

**Minister Shatter,
Department of Justice & Equality
94 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.**

**We, the undersigned members of
Loughan House Visiting Committee,
have pleasure in presenting this, our
Annual Report for 2012.**

The following are the Members who served on the Committee during 2012:

Mrs. Kathleen Richey (Chairperson)
Mr. Gerry O'Connor
Mr. Francis McDermott
Mr. Patrick Boyle
Mr. Andrew Cullen

The Committee held a total of 10 meetings throughout the year, all of which were well attended.

Mr. Pat Kavanagh and Mrs. Mary E.Gavin served as Governors during the year, while Mrs. Geraldine Carrick served as Acting Chief Officer in February 2012.

Number of Offenders in Loughan House

Loughan House remains a transfer Place Of Detention - in 2012 it received precisely four hundred and twenty three offenders on transfer, mainly from committal prisons. By and large, there was compliance with periods of temporary release, while thirty seven prisoners absconded in 2012.

Visits by the Committee

During the year, other than for scheduled meetings, committee members visited unannounced and in rotation as per their panels. The House, Grounds and environs of the Prison were at all times found to be in good condition. Members signed themselves in, in the book provided, and checked to see if there were any prisoners with specific requests to meet with them. As part of their tour of the prison, they would speak randomly with offenders and not in the hearing of others.

Visits to Offenders from family & friends

Visits are very important to the Offenders - there is a recognition amongst them that regulations are quite flexible in Loughan House, in relation to time allowed for the visit etc. - this is important we feel as, with the below average frequency of a public transport service, some visitors do not get to visit as often as they would otherwise like to.

Kitchen / Catering Dept.

The Kitchen continues to earn the high regard reported by both the prisoners who receive their meals there and the external auditing agencies. The staff is professional, highly trained and motivated. The Kitchen provides great opportunity for offenders to learn the art of catering. The 28 day menu cycle provides for nutrition and a healthy diet. Those with special dietary requirements are well catered for, be they vegetarian, vegan, and diabetic or having specific allergies to certain food types. Plans are in place to introduce City & Guilds training for Inmates in 2013.

Education Unit

The Education Unit retains it's pivotal function in Loughan House and it's work is well deserving of the support given to it by prison management. Head Teacher Ms. Brenda McMullen continues to lead a dedicated team, who are proactive in reaching out to offenders and meeting their changing educational needs. Students report a high level of satisfaction with the subjects on offer, with various levels of expectation and ability being facilitated. Educational tours/projects such as to *The Arigna Mining Experience*, *The Sculpture Project in Manorhamilton* and *The Eagles Flying Project* proved both popular and beneficial. The fact that such high levels of participation in School activities and classes are being attained on a voluntary basis speaks volumes about the work being done at the Education Unit.

Library Services

The provision of Library Services is deemed very important by the Committee, especially in the evenings and at weekends. Staffing levels have had an impact on services, despite the best endeavors of management. The option of bringing the library under the auspices of the Education Unit/V.E.C was investigated, with the Governor offering accommodation within the New Education Unit - the results of a feasibility audit are currently being awaited. Also considered was the Mobile Library Service and meetings were held with Cavan County Council to discuss all options. Meanwhile, the library facility has been moved to a more suitable location in Pine Lodge and it is opened three times per week by the part-time librarian. The introduction of an Inmate as Library Assistant has been an huge benefit to the Library Service to Inmates.

Laundry Services

The Prison Laundry is now Operational onsite under the supervision of an Assistant Industrial Supervisor and is working extremely well and of great benefit to Inmates.

Probation & Welfare Services

Senior Probation Officer Maeve Brett provides a very good service to Loughan House, meeting the needs of both the Offender and the Public. While she can only attend here on a part-time basis due to professional commitments elsewhere, her work is seen as most valuable and is indeed appreciated. To assist her in her endeavors, we support efforts to have a full-time Probation Officer appointed here.

Addiction Counseling Service

Catherine Lyons and Louise Kelly continue to work closely with inmates on a one-to-one basis and they also organise the visiting of such help-groups as Alcoholics Anonymous. Given the challenges faced by those in addiction, we value the efforts of the addiction counselors immensely - hoping that many will find here, the help they need to return to a more fulfilling, dignified and less destructive lifestyle on release.

Healthcare

Nurse Officers provide day service from 8am to 8pm and, while there is a nurse officer available almost every day, efforts are made to meet any shortfall by using agency staff. Dental Services have been cut from one visit by the dentist per week to one per month. While this is seen as a steep cut to services, the Committee recognises the pressures being placed on resources in every area of each Department. The work of the Nursing staff, in conjunction with that of the visiting G.P, leaves the Committee in no doubt that every effort is being made to assist offenders with their medical needs. The discipline duties' also being undertaken by Nurses, alongside their medical roles, is necessary at the moment it seems, but we await the findings of the Transformation Team in this and in other regards. Where medical requirements cannot be met in Loughan House, such as psychiatric evaluation, these needs are sometimes met by transferring the prisoner to Castlerea for the benefit of best medical assessment/intervention. We support and encourage the consideration of Temporary Release, where suitable and practical, for medical appointments and procedures.

Chaplaincy

Fr. John McMahan attends Loughan House, both to meet with offenders and to say mass, which is available both weekly and on Holy Days. The Spiritual / Religious needs of all prisoners are respected and encouraged, regardless of their origin or beliefs. There is no evidence of racial, religious, sexual or other discrimination at play in Loughan and indeed, none has been reported to us in our encounters with offenders.

Grounds / Environs of the Prison

Compliments are extended to the offenders who work both outside and inside the prison, keeping the area clean, tidy, presentable and welcoming. A word of thanks to the management and to supervising staff also, for making such work possible. The work being undertaken has extended outside of the prison environment, with tidying-up, creation of flower-beds etc. in Blacklion earning credit for Loughan House. The Sculpture Project in Manorhamilton placed inmate's work on display at the All-Ireland Fleadh in Cavan in August to great commendation.

Integrated Sentence Management ISM

ISM is a method for managing prisoners' sentences and their time spent in prison. The aim of ISM is that from the time prisoners are committed to prison to the time they return to the community, each prisoner will have a plan developed by all the prison services and agencies along with the prisoners themselves, to help make the best use of their time in prison and to assist with their re-integration into the community. From November 2012, AIS James Keely was assigned to co-ordinate this program in Loughan House.

External Work/Training Programs

There are a number of work and training programs commenced in 2012. Eight Inmates commenced training in South West College in Enniskillen on a two year Catering and Gym Course, four on each course. The 18-25 Project and the Garden Project are still ongoing. A number of work parties also continue to take place, where Inmates carry out community work in Blacklion, Manorhamilton and the Irish Prison Service Headquarters in Longford.

Overview

Loughan House remains a very valuable and worthwhile facet of the Prison Service, both for the offenders who have been deemed suitable for transfer here and for those aspiring to prove themselves suitable - it is an incentive for better behaviour and for taking responsibility for one's own sentence management. Staff are courteous and helpful and the relationship between Officer and Offender is different and better than that which would be possible in a bigger, closed institution. This relationship, we feel, is a contributor to the fact that self-harm and suicide attempts are not prevalent in Loughan House. All services are of a high quality, from the Gym to the Education Unit to the Tuck shop - the very low level of complaint to this body of any issues/problems being experienced by offenders is testament to a smooth-running institution which is fit for purpose.

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An tAire Shatter,
an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, 94 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath
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Is áthas linn, comhaltaí Choiste Cuairte Teach an Locháin a bhfuil a sínithe anseo thíos, ár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil le haghaidh 2012 a chur i láthair.

Is iad seo a leanas na Comhaltaí a d'fhóin ar an gCoiste le linn 2012:

Kathleen Richey Uasal (Cathaoirleach)
an tUasal Gerry O'Connor
an tUasal Francis McDermott
an tUasal Patrick Boyle
an tUasal Andrew Cullen

Thionóil an Coiste 10 gcruinniú san iomlán ar fud na bliana agus freastalaíodh go maith orthu go léir.

D'fhóin an tUasal Pat Kavanagh agus Maty E. Gavin Uasal mar Ghobharnóirí le linn na bliana, agus d'fhóin Geraldine Carrick Uasal mar Phríomhoifigeach Gníomhach i mí Feabhra 2012.

Líon na gCiontóirí i dTeach an Locháin

Is Ionad Cóireála é Teach an Locháin go fóill - i 2012, fuair sé ceithre chéad, fiche is trí chiontóir go díreach ar aistriú, ó phríosúin chimithe den chuid is mó. Tríd is tríd, comhlíonadh tréimhsí scaoilte shealadaigh, agus d'éalaigh seacht bpríosúnach is tríocha i 2012.

Cuairteanna arna dtabhairt ag an gCoiste

I rith na bliana, thug comhaltaí an choiste gan choinne agus de réir uainíochta de réir a bpainéal, seachas le haghaidh cruinnithe sceidealaithe. Aimsíodh Teach, Tailte agus purláin an Phríosúin a bheith in ordú maith i gcónaí. Shínigh comhaltaí iad féin isteach sa leabhar arna chur ar fáil agus sheiceáladar le fáil amach an raibh aon phríosúnaigh ann a rinne iarratais shainiúla ar bhualadh leo nó nach raibh. Mar chuid dá gcuairt ar an bpríosún, labhróidís go randamach le ciontóirí gan aon duine eile a bheith i láthair.

Cuairteanna ar Chiontóirí arna dtabhairt ag muintir agus cairde

Tá cuairteanna an-tábhachtach do na Ciontóirí. Tugtar aitheantas ina measc go bhfuil rialacháin measartha solúbtha i dTeach an Locháin maidir leis an am a cheadaítear don chuairt etc. Táimid den tuairim gur rud tábhachtach é seo mar nach bhfaigheann roinnt cuairteoirí an deis cuairt a thabhairt chomh minic agus

ba mhaith leo ar shlí eile mar gheall ar mhnicíocht na seirbhíse iompair phoiblí atá faoin meán.

An Chistin / an Rannóg Lónadóireachta

Leanann an Chistin ar aghaidh ag tuilleamh an ardmheasa a thuairiscigh na príosúnaigh a fhaigheann a gcuid béilí ansin agus na gníomhaireachtaí iniúchóireachta eachtraí araon. Tá an fhoireann gairmiúil, ardoilte agus spreagtha. Soláthraíonn an Chistin deis iontach do chiontóirí ceird na lónadóireachta a fhoghlaim. Déanann an timthriall biachláir 28 lá soláthar do chothú agus d'aiste shláintiúil bia. Freastalaítear go maith orthu siúd a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta chothaithe acu, bíodh siad ina veigeatóirí, ina bhfíor-veigeatóirí nó ina ndiaibéitigh nó bíodh ailléirgí sonracha orthu le cineálacha áirithe bia. Tá pleananna i bhfeidhm le *hoiliúint City & Guilds* do Phríosúnaigh a thabhairt isteach i 2013.

An tAonad Oideachais

Coinníonn an tAonad Oideachais a fheidhm ríthábhachtach i dTeach an Locháin agus is go mór a thuilleann a chuid oibre an tacaíocht a thugann lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin dó. Leanann Brenda McMullen Uasal, an Príomhoide, ar aghaidh le foireann thiomanta a threorú, foireann atá réamhghníomhach agus í ag déanamh teagmháil le ciontóirí agus ag comhlíonadh a riachtanas oideachais atá ag athrú. Tuairiscíonn daltaí leibhéal ard sásaimh leis na hábhair ar fáil, agus tá leibhéil éagsúla ionchais agus cumais á n-éascú. Bhí tóir agus tairbhe ag baint le turais/tionscadail oideachais amhail *Ar Lorg Mhianadóireacht na hAirgní*, an *Tionscadal Dealbhóireachta i gCluainín* agus *The Eagles Flying Project*. Is mór an teist é ar an obair atá á déanamh san Aonad Oideachais go bhfuil ardleibhéil rannpháirtíochta i ngníomhaíochtaí agus ranganna Scoile á mbaint amach ar bhonn deonach.

Seirbhísí Leabharlainne

Measann an Coiste go bhfuil soláthar na Seirbhísí Leabharlainne thar a bheith tábhachtach, go háirithe san oíche agus ag an deireadh seachtaine. Bhí tionchar ag líon laghdaithe na foirne ar na seirbhísí, in ainneoin tréaniarrachtaí lucht bainistíochta. Fiosraíodh an rogha a bhí ann an leabharlann a chur faoi choimirce an Aonaid Oideachais/an Choiste Gairmoideachais, agus thairg an Gobharnóir cóiríocht san Aonad Oideachais nua. Táthar ag fanacht le torthaí an iniúchta féidearthachta faoi láthair. Rinneadh breithniú chomh maith ar an tSeirbhís Shoghluaiste Leabharlainne, agus tionóladh cruinnithe le Comhairle Contae an Chabháin chun gach rogha a phlé. Idir an dá linn, bogadh an áis leabharlainne go dtí áit níos oiriúnaí i Pine Lodge agus bíonn sí oscailte trí huair in aghaidh na seachtaine ag an leabharlannaí páirtaimseartha. Bhí an tabhairt isteach Príosúnaigh mar Chúntóir Leabharlainne chun sochair don tSeirbhís Leabharlainne do Phríosúnaigh.

Seirbhísí Níocháin

Tá Ionad Níocháin Príosúin ar bun anois ar an suíomh faoi mhaoirseacht Maoirseora Chúnta Thionsclaíoch agus tá ag éirí thar barr leis agus tá Príosúnaigh ag baint an-leas as.

Seirbhísí Promhaidh agus Leasa

Soláthraíonn Maeve Brett, an tOifigeach Sinsearach Promhaidh seirbhís an-mhaith do Theach an Locháin a fhreastalaíonn ar riachtanais na gCiontóirí agus an Phobail araon. Cé nach féidir léi a bheith i láthair anseo ach go páirtaimseartha mar gheall ar ghealltanais ghairmiúla in áiteanna eile, féachtar ar a hobair mar rud atá thar a bheith luachmhar agus táthar an-bhuíoch as. Ar mhaithe le cabhrú léi ina hiarrachtaí, tacaímid leis na hiarrachtaí atá ar siúl chun Oifigeach Promhaidh lánaimseartha a cheapadh anseo.

Seirbhís Chomhairleoireachta ar Andúil

Leanann Catherine Lyons agus Louise Kelly de bheith ag obair go dlúth leis na príosúnaigh ar bhonn duine le duine agus eagraíonn siad cuairteanna roinnt grúpaí cabhrach chomh maith, amhail Alcólaigh gan Ainm. Agus aird againn ar na dúshláin atá roimh dhaoine atá thíos le handúil, is mór againn iarrachtaí na gcomhairleoirí andúile. Tá súil againn go n-aimseoidh cuid mhaith ciontóirí an cúnamh atá de dhíth orthu anseo, ionas go mbeidh stíl bheatha acu nuair a bheidh siad saor, a bheidh níos folláine, lán dínite agus nach ndéanfaidh an oiread céanna díobhála dóibh féin.

Cúram Sláinte

Soláthraíonn Oifigigh Altra seirbhís lae ó 8am go dtí 8pm agus cé go mbíonn oifigeach altra ar fáil gach lá, nach mór, déantar iarrachtaí freastal ar easnamh ar bith trí fhoireann ghníomhaireachta a úsáid. Rinneadh ciorrú ar Sheirbhísí Déadacha ó chuairt amháin ag an bhfiaclóir in aghaidh na seachtaine go cuairt amháin in aghaidh na míosa. Cé go bhféachtar air seo mar chiorrú mór ar sheirbhísí, aithníonn an Coiste an brú atá ar na hacmhainní i ngach aon réimse de gach Roinn. Tá an Coiste go hiomlán cinnte go bhfuil gach iarracht á déanamh le cabhrú leis na ciontóirí lena riachtanais leighis le hobair na foirne altranais, i gcomhar leis an dochtúir cuartaíochta. Tá na dualgais araíonachta a bhíonn á ndéanamh ag na hAltraí chomh maith, in éineacht lena ról leighis, riachtanach faoi láthair, de réir cuma, ach táimid ag fanacht le torthaí na Foirne um Chlaochlú ina leith seo agus i leith rudaí eile. Sa chás nach féidir freastal ar riachtanais leighis i dTeach an Locháin, amhail measúnú síciatrach, déantar freastal ar na riachtanais seo uaireanta tríd an bpríosúnach a aistriú go dtí an Caisleán Riabhach ar mhaithe leis an measúnú/idirghabháil leighis is fearr. Tacaímid le agus spreagaimid breithniú ar Scaoileadh Sealadach, pé áit ar oiriúnach agus praiticiúil, le haghaidh coinní agus gnáthaimh leighis.

Séiplíneacht

Bíonn an tAth. John McMahon ag freastal ar Theach an Locháin le bualadh leis na ciontóirí agus leis an Aifreann a rá, rud atá ar fáil go seachtainiúil agus ar Laethanta Naofa araon. Léirítear meas ar agus spreagtar riachtanais Spioradálta / Reiligiúnacha na bpríosúnach go léir, beag beann ar a mbunús ná a gcreidimh. Níl aon fhianaise ar leithcheal ciníoch, reiligiúnach, gnéasach ná eile i dTeach an Locháin agus go deimhin, níl a leithéid tuairiscithe dúinn in aon chor inár dteagmháil leis na ciontóirí.

Tailte / Purláin an Phríosúin

Moltar na ciontóirí a bhíonn ag obair taobh amuigh agus taobh istigh den phríosún, a choinníonn an áit glan, slachtmhar, deas agus fáilteach. Gabhaimid buíochas leis an lucht bainistíochta agus leis an bhfoireann mhaoirseachta chomh maith as a leithéid d'obair a éascú. Tá an obair a dhéantar tar éis a bheith sínte taobh amuigh de thimpeallacht an phríosúin agus tuilleadh creidiúint do Theach an Locháin le glantachán, cruthú ceapacha bláthanna srl. sa Bhlaic. Chuir an Tionscadal Dealbhóireachta i gCluainín obair na bpríosúnach ar taispeáint ag Fleadh Uile-Éireann sa Chabhán i mí Lúnasa agus moladh go hard é.

Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite (ISM)

Is éard atá i mBainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite ná modh ina mbainistítear pianbhreitheanna príosúnach agus an tréimhse a chaitheann siad i bpríosún. Is é is aidhm do Bhainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite ná go bhforbróidh gach ceann de na seirbhísí agus gníomhaireachtaí príosúin, i dteannta na bpríosúnach iad féin, plean do gach príosúnach ón uair a chuirtear príosúnaigh chun príosúin go dtí an uair a fhilleann siad ar an bpobal. Cuideoidh sé leo an úsáid is fearr a bhaint as a gcuid ama i bpríosún agus cabhróidh sé lena n-athchomhtháthú isteach sa phobal. Ó mhí na Samhna 2012 i leith, cuireadh cúram ar an AIS James Keely an clár seo a chomhordú i dTeach an Locháin.

Cláir Sheachtracha Oibre/Oiliúna

Cuireadh tús le roinnt cláir oibre agus oiliúna i 2012. Chuir ochtar príosúnach tús le hoiliúint i gColáiste an Iardheiscirt in Inis Ceithleann ar Chúrsa dhá bhliain Lónadóireachta agus Aclaíochta. Bhí ceathrar ar an dá chúrsa. Tá an Tionscadal 18-25 agus an Tionscadal Gairdín ag leanúint ar aghaidh go fóill. Leantar de roinnt páirtithe oibre a bheith ar siúl go fóill, ina ndéanann Príosúnaigh obair don phobal sa Bhlaic, i gCluainín agus i gCeannteathrú Sheirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann sa Longfort.

Forbhreathnú

Is gné thar a bheith luachmhar agus fiúntach de Sheirbhís na bPríosún é Teach an Locháin go fóill, do na ciontóirí a measadh a bheith oiriúnach le haghaidh aistriú anseo agus do na ciontóirí ar mian leo a chruthú go bhfuil siad oiriúnach

araon; is dreasacht é le haghaidh iompraíochta níos fearr agus le go nglacfaidh an ciontóir freagracht as bainistíocht a phianbhreithe féin. Tá an fhoireann cúirtéiseach agus cabhrach agus tá an caidreamh idir an tOifigeach agus an Ciontóir difriúil agus níos fearr ná an caidreamh a d'fhéadfadh a bheith i gceist in institiúid atá níos mó agus dúnta. Braithimid go gcuireann an caidreamh seo leis an gcaoi nach dtarlaíonn iarrachtaí ar fhéindíobháil agus ar fhéinmharú go rómhínic i dTeach an Locháin. Tá na seirbhísí go léir ar ardchaighdeán, idir an Spórtlann, an tAonad Oideachais agus an Siopa Sólaistí. Is léiriú é líon beag na ngearán a dhéantar leis an gcomhlacht seo faoi cheisteanna/fadhbanna a bhíonn ag na ciontóirí ar institiúid atá á reáchtáil go seoigh agus atá oiriúnach dá feidhm.

Sínithe [Síniú] Bloclitreacha Kathleen Richey

Dáta an 4 Meitheamh, 2013

Sínithe [Síniú] Bloclitreacha Francis McDermott

Dáta an 4 Meitheamh, 2013

Sínithe [Síniú] Bloclitreacha Patrick Boyle

Dáta an 4 Meitheamh, 2013

Sínithe [Síniú] Bloclitreacha Andy Cullen

Dáta an 4 Meitheamh, 2013

Sínithe [Síniú] Bloclitreacha Gerard O'Connor

Dáta _____