

**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 2013.**

The following are the Members who served on the Committee during 2013:

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

The Committee held a total of 12 meetings throughout the year, all of which were well attended.

Mrs. Mary E.Gavin and Mr. Liam Reilly served as Governors during the year, while Mrs. Geraldine Carrick served as Chief Officer.

Number of Offenders in Loughan House

Loughan House remains a transfer Place of Detention in 2013 it received precisely two hundred and fifty one offenders on transfer, mainly from committal prisons. By and large, there was compliance with periods of temporary release, while four prisoners absconded in 2013.

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. City & Guilds training was introduced for Inmates in 2013.

Education Unit

The Education Unit retains its 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 which this year included *ECDL*, *Building*, *CPC* courses and *Leaving Certificate*. 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 a huge benefit to the Library Service to Inmates.

Laundry Services

The Prison Laundry is now Operational onsite under the supervision of a Work Training Officer 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, there are also two Probation Officers Ms. Bridget Myles and Mr. Colin Halligan working in Loughan their work is seen as most valuable and is indeed appreciated.

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 operates once per month. While this service has been cut from weekly visits and is seen as a steep cut to services, the Committee recognises the pressures being placed on resources in every area of each Department. Since the Transformation process having been completed here, Nurse Officers perform their duties solely in the Healthcare area and are not required to perform operational duties. 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. Where medical requirements cannot be met in Loughan House, such as psychiatric evaluation, these needs are sometimes met by transferring the prisoner to Castlerea Prison or Midlands Prison 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. Charles O'Gorman 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.

Integrated Sentence Management ISM

ISM is a method for managing prisoner's 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. WTO James Keely is the co-ordinator of this program in Loughan House.

External Work/Training Programs

There are a number of work and training programs commenced in 2013. Eleven inmates commenced training in South West College in Enniskillen subjects include Catering course, Gym Course, Computer Science, Business Services and Refrigeration Course. A number of work parties also continue to take place, where Inmates carried out community work in the Recourse Centre Blacklion, Glen Centre Manorhamilton, St. Michaels Primary School Glenfarne, Drumkeeran Animal Welfare Centre, Drumkeeran Church and the Irish Prison Service Headquarters in Longford.

Charitable Work

Two new charitable initiatives were launched in 2013. The first is Loughan House in conjunction with Bóthar, the scheme in which calves donated by farmers, schools and community groups from all over the country will be taken to where there will be reared by Loughan House inmates at the prison's on-site farm for the next two years. Once they are mature enough and in calf, they will be flown to needy families in developing countries in Africa. The second is the Bikes for Africa, 500 old bikes have been donated by people from all around the country through the network of 70-plus Rotary clubs. Thanks to Ms. Ethel Gavin, and Mr. Liam Reilly, current Governor, the Irish Prison Service is partnering with Rotary to refurbish the donated bikes. The project provides prisoners with an opportunity to give back to the community and learn new skills. It teaches them about bike technology and repair as they service, clean and recycle the bikes in the newly constructed Bikes4Africa workshop in Loughan House prison. Other charitable work include shamrock grown by the inmates and donated to the North West Hospice raising €3,500, inmates and staff raised €972 for Shave and Dye and €363.50 was raised in the Movember appeal.

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.

Signed _____ Block Capitals _____

Date _____

**An tAire Shatter,
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais
94 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath 2.**

**Is áthas linn, comhaltaí
Choiste Cuairte Theach an Locháin
a bhfuil a sínté anseo thíos,
ár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil le haghaidh 2013 a chur i láthair.**

Is iad seo a leanas na Comhaltaí a d'fhóin ar an gCoiste le linn 2013:

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

Thionóil an Coiste 12 chruinniú san iomlán ar fud na bliana agus freastalaíodh go maith orthu go léir.

D'fhóin Mary E. Gavin Uasal agus an tUasal Liam Reilly mar Ghobharnóirí le linn na bliana, agus d'fhóin Geraldine Carrick Uasal mar Phríomhoifigeach.

Lón na gCiontóirí i dTeach an Locháin

Is Ionad Cóireála é Teach an Locháin go fóill - i 2013, fuair sé dhá chéad caoga is ciontóir amháin go díreach ar aistriú, ó phríosúin chimithe den chuid is mó. Tríd is tríd, comhlíonadh tréimhsí scailte shealadaigh, agus d'éalaigh ceathrar príosúnach i 2013.

Cuairteanna arna dtabhairt ag an gCoiste

I rith na bliana, thug comhaltaí an choiste cuairt 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 dtabhaint 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 mhiniúcháin 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 béisí ansin agus na gníomhaireachtaí iniúchóireachta seachtraí araoon. 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 shláintíúil 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. Tugadh oiliúint City & Guilds isteach do Phríosúnaigh i 2013.

An tAonad Oideachais

Cóinníonn an tAonad Oideachais a fheidhm ríthábhachtach i dTeach an Locháin agus is go mór a thuilleann a chuid oibre an tacáiocht a thugann lucht bainistíochta an phrófesúin 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, ar áiríodh leo i mbliana cúrsaí *ECDL, Foirgníochta, CPC* agus *an Ardteistiméireacht*. Tuairiscíonn daltaí leibhéal ard sásaimh leis na hábhair ar fáil, agus tá leibhéal 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 ardleibhéal ranpháirtíochta 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 fairne ar na seirbhísí, in ainneoin tréaniarrachtaí an 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 Shoghluiste Leabharlainne, agus tionóladh cruinnithe le Comhairle Chontae an Chabháin chun gach rogha a phlé. Idir an dá linn, bogadh an áis leabharlainne go dtí áit níos oríúnaí in Pine Lodge agus bíonn sí oscailte trí huaire in aghaidh na seachtaine ag an leabharlannaí pártaimseartha. 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 Oibreoir Oiliúna Oibre 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 bheith i láthair anseo ach go páirtaimseartha mar gheall ar ghealltanais ghairmiúla in áiteanna eile, tá beirt Oifigeach Promhaidh, Bridget Myles agus an tUasal Colin Halligan, ag obair i dTeach an Locháin freisin agus féachtar ar a gcuid oibre mar rud atá thar a bheith luachmhar agus táthar an-bhuioch as.

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. 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 dínte 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 ghníomhreachta a úsáid. Oibríonn Seirbhísí Fiaclóireachta uair amháin sa mhí. Cé gur baineadh an tseirbhís seo amach as cuairteanna seachtainiúla agus go bhféachtar air sin mar chiorrú mór ar sheirbhísí, aithníonn an Coiste an brú atá ar na hacmhainní i ngach aon réimse de gach Roinn. Ó cuireadh an próiseas um Bunathrú chun Feabhas i gcrích anseo, comhlíonann Oifigigh Altra a ndualgais sa réimse cúram sláinte amháin agus ní éilítear orthu dualgais oibriúcháin a chomhlíonadh. 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. 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 Príosún an Chaisleáin Riabhaigh nó Príosún an Láir Tíre ar mhaithe leis an measúnú/idirghabháil leighis is fearr. Tacaímid le breithniú ar Scaoileadh Sealadach agus spreagaimid é, pé áit ar oiriúnach agus praiticiúil, le haghaidh coinní agus gnáthaimh leighis.

Séiplíneacht

Bíonn an tAth. Charles O’Gorman 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 riachtanais Spioradálta / Reiligiúnacha na bpríosúnach go léir agus spreagtar iad, 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 / Purlán 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 Blaic.

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 chun cabhrú leo leas a bhaint as an am a chaith siad sa phríosún agus chun cabhrú leo imeascadh sa phobal athuair. Is é an AIS James Keely comhordaitheoir an chláir sin i dTeach an Locháin.

Clár Sheachtracha Oibre/Oiliúna

Cuireadh túis le roinnt cláir oibre agus oiliúna i 2013. Chuir aon phríosúnach déag túis le hoiliúint i gColáiste an Iardheiscirt in Inis Ceithleann. Áirítear le hábhair cursa Lónadóireachta, cursa Aclaíochta, Eolaíocht Ríomhaireachta, Seirbhísí Gnó agus cursa Cuisniúcháin. Leantar de roinnt páirtithe oibre a bheith ar siúl go fóill, ina ndéanann Príosúnaigh obair don phobal san Ionad Cúnamh, an Blaic, in Ionad an Ghleanna, Cluainín, i mBunscoil Mhícheál, Gleann Fearna, in Ionad Leas Ainmhithe Dhroim Caorthainn, i Séipéal Dhroim Caorthainn agus i gCeanncheathrú Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann sa Longfort.

Obair Charthanúil

Seoladh dhá thionscnamh charthanúla nua i 2013. Is é an chéad tionscnamh ná tionscnamh Theach an Locháin i gcomhar le Bóthar. Sa scéim seo, glacfar laonna a dheonaíonn feirmeoirí, scoileanna agus grúpaí pobail ó gach cearn den tir chuig an áit mar a dtógrfaidh príosúnaigh Theach an Locháin iad ag feirm an phríosún ar an láithreán go ceann an dá bhliain romhainn. A luaithe is atá siad aibí go leor agus ina mba bisigh, eitleofar iad chuig teaghlaigh bhochta i dtíortha i mbéal forbartha san Afraic. Is é an dara tionscnamh ná Rothair ar son na hAfraice. Dheonaigh daoine ar fud na tíre 500 seanrothar tríd an lónra de níos mó ná 70 club Rotary. A bhúi le Ethel Gavin agus leis an Uasal Liam Reilly, an Gobharnóir reatha, tá Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann i mbun comhpháirtíochta le Rotary chun na rothair dheonaithe a dheisiú. Tugann an tionscadal an deis do phríosúnaigh an comhar a íoc leis an bpobal agus scileanna nua a fhoghlaim. Teagascтар teicneolaíocht agus deisiúchán rothar dóibh de réir mar a dhéanann siad na rothair a sheirbhísíú, a ghlanadh agus a athchúrsáil sa cheardlann nua-thóghtha Bikes4Africa (Rothair ar son na hAfraice) i bPríosún Theach an Locháin. Áirítear le hobair charthanúil eile an tseamróg a d'fhás na príosúnaigh agus a dheonaigh siad d'Ospís an Iarthuaiscirt agus as ar

bailíodh €3,500, bhaileigh príosúnaigh agus baill foirne €972 as Bearr agus Ruaimnigh agus bailíodh €363.50 in achainí Movember.

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 iompraíocht 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 rómhnic i dTeach an Locháin. Tá na seirbhísí go léir ar ardchaighdeán, idir an Spórtlann, an tAonad Oideachais agus an Siopa Sólaistí. Is léiriú é lón 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 _____ Bloclitreacha _____

Dáta _____

Sínithe _____ Bloclitreacha _____

Dáta _____

Sínithe _____ Bloclitreacha _____

Dáta _____

Sínithe _____ Bloclitreacha _____

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