

TRAINING UNIT VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2012

First meeting of visiting committee was held on 16th February. There was not a quorum for January meeting therefore no meeting was held.

February 2012

Committee had inaugural meeting in February. Mr Thomas Twomey was elected Chairperson and Ms. Deirdre Kenneally, Vice Chair. Governor Carey brought the committee on tour of prison, visiting workshop, kitchen and art room.

March 2012

Ms. Deirdre Kenneally suggested committee members should visit Pace in Santry and this visit was to be arranged for early May. The monthly visitors were advised about forthcoming Art Exhibition in Kilmainham with art on display from offenders in the prison system. Committee members Noel Turley and Fintan Kelly attended the Exhibition and were very impressed with the high quality of the work on display. Ms. Kenneally attended Chairpersons Meeting in St. Patrick's Institution on the 1st March representing Training Unit. The newly appointed Director General of Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan was in attendance and outlined in detail his plans for the prison system.

April 2012

Arising out of monthly visitors report, it was evident prisoners were not aware that the committee met on first Thursday of every month. It was suggested notices were displayed around the prison to highlight prison dates. This arrangement is now in place.

It was decided by committee to seek permission to visit Loughan House, Co. Cavan early autumn.

May 2012

Governor Whelan addressed the meeting and extended an invitation to committee to visit Mountjoy in June. He outlined that Mountjoy was now a complex comprising of Mountjoy, St. Patrick's Institution, Dóchas Centre and The Training Unit.

Concern was raised about the library and its function. Monthly reports have disappeared from the agendas. Former committee member, Mr. Noel Coade was instrumental in the setting up of the library. Unfortunately Mr Coade was not re-appointed to visiting committee. The committee is concerned about future viability of the library. Mr. Coade sponsored prizes for some competitions which he ran in conjunction with Prison Gazette magazine. He set up and ran this magazine with the involvement of some prisoners.

Committee also visited Priorswood House on 3rd May and were impressed with facilities, layout and dedication of staff.

June 2012

Visiting Committee expressed renewed concern about literacy levels in the prison population. An article in print media stated that just one prisoner in the Training Unit was sitting Leaving Certificate. Matter to be clarified with Head Teacher.

July 2012

Again the underutilisation of workshops was referred to by monthly visitors. It is the view of visiting committee that all inmates in the Training Unit should be involved in education and training with the view to securing employment on release. Towards the end of the meeting Governors Garland and Lawton joined the committee and again promised tour of Mountjoy Campus.

August, September 2012

Date for Loughan House visit was confirmed and committee travelled there on 6th September. Committee was pleased to hear that security fences would be removed in due course and Loughan House would operate as full open prison. Governor Gavin who is newly appointed outlined her plans and vision for future of prison.

October 2012

A.C.O. Philip O'Meara outlined to committee plans for a Bicycle Repair Workshop and Maintenance Service. The matter was under consideration and committee would be updated on progress.

November 2012

Forthcoming Plans of the Incentivised Regimes for Training Unit were outlined to the committee. The IPS Team had visited and will report findings in the next few weeks.

December 2012

The committee is pleased to note that a literacy program for all offenders is a priority. The conditions under which every prisoner must engage in some course is dependent on the full availability of suitable courses.

Arising from the display of notices re-times of monthly meetings - meetings were held with prisoners at their request during the year. We look forward to the continuation of this arrangement into the future.

KITCHEN

Training Unit Kitchen is constant source of excellence. Nutritious meals are served daily. Varied choices and individual dietary requirements of all prisoners are taken into consideration.

MAINTENANCE

The Training Unit is painted and decorated on a regular basis by prisoners. Constant maintenance of the facility is of the highest standard.

The Visiting Committee would like to thank Management and Staff for their consideration during 2012.

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL CHOISTE CUIARTE AN AONAI OILIÚNA 2012

Tionóladh an chéad chruinniú de chuid an choiste cuairte ar an 16 Feabhra. Ní raibh córam do chruinniú i mí Eanáir. Dá bhrí sin, níor tionóladh aon chruinniú.

Feabhra 2012

Cuireadh an chéad chruinniú de chuid an Choiste i mí Feabhra. Toghadh an tUas. Thomas Twomey mar Chathaoirleach agus toghadh Deirdre Kenneally Uas. mar Leas-Chathaoirleach. Thug an Gobharnóir Carey an coiste ar thuras an phríosúin, agus thug siad cuairt ar an gceardlann, ar an gcistin agus ar an seomra ealaíne.

Márta 2012

Mhol Deirdre Kenneally Uas. do bhaill an choiste cuairt a thabhairt ar Pace i Seantrabh, agus bhí an chuairt sin le bheith ar siúl go luath i mí na Bealtaine. Tugadh fógra do na cuairteoirí míosúla faoin Taispeántas Ealaíne le teacht i gCill Mhaighneann, rud ina mbeadh ealaín de chuid ciontóirí sa chóras príosún ar taispeáint. D'fhreastail baill an Choiste Noel Turley agus Fintan Kelly ar an Taispeántas agus bhí siad an-tógtha leis an ardchaighdeán saothair a bhí ar taispeáint. Agus ionadaíocht á déanamh aici don aonad oiliúna, d'fhreastail Kenneally Uas. ar Chruinniú Cathaoirleach in Institiúid Naomh Pádraig ar an 1 Márta. Bhí Ard-Stiúrthóir nuacheaptha Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann, Michael Donnellan, i láthair agus leag sé a chuid pleananna don chóras príosún amach go mion.

Aibreán 2012

Ag eascairt as tuairisc mhíosúil faoi chuairteoirí, bhí sé soiléir nach raibh a fhios ag príosúnaigh gur tháinig an coiste le chéile ar an gcéad Déardaoin de gach mí. Moladh fógraí a chur ar taispeáint ar fud an phríosúin chun aird a tharraingt ar dhátaí príosúin. Tá an socrú sin i bhfeidhm anois.

Chinn an coiste go lorgódh sé cead chun cuairt a thabhairt ar Theach an Locháin, Co. an Chabháin, go luath san fhómhar.

Bealtaine 2012

Labhair an Gobharnóir Whealan ag an gcruinniú agus thug sé cuireadh don Choiste cuairt a thabhairt ar Phríosún Mhuinseo i mí an Mheithimh. Mhínigh sé gur coimpléacs a chuimsíonn Príosún Mhuinseo, Institiúid Naomh Pádraig, an Lárionad le Dóchas agus an tAonad Oiliúna é Príosún Mhuinseo anois.

Cuireadh imní in iúl faoin leabharlann agus faoi fheidhm na leabharlainne. Tá tuairiscí míosúla imithe as an gclár oibre. Bhí iarbhall an choiste, an tUas. Noel Coade, an-tábhachtach maidir leis an leabharlann a chur ar bun. Ar an drochuair, níor athcheapadh an tUas. Coade chun an choiste cuairte. Tá imní ar an gcoiste faoi inmharthanacht amach anseo na leabharlainne. D'urraigh an tUas. Coade duaiseanna do roinnt comórtas, rudaí a réachtáil sé i gcomhar le Prison Gazette Magazine. Rinne sé an iris sin a chur ar bun agus a réachtáil le rannpháirtíocht roinnt príosúnach.

Thug an Coiste cuairt ar Theach Choill an Phríóra ar an 3 Bealtaine agus bhí siad tógtha leis na háiseanna, leis an leagan amach agus le díograis na foirne.

Meitheamh 2012

Chuir an Coiste Cuairte imní athnuaite in iúl faoi leibhéil litearthachta i measc phobal an phríosúin. De réir ailt sna meáin chlóite, ní raibh ach príosúnach amháin san Aonad Oiliúna ag tabhairt faoin Ardeistiméireacht. Tá an cheist sin le soiléiriú leis an bPríomhoide.

Iúil 2012

Bhí tearcúsáid na gceardlann luaithe arís eile ag cuairteoirí míosúla. Is é tuairim an choiste cuairte gur cheart do gach áitritheoir san aonad oiliúna a bheith páirteach in oideachas agus in oiliúint d'fhonn fostaíocht a bhaint amach nuair a scaoilfear iad. Chuaigh an Gobharnóir Garland agus an Gobharnóir Lawton isteach sa choiste ag deireadh an chruinnithe agus gheall siad arís go gcuirfí turas ar Champas Mhuinseo ar fáil.

Lúnasa, Meán Fómhair 2012

Deimhníodh an dáta don chuairt ar Theach an Locháin agus thaistil an coiste ann ar an 6 Meán Fómhair. Bhí an Coiste sásta a chloisteáil go mbainfí fála slándála in am trátha agus go n-oibreofaí Teach an Locháin mar phríosún lánoscailte. Leag an Gobharnóir Gavin, a ceapadh le déanaí, a cuid pleananna agus físe amach do thodhchaí an phríosúin.

Deireadh Fómhair 2012

Chuir an A.C.O. Philip O'Meara pleananna in iúl don choiste maidir le Ceardlann Deisiúcháin Rothar agus Seirbhís Chothabhála. Tá an cheist sin á breithniú agus thabharfaí an t-eolas is deireanaí faoi dhul chun cinn don choiste.

Samhain 2012

Cuireadh Pleananna le teacht in iúl don Choiste maidir leis na Réimis Dhreasaithe. Bhí cuairt tugtha ag Foireann Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann agus tabharfaidh sí tuairisc faoina cuid torthaí sna seachtainí atá le teacht.

Nollaig 2012

Tá an Coiste sásta a thabhairt faoi deara gur tosaíocht é clár litearthachta do na ciontóirí uile. Tá na coinníollacha nach mór do gach príosúnach páirt a ghlacadh i gcúrsa éigin fúthu ag brath ar lán-infhaighteacht na gcúrsaí oiriúnacha.

Ag eascairt as taispeáint na bhfógraí maidir le hamanna na gcruinnithe míosúla, reáchtáladh cruinnithe le príosúnaigh ar a n-iarraidh le linn na bliana. Táimid ag tnúth le leanúint ar aghaidh leis an socrú sin sa todhchaí.

AN CHISTIN

Tá Cistin an Aonaid Oiliúna ina foinse leanúnach sármhaitheasa. Riartar béilí scamhardacha gach lá. Cuirtear roghanna éagsúla agus riachtanais chothaithe aonair na bpríosúnach go léir san áireamh.

COTHABHÁIL

Déanann na príosúnaigh an tAonad Oiliúna a phéinteáil agus a mhaisiú ar bhonn rialta. Déantar cothabháil leanúnach na saoráide de réir na gcaighdeán is airde.

Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuairte buíochas a ghabháil leis an Lucht Bainistíochta agus Foirne as a gcuid crua-oibre le linn 2012.