamara breise CCTV sa láthair feithimh, faoi mar a tugadh chun suntais ina Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2010.

Tá fáilte roimh na hathruithe ginearálta a rinne sa láthair fáiltithe agus táimid ag súil le hoscailte láthair cimithe úr i Sciathán 'C' nua-athchóirithe.

Na Láithreacha Cithfholcadáin

Feidhmíonn na láithreacha cithfholcadáin sé lá sa tseachtain de réir clár ama struchtúraithe.

An Seomra Neachtlainne

Freastalaítear sa láthair seo le haghaidh míreanna níos lú a úsáidtear sa phríosún. Déantar na míreanna neachtlainne níos mó a sheachfhoinsiú. Is gá leibhéil aeraithe chuí a choinneáil sa seomra neachtlainne i gcónaí. I dTuarascáil Bhliantúil 2010 mholamar gur cheart fuinneoga athsholáthair oiriúnacha a shuiteáil d'fhonn dul i ngleic le deacrachtaí aeraithe. Go dtí seo, níor tugadh aird ar bith ar an gcúrsa seo. Ba cheart breathnú go práinneach ar athsholáthar na bhfuinneog sa seomra neachtlainne.

An Seomra Poist

Imríonn an seomra poist páirt lárnach sna próisis bhainistíochta slándála laistigh den phríosún.

Tá príomhfheidhm ag ról cinsireachta a chorprú isteach san oifig seo:

- (1) Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar ghlaonna gutháin
- (2) Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar phost isteach/amach

Faightear an post uile a thagann isteach sa phríosún ag an bpríomhghheata ar dtús lena bhailiú ag foireann an tseomra poist agus taifeadtar é de réir na rialachán. Déantar srac-scrúdú ar an bpost isteach agus amach ar fad lena chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag cloí le rialacháin an phríosúin agus ceisteanna slándála féideartha a shainaithint. Déantar gach mír phostais a thagann isteach sa phríosún a phróiseail trí mheaisín x-gháthaithe d'fhonn guaiseanna féideartha a aimsiú.

Nuair a bhíonn scrúdú déanta orthu, cuirtear na míreanna postais ar sheilfeanna lena mbailiú ag an oifigeach freagrach ábhartha. Seachadtar comhfhreagras ó chomhairleoirí dlíthiúla le príosúnaigh chuig an bPríomhoifigeach le cur faoina bhráid agus lena ndáileadh. Déantar gach iarracht míreanna postais a sheachadadh chuig príosúnaigh gan mhoill; mar sin féin, féadann moilleanna tarlú i ngeall ar easpa acmhainní agus ualach oibre méadaithe ag amanna áirithe ar fud na bliana.

Tá gearáin ó chónaithe maidir le míreanna poist a bhíonn ar iarraidh faoi réir fiosraithe; mar sin féin, ní dhéileáiltear leo in am trátha i gcónaí. Táimid sásta go bhfuil bunús maith le roinnt gearán maidir le moill nó cailliúint míreanna.

Déantar monatóireacht ar ghlaonna gutháin de réir na rialachán. Ligeann an córas atá i bhfeidhm do phríosúnaigh roinnt daoine ar féidir leo glaonna gutháin a ghlacadh uathu a ainmniú. Tá forálacha speisialta i bhfeidhm maidir le glaonna gutháin le comhairleoirí dlíthiúla.

Tá an Coiste Cuairte sásta go bhfuil feabhsúcháin déanta ag an oifig seo. Mar sin féin, lena chinntiú go bhfeidhmíonn sí go héifeachtach is gá foireann a leithdháileadh ar bhonn laethúil. Molaimid go ndéanfar athbhreithniú ar an gcúrsa seo ó seo amach.

Seirbhísí Cúram Leighis

Cuimsíonn na seirbhísí cúram leighis ag Príosún Mhuinseo (a) Ionad Leighais agus (b) Aonad úr Leighis. Riarann Bainisteoir Ionad na nAltraí na seirbhísí leighis sa phríosún.

An tIonad Leighis

Tá an tIonad Leighis, atá suite sa phríomhphríosún, ina chuid den straitéis leighis fhoriomlán le haghaidh ionad Mhuinseo. Agus cúram sláinte aontaithe á sholáthar chun leasa gach duine, a bhfuil a chlinic réamh-mheasúnaithe ina cuid lárnach, is é is príomhaidhm leis líon chuairteanna na bpríosúnach ar an ospidéal a laghdú. Tá foireann leighis cháilithe ansin d'fhonn tús áite a thabhairt do riochtaí sláinte, agus feidhmítear a lán gnáthaimh chaighdeánacha leighis san ionad.

Tá an straitéis leighis fhoriomlán ina cuid den Bhainistíocht Seirbhísí Comhtháithe (ISM) ag Príosún Mhuinseo, agus tógadh é ar an bprionsabal le:-

- (i) cúram sláinte réamhghníomhach a chur ar fáil,
- (ii) cuairteanna ospidéal le haghaidh cóireála leighis a laghdú,
- (iii) dualgas cúram a sholáthar do phríosúnaigh & don fhoireann,
- (iv) feabhas a chur ar chúram sláinte príosúnach trí eolas feasach,
- (v) neamh-nochtadh stair leighis ag príosúnach a thabhairt chun suntais.

(vi) Le linn na bliana líonadh roinnt poist altranais, is é seo réimse, áfach, lena bhfuil gá athbhreithnithe rialta a dhéanamh le soláthar cúram sláinte riachtanach do phríosúnaigh a chinntiú. Is é fachtóir riachtanach sna seirbhísí a chuirtear ar fáil ag an ionad leighis, infhaighteach *tacaíocht oifigeach príosúin*, nuair a iarratar é. Is é an Príomhoifigeach Altranais an duine is cumasaí le cinneadh a dhéanamh faoi nuair atá gá leis. Tugtha chun suntais sa Tuarascáil Bhliantúil (2010) tá inní ar an gCoiste Cuairte nach bhfuil dul chun

cinn ar bith déanta le polasaí a chur i bhfeidhm lena chinntiú go gcuirtear tacaíocht oifigeach príosúin ar fáil don fhoireann leighis nuair a iarrtar é.

Tá sé de thuairim an Choiste Cuairte nach bhfreastalaítear ar riachtanais leighis na bpríosúnach i gcónaí, agus tá gá le hathbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na seirbhísí a sholáthraítear. I measc na ngearán ó phríosúnaigh tá an fad ama a ghlacann sé le cóireáil leighis a fháil, soláthar seirbhísí fiacloireachta agus aistarraingt chógais ó phríosúnaigh ag teacht dóibh sa phríosún, nuair a bhíonn an cógas atá acu ordaithe ag a nDochtóir féin nó ag comhairleach ospidéal. Chuireamar na breithnithe seo in iúl san am a chuaigh thart ach ní feabhas ar bith tagtha ar an gcás go fóill.

Nílimid ag súil go mbeadh ar phríosúnach ar mhaidí croise codladh ar an mbunc thuas, agus fanacht sé seachtainí leis an bhfoireann an fhadhb seo a réiteach.

Ní haontaímid leis na nósanna imeachta maidir le polasaí cóireála fiacloireachta arna leagan amach ag an SPÉ. Táimid de thuairim uair amháin a chuirtear daoine sa phríosún, go bhfuil siad i dteideal curam leighis agus fiacloireachta de réir pholasaí na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt & Comhionannais maidir le cúram a thabhairt do phríosúnaigh ar bhealach daonnúil agus cothrom. Níor cheart cóireáil leighis a chinneadh trí fhad na pianbhreithe, ach trí riachtanais.

An tAonad Leighis

Cuirtear seirbhís cúraim phríomhúil agus réamhghníomhaigh ar fáil san Aonad Leighis, le béim ar chógas coiscthe. Déantar fóráil sa tsaoráid do chlár comhtháite le haghaidh príosúnach atá tiomanta do bheith saor ó dhruaí d'fhonn iad féin a ullmhú do scaoileadh amach de réir a chéile ón bpríosún. Tá príosúnaigh ar mian leo páirt a ghlacadh sa chlár seo faoi réir breithnithe cáilíochta sainiúla.

Creidimid gur cheart an clár a leathnú d'fhonn gach príosúnach ar mian leo páirt a ghlacadh, agus atá cáilithe, a chur san áireamh. Tá gá le hathbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an réimse iomlán seo, toisc go m'bfhéidir go bhfuil an t-am ann féachaint ar an bhféidearthacht na príosúnaigh uile a mbaineann andúil drugaí leo a chur san áireamh i gclár drugaí.

Cuimsíonn an tAonad Leighis cúig rannóg agus is cuid é den pholasaí cúram sláinte foriomlán caitheamh le gach príosúnach le dínit agus meas. Mar sin féin, tá gearáin faighte againn ó líon mór príosúnach nach gcaitear leo ar bhealach maorga agus ómósach, nach n-éistítear leo i gcónaí, agus nach bhfreastalaítear ar a mbuarthaí go leordhóthanach.

Tá an-áthas orainn gur éirigh go maith leis an Aonad Ardtacaíochta a mholamar don SPÉ blianta ó shin.

Cruthaíodh an tAonad, ina bhfuil leapacha tiomanta do phríosúnaigh a chuirtear ar an gclár, a bheith ina fhiontar an-fhiúntach. Bhain thart ar sheachtó (70) príosúnach sochar as an tsaoráid go dtí seo; níl sé chomh teoranta agus dá bhrí sin bíonn níos mó idirghníomhaíochta leis an bhfoireann. Mar a léiríodh inár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil 2010, ba mhaith linn go ndéanfaí an tionscadal seo a leathnú tuilleadh.

Cuireann foireann an Aonaid Leighis seirbhísí cúram sláinte ar fáil d'othair i gcomhréir leis na caighdeáin ghairmiúla a bhfuil glacadh leo agus de réir polasaí.

Tugadh an fhíríc seo chun suntais leis an dámhachtain ardghradaim le déanaí ag an Eagraíocht Dhomhanda Sláinte (WHO) ar fhoireann na ngairmithe sláinte agus ar fhoireann an phríosún i Príosún Mhuinseo in aitheantas ar na tionscnaimh úra cúram sláinte a cuireadh i bhfeidhm sa phríosún, go háirithe do phríosúnaigh ag a bhfuil fadhbanna meabhairshláinte. Léiríonn sé seo athrú sa chustam agus cleachtas maidir leis an dóigh a ndéileáiltear le daoine aonair ag a bhfuil fadhbanna meabhairshláinte i ndaonra an phríosúin.

Tá fáilte roimh rath an Aonaid Ardtacaíochta i gcúram tosaigh príosúnach leochaileach.

Déanaimid comhghairdeas leis an aonad as an dámhachtain ardghradaim a fháil ón

Eagraíocht Dhomhanda Sláinte le déanaí. Bhí an dámhachtain seo in aitheantas ar na tionscnaimh úra cúram sláinte a cuireadh i bhfeidhm sa phríosún le béim faoi leith ar fhadhbanna meabhairshláinte - léiríonn sé athrú sa chustam agus cleachtas maidir leis an dóigh a ndéileáiltear le daoine aonair ag a bhfuil fadhbanna meabhairshláinte i ndaonra an phríosúin.

Meabhairshláinte

Tig le haonrú sóisialta ar feadh tréimhse leanúnach a fhadhbanna féin a chruthú. Níl an cleachtas príosúnaigh shuaithmheonacha a aonrú trína gcur isteach i gcóiríocht cillín speisialta cuidiúil dá n-athshlánú fadtéarmach. Tá a fhios ag an gCoiste Cuairte go bhfuil príosúnaigh á gcoinneáil fós i gcillíní speisialta, ar feadh seachtainí i roinnt cásanna. D'ainneoin rath an Aonaid Ardtacaíochta, ní bhfreastalaítear ann do riachtanais mheabhairshláinte na bpríosúnach nach ndéanann a chláir struchtúrtha. Feiceann an Coiste Cuairte an gá fós le *hAonad Daoine Leochaileacha* a bhunú, a chumasaíonn cóireáil inti oiriúnach príosúnach atá ag fulaingt ó ghalar meabhrach. Mar a léiríodh sna Rialacha Príosúin (2007) níor cheart príosúnaigh a chur i gcillíní speisialta ach má bhíonn sé riachtanach le gortú a chosc; agus ar feadh tréimhse ná faide ná 24 uair a' chloig. I ngeall ar easnamh leapacha bíonn moill fhada ann go minic maidir le déileáil le príosúnaigh a aistriú go dtí ospidéal mheabhairghalair. Ba cheart féachaint do mhéadú in infhaighteacht acmhainn leapacha do phríosúnaigh faoi chúram síciatrach, d'fhonn iad a thabhairt amach as timpeallacht phríosúin agus cóireáil á cur orthu. Is é seo fadhb ar a cuireadh béim arís agus arís eile.

Drugaí

Tá cur chuige na bainistíochta maidir le déileáil le malartú mídhleathach drugaí sa phríosún i gcomhréir le *Polasaí & Straitéis Drugaí* an SPÉ. Le linn na bliana lean bainistíocht an phríosúin dá ndul chun cinn i ndéileáil le fadhbanna drugaí inmheánacha, agus bhí mórpháirt ag suiteáil na n-eangach cosanta thar chlóis.

Cinntíonn raon leathan seirbhísí ginearálta agus sainiúla arna soláthar ag an SPÉ, comhlachtaí ábhartha reachtúla agus neamhreachtúla go gcuimsítear ionchur iltoiseach suntasach ar chláir athshlánúcháin drugaí do phríosúnaigh. Féachtar leis na bearta seo an t-éileamh ar dhrugaí a laghdú trí shraith chuimsitheach tionscnamh, arna riar laistigh den phríosún ag an mbainistíocht. Tá na seirbhísí seo á gcur ar fáil ar bhonn riachtanas cliniúil agus á dtacú ag córas um thástáil drugaí éigeantach. Le blianta beaga anuas, dearbhaíonn infheistíocht shuntasach ag an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais a tiomantas maidir le ceisteanna andúile a láimhseáil i gcóras an phríosúin, ach mar sin féin, tá gá le méadú agus feabhas leanúnach.

Tá inní faoi leith orainn faoin leibhéal méadaithe d'infhaighteacht táibléad, agus an deacracht iad sin a aimsiú.

Lena chois sin, ní mór aghaidh a thabhairt ar an bhfadhb um idirghníomhú idir úsáideoirí drugaí agus iad siúd nach n-úsáideann drugaí in 2012. Ní mór déileáil leis na teagmhais maidir le príosúnaigh a éiríonn andúlaithe i Muinseo ar mhodh cinntitheach. Caithfear dianobair a dhéanamh le timpeallacht saor ó dhrugaí a bhaint amach.

Ceapann an Coiste Cuairte gur cheart bearta méadaithe a chur i bhfeidhm d'fhonn pásáil táibléad srl nach féidir le madraí a mboladh a fháil a dhíothú.

Nearthaigh na heangacha a tugadh isteach thar na clóis na rialuithe maidir le soláthairtí drugaí, ach as éadóchais tarlaíonn roinnt aireagán iontach, mar a chonacthas i Muinseo thar na blianta. Dá bhrí sin ní féidir a bheith bogásach nó scíth a ghlacadh agus bealaí úra le déileáil le an gceist um sholáthar á mbaint amach.

Ba cheart clár ina ndéileáiltear le handúil a bhunú, d'fhonn infhaighteacht níos mó ar chóireáil d'úsáideoirí drugaí a spreagtar le scor de dhrugaí nó ar mian leo scor daoibh a chumasú.

Tá sé uafásach gur féidir le príosúnaigh atá glasáilte suas ar feadh 23 uair an chloig soláthar seasta drugaí/táibléad a fháil.

Síceolaíocht

Cuimsíonn an tSeirbhís Síceolaíochta meascán de leasanna síceolaíochta atá deartha le haghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais dheacra agus éagsúla na seirbhíse príosúin. Tá méadú suntasach tagtha ar an éileamh ar sheirbhísí síceolaíochta le bliain anuas, i ngeall go mór ar an bplódú i bpríosúin. Níl amhras ar bith ann ná go bhfuil tionchar aige seo ar cháilíocht na coinneála agus cuireann sé go mór le strus laistigh de na príosúin. Tarlaíonn strus i bpríosúin ó dhá phríomhfhoinsé. Ar an gcéad dul síos, is toradh é ar bharráíocht daoine a bheith ina gcónaí laistigh de láthair theoranta agus ar an dara dul síos, bíonn tionchar aige ar acmhainn na bpríosúin obair bhríoch a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh.

Tá síceolaí comhairlithe lánaimseartha amháin i bPríosún Mhuinseo. Cuireann dhá shíceolaí chliniciúla shinsearacha seisiúin ar fáil sa phríosún, mar aon le ról maoirseachta a chomhlíonadh. Le linn na bliana, rinne dhá shíceolaí faoi oiliúint an tseirbhís a fhorlíonadh ag cuidiú leis an liosta feithimh a éascú agus grúpa a éascú.

Tá obair theagmhála duine le duine aonair ina phríomh-mhodh leis an tseirbhís a sheachadadh.

Rinne an tseirbhís clár inspreagtha láimhe le haghaidh úsáideoirí a oiriúniú do thimpeallacht phríosúin. Is é is aidhm leis an gclár spreagthacht príosúnaigh a mhéadú lena n-íompraíocht drugaí a athrú.

Tá an Coiste Cuairte sásta a fheiceáil go bhfuil cumhdach oifigeach príosúin ar fáil lena chinniú nach ndéantar clinici a chur ar ceal. Rinne an cumhdach oifigigh seo agus infhaighteacht na seomraí síceolaíochta comhaimseartha feidhmiú na seirbhíse seo a éascú go ginearálta. D'ainneoin seo, ní leor na hacmhainní síceolaíochta le freastal ar riachtanais na gcónaitheach atá coinnithe sa phríosún. Thabharfaí soláthar acmhainní leordhóthanacha raon féidhme suntasach le cláir ina ndírítear ar cheisteanna riachtanacha a fhorbairt tuilleadh. Ba cheart breathnú ar líon na foirne a mhéadú, lena n-áirítear foireann faoi oiliúint, lena chinntiú nach ndéantar na seirbhísí síceolaíochta sa phríosún a laghdú.

Sábháilteacht Dóiteáin

Tá trealamh sábháilteachta dóiteáin curtha in áiteanna ábhartha ar fud an phríosúin. Cuireann bainistíocht an phríosúin cláir druil doiteáin i bhfeidhm agus déantar measúnuithe riosca agus druil doiteáin ag eatrainmh rialta. Tá an *Plean Sábháilteachta Dóiteáin* le haghaidh an phríosúin á thabhairt suas chun dáta faoi láthair. D'iarramar é a thabhairt suas chun dáta ag cruinniú de chuid an choiste sa Bhliain Úr maidir leis an bplean úr.

Scoileanna

Soláthraíonn an tSeirbhís Oideachais Príosúin saoráidí le haghaidh oideachais agus ealaíon, ina gcuimsítear comhpháirtíocht idir an SPÉ agus raon gníomhaireachtaí oideachais ón bpobal. Is é is aidhm leis an tseirbhís oideachais clár ardchaighdeáin, leathan, solúbtha a sheachadadh ina gcuidítear le príosúnaigh déileáil lena bpianbhreith, forbairt phearsanta a

bhaint amach, ullmhú le haghaidh an tsaoil i ndiaidh a scaoilte amach agus suim a bhunú i bhfoghlaim ar feadh an tsaoil.

D'fhonn an deis a thabhairt do phríosúnaigh páirt a ghlacadh in oideachas gan aird ar an leibhéal iontrala nó taithí roimh ré tá roinnt roghanna teastasaithe atá oiriúnach do riachtanais daoine fásta ar fáil laistigh den phríosún. Áirítear orthu sin FETAC Leibhéal 2,3,4 & 5, an Teastas Sóisearach agus an Ardeistiméireacht, ECDL agus an Ollscoil Oscailte..

Tá an fhoireann teagaisc sa phríosún tiomanta go hiomlán don tasc idir lámha agus do dhíriú ar mheas agus grá don oideachas a chur ina luí ar phríosúnaigh de réir a chéile. Is beart an-dearfach é rannpháirtíocht príosúnach sna scrúduithe Stáit. Is céim ollmhór chun tosaigh é an iarracht oideachais seo don chuid is mó de phríosúnaigh a raibh eispéireas diúltach acu ar an scoil, agus a lán acu ag fágáil ag aois an-óg.

Ag cur san áireamh na bearta oideachais rathúla atá curtha i bhfeidhm sa phríosún , tá sé de thuairim an Choiste Cuairte gur cheart líon na bpríosúnach a ghlacann páirt sna cláir oideachais a mhéadú. Gan amhras imríonn neamhshuim na bpríosúnach maidir le hoideachas ról sa chéadatán beag dóibh atá rannpháirteach sna cláir oideachais. Ní mór siollabas éagsúil agus suimiúil a bheith i gcóras na bpríosún d'fhonn príosúnaigh a spreagadh le páirt a ghlacadh san oideachas, agus dá réir sin deis a thabhairt dóibh i gcomhair athshlánaithe. Is é seo dúshlán don Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, an SPÉ agus bainistíocht áitiúil na bpríosún ó seo amach.

An tSeirbhís Promhaidh:

Creidimid nach leor an tseirbhís a chuirtear ar fáil sa Phríosún le freastal ar riachtanais na bpríosúnach agus nach go bhfuiltear ag coinneáil príosúnach níos faide ná is gá, ag fanacht le seirbhís ón ngníomhaireacht promhaidh. Le roinnt mhaith ama anois níl sé curtha ina luí orainn go bhfuil seirbhís leormhaith á cur ar fáil agus chun na críche sin bhuaileamar leis an mBainistíocht sa phríomhoifig ag Lána Mhargadh an Fhéir i mí Lúnasa agus shonraíomar ár mbuarthaí. Ba cheart dóibh siúd uile ag a bhfuil freagracht scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na fadhbanna a bhaineann le Promhadh agus na ceisteanna a réiteach. Níl seirbhísí leasa ar bith ann.

Rialú Drugaí:

Féach ár dtuarascáil le haghaidh 2010.

Oiliúint Thionsclaíoch :

Tá feabhsuithe measartha substaintiúil á ndéanamh fós sa rannán seo ar bhonn leanúnach, monatóireacht agus athchóiriú á dheanamh orthu, agus tugtha suas chun dáta más gá. Tá Bainisteoir an rannáin seo an-tiomanta ar fad agus tá tacaíocht mhaith á fáil aige ó Ghobharnóirí an phríosúin.

TIONSCADAL CUMAS :

Bhuail an coiste i mí Mheán Fómhair le Tionscadal Cumas i Muinseo. Tionóladh an cruinniú seo mar thoradh ar roinnt cainteanna agus cruinniú níos luaithe leis an gcathaoirleach agus stiúrthóir ar Cumas. Is é a ról tacaíocht agus cuidiú a thabhairt do theaghlaigh i gceantar Chluain Dolcáin a bhféadfadh duine a bheith acu ag dul chun an phríosúin nó go deimhin sa phríosún cheana, a bhfuil páistí acu. Ullmhaíonn siad na páirtí más féidir sula gcuirtear an duine sa phríosún. Bhí an-suim acu foghlaim faoi rialacha an phríosúin maidir le cuairteanna.

Cuidíonn siad le teaghlaigh fosta le hoiliúint maidir le hitheachán sláintiúil, beathú agus scileanna tuismitheora.

Bheadh tairbhí ollmhór ann do theaghlaigh agus do phríosún dá mbeadh eagraíocht i ngach ceantar cosúil le Cumas.

Go suimiúil ba chuid dá seirbhíse dul in éineacht leis an bpáiste ar an gcéad chuairt nuair a bhíonn tuismitheoirí i riocht coimhthithe agus nach mbíonn baill teaghlaigh ar bith eile ar fáil a thabharfadh an páiste ar chuairteanna.

Seirbísí na Cistine:

D'ainneoin roinnt fadhbanna sealadacha maidir le soláthairtí neamhshásúla bia, bhí caighdeán an bhia le linn 2011 ar fheabhas agus bhí seachadadh na seirbhísí ar an ngnáthchaighdeán ard. Bhí na cistineacha agus na gléasanna glan. Bhí oibreacha feabhsúcháin ar siúl agus tugadh moladh maidir le buarthaí an-mhiona. Mar is gnáth bhí ardmholadh tuillte go maith.

Bhí tráchtanna na bpríosúnach deimhneach.

Ceardlanna:

Tá na ceardlanna chomh tábhachtach leis an rannóg oideachais sna róil um athshlánaithe agus an oibleagáid sin a chomhlíonadh. Cé go bhfuil na ceardlanna atá i bhfeidhm ina gcreidiúint do gach duine lena mbaineann, mholfaimis go láidir iad a fhorleathnú, agus ceardlanna úra a chur ar fáil chomh maith. Chun na críche sin, tá clár rannpháirtíochta ó fhostóirí sa leagan amach inmhianaithe. Chinnteodh an rannpháirtíocht cúrsaí agus bheadh oiliúint ar comhéid le riachtanais an tionscail ar feadh blianta fada le teacht.

Mar thoradh air seo bheadh i bhfad níos mó príosúnaigh rannpháirteach, ní bheadh oiread leadráin ann, bheadh níos lú fadhbanna meabhrach ann agus thabharfaí deiseanna fostaíochta ar scaoileadh amach na bpríosúnach.

Le blianta anuas anois, iarramar go ndéanfaí feabhsuithe ar na ceardlanna agus cé go bhfuil gach iarracht á ndéanamh go himmheánach, tá bac curtha ar na hiarrachtaí seo ag an líon folúntais Oibre agus Oiliúna, méadaithe i dtráthanna saoire bliantúla agus deireadh gach “ceathrún uaireanta bliantúlaithe”. Tá 14 fholúntas faoi láthair. Is é seo constaic thromchúiseach ar athshlánú agus ar an mbainistíocht pianbhreitheanna comhtháite agus ní thagann sé leis dualgas cúram agus athshlánaithe atá curtha ar iontaoibh an SPÉ.

In 2012, ghlac 510 príosúnach páirt sa mbainistíocht pianbhreitheanna comhtháite. Níor dhiúltaigh ach líon an-íseal páirt a ghlacadh.

Chumasódh ceaintín sna láithreacha seo laethanta oibre níos faide agus níos lú de bhriseadh isteach ar réimis. Faoi láthair oibríonn siad thart ar 3 huairé, toisc go gcaithfear príosúnaigh a ghlasáil le haghaidh lóin ina sciatháin faoi seach.

Déanaimid comhbhrón leo siúd go léir a fuair bás i bpríosúin, suaimhneas síoraí dá n-anamacha

Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuairte buíochas a ghabháil leis an mBainistíocht agus leis an bhfoireann as a gcomhoibriú le linn 2011 agus guímid rath orthu don bhliain amach romhainn.

Mountjoy Prison Annual Report 2011

Submitted to Mr. Alan Shatter, Minister for Justice in January, 2011

It is with pleasure we submit the annual report for 2011 to the Minister for Justice. The year has certainly seen many changes and improvements to the prison. Refurbished wings, a cleaning and painting programme,. There is a wholehearted willingness on the part of management and staff to fully engage with recommended improvements where possible. However it is our responsibility to report as fully as we can what has been observed and discussed in the prison for the last twelve months, good or bad.

Overcrowding is still a very serious issue, with too many prisoners in small cells, not designed for the number of inhabitants. We did report in 2010 that we would adopt a wait and see approach on the promised improvements to the prison. However it is nonetheless difficult to observe, too many people confined in small spaces for up to 23 hours per day. Financial constraints is not an excuse for this situation to continue for much longer. The programme of refurbishment and the allocation of more spaces has to be accelerated, and the reason for maintaining prisoners in prison has to be continually investigated, and, alternatives sought in order to reduce numbers.

An enhanced programme of education, which includes, far greater numbers of participants is urgently needed.

Cleanliness of the prison has not .been an issue since January of 2010, and all involved in this programme are to be commended for their continued efforts. We do notice that maintenance of sinks etc is not up to scratch and a programme of preventative maintenance is required, as has been advised.

Work Parties:

We have not seen as yet any progress in this regard.

Furniture in cells:

During the year it was noted that cells in the base had little or nothing except beds, but this issue is generally resolved. The major problem in this area are the unsuitable quality and structure of the beds. These should be replaced without delay as they are too easily broken up. We did report on this in our 2010 report, and we wrote to IPS regarding this issue in 2011 and we are awaiting a response.

During 2011 prisoners were obliged to sleep on mattresses on the floor. We recommended that a number of recreation rooms be used as dormitory type accommodation, for the time being, until the overcrowding issue is resolved or relieved to some extent. This has been acted on, but maybe can be reviewed to enlarge on this type of usage, where it can be utilized for suitable prisoners.

Visitor Areas:

More vigilance and stricter security is required in the visiting areas to combat passing over of prohibited articles. Lesser numbers of prisoners/visitors in any particular room, with visitors with children being placed nearer the attending officer. Maybe an Officer walking up and down during visits might have a deterrent effect. In the long term screened visits will have to be considered.

23 Hour Lock Up:

We are still awaiting significant changes in this practice. We are also still concerned at the lack of proper recreation time and lack of any meaningful exercise regime. The long term effects of this type of isolation on peoples mental state is a constant worry. We can on a continous basis see the deterioration in many prisoners over a period of time.

Base:

Prisoners are still being detained for lengthy periods in the shower area for hearing of P 19's and for isolation from wings during the day, moving to cells for sleep only. This is not a satisfactory solution. Most of what we have said about the base over time is still true. We have been assured, at the end of 2011, that improvements are imminent.

Library Services

The level of library development in prisons should form part of a comprehensive prison education, rehabilitation and recreation programme. Libraries committed to include persons serving custodial sentences should demonstrate how the resources and services currently provided by the public libraries are relevant to the needs of prisoners.

Prison libraries provide knowledge that meets the information, recreational, lifelong learning and transitional needs of prisoners, preparing them for successful inclusion in society. The prison library should be viewed as a cornerstone of the prison's literacy strategy. The engagement of prisoners in literacy and basic learning programmes is the basis for reducing re-offending.

The Library Service in Mountjoy Prison continues to comply with its educational and recreational obligations, albeit at a very much reduced level. Its ability to provide a fully comprehensive service is curtailed, in the main, due to lack of staff.

Library Opening

Library opening hours for 2011 have decreased considerably since 2010, as have the number of prisoners gaining access to the library.

In May of this year, a decision was taken by the Senior Librarian, following consultation with the Governor, to assign a librarian to work in the library on Wednesdays to help increase library opening hours. This provides prisoners an opportunity to meet with a professional librarian. This measure has proved successful in many ways; however, it has not resulted in an increase in opening hours. This initiative was put in place due to the inadequacy of a proper functioning library service for a prison of this size.

While this measure is a long way short of providing a viable library service, it does provide the basis for a structured programme that can be improved upon, going forward. Consultations are currently ongoing with prison management with a view to have the library opening hours extended.

It is the view of the Visiting Committee that the time is now opportune for prison management to consider the allocation of trustee prisoners to the library with a view to providing an increased library service to a satisfactory level.

Staff Training

The prison library uses the *Liberty 3* library management system, which was introduced in 2009. When introduced it was envisaged that prison staff allocated to library duties would receive training in this new system, however, time has shown this not to be the case. Training for officers can be carried out in a basic way, requiring very little time away from basic duties. This is an area that requires further consideration.

The use of the online library management system by prison officers creates its own difficulties in that they have to be assigned relevant passwords by the IT department to permit access to the system. To-date, this measure has not been put in place and requires immediate consideration. Only the librarians are currently using *Liberty* in the prison, meaning there is also an incompatible paper system in operation. This creates tracking difficulties relating to the borrowing and return of books, which involves a cost element.

Library Collection

Due to the uncertainty of library opening hours difficulties have arisen regarding the return of borrowed books. Library staff are compelled to provide copies of the same book that are lost around the prison, and to furnish far more stock than is needed, in order to replenish library shelves. This is not an effective use of the library budget. Efforts must be made to inform prisoners that books have to be returned to the library. Visiting committee members have spoken to prisoners who are of the opinion that they can keep books for study purposes, and do not have to return them. Introducing *drop boxes* on landings or in the *Circle* could help deal with the problem of lost or mislaid books.

Small library facilities are now available in the Medical Unit, Separation Unit and The Base. However, the level of service at these locations is minimal and unsatisfactory.

Library staff seek to provide an adequate and professional service in the prison. With this in mind, the Visiting Committee welcomes the appointment by prison management of a *liaison person* to-ordinate all matters requiring attention, as recommended in our 2010 Annual Report.

Recommendations

To enhance the service to prisoners by the library service the Visiting Committee makes the following recommendations:

- (a) Increase the number of prison officers trained in library procedures,
- (b) Streamline the procedures to allow trained library officers to use IT systems,
- (c) Consideration to be given to the allocation of trustee prisoners to assist library staff,

- (d) Introduce a 'drop box' system in the prison to allow for the speedy return of borrowed books.

Physical Education

A high percentage of prisoners are severely disadvantaged people, with multiple experiences of failure. They often have low self-images in connection with social participation. Sporting activities can accept these self-images and channel their energies into constructive outlets. The main aim of physical education of prisoners is to succeed in building up control from within. The discipline of the body can positively affect the mental discipline or control. There are four gyms within the Mountjoy Prison complex located in 'A' Wing, 'D' Wing, Medical Unit and Separation Unit. All of these facilities are staffed by fully qualified physical training instructors who advise on and prepare suitable physical education schedules for all new entrants to gym activities. Each gym is furnished with modern equipment appropriate for undergoing structured physical training. Opening hours are 10am-12pm; 2pm-4pm, and 5.30pm – 7.30pm

The Visiting Committee was pleased to find that difficulties relating to the maintenance of gym equipment, as highlighted in 2010 Annual Report, have been dealt with in a satisfactory manner. We continue to seek expansion of these facilities.

Chaplaincy Service

Entrusted with administering spiritual and pastoral care to prisoners and their families, prison chaplains form close links with the wider community. The vision of the chaplaincy service is one that affirms the dignity of the person, and seeks to be a voice for those deprived of their freedom. It is a vision that urges chaplains to take a prophetic stance on issues of social justice.

Chaplains also assist prisoners with family issues and many other issues of concern. Chaplains can be viewed as *safety valves* for prisoners with personal or family concerns. In Mountjoy there is a heavy demand for their services and attention.

With an ever increasing workload, chaplains within the prison are hindered by lack of numbers and the provision of suitable office accommodation. During the course of the year the Visiting Committee highlighted to prison management, and the Archdiocese of Dublin, the need for the allocation of a second permanent chaplain to Mountjoy Prison. At present there is a part time chaplain in Mountjoy who could and is willing to engage full time with the service.

We have many requests throughout the year from prisoners complaining of the difficulty of engaging with a Chaplain and the obvious pressure on them in providing the service.

The Chaplains are to be commended for their dedication and should be rewarded with a little help. We did report on this issue in 2010 also, but to no avail.

We are of the opinion that this matter is not receiving the urgent attention that it deserves.

Laundry & Clothes

Reception Area

All prisoners on arrival at the prison are registered at the reception area in accordance with the regulations as set out. An inventory is taken of all articles brought into the prison by each prisoner and recorded on the IT tracking system. All articles taken from a prisoner are placed in the safekeeping of the Governor.

Complaints regarding missing items are fully investigated. However, the Visiting Committee has received a number of complaints from prisoners regarding the length of time it takes for investigations to be completed. This is a matter that requires review.

The air-conditioning system in the reception area requires immediate attention.

The Visiting Committee welcomes the installation on an extra CCTV camera in the waiting area, as highlighted in its 2010 Annual Report.

Changes introduced in the reception area of a general nature are welcomed and we look forward to the opening of a new committal area in the newly renovated 'C' Wing.

Shower Areas

The shower areas functions six days per week in accordance with a structured time-table.

Laundry Room

This area caters for smaller items used in the prison. Larger laundry items are outsourced. The laundry room requires that proper ventilation levels be maintained at all times. In the 2010 Annual Report we recommended that suitable replacement windows should be installed to counteract ventilation difficulties. To-date, this matter has not received attention. The replacement of windows in the laundry room should receive urgent consideration.

Post Room

The post room plays an integral part in security management processes within the prison. Incorporating a censorship role this office has two main functions:

- (1) Monitoring of telephone calls
- (2) Monitoring of incoming/outgoing post

All post coming into the prison is initially received at the main gate for collection by post room staff and recorded in accordance with regulations. A cursory examination of all incoming and outgoing post is conducted to ensure prison regulations are being complied with and to identify possible security issues. All postal items coming into the prison are processed through an x-ray machine to seek out potential hazards.

On completion of examination, postal items are placed on shelves for collection by the relevant class officer. Correspondence from legal advisors to prisoners is delivered to the Chief Officer for attention and distribution. All efforts are made to deliver postal items to prisoners without delay; however, delays can occur due to the lack of resources and increased workload at certain times throughout the year.

Complaints from inmates regarding missing items of post are subject to investigation; however, they are not always dealt with in a timely fashion. We are satisfied that a number of complaints regarding the delay or loss of items are well founded.

Telephone calls are monitored in accordance with the regulations. The system in place allows for prisoners to nominate a number of persons to whom they can make telephone calls.

Special provisions are in place regarding telephone calls to legal advisors.

The Visiting Committee is satisfied improvements have been made at this office. However, to ensure that it functions efficiently staff need to be allocated on a daily basis. We recommend that this matter is reviewed going forward.

Medical Care Services

The medical care services at Mountjoy Prison comprise of (a) Medical Centre and (b) New Medical Unit. Medical services at the prison are administered by the Nurse Complex Manager.

Medical Centre

The Medical Centre, located in the main prison, forms part of the overall medical strategy for the Mountjoy complex. Providing unified healthcare for the benefit of all, of which its pre-assessment clinic is an integral part, its main aim is to reduce the number of hospital visits by prisoners. Qualified medical staff are in place to prioritise medical conditions, with many standard medical procedures being performed in-house

The overall healthcare strategy forms part of the Integrated Services Management (ISM) at Mountjoy Prison, and is built on the principle to:-

- (i) provide pro-active healthcare,

- (ii) reduce hospital visits for medical treatment,
- (iii) provide a duty of care to prisoners & staff,
- (iv) improve healthcare of prisoners by informed knowledge,
- (v) highlight non-disclosure of medical history by prisoners.

(vi) During the course of the year a number of nursing posts have been filled, however, this is an area that requires regular reviews to ensure the provision of necessary healthcare to prisoners.

An essential factor in the services provided at the medical centre, is the availability of *prison officer support*, when requested. The Chief Nursing Officer is best placed to decide when it is required. Highlighted in Annual Report (2010) the Visiting Committee is concerned that no progress has been made to set in place a policy to ensure prison officer support is made available to medical staff when requested.

It is the view of the Visiting Committee that the medical needs of prisoners are not being met at all times, and there is a need for a review of services provided. Complaints from prisoners include the length of time it takes to receive treatment, the provision of dental services and the withdrawal of medication from prisoners on arrival in the prison, where the medication they are on was prescribed by their own Doctor or by a hospital consultant. We have notified these observations in the past but there is no improvement as yet.

We do not expect to find a prisoner on crutches being obliged to sleep on the top bunk, and waiting 6 weeks to get staff to resolve this problem.

We do not agree with the dental treatment policy procedures set out by the IPS. We are of the opinion that once persons are imprisoned, they are entitled to medical and dental care in accordance with Department of Justice & Equality policy for caring for prisoners in a humane and fair way. Treatment should not be determined by length of sentence, but by necessity.

Medical Unit

The Medical Unit provides a primary pro-active care service, with a focus on preventive medicine. The facility provides for integrated programme for prisoners committed to becoming drug-free with a view to preparing for eventual release from prison. Prisoners wanting to participate in this programme are subject to specific qualifying considerations.

We believe the programme should be widened to include all prisoners wishing to participate, who qualify. This whole area needs revision, as maybe it is time to look at the possibility of including all prisoners affected by drug addiction, in drug programmes.

The Medical Unit comprises of five departments and is part of an overall healthcare policy to treat all prisoners with dignity and respect. However, we have received complaints from quite a number of prisoners that they are not treated in a dignified and respectful way, not always listened to, and that their concerns are not met with adequately.

We are delighted that the High Support Unit which we recommended to the IPS many years ago is such a success

The Unit, with dedicated beds for prisoners admitted to the programme, has proven to be a very worthwhile venture. Some seventy (70) prisoners have benefited from the new facility to-date; it is less confined and leads to a greater interaction with staff. As outlined in our 2010 Annual Report, we would like to see a further expansion of this project.

Medical Unit staff provide healthcare services to patients in line with accepted professional standards and in accordance with policy. This fact has been highlighted with the recent prestigious award by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to the team of health professionals and prison staff in Mountjoy Prison in recognition of the new healthcare initiatives implemented in the prison, in particular to prisoners with mental health issues. This signifies a change in custom and practice in how individuals with mental health issues are dealt with in the prison population.

The success of the High Support Unit in the initial care of vulnerable prisoners is to be welcomed. We congratulate the unit on receiving the recent prestigious award from the World Health Organisation. This award was in recognition of initiatives implemented in the prison with particular emphasis on mental health issues. The introduction of the high Support Unit is to be welcomed – it signifies a change in custom and practice in how individuals with mental issues are dealt with in the prison population.

Mental Health

Social isolation for a continuous period can create its own problems. The practice of isolating mentally disturbed prisoners by dispatching them to special-cell accommodation is not conducive to their long-term recovery. The Visiting Committee is aware that prisoners are still being held in special cells, in some cases for weeks. Notwithstanding the success of the High Support Unit, it does not meet the mental health needs of prisoners not undergoing its structured programmes. The Visiting Committee still see the need for the establishment a *Vulnerable Persons Unit*, which will allow for suitable in-house treatment of prisoners suffering from mental illness, in circumstances where they are not considered suitable for transfer to a mental hospital. As outlined in the Prison Rules (2007) prisoners should be accommodated in special cells only if necessary to prevent harm; and for a period no longer than 24 hours.

Due to a shortage of beds there is too often a long delay in moving prisoners to deal with prisoners to mental hospitals. An increase in the availability of bed capacity for prisoners undergoing psychiatric care should be pursued, with a view to taking them out of a prison environment while under going treatment. This is a problem that has been highlighted again and again.

Drugs

The management approach in dealing with the illegal exchange of drugs in the prison is in line with the *IPS Drugs Policy & Strategy*. During the year prison management continued its progress in dealing with internal drug problems, with the installation of preventive nets over yards playing a major part.

A wide-range of general and specialist services provided by the IPS, relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies ensure that drug rehabilitation programmes for prisoners include a significant multi-dimensional input. These measures seek to reduce the demand for drugs through an extensive set of initiatives, administered within the prison by management. These services are being provided on the basis of clinical needs and supported by a system of mandatory drug testing. In recent years, considerable investment by the Department of Justice & Equality confirms its commitment in managing addiction issues in the prison system, however, continued enlargement and improvement is required.

We are particularly concerned at the increased level of tablet availability, and the difficulty in detecting these.

Also the problem of interaction between drug users and non drug users must be addressed in 2012. The incidences of prisoners becoming addicted in Mountjoy must be dealt with in a decisive manner. A drug free environment has got to be seriously worked on.

The Visiting Committee is of the view that increased measures must be put in place to eliminate the passing of tablets etc. which cannot be detected by dogs.

The introduction of nets over the yards has strengthened the controls on drug supplies, but desperation leads to some amazing inventions, as has been witnessed in Mountjoy over the years. So there is no room for complacency or relaxation in pursuing new ways of dealing with the issue of supply.

A programme of dealing with addiction should be set up, so as to allow for far greater availability of treatment for drug users encouraged or wishing to come off drugs.

It is astounding that prisoners locked up for 23 hours per day can still avail of a constant supply of drugs/tablets.

Psychology

The Psychology Service comprises a mix of psychology interests designed to address the difficult and diverse needs of the prison service. The demand for psychological services has increased considerably over the last year, due in no small way to overcrowding in prisons. There is no doubt that this impacts on the quality of custody and contributes significantly to stress within prisons. Stress in prisons can ensue from two main sources. First, it is a product of too many people living within a confined area and second, it impacts on the capacity of prisons to provide prisoners with meaningful occupation.

Mountjoy Prison has one full time counselling psychologist. Two senior clinical psychologists provide sessions in the prison, as well as carrying out a supervisory role.

During the year, the service was supplemented by two trainee psychologists who helped to ease the waiting list and to facilitate groups.

Individual one-to-one engagement work is the primary mode of service delivery.

The service has adapted a manualised motivational programme for drug users to a prison environment. The aim of the programme is to raise prisoner's motivation to change their drug use behaviour.

The Visiting Committee is pleased to see that prison officer cover is provided to ensure clinics are not cancelled. This officer cover and the availability of modern psychology rooms have greatly facilitated the operation of the service. Notwithstanding, the psychology resources are inadequate to meet the needs of inmates held in the prison. The provision of adequate resources would give considerable scope to further develop programmes targeting essential issues. An increase in the number of staff, including trainees, should now be considered to ensure that psychology services in the prison are not diminished.

Fire Safety

Fire safety equipment is placed in relevant positions within the prison. Fire drill programmes are set in place by prison management with risk assessments and fire drill conducted at regular intervals. The *Fire Safety Plan* for the prison is currently being updated. We have requested an update at a meeting of the committee early in the New Year on the new plan.

Schools

Facilities for education and arts in the prison are provided by the Prison Education Service, which consists of a partnership between the IPS and a range of educational agencies from the community. The aim of the education service is to deliver a high quality, broad, flexible programme of education that helps prisoners cope with their sentence, achieve personal development, prepare for life after release and to establish an interest in life-long learning.

In order to afford prisoners the opportunity to participate in education regardless of entry level or prior experience a number of certification options which are appropriate to the needs of adults are available within the prison. These include FETAC Level 2, 3, 4 & 5, Junior & Leaving Certificate, ECDL and Open University.

Teaching staff in the prison are fully committed to the task in hand and focus on instilling a respect for and love of education in prisoners. Participation of prisoners in State examinations is a very positive measure. This educational effort is a huge step forward for most prisoners, who had negative experiences of school, with many leaving at an early age.

Allowing for the successful education measures implemented in the prison, it is the view of the Visiting Committee that the number of prisoners participating in education programmes needs to be increased. The indifference of prisoners regarding education, no doubt plays a role in the small percentage of them participating in education programmes. There has to be varied and interesting syllabus in the prison system to encourage prisoners to participate in education, thus affording them the opportunity for rehabilitation. This is a challenge for the Dept. of Justice & Equality, the IPS and local prison management going forward.

Probation Service:

We believe that the service provided in the Prison is not adequate to meet the needs of prisoners and that prisoners are being detained for longer than is necessary awaiting service from the probation agency. For quite some time we have not been convinced an adequate service is being provided and to this end we met with Management in their head office at Haymarket Lane in August outlining our concerns. All those with responsibility should examine the problems connected to Probation and fix the issues. Welfare services are non-existent.

Drug Control:

We refer to our report of 2010.

Industrial Training:

There continues to be fairly substantial improvements in this section on a continual basis, being monitored, revised and updated as required. The Manager of this section is deeply committed and is well supported by the Governors of the prison.

CUMAS PROJECT:

The committee met in September with the Cumas Project in Mountjoy. This meeting came about as a result of a number of discussions and an earlier meeting of the chairman and a director of Cumas. Their role is to support and assist families in the Clondalkin area who may have a person going into prison or indeed already in prison, and who have children. They prepare the children if possible before the person is imprisoned. They were particularly keen to learn about the prison rules regarding visits.

They also assist families with training for healthy eating, dieting and parenting skills.

An organization in each area like Cumas would be of tremendous benefit to families and prisoners.

Interestingly a part of their service was to accompany the child on a visit where the parents were estranged and no other family members were available to bring the child on visits.

Kitchen Services:

Despite a few temporary problems with unsatisfactory supplies of food, the quality of food throughout 2011 was excellent and the delivery of the service was of the usual high standard. Kitchens and utensils were clean. Improvement works were ongoing and some very minor concerns were advised. As usual commendations are well earned.

Prisoner comments were positive.

Workshops:

The workshops are as important as the education department in the roles of rehabilitation and of fulfilling that obligation. While the workshops currently in operation are a credit to all those involved, we would strongly recommend the expansion of them, and also the provision

of new workshops. To this end a programme of involvement from employers in the set up is desirable. The involvement would ensure courses and training would be commensurate with the requirements of industry for many years to come.

This would also lead to many more prisoners being involved, less boredom, less mental problems and affording employment opportunities on release. These units could be self contained, inclusive and give confidence to employers that rehabilitated, trained prisoners are an option for inclusion in employment.

We have over the last number of years asked for improvements in the workshops and while every effort is being made in-house, these efforts are hampered by the number of Work and Training vacancies, exacerbated in times of annual leave and the end of each “annualized hours quarter”. There are currently 14 vacancies. This is a serious impediment to rehabilitation and integrated sentence management and not in keeping with the duty of care and rehabilitation entrusted to the IPS.

In 2012, 510 prisoners participated in integrated sentence management. Very low numbers declined to take part.

Providing a canteen in these areas would allow for longer working days with less disruption to regimes. Currently they work approximately 3 hours, as prisoners are required to be locked up for lunch on their respective wings.

We extend our sincere condolences to all those who died in prisons, may they rest in peace.

The Visiting Committee would like to thank the Management and staff for their cooperation during 2011 and wish them well for the coming year.