

# Mountjoy Prison Annual Report

**2012**

To the Minister for Justice

Compiled and written by the Mountjoy Prison Visiting Committee.

# Mountjoy.

***The Visiting Committee are pleased to submit the annual report for 2012.***

We start this report on a positive note, with renovations to Mountjoy continuing on a phased basis. As we write this 'B' wing has opened and the depressing 'A' wing is now closed for complete refurbishment. This just leaves 'D' wing for refurbishment in the main prison when 'A' is finished. Hopefully this will commence in 2013. We must compliment prison management on the opening of 'A' wing which is, in short, comfortable, bright, warm, single cell accommodation. When 'D' wing is refurbished, it would mean the end of slopping out in Mountjoy-----a historical moment we will all welcome. Indeed the improvements in the prison for the last 24 months have been quite substantial. Many of the improvements the committee recommended over the last 6 or 7 years, are being attended to and we are promised many more over the next 12 months. A number of these are contained within this report.

We are hopeful that new workshops, classrooms and gym facilities can be built around the main prison, to increase the numbers taking part in education, skills and healthy exercise. Members of the committee have identified areas where this is possible, in line with previous reports, where it was felt there is considerable space to expand. From our observations, 'A' yard is too large as a recreational space and could be downsized to build workshops. From the end of 'A' wing, on top of the existing single storey building, two levels could be added. This is only a small amount of the possibilities for achieving growth in these areas. In 2013 all concerned need to look outside the box in this regard, to enhance training and rehabilitation. 'D' yard is also too big and could be utilised for expansion. Mountjoy could be transformed into a state of the art training facility, assisting in fulfilling its rehabilitative role.

Rehabilitation is a tough and emotional trek along the road of change and improvement. Education is not just important, but a basic human right, hopefully leading to skills and qualifications, enabling

people to have a better opportunity for employment on release. Unfortunately denial of internet access is limiting to those requiring, or interested in distance interactive learning, particularly higher education. In other jurisdictions interactive online learning with secure internet access is constantly improving. In 2013 we will have a look at a programme called 'Virtual Campus' operating in most prisons in England and try to ascertain its benefits and see if it can be recommended here.

It is important to remember, for everyone, that prison is meant to remove the offender from the public, thereby protecting the public. However there is little to be gained from this protection if all we are doing is warehousing prisoners with no rehabilitation. That leads to releasing prisoners with the possibility of either no change in, or an even more hardline attitude. We also believe that there should be compulsory classes, or talks on the effects of offending behaviour. Because someone is sent to prison does not relieve us of the necessity of recognising the benefits of education, and the obligation for the provision of that which is available to the general public.

### **Education.**

Education has the power to enrich, change and develop people throughout their lives, and prisoners are certainly no exception in this regard. Offering prisoners access to education improves their self esteem and enables them to choose a more constructive and fulfilling way of life, making it less likely that they will re-offend and hopefully contribute positively to society. In general terms, emphasis is placed on teaching the core subjects and encouraging awareness of the basic social skills.

Educational services are provided in partnership with a range of agencies including Vocational Education Committees, Public Library Services, Open University and the Arts Council. Staff allocation is provided by the Dept of Education and Skills. As a minimum, staff levels must be maintained. However, the allocation of additional staff can only bring benefits to the prison education system.

Currently there are Literacy classes organised in small groups, and for those with particular difficulties, on a one to one basis. 'Toe to Toe' is a one to one literacy scheme, where prisoners teach other prisoners to read. Mentors will learn and develop skills in helping and supporting others. Certification is attainable for both learners and mentors

Numeracy classes provide the basics of mathematics, ensuring confidence in dealing with numbers thereby enhancing ability to deal with everyday number tasks.

While Junior and Leaving cert courses are available, courses generally follow an adult education approach, resembling Adult Education programmes outside prison. Programmes are adapted to take account of the range of the prisoner population and the complex nature of prison life. A portfolio for each participating prisoner is kept, with assessments entered by teaching staff and by FETAC. These assessments are based on students commitment, performance and quality of work.

Visits to the Education centre by the Visiting Committee, observed at first hand, classes in progress—inviting feedback from teachers and students. This interaction has confirmed the belief that more needs to be done and more students need to become involved in a successful enterprise.

Future plans for the Education Centre are as follows:

1. Improved admittance for all by:
  - holding monthly meetings with the Governor.
  - introducing different timetable options.
  - implementing Incentivised Regimes initiative.
  - working closely with the Integrated Sentence Management Team
2. Continued curriculum development, including,
  - Establishing an Open Learning Centre in the school
  - Provision of blended learning for basic learners
  - Continueing extra-curricular activities (drama, debates, concerts)
  - Literary assessment applied to all students.
3. Extending certification to all students for relevant courses.
4. Improving communications generally by:

- Individual review meetings
- active participation in multi-agency activities
- regular meetings with prison management
- regular meetings with CDVEC representatives

5. Evaluating and monitoring the work and operation of the Education Centre throughout the year by management.

It is pleasing to report that the newly introduced teaching programmes for those on this type of regime, introduced by management of the prison and Education Centre, are a beginning towards what will be enlarged and standard in the future. Education can awaken positive potential in students and make them aware of new possibilities and the wastefulness of a life committed to crime. It may afford the opportunity to avoid the pitfalls and difficulties that have dominated their lives. This provides positive outcomes for both prisoners and society.

Courses and programmes can be broadly categorised as follows:

- (a) Basic Education,
- (b) Creative Arts,
- (c) Technology,
- (d) General Subjects,
- (e) Life Skills,
- (f) Healthy Living

The purpose of education within the prison system can be classified under three main heading as follows:

- (a) To support prisoners to engage in rehabilitation through learning. This can be best be best achieved by providing access to a broad range of internal and distance learning opportunities and related services, to enable prisoners to lead more fulfilling lives and to contribute positively to society,
- (b) To focus on the needs of those prisoners who choose to be come involved in educational programmes while serving their sentences,
- (c) To work to influence policy and practice to that education

provision for prisoners becomes more effective; thus enabling prisoner learner voice to be heard.

The Education Centre provides tuition in a wide variety of subjects. Members of the Visiting Committee have visited this centre on a very regular basis throughout the year and have observed at first hand classes in progress – inviting feed-back for teachers and students.

Plans for the Education Centre for this academic year include: -

The key task of educators working with prisoners is to strive to make education within prisons resemble the kind of adult education outside prison. In other words, education in prison is of value in itself, whatever the purposes of the prison system.

However, recognition must also be given to the prison context in which this adult education takes place. Deprivation of freedom causes suffering and a deterioration of personality, and education can play an important part in limiting this damage. In fact, the harmful effects of imprisonment are such to justify extra resources and efforts being made to provide education within prisons, compared to society outside prison. Genuine adult education can help normalise, in some measure, the abnormal situation of imprisonment.

While it is appropriate that educators must make their primary objectives from within their own profession, it is important to recognise that there need be no fundamental contradiction between educational objectives and those of the prison system as a whole.

The Visiting Committee is happy to report that the recently introduced teaching programmes for prisoners who are subject to close restricted supervision are a clear indication of the co-operation between the Education Centre and prison management.

Education in prison is sometimes seen as a means towards socialisation or re-socialisation. This can be seen as a valid objective, provided it is not taken to mean imposing behaviour on people.

Genuine education must respect the integrity and freedom of choice of the student. However, education can awaken positive potential in

students and make them aware of new possibilities and can facilitate choosing a new path and turning away from crime. This can only bring benefits to society in the long term.

### **Library Services**

The Library Service in Mountjoy Prison has seen much change during the course of the year, in both operational procedures and logistics. The main library administration office has been re-located to newly refurbished accommodation adjacent to the main prison. Initially, this process identified a number of logistical difficulties regarding the delivery and transfer of books and periodicals. However, resulting from consultations between library staff and prison management, difficulties identified are being dealt with in order of priority.

The provision of a proper functioning library service is an integral part of a process that assists study and self-learning, and will prove beneficial in providing prisoners with a forum for educational and social interaction.

The appointment of trustee prisoners to operate library facilities within the prison has resulted in increased opening hours and demand for services. New operational procedures now in place have seen library services provided in two central locations (a) Main Prison and (b) Medical Unit/Separation Unit. Library staff visit each location on a weekly basis and liaise with the relevant library assistant. The appointed trustee library assistants are interested and competent and ensure that library services are provided to all prisoners in accordance with best practice.

### **Main Library**

Visits to the main library have increased significantly since the allocation of a trustee library assistant. After this appointment visits to the library increased significantly. This increased demand for services is helped, in the main, by improved and consistent opening hours and the trustee involvement.

### **Medical Unit/Separation Unit**

Resulting from a review of the provision of library services within the prison there is now a centralised facility to cover the Medical Unit/Separation Unit. Although located in a smaller room within the main Medical Unit building it is recognised by all concerned as being more functional, thus providing a more beneficial library service. A trustee assistant has been put in charge of the library. Library staff members visit him on a weekly basis to answer questions and lend support, as well as deliver books. It is expected that, as in the main prison, book requests will increase greatly in the coming months, which will be a good indicator of how usage has increased. Because the space is very limited regular delivery of books from the main administration office will be necessary. This task will be carried out mainly by library staff, however, on occasions assistance from prison staff may be necessary.

### **Budget**

The Visiting Committee is happy to report that additional funding was granted to the prison library service during November. The new books purchased will be a useful addition to stock, especially in the event of possible budget cuts. At present levels the budget allocation falls short of the amount needed to run an adequate library service. Librarians constantly review the stock in all prison libraries to make additions and to set aside out-of-date items on a regular basis and to keep collections as relevant and modern as possible.

### **Donations**

Great success has been achieved in collecting donated books this year from various sources. During the course of the year a significant number of books were donated to the library by prison staff. With an increased number of nationalities in the prison population it would be a useful exercise, for library staff to approach embassies and consulates to request donations in the future. This has proved to be very successful with the Dutch Embassy in the recent past. Dublin City Public Libraries also have provided the prison library service with donated stock by transfer from some of its branches.



## **Physical Education**

Sport has long been recognised as an effective incentive, or a way of increasing motivation among those who might otherwise be reluctant to participate in other activities. Although most of the attention in this area focuses on the positive use of sport in a community context, sport also has a role to play in prison settings. Carefully planned and skillfully delivered sports-based activities can be an especially effective way to reduce violent incidences, improve relationships between staff and prisoners, identify re-settlement needs, and ultimately create opportunities for individuals to move away from crime following their release from prison.

Many prisoners shy away from involvement in academic studies while serving their sentences. In this regard sport can be a useful activity to engage prisoners who could be termed reluctant learners. By engaging in areas they enjoy, prisoners allow themselves to become involved in the learning process in a comfortable environment.

## **Gyms**

The gyms within the prison are the main outlets for sporting involvement and continue to be well supported. Carefully supervised by qualified staff the prison gyms provide well-equipped centres for physical training programmes. When visited by members of the Visiting Committee throughout the year they were always functioning to the maximum capacity. The need for extra space is evident from the substantial numbers on waiting lists and requests to the committee for inclusion.

Previous reports by the Visiting Committee outlined that the gym in 'D' Wing was due for renovation, however, this has not taken place. The Committee is of the view that this project should commence at the earliest opportunity.

The Committee is happy to report that measures in place for the maintenance and repair of gym equipment are firmly in place with no difficulties highlighted.

A welcome addition to the physical educational programmes within the prison is the provision of carefully structured circuit training courses, which are held in 'A' Wing gym; 'D' Wing gym and the Auditorium, respectively. In simple terms, circuit training is a highly effective and adaptable method of improving strength, endurance and aerobic capacity. This new initiative has been well received within the prison.

### **Outdoor Sports**

Notwithstanding that the maintenance of good order and harmony within the prison are primary objectives it has come to the notice of the Visiting Committee that there are very few opportunities for participation in outdoor sports, particularly during the summer months. The Committee is of the view that facilities for playing soccer and basketball could easily be put in place, thus encouraging team spirit and responsibility. Prison management should seek to encourage sports organisations to offer support in developing relevant sports programmes.

Prison recreation programmes offer numerous benefits to inmates and staff alike. They occupy inmates, giving them much needed mental, physical and emotional release. Sport, in particular, can reduce tension and stress while promoting good health and well-being. The values and benefits of physical education and sports activities in prison cannot be overstated.

There is no doubt that the demand from prisoners for involvement in physical education programmes is as strong as ever, and very likely to increase going forward. With this in mind, the Visiting Committee is of the view that there is scope for further recreational and sporting programmes to be put in place, and recommends that a detailed survey should be conducted within the prison to identify suitable locations for new sports facilities, in particular, additional gym capacity.

## **Toastmasters**

The establishment of a branch of Toastmasters in the prison is welcomed by the Visiting Committee. Organised in accordance with the rules and regulations of Toastmasters International it helps participants improve communication, public speaking and leadership skills.

Adopting a “learn-by-doing” philosophy, it allows each participant learn at a pace suitable to his or her developments needs. Having attended some of the meetings, the Visiting Committee welcomes the interest and participation level shown by the prisoners involved in this project. It is hoped that the number of participants will increase over the coming months.

In particular, the Visiting Committee would like to commend the volunteers from Toastmaster, Dublin who have given their time and expertise in getting this new initiative established, in conjunction with the relevant prison staff.

## **Community Return Scheme:**

We are aware of the interest shown in this by prisoners and in general we support it. To date we have had very little time to engage with the details and how it will affect prisoners. During 2013 we expect many enquiries about the scheme.

## **Integrated Sentence Management:**

Early in March ISM staff briefed the V.C meeting on their work and in particular how the various segments of the plan intertwine with the various departments within the prison. Members of the VC have kept up communication with ISM team and also with prisoners, on their involvement and the opportunities the plan has to offer. The committee is of the opinion that ISM has the potential to contribute a great deal to enable prisoners to use their time constructively,

thereby facilitating re-integration to society on conclusion of their sentence. It is a conduit through which the various services and agencies such as, Probation, Social, Work and Training can be coordinated and tailored to meet the needs of individual prisoners.

We are not satisfied that the current level of staffing makes for an effective coverage required to deal with the large number of prisoners in Mountjoy. We are impressed with the level of dedication to the system by the staff in ISM, and by Gov. Whelan. However we believe an evaluation of staffing levels as well as a root and branch analysis of how the system is working is needed. How effective the system is operating is difficult for us to determine as the recording of the total operation is not readily available in-house.. A summary would be useful at local prison level. We will keep in contact with ISM throughout the coming year so we can address the many questions and concerns we receive on the subject.

### **Chaplains:**

During the course of the year we received far too many complaints about the availability of Chaplains in the prison, particularly as Chaplain contracts came to an end they were not being replaced. We are aware that Chaplains fill a unique niche in the spectrum of services available to prisoners. They provide a facility that is confidential and outside other bureaucratic channels and quite often an important link between prisoners and their families. The Chairman has had phone conversations and a meeting with the Bishop in charge of Chaplain allocation, local prison management and with IPS Directorate. Apart from some people providing limited part time voluntary service, there is no satisfactory solution to the problem as yet. For such an important and essential service we feel it is being treated with little regard for the welfare of prisoners, by those with the ability to solve the problem.

**Kitchens:**

It is a function of the committee to visit and inspect the kitchens and other food preparation areas of the prison. Our inspections have confirmed the status of the kitchens in Mountjoy as: hygiene at an excellent level, well run, food prepared to a high standard, providing varied and nourishing food for all. While we get comments and complaints from time to time we find generally there is no real basis for dissatisfaction. Emphasis is placed on the maintenance of a healthy dietary plan. It can be understood that not all preferred food choices can be met.

Special diets are prepared only on the advice of the Medical staff and there were some complaints in this area during the year and were efficiently dealt with. We find the Kitchen staff very efficient and always willing to do whatever is reasonable to facilitate requests. Any issues we had were of a very minor nature. Our commendations to the Management and staff of the Kitchen.

**Bakery:**

Up to 1000 loaves are baked here every day along with scones, providing the requirements of Dublin Prisons. The bakery is in a very small congested area and suffers from lack of proper ventilation. In spite of this the area is kept very clean and tidy, with an excellent working atmosphere between staff and prisoners. Some prisoners undertake courses in Baking. Transfer of prisoners attending this course should be avoided if at all possible as it almost certainly means the course cannot then be completed.

The Kitchen in the Medical unit, though much smaller was equally clean and efficient. It provides up to 150 meals and includes a number on special diets. No complaints from prisoners in this area. Only on rare occasions throughout the year did we receive complaints about food and were mostly regarding special dietary requirements.

It is important to point out the excellent working relationships that we know exists between staff and prisoners in the various workshops, schools, gyms, concrete yard and all areas where meaningful tasks are being performed. This we believe is what happens in a rehabilitative environment, getting people to act and behave normally and being treated as such, leads to learning the importance of maintaining relationships and improving outlook on behaviour.

In this regard we need to look at how prisoners are dealt with on P19 forms, and the reliance on this form of punishment as a first resort in all cases. Our initial discussions with Gov. Whelan on this, has meant some changes, which we welcome, but we need to advance this issue much further and will follow this up more closely in 2013. Consideration has to be given to the frustrations of prisoners locked up for 23 hours and too often in excess of 23 hours. A prisoner locked up like this doing his daily toilet in a little pan with often only one opportunity to empty it, is in the very least inhumane and must end in 2013. Also there are no facilities for prisoners to toilet in the recreation yards and they must be allowed to return inside. Shelters should be provided, so prisoners can protect themselves from inclement weather, or be returned to landings. More will have to be done also to protect prisoners from intimidation and offensive acts by other prisoners.

### **Cemetery Area:**

The staff and prisoners refurbished the area which was previously a gravesite of the Irish Volunteers hanged in Mountjoy, now interred in Glasnevin and one in Ballylanders. The stonework was made in Mountjoy and the flowers came from another prison. All the work was carried out with an emphasis on engagement by prisoners and prison staff. It is hoped it will be finished early in 2013. It should be noted that there is still a grave in the area. We thank Gov. Whelan for allowing this work to progress and his invaluable assistance in providing all required to progress the work. Every effort is being

made to ensure involvement by those connected to the prison and in particular by relevance to the gravesite.

We offer our condolences to the families, relatives and friends of those who died in custody during the year. May They Rest In Peace .

We offer our condolences to the families,relatives and friends of the staff members of Mountjoy who died during the year. May They They Rest in Peace.

We will have a special Mass said for the deceased in early 2013.

Veronica Dalton

Liam Hogan

Joe Ahern

Pat Mc Gee ( Vice Chairman)

Stephen Langton ( Chairman)



# Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Phríosún Mhuinseo

2012

Curtha faoi bhráid an Aire Dlí agus Cirt

Arna tiomsú agus arna scríobh ag Coiste Cuairte Phríosún Mhuinseo

**Príosún Mhuinseo.**

Tugann sé pléisiúr don Choiste Cuairte an tuarascáil bhliantúil do 2012 a chur isteach.

Tosaímid an tuarascáil seo ar phointe dearfach, agus athchóirithe ar Phríosún Mhuinseo ag leanúint ar aghaidh de réir a chéile. Agus é seo á scríobh againn, tá sciathán 'B' i ndiaidh oscailt agus tá sciathán 'A', a bhfuil cuma ghruama air, druidte lena athchóiriú iomlán. Ní fhágfaidh sé seo ach sciathán 'D' lena athchóiriú sa phríomhphríosún nuair a bheidh sciathán 'A' curtha i gcrích. Táthar dóchasach go gcuirfear tús leis seo i 2013. Ní mór dúinn bainisteoireacht an phríosúin a mholadh as oscailt sciathán 'A', arb éard atá ann i mbeagán focal ná cóiríocht chompordach, gheal, the, cillín aonair. Agus sciathán 'D' athchóirithe, chiallódh sé go mbeadh deireadh le folmhú na bhfualán i bPríosún Mhuinseo, rud a gcuirfimid go léir fáilte roimhe. Go deimhin, is an-suntasach atá na feabhsúcháin sa phríosún le 24 mí anuas. Tá an-chuid de na feabhsúcháin a mhol an coiste le 6 bliana nó 7 mbliana anuas á ndéanamh agus gealltar roinnt mhaith eile dúinn sa 12 mhí romhainn. Tá cuid díobh seo laistigh den tuarascáil seo.

Tá dóchas againn gur féidir ceardlanna, seomraí ranga agus áiseanna spórtlainne nua a thógáil timpeall an phríomhphríosúin, chun méadú a chur ar an líon daoine atá ag glacadh páirte in oideachas, i scileanna agus in aclaíocht fholláin. Shainaithe baill den choiste limistéir ina bhfuil sé seo féideartha, i gcomhréir le tuarascálacha roimhe, mar ar measadh go bhfuil spás suntasach le haghaidh forbartha. Ónar mbreathnóireachtaí, tá clós 'A' rómhór mar spás caitheamh aimsire agus d'fhéadfaí é a laghdú chun ceardlanna a thógáil. Ó fhoirceann sciathán 'A', ar bharr an fhoirgnimh aonstóir atá ann cheana, d'fhéadfaí dhá leibhéal a chur leis. Níl anseo ach méid beag de na féidearthachtaí le haghaidh fás a bhaint amach sna limistéir seo. I 2013, ní mór do gach duine lena mbaineann smaoineamh go cruthaitheach ina leith seo, chun oiliúint agus athshlánú a fheabhsú. Tá

clós 'D' rómhór freisin agus d'fhéadfaí é a úsáid le haghaidh forbartha. D'fhéadfaí Príosún Mhuinseo a bhunathrú go saoráid oiliúna úrscothach a chabhródh lena ról athshlánaithe a chomhlíonadh.

Is éard atá in athshlánú ná turas deacair agus mothúchánach feadh an bhealaigh go hathrú agus go feabhsú. Ní amháin go bhfuil oideachas tábhachtach, is ceart bunúsach duine é, agus táthar ag súil leis go dtiocfaidh scileanna agus cáilíochtaí as, rud a chuirfidh ar chumas daoine deis níos fearr le haghaidh fostaíochta a bheith acu ar a scaoileadh. Ar an drochuair, tá diúltú na rochtana Idirlín ina bhac orthu siúd a bhfuil spéis acu i gcianfhoghlaim idirghníomhach, agus in ardoideachas go háirithe, nó a bhfuil cianfhoghlaim idirghníomhach ag teastáil uathu. I ndlínsí eile, bíonn foghlaim idirghníomhach ar líne le rochtain shlán Idirlín ag feabhsú i gcónaí. I 2013, breathnóimid ar chlár darb ainm 'Virtual Campus' atá i bhfeidhm i bhformhór na bpríosún i Sasana agus féachfaimid lena bhuntáistí a fhionnadh agus le fáil amach an féidir é a mholadh anseo.

Tá sé tábhachtach do gach duine a chuimhneamh go bhfuil sé ceaptha do phríosún an ciontóir a bhaint ón bpobal, rud a chosnaíonn an pobal. Mar sin féin, níl mórán le gnóthú ón gcosaint seo mura bhfuil á dhéanamh againn ach príosúnaigh a stóráil gan aon athshlánú. Ní thagann as seo ach príosúnaigh atá á scaoileadh leis an bhféidearthacht nach bhfuil aon athrú orthu nó a bhfuil dearcadh níos doichte acu fiú. Creidimid freisin gur cheart ranganna éigeantacha nó cainteanna faoi na héifeachtaí atá ag iompar ciontaithe a bheith ann. Cé go gcuirtear duine chun príosúin, ní scaoileann sé sinn ó bhuntáistí an oideachais a aithint, ná ón oibleagáid atá orainn a bhfuil ar fáil don phobal i gcoitinne a sholáthar.

Oideachas.

Tá an chumhacht ag oideachas daoine a shaibhriú, a athrú agus a

fhorbairt ar fud a saoil, agus is cinnte nach bhfuil príosúnaigh ina n-eisceacht ina leith seo. Má thairgtear rochtain ar oideachas do phríosúnaigh, feabhsófar a bhféinmheas agus cuirfear ar a gcumas slí bheatha níos éifeachtaí agus níos comhlíontaí a roghnú, rud a laghdóidh an fhéidearthacht go n-athchiontóidh siad agus táthar dóchasach go gcuirfidh siad leis an tsochaí ar bhealach dearfach. Go ginearálta, leagtar béim ar na croí-ábhair a theagasc agus feasacht ar na bunscileanna sóisialta a spreagadh.

Cuirtear seirbhísí oideachais ar fáil i gcomhar le raon gníomhaireachtaí, lena n-áirítear Coistí Gairmoideachais, Seirbhísí Leabharlainne Poiblí, an Ollscoil Oscailte agus an Chomhairle Ealaíon. Soláthraíonn an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna an leithdháileadh foirne. Ar a laghad, ní mór leibhéil foirne a choinneáil. Mar sin féin, ní féidir leis an leithdháileadh foirne breise ach buntáistí amháin a thabhairt do chóras oideachais an phríosúin.

Faoi láthair, tá ranganna Litearthachta a eagraítear i ngrúpaí beaga, agus dóibh siúd a bhfuil deacrachtaí ar leith acu, ar bhonn duine le duine. Is scéim litearthachta duine le duine í 'Toe to Toe', ina dteagascann príosúnaigh conas léamh do phríosúnaigh eile. Déanfaidh meantóirí scileanna i gcabhrú agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do dhaoine eile a fhoghlaim agus a fhorbairt. Is féidir le foghlaimeoirí agus meantóirí araon teastasú a ghnóthú.

Soláthraíonn ranganna Uimhearthachta buntús na matamaitice, rud a chinntíonn muinín as déileáil le huimhreacha agus feabhsaítear an cumas le déileáil le tascanna laethúla uimhris tríd sin.

Cé go bhfuil cúrsaí an Teastais Shóisearaigh agus na hArdteistiméireachta ar fáil, leanann cúrsaí cur chuige oideachais aosach de ghnáth, atá cosúil le cláir Oideachais Aosach lasmuigh de phríosún. Oiriúnaítear cláir chun raon an phobail phríosúnach agus

cinéal casta an tsaoil phríosúin a chur san áireamh. Coinnítear punann do gach príosúnach rannpháirteach, agus iontrálann foireann teagaisc agus FETAC measúnuithe. Tá na measúnuithe seo bunaithe ar thiomantas, fheidhmíocht agus chaighdeán oibre na ndaltaí.

I gcuairteanna a thug an Coiste Cuairte ar an ionad Oideachais, breathnaíodh ar an láthair ar ranganna ar siúl – agus iarradh ar mhúinteoirí agus ar dhaltaí aiseolas a thabhairt. Dheimhnigh an idirghníomhaíocht seo an tuairim láidir nach mór tuilleadh a dhéanamh agus nach mór do thuilleadh daltaí a bheith páirteach i bhfiontar rathúil.

Is mar seo a leanas atá pleananna amach anseo don Ionad Oideachais:

1. Iontráil bhreistithe do chách trí bhíthin:

- cruinnithe míosúla a reáchtáil leis an nGobharnóir.
- roghanna éagsúla amchláir a thabhairt isteach.
- an tionscnamh Réime Dreasaithe a chur chun feidhme.
- obair go dlúth leis an bhFoireann Bainistíochta Pianbhreithe Comhtháite.

2. Forbairt leantach an churaclaim, lena n-áirítear

- Ionad Foghlama Oscailte a bhunú sa scoil
- Foghlaim chumaisc a sholáthar do bhunfhoghlaimoírí
- Leanúint le gníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim (drámaíocht, díospóireachtaí, ceolchoirmeacha)
- Measúnú litearthachta a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le gach dalta.

3. Teastasú a leathnú do gach dalta i gcomhair cúrsaí ábhartha.

4. Cumarsáid a fheabhsú go ginearálta trí bhíthin:

- cruinnithe athbhreithnithe duine aonair
- rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach i ngníomhaíochtaí ilghníomhaireachta
- cruinnithe rialta le bainisteoireacht an phríosúin
- cruinnithe rialta le hionadaithe Choiste Gairmoideachais

#### Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath

5. Measúnacht agus monatóireacht arna ndéanamh ag bainisteoireacht ar obair agus ar oibriú an Ionaid Oideachais ar fud na bliana.

Is cúis sásaimh a thuairisciú gur tús iad na cláir theagaisc arna dtabhairt isteach le déanaí dóibh siúd atá ar an gcineál seo réime, arna thabhairt isteach ag bainisteoireacht an phríosúin agus an Ionaid Oideachais, i dtreo ní a bheidh méadaithe agus caighdeánach sa todhchaí.

Is féidir le hoideachas cumas dearfach a mhúscailt i ndaltaí agus eolas a thabhairt dóibh faoi fhéidearthachtaí nua agus faoin gcaifeacht a ghabhann le saol tiomanta do choireacht. D'fhéadfadh sé an deis a thabhairt dóibh na slogairí agus na deacrachtaí a bhí chomh mór sin ina saol a sheachaint. Soláthraíonn sé seo torthaí dearfacha do phríosúnaigh agus don tsochaí araon.

Is féidir cúrsaí agus cláir a chatagóiriú go leathan mar seo a leanas:

- (a) Bunoideachas,
- (b) Ealaíona  
Cruthaitheacha,
- (c) Teicneolaíocht,

- (d) Ábhair  
Ghinearálta,
- (e) Scileanna Saoil,
- (f) Maireachtáil  
Fholláin

Is féidir cuspóir an oideachais laistigh de chóras na bpríosún a rangú faoi thrí phríomh-cheannteideal mar seo a leanas:

(a) Chun tacú le príosúnaigh páirt a ghlacadh in athshlánú trí fhoghlaim. Is í an dóigh is fearr leis seo a bhaint amach ná trí rochtain ar raon leathan deiseanna foghlama inmheánaí agus cianfhoghlama agus seirbhísí lena mbaineann a sholáthar, chun cur ar chumas na bpríosúnach saol níos comhlíontaí a bheith acu agus cur leis an tsochaí ar bhealach dearfach,

(b) Chun díriú ar riachtanais na bpríosúnach sin a roghnaíonn páirt a ghlacadh i gcláir oideachais le linn dóibh a bpianbhreith a chaitheamh,

(c) Chun oibriú le tionchar a imirt ar bheartas agus ar chleachtas le go mbeidh soláthar oideachais do phríosúnaigh níos éifeachtaí, rud a chuirfidh ar chumas an fhoghlaimora príosúnaigh a thuairim a chur in iúl.

Soláthraíonn an tIonad Oideachais teagasc i raon leathan ábhar. Thug baill den Choiste Cuairte cuairt ar an ionad seo ar bhonn an-rialta ar fud na bliana agus bhreathnaigh sé ar an láthair ar ranganna ar siúl – agus d'iarr sé ar mhúinteoirí agus ar dhaltaí aiseolas a thabhairt. Áirítear na nithe seo a leanas le pleananna don Ionad Oideachais don bhliain acadúil seo: -

Is é an príomhthasc atá ag teagascóirí a oibríonn le príosúnaigh ná a

ndícheall a dhéanamh chun oideachas laistigh de phríosúin a dhéanamh cosúil leis an gcineál oideachais aosach lasmuigh de phríosúin. Is é sin le rá, baineann luach le hoideachas i bpríosún é féin, beag beann ar chuspóirí chóras na bpríosún.

Ní mór aitheantas a thabhairt, áfach, don chomhthéacs príosúin ina dtarlaíonn an t-oideachas aosach seo. Tá cailleadh saoirse ina chúis le fulaingt agus le meath pearsantachta, agus is féidir le hoideachas páirt lárnach a imirt sa damáiste seo a theorannú. Dáiríre, is amhlaidh éifeachtaí dochracha atá ar phríosúnaigh go dtugtar údar le hacmhainní breise agus le hiarrachtaí á ndéanamh ar oideachas a chur ar fáil laistigh de phríosúin, i gcomparáid leis an tsochaí lasmuigh de phríosún. Is féidir le hoideachas aosach ceart cabhrú le cás mínormálta na príosúnachta a normalú go pointe éigin.

Cé go bhfuil sé iomchuí nach mór do theagascóirí a bpríomhchuspóirí a dhéanamh ó laistigh dá ngairm féin, tá sé tábhachtach a aithint nach bhfuil aon bhréagnú foirmiúil idir cuspóirí oideachais agus cuspóirí chóras na bpríosún ina iomláine. Tá áthas ar an gCoiste Cuairte a rá gurb éard atá sna cláir theagaisc a tugadh isteach le déanaí do phríosúnaigh atá faoi réir dlúthmhaoirseacht shrianta ná comhartha soiléir ar an gcomhar idir an tIonad Oideachais agus bainisteoireacht an phríosúin.

Ceaptar uaireanta go bhfuil oideachas i bpríosún mar mhodh i dtreo sóisialaithe nó athshóisialaithe. Is féidir é seo a mheas mar chuspóir bailí, ar choinníoll nach dtuigtear go gciallaíonn sé iompar a fhorchur ar dhaoine. Ní mór d'oideachas ceart meas a bheith aige ar ionracas agus ar shaoirse roghnaithe an dalta. Mar sin féin, is féidir le hoideachas cumas dearfach a mhúscailt i ndaltaí agus eolas a thabhairt dóibh faoi fhéidearthachtaí nua agus is féidir leis éascú a dhéanamh ar bhealach



nua a roghnú agus ar choireacht a sheachaint. Ní féidir leis seo ach sochair a sholáthair don tsochaí go fadtéarmach.

### Seirbhísí Leabharlainne

Chonacthas an-athrú ar an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne i bPríosún Mhuinseo i rith na bliana maidir le nósanna imeachta oibriúcháin agus lóistíocht araon. Athlonnaíodh príomhoifig riaracháin na leabharlainne go cóiríocht nua-athchóirithe cóngarach don phríomhphríosún. I dtús báire, shainaithin an próiseas seo roinnt deacrachtaí lóistíochta maidir le leabhair agus tréimhseacháin a sheachadadh agus a aistriú. Mar gheall ar chomhairliúcháin idir foireann na leabharlainne agus bainisteoireacht an phríosúin, áfach, tá déileáil á déanamh le deacrachtaí a sainaithníodh de réir tosaíochta.

Tá an soláthar seirbhíse leabharlainne a fheidhmíonn mar is ceart ina chuid lárnach de phróiseas a chabhraíonn le staidéar agus le féinfhoghlaim, agus beidh sé tairbheach maidir le fóram le haghaidh idirghníomhaíocht oideachasúil agus shóisialta a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh.

Tháinig uaireanta oscailte méadaithe agus éileamh méadaithe ar sheirbhísí as an gceapadh príosúnach is iontaobhaithe chun áiseanna leabharlainne a oibriú laistigh den phríosún. Mar gheall ar nósanna imeachta oibriúcháin nua atá i bhfeidhm anois, soláthraítear seirbhísí leabharlainne in dhá shuíomh lárnacha (a) an Príomh-Phríosún agus (b) an tAonad Míochaine/an tAonad Deighilte. Tugann foireann na Leabharlainne cuairt ar gach suíomh ar bhonn seachtainiúil agus déanann sí teagmháil leis an gcúntóir leabharlainne lena mbaineann. Is tairbhiúil agus cumasach atá na cúntóirí leabharlainne is iontaobhaithe

a cheaptar agus cinntíonn siad go soláthraítear seirbhísí leabharlainne do gach príosúnach i gcomhréir le dea-chleachtas.

### An Phríomh-Leabharlann

Mhéadaigh cuairteanna ar an bpríomh-leabharlann go suntasach ó leithdháileadh cúntóir leabharlainne is iontaobhaí. Tar éis an cheapacháin seo, mhéadaigh cuairteanna ar an leabharlann go suntasach. Is iad uaireanta oscailte feabhsaithe comhsheasmhacha agus rannpháirtíocht an iontaobhaí a chabhraíonn leis an méadú feabhsaithe seo ar sheirbhísí den chuid is mó.

### An tAonad Míochaine/an tAonad Deighilte

Mar gheall ar athbhreithniú ar an soláthar seirbhísí leabharlainne laistigh den phríosún, tá saoráid láraithe ann anois chun an tAonad Míochaine/an tAonad Deighilte a chlúdach. Cé go bhfuil sé lonnaithe i seomra níos lú laistigh de phríomhfhoirgneamh an Aonaid Míochaine, aithníonn gach duine lena mbaineann go bhfuil sé níos feidhmiúla, trína soláthraítear seirbhís leabharlainne níos tairbhí.

Cuireadh cúntóir is iontaobhaí i mbun na leabharlainne. Tugann baill foirne na leabharlainne cuairt air ar bhonn seachtainiúil chun ceisteanna a fhreagairt agus tacaíocht a thabhairt, chomh maith le leabhair a sheachadadh. Táthar ag súil go méadóidh iarratais leabhair go mór sna míonna romhainn, faoi mar a tharla sa phríomhphríosún, rud a bheidh ina chomhartha maith ar an dóigh ar tháinig méadú ar úsáid. Ós rud é go bhfuil spás an-teoranta, beidh gá le seachadadh rialta leabhar ón bpríomhoifig riaracháin. Déanfaidh foireann na leabharlainne an tasc seo den chuid is mó. Mar sin féin, d'fhéadfaí go

mbeadh gá le cúnamh ó fhoireann an phríosúin ó am go chéile.

### Buiséad

Tá áthas ar an gCoiste Cuairte a thuairisciú gur deonaíodh maoiniú breise do sheirbhís leabharlainne an phríosúin i rith mhí na Samhna.

Beidh na leabhair nua arna gceannach ina mbreis úsáideach leis an stoc, go háirithe i gcás ciorruithe féideartha ar an mbuiséad. Ag leibhéal reatha, tá an leithdháileadh buiséid níos lú ná an méid atá ag teastáil le seirbhís leabharlainne iomchuí a reáchtáil. Is i gcónaí a dhéanann leabharlannaithe athbhreithniú ar an stoc sna leabharlanna go léir de chuid an phríosúin chun breiseanna a dhéanamh, míreanna as dáta a chur i leataobh ar bhonn rialta agus bailiúcháin a choinneáil chomh hábhartha agus chomh nua-aimseartha agus is féidir.

### Deonacháin

Baineadh rath iontach amach maidir le leabhair dheonaithe a bhailiú ó fhoinsí éagsúla i mbliana. I rith na bliana, thug foireann an phríosúin líon suntasach leabhar don leabharlann. Ag féachaint don líon méadaithe náisiúntachtaí i bpobal an phríosúin, bheadh sé ina chleachtadh úsáideach d'fhoireann na leabharlainne iarraidh ar ambasáidí agus ar chonsalachtaí deonacháin a thabhairt sa todhchaí. Bhí sé seo an-rathúil le hAmbasáid na hOllainne le déanaí. Chuir Leabharlanna Poiblí Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath stoc deonaithe do sheirbhís leabharlainne an phríosúin trí aistriú ó chuid dá brainsí freisin.

### Corpoideachas

Is le fada a aithníodh gurb éard atá i spórt ná dreasacht éifeachtach nó dóigh trínar féidir inspreagadh a mhéadú i measc na ndaoine sin a

d'fhéadfadh a bheith doicheallach páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí eile ar shlí eile. Cé go ndíríonn an chuid is mó den aird sa réimse seo ar úsáid dhearfach an spóirt i gcomhthéacs pobail, tá ról le himirt ag spórt i suíomhanna príosúin freisin. Is féidir le gníomhaíochtaí spórtbhunaithe a dhéantar a phleanáil go cúramach agus a sholáthar go sciliúil a bheith ina mbealach atá éifeachtach ar leith chun teagmhais foréigin a laghdú, caidrimh idir foireann agus príosúnaigh a fheabhsú, riachtanais athlonnaithe a shainaitheint, agus deiseanna a chruthú sa deireadh do dhaoine aonair coireacht a sheachaint tar éis a scaoilte ó phríosún.

Bíonn roinnt mhaith príosúnach drogallach páirt a ghlacadh i staidéar acadúil agus a bpianbhreith á gcaitheamh acu. Is féidir le spórt a bheith ina ghníomhaíocht úsáideach ina leith seo chun teagmháil a dhéanamh le príosúnaigh a bhféadfaí foghlaimeoirí drogallacha a thabhairt orthu. Trí pháirt a ghlacadh i réimsí a dtaitníonn leo iad, tugann príosúnaigh an seans dóibh a bheith páirteach sa phróiseas foghlama i dtimpeallacht chompordach.

## Spórtlanna

Is iad na spórtlanna laistigh den phríosún na príomh-asraonta le haghaidh rannpháirtíochta i spórt agus leantar ar aghaidh le hantacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh. Agus maoirseacht chúramach á déanamh ag foireann cháilithe orthu, soláthraíonn spórtlanna príosúin ionaid dea-fheistithe i gcomhair cláir chorpoiliúna. Ar na hócáidí a thug baill den Choiste Cuairte cuairt orthu ar fud na bliana, bhíodar i gcónaí ag feidhmiú ar an gcumas is mó. Tá an gá le tuilleadh spáis soiléir ó na líonta suntasacha ar liostaí feithimh agus ó iarratais ar an gcoiste le haghaidh cuimsithe.

Leagadh amach i dtuarascálacha roimhe seo ón gCoiste Cuairte go raibh an spórtlann i Sciathán 'D' lena hathchóiriú ach níor tharla sé sin go fóill. Tá an Coiste den tuairim gur cheart an tionscadal seo a thosú a luaithe is féidir.

Tá áthas ar an gCoiste a thuairisciú go bhfuil bearta le haghaidh chóireáil agus athchóiriú an trealaimh spórtlainne i bhfeidhm go daingean agus nach bhfuil aon deacrachtaí aibhsithe.

Breis leis na cláir chorpoideachais laistigh den phríosún a bhí ag teastáil is ea an cur ar fáil cúrsaí ciorcad-oiliúna atá struchtúrtha go cúramach a chuirtear ar siúl i spórtlann Sciathán 'A', i spórtlann Sciathán 'D' agus sa Halla faoi seach. Go bunúsach, is éard atá i gciorcad-oiliúint ná modh éifeachtach agus inoiriúnaithe chun neart, teacht aniar agus cumas aeróbach a fheabhsú. Glacadh go maith leis an tionscnamh nua seo laistigh den phríosún.

### Spóirt Lasmuigh

In ainneoin gur bunchuspóirí iad an chothabháil dea-oird agus síthe laistigh den phríosún, thug an Coiste Cuairte faoi deara go bhfuil beagáinín deiseanna ar fáil le haghaidh rannpháirtíochta i spóirt lasmuigh, go háirithe i rith mhíonna an tsamhraidh. Tá an Coiste den tuairim go bhféadfaí áiseanna le haghaidh sacar agus cispheil a imirt a chur i bhfeidhm go réidh, rud a spreagfadh spiorad foirne agus freagracht. Ba cheart do bhainisteoireacht an phríosúin féachaint le spreagadh a thabhairt d'eagraíochtaí spóirt tacaíocht a thairiscint chun cláir ábhartha spóirt a fhorbairt.

Tugann cláir chaitheamh aimsire phríosúin cuid mhaith sochar d'áitritheoirí agus don fhoireann araon. Coinníonn siad áitritheoirí gnóthach, agus tugann siad faoiseamh meabhrach, fisiceach agus mothúcháinach dóibh. Is féidir le spórt go háirithe teannas agus strus a laghdú agus dea-shláinte agus folláine a chur chun cinn ag an am céanna. Ní féidir áibhéil a dhéanamh ar na luachanna agus na buntáistí a bhaineann le corpoideachas agus le gníomhaíochtaí spóirt i bpríosún.

Níl aon amhras go bhfuil an t-éileamh ó phríosúnaigh ar rannpháirtíocht i gcláir chorpoideachais chomh láidir is a bhí sé riamh, agus is an-dóchúil go méadóidh sé as seo amach. Agus cuimhne á coinneáil aige ar an méid seo, tá an Coiste Cuairte den tuairim gur féidir tuilleadh cláir chaitheamh aimsire agus spóirt a chur i bhfeidhm, agus molann sé gur cheart suirbhé mionsonraithe a dhéanamh laistigh den phríosún chun suíomhanna oiriúnacha le haghaidh áiseanna nua spóirt, agus acmhainn bhreise spórtlainne go háirithe, a shainaitheint.

## Máistrí Sláintí

Is áthas leis an gCoiste Cuairte an bunú brainse Máistrí Sláintí sa phríosún. Reáchtáiltear i gcomhréir le rialacha agus rialacháin Toastmasters International é agus cabhraíonn sé le rannpháirtithe feabhas a chur ar a scileanna cumarsáide, óráidíochta poiblí agus ceannaireachta.

Glacann sé fealsúnacht “foghlaim trína dhéanamh” agus ligeann sé do gach rannpháirtí foghlaim ar luas atá oiriúnach dá riachtanais forbartha. Toisc gur fhreastail sé ar chuid de na cruinnithe, fáiltíonn an Coiste Cuairte roimh an leibhéal spéise agus rannpháirtíochta arna thaispeáint ag na príosúnaigh a bhfuil baint acu leis an tionscadal seo.

Táthar dóchasach go méadóidh líon na rannpháirtithe sna míonna atá le teacht.

Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuairte moladh a thabhairt go háirithe do na hoibrithe deonacha ó Toastmaster, Baile Átha Cliath, a thug a gcuid ama agus saineolais chun an tionscnamh nua seo a bhunú i gcomhar leis an bhfoireann príosúin lena mbaineann.

Scéim um Fhilleadh ar an bPobal:

Táimid eolach ar an spéis a léirigh príosúnaigh inti agus tacaímid leis i gcoitinne. Go dtí seo, bhí beagáinín ama againn féachaint ar na sonraí agus ar an dóigh a rachaidh sí i bhfeidhm ar phríosúnaigh. Táimid ag súil le cuid mhór fiosruithe faoin scéim le linn 2013.

Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite:

Thug an fhoireann Bainistíochta Pianbhreithe Comhtháite faisnéis do chruinniú an Choiste Cuairte go luath i mí an Mhárta faoina cuid oibre agus go háirithe faoin dóigh a gceanglaíonn míreanna éagsúla den phlean leis na rannáin éagsúla laistigh den phríosún. Choinnigh baill den Choiste Cuairte cumarsáid leis an bhfoireann Bainistíochta Pianbhreithe Comhtháite agus le príosúnaigh freisin faoina rannpháirtíocht agus faoi na deiseanna a chuireann an plan ar fáil. Tá an coiste den tuairim go bhfuil an cumas ag Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite cur go mór leis chun cur ar chumas príosúnach a gcuid ama a úsáid go héifeachtach, rud a éascóidh athchomhtháthú isteach sa tsochaí ar chríochnú a bpianbhreithe. Is bealach é trínar féidir leis na seirbhísí agus gníomhaireachtaí éagsúla, lena n-áirítear an tseirbhís Phromhaidh, Shóisialta, Oibre agus Oiliúna, a chomhordú agus a

oiriúnú chun freastal ar riachtanais na bpríosúnach aonair.

Nílimid sásta gurb éard atá sa leibhéal reatha um sholáthar foirne clúdach éifeachtach chun déileáil leis an líon mór príosúnach i bPríosún Mhuinseo. Táimid tógtha le leibhéal an tiomantais don chóras a thaispeánann an fhoireann i mBainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite agus an Gobharnóir Whelan. Mar sin féin, creidimid go bhfuil measúnú ar leibhéal foirne agus anailís iomlán ar an dóigh a bhfuil an córas ag oibriú ag teastáil. Tá sé deacair dúinn éifeachtacht an chórais a aimsiú ós rud é nach bhfuil taifeadadh ar an oibríocht iomlán ar fáil go réidh go himheánach. Bheadh achoimre úsáideach ag leibhéal na bpríosún áitiúil. Coinneoidimid i dteagmháil le Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe Comhtháite ar fud na bliana romhainn le go bhféadfaimid aghaidh a thabhairt ar an líon mór ceisteanna agus buarthaí a fhaighimid ar an ábhar.

### **Séiplínigh:**

I rith na bliana, fuaireamar an iomarca gearán faoin bhfáil ar Shéiplínigh sa phríosún, go háirithe mar nach raibh conarthaí Séiplínigh á n-ionadú nuair a chuardar as feidhm. Táimid eolach go gcomhlíonann Séiplínigh nideog ar leith sa raon seirbhísí atá ar fáil do phríosúnaigh. Soláthraíonn siad áis atá rúnda agus lasmuigh de bhealaí eile maorlathais agus is minic gur nasc tábhachtach iad idir príosúnaigh agus a dteaghlach. Bhí comhráite ar an teileafón agus cruinniú leis an Easpag i mbun leithdháileadh Séiplíneach, le bainisteoireacht na bpríosún áitiúil agus leis an Stiúrthóireacht Bainistíochta Pianbhreithe Comhtháite ag an gCathaoirleach. Cé is moite de roinnt daoine a sholáthraíonn seirbhís dheonach pháirtaimseartha theoranta, níor aimsíodh aon réiteach sásúil ar an bhfadhb go dtí seo. Do sheirbhís atá chomh tábhachtach agus chomh héifeachtach sin, ceapaimid go



bpléitear léi gan aird a thabhairt ar leas na bpríosúnach acu siúd ag a bhfuil an cumas an fhadhb a réiteach.

### **Cistineacha:**

Tá sé mar fheidhm ag an gcoiste cuairt a thabhairt ar na cistineacha agus ar limistéir eile ullmhúcháin bhia den phríosún agus cigireacht a dhéanamh orthu. Dheimhnigh ár gcigireachtaí stádas na gcistineacha i bPríosún Mhuinseo mar seo a leanas: sláinteachas ag leibhéal sármhaith, dea-reachtáilte, ullmhaítear bia ar chaighdeán ard, ag soláthar bia ilchineálach agus cothaitheach do chách. Cé go bhfaighimid nótaí tráchta agus gearáin ó am go chéile, aimsimid de ghnáth nach bhfuil aon bhonn fíor le míshásamh. Leagtar béim ar phlean cothaithe shláintiúil a choinneáil. Is féidir a thuiscint nach féidir gach rogha bia roghnaithe a chomhlíonadh.

Ní ullmhaítear cothuithe speisialta ach ar chomhairle na foirne Míochaine agus fuarthas roinnt gearán sa réimse seo i rith na bliana agus déileáladh go héifeachtúil leo. Measaimid foireann na Cistine a bheith an-éifeachtúil agus toilteanach gach beart réasúnta a dhéanamh chun iarratais a éascú.

Is de chineál an-mhionchúiseach a bhí aon saincheisteanna a bhí againn. Molaimid Bainisteoireacht agus foireann na Cistine.

### **Bácús:**

Bácáiltear suas go dtí 1000 builín gach lá i dteannta scónaí, ag soláthar riachtanais Phríosúin Bhaile Átha Cliath. Tá an bácús i limistéar iontach beag plódaithe agus tá easpa aerála iomchuí ag cur air. In ainneoin seo, coinnítear an limistéar seo an-ghlan agus slachtmhar, agus tá atmaisféar sármhaith oibre idir baill foirne agus príosúnaigh. Déanann

roinnt príosúnach cúrsaí i mBÁCáil. Ba cheart aistriú na bpríosúnach atá ag freastal ar an gcúrsa seo a sheachaint más féidir toisc gur beagnach cinnte go gciallaíonn sé nach féidir leo an cúrsa a chur i gcrích ina dhiaidh sin.

Cé go raibh sí i bhfad níos lú, bhí an Chistin san aonad Míochaine chomh glan agus chomh héifeachtúil céanna. Soláthraíonn sí suas go dtí 150 béile agus folaíonn sé sin roinnt díobh ar chothuithe speisialta. Ní bhfuarthas aon ghearáin ó phríosúnaigh sa réimse seo.

Ní bhfuaireamar gearáin faoi bhia ach ar ócáidí annamha ar fud na bliana agus bhaineadar den chuid is mó le riachtanais chothaithe speisialta.

Tá sé tábhachtach béim a leagan ar na caidrimh shármhaithe oibre a aithnímid a bheith ann idir baill foirne agus príosúnaigh sna ceardlanna, scoileanna, spórtlanna éagsúla, sa chlós coincréite agus i ngach áit ina bhfuil tascanna bríocha á ndéanamh. Creidimid gurb é sin an rud a tharlaíonn i dtimpeallacht athshlánaithe. Má iarrtar ar dhaoine gníomhú agus iompar go normálta agus má chaitear leo sa bhealach céanna, foghlaimeofar an tábhacht a bhaineann le caidrimh a choinneáil agus dearcadh faoi iompar a fheabhsú.

Ina leith seo, ní mór dúinn féachaint ar an dóigh a gcaitear le príosúnaigh ar fhoirmeacha P19 agus ar an iontaoibh a chuirtear san fhoirm seo pionóis sa chéad dul amach i ngach cás. Tháinig roinnt athruithe a bhfáiltímid rompu as ár bplé tosaigh leis an nGobharnóir Whelan i ndáil leis seo, ach ní mór dúinn tuilleadh dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ar an tsaincheist seo agus leanfaimid de seo ar bhealach níos dlúithe i 2013. Ní mór breithniú a dhéanamh ar an bhfrustrachas ar phríosúnaigh a bhíonn faoi ghlas ar feadh 23 uair agus ar feadh breis agus 23 uair go rómhinic. Tá sé mídháonnachtúil ar a fhíorlaghad príosúnach a chur faoi ghlas sa dóigh seo ina n-úsáideann sé panna beag mar leithreas gach lá agus nach mbíonn ach deis amháin aige go

minic lena fholmhú agus ní mór deireadh a chur leis i 2013. Ina theannta sin, níl aon áiseanna do phríosúnaigh an leithreas a úsáid sna clóis chaitheamh aimsire agus ní mór cead a thabhairt dóibh filleadh isteach. Ba cheart foscadán a chur ar fáil le gur féidir le príosúnaigh iad féin a chosaint ar dhoineann, nó le go dtabharfaí ar ais chuig na cinn staighre iad. Caithfear tuilleadh a dhéanamh freisin chun príosúnaigh a chosaint ar imeaglú agus ar ghníomhartha ionsaitheacha arna ndéanamh ag príosúnaigh eile.

### **Limistéar na Reilige:**

D'athchóirigh an fhoireann agus na príosúnaigh an limistéar a raibh ina shuíomh uaigheanna do bhaill d'Óglaigh na hÉireann a crochadh i bPríosún Mhuinseo, atá adhlactha anois i Reilig Ghlas Naíon. Tá duine amháin adhlactha i Reilig Bhaile an Londraigh freisin. Rinneadh an tsaoirseacht chloiche i bPríosún Mhuinseo agus tháinig na bláthanna ó phríosún eile. Rinneadh an obair ar fad le béim ar rannpháirtíocht príosúnach agus fhoireann an phríosúin. Táthar dóchasach go gcuirfear i gcrích í go luath i 2013. Ba cheart a thabhairt faoi deara go bhfuil uaigh sa limistéar go fóill. Gabhaimid buíochas leis an nGobharnóir Whelan as dul chun cinn na hoibre seo a cheadú agus as a chabhrú fíorluachmhar lena bhfuil ag teastáil chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ar an obair seo. Tá gach iarracht á déanamh ar rannpháirtíocht na ndaoine sin a bhfuil baint acu leis an bpríosún a chinntiú, agus go háirithe trí ábharthacht leis an suíomh uaigheanna.

Déanaimid comhbhrón le teaghlaigh, gaolta agus cairde na ndaoine sin a fuair bás agus iad faoi choimeád i rith na bliana. Suaimhneas Síoraí dá nAnam.

Déanaimid comhbhrón le teaghlaigh, gaolta agus cairde na mball foirne de chuid Phríosún Mhuinseo a fuair bás i rith na bliana.

Suaimhneas Síoraí dá nAnam.

Léifear Aifreann Speisialta dóibh siúd nach maireann go luath i 2013.

Veronica Dalton

Liam Hogan

Joe Ahern

Pat McGee (Leaschathaoirleach)

Stephen Langton (Cathaoirleach)