Visiting Committee Members Annual Report Castlerea 2012

Introduction:

The Committee meet each month on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings were well attended. Visits were undertaken by two members of the committee who were nominated monthly. They conducted detailed and comprehensive tours of the prison.

Staffing Levels:

Up to the end of November there was 211 staff, 7 short of what is required.

Retirement of Staff:

The number of retirements have greatly reduced. We wish the best of luck to all staff that have transferred to Castlerea prison.

Attempted Suicides:

A small number of non-serious suicides were attempted in 2012. The Committee would like to express its gratitude to the staff involved in saving the attempted suicides in custody and we know from speaking to these offenders that they are grateful to the staff involved.

Prisoners before the committee

In addition to the offenders that the committee have met in the course of their visits to the prison there were some written requests and several offenders requested to meet the entire committee. All cases were discussed at length and the relevant course of action taken. The small number of offenders requesting to see the committee is taken as an indication of how well the prison is being run.

Surgery:

The local GP attends Monday to Saturday and at any other time once called to the prison. The level of care offered to prisoners in Castlerea is second to none, the Committee is fully aware how much extra pressure is placed on the staff in this area with the increase in the numbers in custody, with all the services available to persons in custody i.e. dentist etc. The Red Cross training have rolled out by the VEC, Department of Education and Healthcare. There is 26 prisoners presently involved in training. They will be qualified in June. Training will be ongoing

Chaplaincy:

The great work carried out by lay chaplain Margaret Connaughton continues in Castlerea whereby she co-ordinates mass with the local Parish Priest and with any other needs of other religious denominations. She also does great work in dealing with family bereavements of offenders, and the committee would like to thank her for doing this very difficult task so professionally.

School Area:

The work done in the school area once again is acknowledged. There is a very high level of interest in the classes provided, with some classes been over subscribed.

Kitchen:

Here the prison provides a wide range of training within a production kitchen. This training ranges from elementary cookery with City & Guilds Certificates and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. They hope to get budgeting for a more advance level of training.

Tuck Shop:

The Prison Tuck Shop is a resounding success. It supplies a large array of items for Prisoners to purchase. It also supplies newspapers to allow prisoners to stay in touch with current affairs. The staff can also arrange for special purchases with the permission of the Governor. It is noted by the Committee that the staff working in this area are extremely busy with nearly 360 prisoners looking for the tuck shop on a weekly basis.

Waste Management:

In line with our commitment to environmental issues we provide the best possible training in waste management. We are in the process of introducing HETAC accreditation for this training. We are currently leaders in the implementation of composting techniques and are almost cost neutral in the management of all our other waste. 15 offenders currently work in this area. It is now combined with horticulture and prisoners engaging in a number of City & Guilds Horticulture Courses.

Comparative Visit:

The Committee have not done any comparative visit this year. It is hope to do a visit in the near future.

Facilities Required:

Facilities required is currently under review as part of Castlerea Prison Business Review.

Visiting Committee Administration

The grade of Clerk has been replaced by that of PASO 3 for Visiting Committee administration purpose.

Conclusion:

The committee was very concerned in relation to the staffing levels in Castlerea Prison (as outlined above). Once again this year the members of the committee feel that Castlerea is a very well run prison with very professional and courteous staff. The committee would like to acknowledge the courtesy and help extended to them by the Governor and Staff over the last year.

Visiting Committee Members
Annual Report Castlerea 2012

MR M NEVIN ____________________________

MR M DALY ____________________________

MR E BRADY ____________________________

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Bhaill Choiste Cuairte an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh 2012

Réamhrá:

Bhuail an Coiste le chéile gach mí ar an gcéad Déardaoin den mhí. Bhí tinreamh maith ag gach cruinniú. Thug dhá bhall foirne ón gcoiste a ainmníodh cuairteanna ar an bpríosún gach mí. Rinne siad turais mhionsonraithe agus chuimsitheacha ar an bpríosún.

Leibhéil Soláthair Foirne:

Suas go dtí deireadh mhí na Samhna bhí 211 ball foirne ann, easnamh 7 ón méid a theastaíonn.

Scor Baill Foirne:

Tá laghdú mór tagtha ar an méid daoine a d'éirigh as. Guímid gach rath ar na baill foirne go léir a aistríodh go dtí príosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh.

Iarrachtaí ar Fhéinmharú:

Rinneadh líon beag iarrachtaí neamh-thromchúiseacha ar fhéinmharú in 2012. Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste a bhuíochas a ghabháil leis an bhfoireann a bhí bainteach sna hiarrachtaí a rinne na príosúnaigh faoi choimeád ar fhéinmharú agus tá a fhios againn trí bheith ag labhairt leis na ciontóirí sin go bhfuil siad buíoch do na baill foirne lenar bhain.

Príosúnaigh os comhair an choiste

Chomh maith leis na ciontóirí ar bhuail an coiste leo le linn a gcuairteanna ar an bpríosún rinneadh roinnt iarratas i scríbhinn agus d'iarr roinnt ciontóirí bualadh leis an gcoiste ar fad. Pléadh gach cás go mion agus rinneadh an beart ábhartha. Is comhartha é an líon beag ciontóirí a dhéanann iarratas chun bualadh leis an gcoiste ar chomh maith is atá an príosún á reáchtáil.

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Máinliacht:

Freastalaíonn an dochtúir ginearálta áitiúil ón Luan go dtí an Satharn agus am ar bith eile nuair a ghlaoitear chun an phríosúin air. Tugtar leibhéal cúraim den scoth do phríosúnaigh i bpríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh, tá a fhios ag an gCoiste go bhfuil a lán brú bhreise ar an bhfoireann sa réimse sin i ngeall ar an méadú ar an líon príosúnach atá faoi choimeád, leis na seirbhísí ar fad atá ar fáil do dhaoine faoi choimeád .i. fiaclóir srl. Tá oiliúint na Croise Deirge á cur i bhfeidhm ag an gCoiste Gairmoideachais, an Rannóg Oideachais agus Cúram Sláinte. Tá 26 príosúnach

rannpháirteach san oiliúint faoi láthair. Beidh siad cáilithe i mí an Mheithimh. Beidh an oiliúint leanúnach.

Séiplíneacht:

Leanann an séiplíneach tuata Margaret Connaughton den obair iontach a dhéanann sí i bpríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh trína gcomhordaíonn sí aifreann leis an Sagart Paróiste áitiúil agus le riachtanais ar bith de chuid na sainaicmí creidimh. Déanann sí obair iontach chomh maith maidir le déileáil le méala teaghlaigh na gciontóirí, agus ba mhaith leis an gcoiste buíochas a ghabháil léi as an tasc an-deacair sin a dhéanamh go gairmiúil.

Réimse na Scoile:

Tugtar aitheantas don obair a dhéantar i réimse na scoile arís. Tá leibhéal ard suime sna ranganna atá ar fáil agus tá barraíocht cláraithe ar chuid de na ranganna.

An Chistin:

Cuirtear raon leathan oiliúna anseo sa phríosún laistigh de chistin táirgthe. Is é an cineál oiliúna atá i gceist cócaireacht bhunúsach le Teastais City & Guilds agus Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann. Tá súil acu buiséad le haghaidh leibhéal oiliúna níos airde a fháil.

An Siopa Milseán:

Táthar ag éirí go han-mhaith ar fad le Siopa Milseán an Phríosúin. Tá raon mór míreanna ar fáil ann do Phríosúnaigh lena gceannach. Cuirtear páipéir nuachta ar fáil ann chomh maith le deis a thabhairt do phríosúnaigh léamh faoi chúrsaí reatha. Is féidir leis an bhfoireann ceannacháin speisialta a eagrú le cead ón nGobharnóir. Tugtar faoi deara go bhfuil an Coiste agus na baill foirne atá ag obair sa réimse seo an-ghnóthach agus an siopa milseán á lorg ag thart ar 360 príosúnach gach seachtain.

Bainistíocht Dramhaíola:

Ar aon dul lenár dtiomantas do cheisteanna comhshaoil cuirimid an oiliúint is fearr is féidir ar fáil i mbainistíocht dramhaíola. Tá creidiúnú HETAC á thabhairt isteach againn faoi láthair maidir leis an oiliúint seo. Is ceannairí muid faoi láthair ar chur i bhfeidhm teicníochtaí múirínithe agus táimid beagnach neodrach ó thaobh costais de i mbainistíocht ár ndramhaíola eile ar fad. Tá 15 chiontóir ag obair sa réimse seo faoi láthair. Tá sé comhcheangailte anois le gairneoireacht agus tá príosúnaigh rannpháirteach i roinnt Cúrsaí Gairneoireachta City & Guilds.

Cuairt Chomparáideacha:

Níor thug an Coiste cuairt chomparáideach ar bith ar an bpríosún i mbliana. Táthar ag súil cuairt a thabhairt gan mhoill.

Saoráidí a Theastaíonn

Tá athbhreithniú á dhéanamh ar na saoráidí a theastaíonn faoi láthair mar cuid d'Athbhreithniú gnó Phríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh.

Riarachán an Choiste Cuairte

Cuireadh PASO 3 in aonad ghrád an Chléirigh chun críche riarachán an Choiste Cuairte.

Conclúid:

Bhí an coiste an-imníoch maidir leis na leibhéil soláthair foirne i bPríosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh (mar a sonraíodh thuas). Arís i mbliana mothaíonn baill an choiste gur príosún é Príosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh atá á reáchtáil go maith agus ina bhfuil foireann an-ghairmiúil agus an-chúirtéiseach. Ba mhaith leis an gcoiste buíochas a ghabháil leis an nGobharnóir agus leis an bhFhoireann as an gcúirtéis agus as an gcuidiú a thug siad díobh le bliain anuas.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Bhaill Choiste Cuairte an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh 2012

AN tUASAL M NEVIN

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AN tUASAL M DALY

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AN tUASAL E BRADY

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