Cloverhill Visiting Committee Annual Report
2012

Committee Members:
Committee members meet every second Thursday of each Month. There are seven members and every meeting is usually full attendance. Two members meet with prisoners who have requested consultation and report back to the committee with there concerns. They also meet with staff and tour the prison regularly talking to prisoners. Discussions are also held with professional and non professional staff in the prison.

Prisoners before committee:
The committee met with 32 prisoners during the year. The main issues raised by these prisoners were Non-smoking cells, return to general population, gym access, medical issues, visits, harassment, education and tuck shop. All of there issues were discussed with the Governor and when dealt with, the results were reported back to the committee. It has been noted that the ratio of sentence prisoners to remand prisoners has risen quite considerably.

Overcrowding:
Overcrowding is a problem which is ongoing in Cloverhill with the population of the prison up over 500 inmates at times during the year. This has led to inmates sleeping on floors and pressure put on the services provided by the staff of the prison. This has been highlighted with complaints being voiced by prisoners to the visiting committee.

Foreign Nationals:
There is still the issue of immigration nationals being held in Cloverhill prison as they await asylum or deportation. The committee would be of the opinion that they should be held not in prison but elsewhere as this puts added pressure on the overcrowding.

Drugs:
Again we wish to highlight our disappointment that the passive drug detention dog continues to be no longer used during the week in conjunction with the search procedures. We have never encountered any drug dogs when visiting the prison.

Health Care
There has been a major concern all year over the T.B. situation in the prison. We have had concerns regarding the treatment of both staff and prisoners during the year and the strain placed on families in regard to the spread of T.B in the prison. But we believe the health care in regards to T.B has improved during the year especially in relation to containment and prevention. We are happy with the governor's reports during the year which showed continuous improvement with the T.B situation. We hope that the policy of vaccination will continue and a pro active regime will continue in regards to health issues in the prison.

Education:
We are very pleased with the education program in the prison. With the schools many courses offering choice to the prisoner's education. We feel that there should be further expansion of these courses. Also the partnership with Red cross is a success and partnerships with other such agencies would be a benefit.

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Library:
The facility of the library is being seriously undermined by staff shortages due mainly to sick and problems with annualized hours. We hope this will improve in the coming year.

Gym:
Again this facility is being undermined with staff shortages. With the new timetables for gyms under the new incentivize regimes in place. We are getting complaints about the level of use available to prisoners.

Tuck Shop:
With the new PAMS system in place and the issuing of receipts to prisoners making the shop run more smoothly. We have found any issues with prisoners regarding the shop have been cleared up very quickly.

Pastoral Care:
We note that Sister Ann and Margaret have a great connection with the prisoners. They are invaluable with the connection between families and prisoners and the care of prisoners who may have no family outside the prison both Irish and Foreign Nationals.

Integrated Sentence Management:
The setting up of this department is something we feel will benefit the prison in the coming years. We look forward to the monitoring of this department in the coming year and the way it evolves for the prisoners to move forward with.

Workshops:
There has been great progress with the Industrial cleaning .The industrial skills and computer workshop have not been opened as of yet. We hope to see these open in 2013 as they will complement the incentivize regime.

Kitchen:
The kitchen continues to move forward with the taking over of the staff mess. This has led to more prisoners availing of the work that the kitchen offers. The mess will be a training facility for prisoners and will have certificate courses introduced during the coming year.
When we visited the kitchen during December we found the staff and prisoners very professional in there work ethics. The food we tasted was excellent and the vision presented by I.M. Richie Fleming for the ongoing success of the kitchen was impressive. Continued support should be given for the kitchen to strive.

Surgery:
The visit to the medical center of the prison during December showed again the professionalism of the staff. There is a concern that the availability of certain services could be addressed with part time/full time practitioner (i.e. Psychologist).

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Video Conferencing:
There is disappointment with the availability of this service. We note that the facility is not available in many courts and this is affecting the efficiency of the service. Hopefully in the coming year this can be looked at and rectified to utilize the video conferencing.

Conclusion:
We would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all the different agencies who give their time and services on a daily/weekly basis to the benefit of the prison service. The committee has exercised its duties diligently and is committed to exercising them in full in 2013.

We would like to thank committee members Mary O Neill and Pearse O 'Hanrahan for there work during the year and commitment to the workings of the visiting committee. We wish them well into the future. We also would like to thank Governor's Ronan Maher, Fergus Woods and Christopher Mc Cormack and the committee's secretary Patrick Dunne and all the staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

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

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Michael Coyle
Chairman

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 2012

Comhaltaí an Choiste:
Buaileann comhaltaí an choiste le chéile gach dara Déardaoin de gach Mí. Tá seachtar ball ann agus bíonn tintreamh iomlán ag gach cruinniú de ghnáth. Buaileann beirt chomhaltaí le príosúnaigh a bhfuil iarratas ar chomhchomhairle déanta acu agus tugann siad tuairisc ar ais don choiste leis na buarthaí sin. Buaileann siad le baill foirne chomh maith agus déanann siad turas ar an bpríosún, ag labhairt le príosúnaigh go minic. Tionóltar cainteanna le baill foirne ghairmiúla agus neamhghairmiúla araon sa phríosún.

Príosúnaigh os comhair an choiste:
Bhuail an coiste le 32 príosúnach le linn na bliana. Ba iad na príomhcheisteanna a d'ardaigh na príosúnaigh cillíní gan tobac, dul ar ais i measc an phobail i gcoitinne, rochtain ar an halla spóirt, ceisteanna leighis, cuairteanna, ciapadh, oideachas agus an siopa milseán. Pléadh na ceisteanna go léir leis an nGobharnóir agus nuair a déileáladh leo, tugadh tuairisc ar na torthaí ar ais don choiste. Sonraíodh go bhfuil méadú an-suntasach tagtha ar an gcóimheas príosúnaigh phianbhreithe le príosúnaigh athchurtha.

Plódú:
Is fadhb leanúnach é plódú i bpríosún Chnoc Seimre agus bhí os cionn 500 cónaitheach sa phríosún ag amanna le linn na bliana. Mar thoradh air sin chodlaigh cónaithigh ar an urlár agus cuireadh brú ar na seirbhísí a bhí á gcur ar fáil ag foireann an phríosúin. Tugadh é sin chun suntais le gearáin a rinne na príosúnaigh leis an gcoiste cuairte.

Náisiúnaigh Choigríche:
Tá fadhb ann fós maidir le náisiúnaigh inimirce a bheith á gcoinneáil i bpríosún Chnoc Seimre agus iad ag fanacht le tearmann nó le díbirt. Tá sé de thuairim an choiste nár cheart iad a choinneáil i bpríosún ach ba cheart iad a choinneáil áit éigin eile toisc go gcuireann sé sin brú breise ar an bplódú.

Drugaí:
Arís ba mhaith linn béim a chur ar ár ndíomá nach bhfuil an madra bolaíochta drugaí éigníomhach á úsáid le linn na seachtaine a thuilleadh i gcomhar leis na nósanna imeachta um chuardach. Ní fhacamar madraí bolaíochta ar bith riamh agus muid ar cuairt ar an bpríosún.

Cúram Sláinte
Bhí mór-ábhar imní ann i rith na bliana maidir leis an eitinn (T.B.) sa phríosún. Bhí buarthaí againn i dtaca le gcóir leighis na foirne agus na bpríosúnach araon le linn na bliana agus leis an strus a bhí ar theaghlaigh maidir le leathadh na heitinne sa phríosún. Creidimid, áfach, go bhfuil feabhas tagtha ar an gcúram sláinte maidir leis an eitinn le linn na bliana go háirithe maidir le coimeád agus cosc. Táimid sásta le tuarascálacha an ghobharnóra le linn na bliana inar taispeánadh feabhas leanúnach maidir le cás na heitinne. Tá súil againn go leanfar den bheartas um vacsaíniú agus go leanfar de chóras réamhghníomhach i dtaca le ceisteanna sláinte sa phríosún.

Oideachas:
Táimid an-sásta leis an gclár oideachais sa phríosún. Tairgtear rogha i mórán cúrsaí na scoile maidir le hoideachas an phríosúnaigh. Mothaímid gur cheart na cúrsaí sin a leathnú tuilleadh. Ina theannta sin tá ag éirí go maith leis an gcomhpháirtíocht leis an gCros Dhearg agus bheadh comhpháirtíochtaí le gníomhaireachtaí eile dá leithéidí ina bhuntáiste.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 2012

Leabharlann:
Tá lagú tromchúiseach tagtha ar shaoráid na leabharlainne de bharr easnaimh foirne i ngeall ar thinneas agus ar fhadhbanna le huaireanna bliantúlaithe. Tá súil againn go dtiocfaidh feabhas air sin sa bhliain amach romhainn.

Halla Aclaíochta:
Arís tá lagú tagtha ar an tsaoráid seo de bharr easnaimh foirne leis na hamchláir úra le haghaidh na hallaí aclaíochta faoi na córais dreasaithe úra atá i bhfeidhm. Tá gearáin a bhfáil againn faoin leibhéal úsáide atá ar fáil do phríosúnaigh.

Siopa Milseán:
Tá an siopa á reáchtáil níos réidhe de bharr an chórais úir PAMS atá i bhfeidhm agus eisiúint na n-adhmhálacha do phríosúnaigh. Is é ár dtuairim go ndearnadh fadhbanna ar bith a bhí ag príosúnaigh maidir leis an siopa a réiteach go gasta.

Cúram Tréadach:
Tugaimid faoi deara go bhfuil caidreamh iontach ag an tSiúr Ann agus an tSiúr Margaret leis na príosúnaigh. Tá siad an-luachmhar leis an gcaidreamh idir teaghlaigh agus príosúnaigh agus cúram na bpríosúnach nach bhfuil teaghlaigh ar bith acu lasmuigh den phríosúin, idir Náisiúnaigh Éireannacha agus Náisiúnaigh Choigríche araon.

Bainistíocht Pianbhreitheanna Comhtháite:
Ceapaimid dá mbunófaí an rannóg seo go mbeadh sé tairbhiúil don phríosún sna blianta amach romhainn. Táimid ag tnúth le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an rannóg seo sa bhliain amach romhainn agus an dóigh a dtagann sé chun cinn do na príosúnaigh le dul chun cinn.

Ceardlanna:
Tá dul chun cinn iontach déanta leis an nglantóireacht Tionscail. Níor osclaíodh an cheardlann um scileanna tionscail agus ríomhaireachta go fóill. Tá súil againn go n-osclófar iad sin in 2013 agus go gcomhlánfaidh siad an gcóras dreasaithe.

An Chistin:
Leantar den chistin a chur chun tosaigh le héadáil bhialann na foirne. Mar thoradh air sin tá níos mó príosúnach ag baint leasa as an obair atá á tairiscint sa chistin. Beidh an bhialann ina saoráid oiliúna le haghaidh na bpríosúnach agus tabharfar cúrsaí deimhnithe isteach inti an bhliain seo chugainn.
Nuair a thugamar cuairt ar an gcistin le linn mhí na Nollag cheapamar go raibh an fhoireann agus na príosúnach an-ghairmiúil ina n-eitic oibre. Bhí an bia a bhlaisíomar sármhaith agus bhí an fhís a chuir I.M. Richie Fleming i láthair le haghaidh rath leanúnach na cistine mórthaibhseach. Ba cheart tacaíocht leanúnach a thabhairt don chistin ionas go n-éireoidh léi.

Máinliacht:
Ar an gcuairt ar ionad leighis an phríosúin le linn mhí na Nollag taispeánadh gairmiúlacht na foirne arís. Tá ceist ann go bhféadfaí dul i ngleic le hinfhaighteacht seirbhísí áirithe trí chleachtóir páirtaimseartha/lánaimseartha (.i. Síceolaí).

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 2012

Físchomhdháil:
Tá díomá ann maidir le hinfhaighteacht na seirbhíse seo. Sonraímid nach bhfuil an tsaoráid ar fáil ina lán cúirteanna agus tá sé sin ag cur isteach ar éifeachtacht na seirbhíse. Tá súil againn go mbeifí ábalta breathnú air sin agus an fhíschomhdháil a cheartú agus a úsáid sa bhliain amach romhainn.

Conclúid:
Ba mhaith linn aitheantas a thabhairt don chuidiú ó na gníomhaireachtaí éagsúla a thug a gcuid ama agus a gcuid seirbhísí ar bhonn laethúil/seachtainiúil chun tairbhe sheirbhís an phríosúin. D'fheidhmigh an coiste a dhualgais go dícheallach agus tá sé tiomanta dóibh a fheidhmiú go hiomlán in 2013.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil le comhaltaí an choiste Mary O Neill agus Pearse O 'Hanrahan as a gcuid oibre le linn na bliana agus as a dtiomantas d'obair an choiste cuairte. Ba mhaith linn gach rath a ghuí orthu don todhchaí. Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil chomh maith leis na Gobharnóirí Ronan Maher, Fergus Woods agus Christopher Mc Cormack agus le rúnaí an choiste Patrick Dunne agus leis an bhfoireann go léir as a gcuidiú agus as a gcomhoibriú le linn na bliana.

Ar deireadh ba mhaith linne, an coiste, buíochas a ghabháil leatsa a Aire agus tá muinín againn gur chuidíomar le linn na bliana agus leanfaimid den chuidiú sin a thabhairt.

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Michael Coyle
Cathaoirleach