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Visiting Committee Annual Report 2013

We, the undersigned members of Wheatfield Prison Visiting Committee are pleased to present the Annual Report year ending 2013. The Visiting Committee comprises of four members at the time of this report being compiled. The committee visits the prison on the second Tuesday of every month, with two members of the committee conducting the follow up visits generally two weeks later. There has also been an unannounced visit to the prison to review its operations.

Every month the committee has met with prisoners to hear their concerns. These meetings usually take place in the prison boardroom where prisoners are brought up and the meeting takes place in private with the committee. Due to operational reasons, the committee may visit the prisoners within the prison. The committee has met with a large amount of prisoners this year. The amount of prisoners requesting meetings with the committee ranges from month to month, with an average of approximately five prisoners per month. When the meeting with the prisoners has been concluded the committee then would meet with the Governor in which the prisoners' concerns and requests would be raised. Having given the Governor time to review the requests, two members of the committee would return to the prison that month and pass on the results of the requests to the prisoners. These meetings would usually take place within the prison, whereby further inspection of the prison can take place.

Common requests from prisoners usually include: transfer requests, visitor issues, 21 hour lockup, P19 punishments and health issues. The response from the Governor regarding the prisoners' requests is fair and accommodating. Where issues can be resolved they usually are. There are some instances due to operational reasons that some requests cannot be met. Prisoners generally understand the answers to their requests. With some cases it is simply a breakdown in the communication channels that causes their concerns and can be quickly resolved.

Wheatfield Prison is a modern facility and is well maintained. The Prison has now been re-classed as a place of detention for adult males and sentenced seventeen year old juveniles. It has an occupational capacity of 540.

Prisoner cells:

Prisoner's cells are well maintained. Each cell has in cell sanitation. Cell furniture is adequate. Prisoners are allowed to put photos, posters, certificates etc. on the walls. The cells were designed for single occupancy but most cells have now got more than one inmate. Prisoners are allowed to have their own teas and coffees and goods purchased from the tuck shop. Space in shared cells is a premium. The new cells housing the juveniles are of a very high standard and extremely well maintained.

Prison corridors, wings and landings:

The general condition of the communal areas of the prison is good. Doors, walls and bars are regularly painted. Some prisoners are detailed with cleaning duties and the communal areas are well maintained. Some prisoners discard their refuse out of the cell windows and this creates an unsightly mess below the cell windows. There has been a significant improvement on this since last year. There is also health issues involved as this practice can attract vermin. There are no issues to report with regard to heating in these areas. The tuck shop has been removed and is replaced by an order form which works well. Funds which the prisoner has access to may be spent on goods. i.e. tobacco, snacks, fruit and personal hygiene products among other items.

Prisoner Reception Area:

When a prisoner arrives at Wheatfield he is processed through the prisoner reception area in accordance with prison regulations. All personal articles are recorded. These articles are then kept in safe locker storage by the authorities. On arrival prison approved clothes can be issued to prisoners. These clothes are of good quality. The prisoner will be issued with personal hygiene products also. Upon release the prisoner's personal articles are returned to him. There have been no issues brought to our attention regarding this procedure.

Prisoner Committal area:

After the prisoner is processed at the reception area he will then be brought to the committal wing in which he will spend his first night. While he is here he will be given the prison rules and his entitlements will be explained to him. It is here where the prisoners and authorities decide what area of the prison is best suited for the inmate. The committee feel this is a positive move in reducing the stress for inmates arriving to the prison. It also helps the authorities in their prison management.

Prison Grounds:

The Prison has utilised its internal grounds well. It has developed a very high quality flower and plant nursery. These plants and flowers are used to make the prison aesthetically better. It also gives some good training to the prisoners involved in the scheme. The prisoners involved in this programme are prisoners serving life on enhanced regime. A link

has been established with local community groups i.e. Clondalkin Tidy Towns group in which the Prison supplies flowers for public areas of the community. The programme operates at a very professional level. The programme uses recycled rain water for this programme. The grounds are always well maintained. A substantial waste management programme operates within the prison.

Kitchen/Catering:

The kitchen operates at a very high level. There is a 28 day menu cycle in operation. This gives the prisoners a wide variety in foods and meals. Special care is taken as to ensure that the menu is both healthy and nutritious. Special dietary requirements are also taken into consideration. If a prisoner requires a specialist food the prison has stated that it would get it in. The kitchens are well suited and utilised for training prisoners in catering. The kitchen staff is highly motivated and are proud of their work. The kitchens and its stores operate at a professional level. The kitchens have been audited and inspected by outside authorities and have received the relevant accreditation. The committee has not received any concerns regarding the food, with the exception of some special dietary requests. The committee has also had meals prepared in the kitchens and have found them to be of high quality. The skills learned in the kitchen have a beneficial value upon the prisoners release. Inmates call to kitchen distribution areas to collect their meals.

Education:

The prison operates many educational and training services. Upon committal prisoners are encouraged to enter the educational programme. There are many levels in which to enter the educational units from some basic training all the way up to Open University levels. There is general basic education, Fetac Level 3, 4 and 5. Junior and Leaving Certificates. The Level depends on the subject. Many prisoners seem to have some literacy issues so it is important to identify any prisoners with literacy issues or dyslexia as some of these prisoners decide not to enter the educational process. The Visiting Committee feels that it would be appropriate to assess all 17-18 year olds to identify issues such as ADHD, Dyslexia etc. Courses in anger management and empathy would also be of assistance to the 17-18 year old inmates. The educational staff is dedicated and hard working. They try hard to make the educational facility stimulating and rewarding. The staff achieves success in both. The educational facility is a safe environment in which the prisoners can utilise the facility. Bullying, violent and threatening behaviour is not tolerated within the facility and prisoners that engage in negative behaviour are removed. Prisoners are assessed to ascertain what level of education is best suited for him. There are a wide variety of courses in which prisoners can engage including choices from maths, business, computers, health education, creative arts and crafts, history, geography, sociology and languages. The committee feels that the education programme could always do with more resources especially to engage those inmates with literacy difficulties who do not enter the educational programmes.

Library:

Wheatfield prison has a library for inmate usage. It is deemed by the committee to be a much underused resource as it is regularly closed. Staffing the library seems to be one of the main reasons for its underperformance. A rethink of the library resource is required.

Training Workshops:

The long term plan for Wheatfield is to return it to a training institution. On inspection the committee found the workshop training units to be of a highly professional level. The facility includes carpentry, metal, construction, printing and paint workshops. The instructors are dedicated and proud of their work and facility. Prisoners receive a high level of training and skill sets upon completion of courses. These facilities have a substantial array of tools and machines in which prisoners can carry out their work. The prison has also linked up with external groups i.e. charities in which some of the products and services of prisoners can be utilised. The skills learned in these facilities can be of great benefit to prisoners upon release. It is also a very stimulating and rewarding environment in which prisoners can achieve personal growth. The committee believes that it is important that the prison continue to receive the resources in which to carry out these training workshops. We also feel that these facilities are maintained to a very high level. It was also noted that high level of importance was placed on health and safety.

Physical Activities:

The committee believe that the prison has a very good level of physical activities. The prison gyms have a good selection of equipment in which prisoners can train. The gyms are a very popular pastime in which prisoners participate. It is important that these pieces of equipment are kept maintained. Prisoners on basic enhancements get a minimum of one hour per week and those on enhanced get a minimum of two hours per week. The prison has an all-weather playing pitch which is a well utilised facility. There is also a sports hall in which prisoners can play sports such as indoor soccer, badminton, among others. The prison authorities have a positive approach to physical activity. They are currently implementing indoor bowls for older prisoners and are looking at implementing a tag rugby programme. The committee believes that fit and healthy prisoners would be less of a burden on the prison health service.

Prison yards:

The prison yards are large spaces with good natural light. They are covered with netting in order to stop objects thrown from outside the prison into the yards. Security procedures are also put in place to ensure that weapons are not brought into the yards. The committee understands that drugs are being thrown from outside the prison walls onto the netting where the prisoners retrieve the packages by throwing objects up at the netting to release the packages.

Laundry:

Wheatfield prison laundry is a large facility. It handles all of Wheatfield and Cloverhill prison laundry requirements. It is a modern facility that gives prisoners some good training opportunities while also cutting down some operational costs for the prison. On inspection the laundry is a busy well used service that acts in a very professional manner. The committee received no reports or issues from inmates regarding this service.

Prisoner Mail:

Prisoner mail service is generally handled with efficiency. Prisoner mail incoming/outgoing mail is censored for inappropriate remarks, comments and material. Prisoners can receive private mail from legal personnel if it is in a separate envelope within the original post. An option is available to send personal or sensitive mail direct to the Visiting Committee. Generally the inmates are content with the system as there has only been one issue brought to our attention regarding mail. This was resolved expediently. Inmates should be given the full postal/contact details of the Prison. The committee had no big issues regarding inmates mail this year.

Discipline Regimes:

The prison operates three levels of incentivised regimes, basic, standard & enhanced. All new committals enter as standard. Depending on their engagement with the system, their regime could be downgraded to basic. Within the basic programme there are a loss of certain privileges such as, no access to, the gym, games consoles, family visits, premium employment and premium accommodation among other privilege losses. The authorities have implemented this regime to prisoners not engaging with the system. The committee believes the loss of these privileges is fair. It should be noted that the loss of these privileges should be administered to all in a fair and equitable way. Clear prison rules and discipline guidelines are given to all prisoners. This regime should never be used on prisoners without giving the prisoner a clear indication of his infringement.

Prisoners who meet the more challenging standards are rewarded by being upgraded to the enhanced regime. There are clear advantages to being on the enhanced regime such as, up to 7 hours out of cell per day, more gym access, more visits and phone calls. The main privilege is that the enhanced regime is based in the new wing of the prison. This is very sought after as conditions in the new wing are superior. The inmates feel safer and more comfortable in the new wing. The cells are superior and the wing has a better design layout than the original part of the prison. Prisoners have to have entered the enhanced regime before they would be considered for movement to an open prison or T.R. This regime should never be taken away from an inmate without clear indication of his infringement. The committee believes that the usage of the different prison regimes is a fair system once it is administered in a fair and equitable way. Clear communication between the prison authorities and the inmates are of importance for this system to work effectively. It is important that all prisoners are aware of prison punishment procedures and the prisoners understand the ramifications of infringing the rules.

Inmates can receive P19 punishments for breaking of rules within the prison. The P19 involves a loss of privileges for a designated period of time. The committee does not feel that the P19 punishment is over used with Wheatfield Prison. It should be noted that the committee feel that a clear explanation of why the prisoner has received the P19 should be given. There is an appeal process within the system whereby the Governor can make an overriding decision. There are further channels to which a prisoner can appeal a punishment. This involves the report being sent to the IPS for a decision. The committee feel

that it can take too long for the IPS to rule on a complaint or appeal. The committee recommends that this appeal process should take no longer than three days.

Other incentives used to reward good behaviour include the opportunity to be moved to an open prison. The committee feel that this is one of the best incentive tools that the prison has. There should be clear and regular communication to Wheatfield prison as to the availability of places within these facilities. Prisoners should be moved quite soon after they have been approved. The committee feels that the awarding of places for inmates with 18 months or more left on their sentence is counterproductive as prisoners on enhanced regime who have applied for open prison with 12 months or less that have not been moved feel aggrieved, angry and disillusioned with the prison. The practice causes friction for otherwise well behaved prisoners. The prison has been implementing a T.R. programme and a community return programme. The committee feel that these are positive steps.

Prison Visits:

Inmates are entitled to at least one and a maximum of three visits per week depending on the regime that they are currently on. Prison visits are one of the main gateways that drugs and other illegal items enter the prison. The authorities apply high security measures to prevent this. Prison visitors check in in a reception area outside the prison and then wait to be called. The waiting area is clean with plenty of seating. There are lockers for visitors to place their personal belongings in. At busy times the large lockers seem to be used more than the small ones. The lockers must be kept in a good state of repair with working locks. Visitors then enter the prison through the security measures such as X-ray and sniffer dogs. If a visitor is caught with drugs the Gardaí are informed. The dogs are an important tool in the control of drugs. Should a dog indicate on a visitor then after a search the visit will take place behind glass screens. There has been an issue with the dog unit regarding false indications. The committee believe that the dog unit is compromised and will need to be retrained to conduct accurate duties. The visiting area is well maintained but when it is full and both sections are in use it can be difficult for people to hear properly. There are family rooms that some prisoners have access to. The committee feel that if a visitor receives a ban on visits clear guideline should be issued to inform the visitor and the inmate of how long the ban is and the protocol to have the ban lifted. There should be some compassion if a visitor has a genuine reason for being late.

Visits that are suspected for wrongdoing are reviewed by cctv and a decision is generally made after the visit. The visiting process takes up a large amount of staffing resources as prisoners have to be brought up from all parts of the prison. This can take some time for officers to get from one end of the prison to the other. If a prisoner is suspected of receiving anything illegal, they are searched in a private holding room. The committee believes that the prison authorities are operating the visiting area to a fair and high standard. However there have been some issues raised with us regarding visits. The visiting area is often abused and a gateway for drugs to be brought into the prison. The Committee feels that bringing in children that are not related to inmates should be reviewed. The booking line is very hard to get through to. The use of modern IT systems should be investigated for the booking process. If a visitor is barred, clear and fair timeframes should be implemented. The paperwork for future visits should be issued at least one week before the expiration of the

previous paperwork. Visitor review results should be communicated to the inmate in question. The family rooms should be used as often as they are available.

It should be noted that the authorities are addressing the external appearance of the public areas. The car parks have undergone a large scale clean up and landscaping with plants and flowers from the prison. This gives a better impression to visitors upon arrival. The public car park is free and has plenty of spaces. It is an unsecured car park and there have been issues of cars broken into. Overall the visiting area works well and the visitors arriving have no major problems with the process.

Health:

The inmates have access to doctors, nurses, dentists, and opticians. If a prisoner requires emergency treatment it is provided for them. As far as check-ups go prisoners are entitled to the same frequency of care as that would be provided in the public system. There is a back log at the moment to see the optician as a replacement has not yet been appointed. Inmates receive fair treatment and follow ups as required in accordance with best practice. The committee believes that all prisoners who avail of the medical services receive the best of care. It is important that the prison authorities are aware of inmates that have on-going conditions that may develop into different conditions. It is important that communication lines between inmates, medical staff and the prison authorities are kept open and clear. Clear dialog and protocol is required in order to stop inmates trying to or being accused of storing medication. The medical staff are dedicated to their profession and implement a great service to the inmates.

There is an issue regarding inmates looking to see the psychologist as there is a back log in prisoners requiring their services. Prisoners seem very happy with the service and seem to have a good relationship with the staff. This department is an integral part of prisoners health care as the stresses of prison life can be difficult for some to overcome

The prison also accommodates addiction counselling for inmates. Wheatfield Prison also runs a building better lives programme for selected inmates. This course is a very successful course in their mental healthcare. The possibility of expanding versions of this course should be considered.

Chaplaincy:

The prison chaplaincy is an integral part of inmate welfare. They administer the inmates spiritual needs. This service also assists inmates with family issues and other personal matters. It is an important line of communication that inmates have and should be protected. They work hard to provide a caring and trusting service for inmates.

The prison has also made provisions for inmates of different faiths. As Wheatfield Prison has a number of inmates with different faiths, these provisions need to be monitored and upgraded if necessary. The committee has received no issues of concern regarding this department this year.

Drugs:

Drugs in Irish prisons are an on-going concern and Wheatfield Prison is no exception. The prison authorities implement a strict policy on drugs in accordance with the IPS drug strategy. Visitors to the prison are subjected to scanners, searches, sniffer dogs, and their bags are subject to X-Rays. Prison visits are monitored by CCTV for review at a later stage. The prison yards are covered with netting to prohibit articles being thrown from the perimeter walls. The prison authorities take the detection of drugs seriously; prisoners can be subjected to urine tests for the purpose of changing a regime. Drug free landings are on offer to prisoners who wish to avail. The committee feels that drug free landings are an important part of this strategy. We also feel that under no circumstances should prisoners that have not been cleared for these landings end up here. Vulnerable prisoners and visitors can be bullied and threatened to bring in drugs.

Prisoners can avail of drug rehabilitation programmes within the prison and the authorities encourage prisoners to use this service. The use of drugs in the prison causes a lot of difficulties. The committee feel that the prison authorities should continue their hard work in the eradication of drugs from the prison. The HSE provide services in addiction counselling. Drugs in the prison have a destructive effect on the lives of inmates. Of the many inmates the committee has seen over the year drugs have been an issue within their life at some stage. The committee believe that the prison authorities battle against drugs in prison should get all the resources they require in which to continue their work.

21 Hour Lock Up:

Prisoners who find themselves on 21 hour lock up undergo a tough prison experience. While it is understandable that it may be necessary to use 21 hour lock ups for certain prisoners, voluntary 21 hour lock ups should be only used as a last resort. Upon meeting inmates on 21 hour lock up, it is clear that the pressures, stresses and monotony of prison life are intensified. The committee believes that the mental health care of these prisoners be prioritised. Wheatfield Prison has a number of inmates on 21 hour lock up and the committee feel that the prison authorities do try to encourage prisoners to come off this regime. The Prison has done well to reduce 23 hour to 21 hour lockup.

St Patricks Transfers:

With the closure of St. Patrick's institution, a portion of these inmates have been moved to Wheatfield Prison. They are segregated from the main Prison population. Wheatfield Prison Management has done an excellent job in preparing the segregated area. Some issues remain contentious such as inmates damaging the new cells and equipment.

Sex Offenders:

Wheatfield prison had a number of sex offenders. These inmates have now been moved to Midlands Prison. This has freed up space for the housing of the St. Patricks juveniles.

Prison Violence:

Prisoner violence and attacks are decreasing within the prison. The authorities have implemented weapon amnesties to remove these articles from the prison. The committee believes that it is this kind of progressive approach to prison violence that is providing the positive results within the prison. The prison staff and authorities take violence and attacks in the prison very seriously and inmate safety is high on their list of priorities.

Other Services/Facilities

The prison has links with external groups such as the Red Cross and The Samaritans. These provide an excellent service for prisoners to engage in. In certain areas of the prison the Samaritans have trained inmates to become listeners. This is a very valuable resource as inmates have somebody to talk to should they be experiencing a problem. Under strict guidelines, a trial period of running a 'prison lifers group' has been started. Prisoners have access to games consoles, pool tables and playing cards among other items. The committee has had no reports of issues regarding prisoners' personal funds.

Sentence Management:

The prison operates an integrated sentence management programme. There is a dialogue between the prison and the inmates on how to get the best out of their time inside. This gives the inmates a clear understanding of their future within the prison. The authorities have a positive approach regarding sentencing. The committee feel that the prison authorities work hard to ensure that prisoners on enhanced regimes get an opportunity to apply for T.R. or open facilities. The committee feel that the prison authorities operate a fair and humane approach to prisoner sentences. The committee believe that if a prisoner has a request for information or transfers etc, that when the Governor receives this request it is followed through to a conclusion by that same Governor thus avoiding duplication and misinformation. The lines of communication must be open and clear at all times.

Conclusion:

It is the Visiting Committees belief that Wheatfield Place of Detention is a modern, progressive and very well run facility. In the current challenging economic climate we think that the prison authorities and staff do a remarkable job in maintaining this facility. The staff operates with fairness and compassion when dealing with the inmates. Every opportunity is

given to the inmates to improve themselves within the prison. We, the committee have not had to deal with any major incidents during the year which is testament to the work the staff do. It is our belief that clear communication between the authorities and inmates is of great importance.

We, Wheatfield Prison Visiting Committee wish to thank Governor Mr Patrick Kavanagh, his colleagues and all the staff at Wheatfield Prison for their support and cooperation throughout the year. We pass on our best wishes to outgoing Committee member Mr. John O' Neill and thank him for his years of hard work. The Wheatfield Visiting Committee will continue its work for the coming year 2014.

Mr Stewart Stephens (Chairman)

Mrs Kathleen Gill

Mrs Brenda Coyne

Mrs Anne Carter

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Tuarascáil Bhliantúil an Choiste Cuairte 2013

Tá áthas orainn, baill de Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chruithneachtáin a bhfuil a gcuid ainmneacha leis seo thíos, an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil don bhliain dar críoch 2013 a chur i láthair. Chuimsigh an Coiste Cuairte ceathrar ball nuair a bhí an tuarascáil seo á cur le chéile. Tugann an coiste cuairt ar an bpríosún ar an dara Máirt de gach mí, agus déanann beirt bhall den choiste cuairteanna leantacha dhá sheachtain ina dhiaidh sin de ghnáth. Tugadh cuairt neamhfhógartha amháin ar an bpríosún freisin chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar a chuid oibríochtaí.

Bhuail an coiste le príosúnaigh gach mí chun a gcuid ábhair inní a chloisteáil. Cuirtear na cruinnithe sin ar siúl i seomra boird an phríosúin de ghnáth, agus tugtar na príosúnaigh suas agus reáchtáiltear an cruinniú go príobháideach leis an gcoiste. De bharr cúiseanna oibríochta, d'fhéadfadh an coiste cuairt a thabhairt ar na príosúnaigh laistigh den phríosún. Bhuail an coiste le líon mór príosúnach i mbliana. Athraíonn an líon príosúnach a iarrann cruinnithe leis an gcoiste ó mhí go mí, agus buaileann sé le thart ar chúigear príosúnach in aghaidh na míosa ar an meán. Nuair a chuirtear an cruinniú leis na príosúnaigh i gcrích, is minic a bhuaileann an coiste leis an nGobharnóir ina dhiaidh sin agus cuirtear ábhair inní agus iarratais na bpríosúnach in iúl. Tar éis deis a thabhairt don Ghobharnóir na hiarratais a mheas, filleann beirt bhall den choiste ar ais chuig an bpríosún an mhí sin agus tugann siad torthaí na n-iarratas do na príosúnaigh. Cuirtear na cruinnithe sin ar siúl laistigh den phríosún de ghnáth, trínar féidir iniúchadh breise a dhéanamh ar an bpríosún.

Is é a bhíonn i gceist le hiarratais ó phríosúnaigh de ghnáth ná: iarratais aistrithe, saincheisteanna cuairteoirí, príosúnacht 21 uair, pionóis P19 agus saincheisteanna sláinte. Is cóir agus garach atá an freagra ón nGobharnóir maidir le hiarratais na bpríosúnach. Nuair is féidir saincheisteanna a réiteach, réitítear iad de ghnáth. De bharr cúiseanna oibríochta, tá cásanna áirithe nach féidir freastal ar iarratais iontu. Tuigeann príosúnaigh na freagraí ar a gcuid iarratas de ghnáth. I gcásanna áirithe, bíonn cliseadh sna cainéil chumarsáide ina chúis lena gcuid inní agus is féidir iad sin a réiteach go tapa.

Is saoráid nua-aimseartha é Príosún Chruithneachtáin agus tá sé dea-chothabháilte. Tá sé athrangaithe anois mar ionad coinneála d'fhireannaigh aosacha agus d'ógánaigh seacht mbliana déag d'aois ar cuireadh pianbhreith orthu. Tá acmhainn ceirde de 540 príosúnach aige.

Cillíní na bpríosúnach:

Coinnítear an bhail cheart ar chillíní na bpríosúnach. Tá sláintíocht inmheánach ag gach cillín. Tá an troscán sa chillín leordhóthanach. Tá cead ag príosúnaigh grianghraif, póstaer, teastais etc. a chur ar na ballaí. Dearadh na cillíní le haghaidh áitíocht aonair, ach tá níos mó ná príosúnach amháin i bhformhór na gcillíní. Tá cead ag príosúnaigh tae agus caife agus earraí a cheannaítear ón siopa milseán a chaitheamh sna cillíní. Tá ganntanas spáis i gcillíní comhroinnte. Is ar chaighdeán ard agus dea-chothabháilte go deo atá na cillíní nua ina gcoinnítear na hógánaigh.

Conairí, sciatháin agus cinn staighre an phríosúin:

Tá riocht maith ar limistéir chomhchoiteanna an phríosúin den chuid is mó. Péinteáiltear doirse, ballaí agus barraí go minic. Cuirtear dualgais ghlantacháin ar phríosúnaigh áirithe agus coinnítear bail mhaith ar na limistéir chomhchoiteanna. Caitheann príosúnaigh áirithe a gcuid dramhaíola amach trí fhuinneoga na gcillíní agus fágann sé sin prÁCás míshlachtmhar faoi fhuinneoga na gcillíní. Tá feabhas suntasach tagtha air sin ón mbliain seo caite. Tá saincheisteanna sláinte i gceist, mar gur féidir leis an gcleachtas sin míolra a tharraingt. Níl aon saincheisteanna le tuairisciú maidir le téamh sna limistéir seo. Baineadh an siopa milseán agus tháinig foirm ordaithe isteach ina áit, rud a bhfuil ag éirí leis. Is féidir leis na cistí atá ag an bpríosúnach a chaitheamh ar earraí i.e. tobac, sneaiceanna, torthaí agus táirgí sláinteachais phearsanta i measc míreanna eile.

Limistéar Fáiltithe na bPríosúnach:

Nuair a thagann príosúnach go Príosún Chruithneachtáin, próiseáiltear é trí limistéar fáiltithe na bpríosúnach i gcomhréir le rialacháin an phríosúin. Taifeadtar gach earra pearsanta. Coinníonn na húdaráis na hearraí sin i stóráil shábháilte taisceadáin ina dhiaidh sin. Ar theacht isteach, is féidir éadaí atá ceadaithe ag an bpríosún a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh. Tá na héadaí sin ar chaighdeán maith. Cuirtear táirgí sláinteachais phearsanta ar fáil don phríosúnach freisin. Ar scaoileadh, tugtar earraí pearsanta an phríosúnaigh ar ais dó. Níor cuireadh aon saincheisteanna in iúl dúinn maidir leis an nós imeachta sin.

Limistéar Cimithe na bPríosúnach:

Tar éis an príosúnach a phróiseáil ag an limistéar fáiltithe, tugtar é chuig an sciathán cimithe, áit ina gcaitheann sé a chéad oíche sa phríosún. Agus é ansin, tugtar rialacha an phríosúin dó agus mínítear a chuid teidlíochtaí dó. Is san áit seo a chinneann na príosúnaigh agus na húdaráis cén chuid den phríosún atá is oiriúnaí don phríosúnach. Creideann an coiste gur beart dearfach é sin maidir le laghdú a dhéanamh ar an strus atá ar phríosúnaigh atá ag teacht chuig an bpríosún. Cabhraíonn sé leis na húdaráis ó thaobh bhainistíocht an phríosúin de freisin.

Tailte an Phríosúin:

Bhain an Príosún dea-úsáid as a chuid tailte inmheánacha. D'fhorbair sé plandlann bláthanna agus plandaí ar chaighdeán an-ard. Úsáidtear na plandaí agus na bláthanna sin chun cuma níos fearr a chur ar an bpríosún. Cuireann sé roinnt oiliúint mhaith ar fáil do phríosúnaigh atá páirteach sa scéim freisin. Is príosúnaigh atá ag caitheamh saoil ar réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe iad na príosúnaigh atá páirteach sa chlár seo. Tá nasc ar bun le grúpaí pobail áitiúil i.e. Grúpa Bailte Slachtmhara Chluain Dolcáin, agus soláthraíonn an Príosún bláthanna le haghaidh limistéir phoiblí an phobail. Oibrítear an clár ar bhealach anghairmiúil. Úsáideann an clár uisce báistí athchúrsáilte. Coinnítear bail mhaith ar na tailte i gcónaí. Oibrítear clár suntasach bainistíochta dramhaíola laistigh den phríosún.

Cistin/Lónadóireacht:

Oibrítear an chistin de réir leibhéal an-ard. Tá timhriall biachláir 28 lá i bhfeidhm. Tugann sé sin raon leathan bianna agus béilí do na príosúnaigh. Glactar cúram ar leith chun a chinntiú go bhfuil an biachlár sláintiúil agus cothaitheach araon. Cuirtear riachtanais chothaithe speisialta san áireamh freisin. Má tá gá ag príosúnach le bia speisialta, tá sé luaite ag an bpríosún go bhfaigheadh sé é. Tá na cistineacha oiriúnach d'oiliúint i lónadóireacht a chur ar phríosúnaigh agus úsáidtear iad chun é sin a dhéanamh. Tá foireann na cistine an-spreagtha agus bródúil as a cuid oibre. Oibrítear an chistin agus a cuid stóras ar bhealach gairmiúil. Rinne údaráis sheachtracha iniúchadh agus cigireacht ar na cistineacha agus fuair na cistineacha an creidiúnú cuí. Níor cuireadh aon ábhair imní in iúl don choiste maidir leis an mbia, seachas roinnt iarratais chothaithe speisialta. Ullmhaíodh béilí don choiste sna cistineacha freisin, agus mheas sé go raibh siad ar chaighdeán ard. Baineann luach tairbheach leis na scileanna a foghlaimíodh sa chistin ar scaoileadh na bpríosúnach. Téann príosúnaigh chuig na limistéir dháilte cistine chun a gcuid béilí a bhailiú.

Oideachas:

Feidhmíonn an príosún cuid mhór seirbhísí oideachais agus oiliúna. Ar chimiú, spreagtar príosúnaigh chun dul isteach sa chlár oideachais. Tá cuid mhór leibhéal ar féidir dul isteach sna haonaid oideachais iontu, idir oiliúint bhunúsach agus leibhéal na hOllscoile Oscailte. Tá oideachas bunúsach ginearálta, Leibhéal Fetac 3, 4 agus 5, an Teastas Sóisearach agus an Ardteistiméireacht ar fáil. Braitheann an Leibhéal ar an ábhar. Is cosúil go bhfuil fadhbanna litearthachta ag a lán príosúnach. Mar sin, tá sé tábhachtach aon phríosúnaigh a bhfuil fadhbanna litearthachta acu nó a bhfuil disléicse orthu a aithint mar go gcinneann roinnt de na príosúnaigh sin gan dul isteach sa phróiseas oideachais. Measann an Coiste Cuairte go mbeadh sé oiriúnach measúnú a dhéanamh ar gach duine idir 17 mbliana d'aois agus 18 bliana d'aois chun fadhbanna ar nós NHEA, Disléicse etc. a shainaithint. Chabhródh cúrsaí i mbainistíocht feirge agus ionbhá leis na príosúnaigh idir 17 mbliana d'aois agus 18 mbliana d'aois freisin. Tá an fhoireann oideachais tiomanta agus dícheallach. Déanann siad iarracht mhór an tsaoráid oideachais a dhéanamh spreagthach agus tairbheach. Baineann an fhoireann an dá rud sin amach. Tá an tsaoráid oideachais ina timpeallacht shábháilte inar féidir le príosúnaigh leas a bhaint as an tsaoráid. Ní chuirtear suas le bulaíocht, le foréigean ná le hiompar bagrach laistigh den tsaoráid agus baintear príosúnaigh atá páirteach in iompar diúltach. Déantar measúnú ar phríosúnaigh chun a fháil amach cén leibhéal oideachais atá is oiriúnaí dóibh. Tá raon leathan cúrsaí ar féidir le príosúnaigh páirt a ghlacadh iontu, lena n-áirítear matamaitic, gnó, ríomhaireacht, oideachas sláinte, na

healaíona cruthaitheacha agus ceardaíocht, stair, tíreolaíocht, socheolaíocht agus teangacha. Creideann an coiste go mbainfeadh an clár oideachais tairbhe as tuilleadh acmhainní a bheith aige, go háirithe chun aire na bpríosúnach sin a bhfuil fadhbanna litearthachta acu agus nach dtéann isteach sna cláir oideachais a tharraingt.

Leabharlann:

Tá leabharlann le haghaidh úsáid na bpríosúnach ag Príosún Chruithneachtáin. Measann an coiste gur acmhainn thearcúsáidte í toisc go mbíonn sí dúnta go minic. Is é ceann de na príomhchúiseanna le tearcfheidhmíocht na leabharlainne ná fadhbanna a bhaineann le soláthar foirne a chur ar fáil di. Ní mór athmhachnamh a dhéanamh ar an acmhainn leabharlainne.

Ceardlanna Oiliúna:

Is é an plean fadtéarmach do Phríosún Chruithneachtáin ná institiúid oiliúna a dhéanamh de arís. Ar chigireacht, mheas an coiste go raibh na haonaid oiliúna ceardlainne ar leibhéal an-ghairmiúil. Cuimsíonn an tsaoráid ceardlanna siúinéireachta, miotail, priontála agus péinteála. Tá na teagascóirí tiomanta dá gcuid oibre agus saoráide agus tá siad bródúil astu. Faigheann príosúnaigh ardleibhéal oiliúna agus scileanna ar chríochnú na gcúrsaí. Tá raon leathan uirlisí agus innealraí ag na saoráidí, agus is féidir le príosúnaigh úsáid a bhaint astu chun a gcuid oibre a chur i gcrích. Chuir an príosún nasc ar bun le grúpaí seachtracha freisin i.e. carthanais inar féidir leas a bhaint as cuid de tháirgí agus de sheirbhísí na bpríosúnach. Is féidir leis na scileanna a foghlaimíodh sna saoráidí sin bheith chun tairbhe mhór do phríosúnaigh ar scaoileadh. Is timpeallacht an-spreagthach agus an-fhiúntach í freisin, áit inar féidir le príosúnaigh fás pearsanta a bhaint amach. Creideann an coiste go bhfuil sé tábhachtach go leantar ar aghaidh leis na hacmhainní is gá chun na ceardlanna oiliúna a chur i gcrích a chur ar fáil don phríosún. Creidimid freisin go gcothabháiltear na háiseanna seo de réir caighdeán an-ard. Tugadh faoi deara freisin gur leagadh leibhéal ard béime ar shláinte agus ar shábháilteacht.

Gníomhaíochtaí Fisiciúla:

Creideann an coiste go bhfuil leibhéal an-mhaith gníomhaíochtaí fisiciúla i bhfeidhm sa phríosún. Tá rogha mhaith trealaimh ag spórtlanna an phríosúin inar féidir le príosúnaigh traenáil. Tá an-tóir ag na príosúnaigh ar na spórtlanna. Tá sé tábhachtach go gcoinnítear bail mhaith ar na píosaí trealaimh. Faigheann príosúnaigh sa réim dhreasaithe bhunúsaigh uair amháin ar a laghad in aghaidh na seachtaine agus faigheann na príosúnaigh siúd sa réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe dhá uair ar a laghad in aghaidh na seachtaine. Tá páirc imeartha uile-aimsire ag an bpríosún agus úsáidtear an tsaoráid sin go minic. Tá halla spóirt ann freisin agus is féidir le príosúnaigh spóirt amhail sacar faoi dhíon agus badmantan, i measc nithe eile, a imirt ann. Glacann údarais an phríosúin le cur chuige dearfach i leith gníomhaíocht fhisiciúil. Tá siad ag cur babhlaí faoi dhíon chun feidhme do phríosúnaigh níos sine faoi láthair agus tá siad ag smaoineamh faoi chlár rugbaí leaiste a chur chun feidhme. Creideann an coiste go bhfágfadh príosúnaigh aclaí agus shláintiúla go mbeadh ualach níos lú ar sheirbhís sláinte an phríosúin.

Clóis an phríosúin:

Tá clóis an phríosúin ina spásanna móra a bhfuil dea-sholas nádúrtha acu. Tá siad clúdaithe le líontán chun earraí a chaitear ó thaobh amuigh den phríosún a stopadh ó theacht isteach sna clóis. Cuirtear nósanna imeachta slándála i bhfeidhm freisin chun a chinntiú nach dtabharfar armáin isteach sna clóis. Tuigeann an coiste go bhfuil drugaí á gcaitheamh ó áiteanna lasmuigh de bhallaí an phríosúin ar an líontán, mar a n-aisghabhann na príosúnaigh na pacáistí trí mhíreanna a chaitheamh aníos ar an líontán chun na pacáistí a scaoileadh.

Neachtlan:

Is saoráid mhór í neachtlan Phríosún Chruithneachtáin. Déileáilann sí leis na riachtanais níocháin uile de chuid Phríosún Chruithneachtáin agus Phríosún Chnoc na Seamar. Is saoráid nua-aimseartha í a chuireann dea-dheiseanna oiliúna ar fáil do phríosúnaigh agus a laghdaíonn costais oibriúcháin don phríosún ag an am céanna. Ar chigireacht, is seirbhís ghnóthach a úsáidtear go maith agus a oibrítear ar bhealach an-ghairmiúil í an neachtlan. Níor cuireadh aon tuairiscí ná aon saincheisteanna in iúl don choiste ó phríosúnaigh maidir leis an tseirbhís seo.

Post na bPríosúnach:

Déileáiltear go héifeachtúil le seirbhís poist na bpríosúnach den chuid is mó. Coisctear post na bpríosúnach atá ag teacht isteach/ag dul amach i gcomhair ráiteas, tuairimí agus ábhair atá míchuí. Is féidir le príosúnaigh post príobháideach a fháil ó phearsanra dlí má tá sé i gclúdach litreach ar leith laistigh den phost bunaidh. Is féidir post pearsanta nó íogair a chur go díreach chuig an gCoiste Cuairte. Tá na príosúnaigh sásta leis an gcóras den chuid is mó, toisc nár cuireadh ach saincheist amháin in iúl dúinn maidir le post. Réitíodh é sin go pras. Ba cheart lánsonraí poist/teagmhála an Phríosúin a thabhairt do phríosúnaigh. Ní raibh aon fhadhbanna móra ag an gcoiste maidir le post na bpríosúnach i mbliana.

Réimeanna Araíonachta:

Oibríonn an príosún trí leibhéal réime dreasaithe – réim dhreasaithe bhunúsaigh, réim dhreasaithe chaighdeánaigh agus réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe. Téann gach cime nua isteach sa réim dhreasaithe chaighdeánaigh. Ag brath ar rannpháirtíocht an chime sa chóras, d'fhéadfaí a réim a íosghrádú go réim dhreasaithe bhunúsaigh. Cailtear pribhléidí áirithe faoin gclár dreasaithe bhunúsaigh, mar shampla, cailtear an rochtain atá acu ar an spórtlann, ar chonsóil chluichí, ar chuartheanna teaghlaigh, ar scothfhostaíocht agus ar scothchóiríocht. Chuir na húdaráis an réim sin chun feidhme i gcás príosúnach nach nglacann páirt sa chóras. Creideann an coiste go bhfuil cailleadh na bpribhléidí sin cothrom. Ba cheart a thabhairt faoi deara gur cheart cailleadh na bpribhléidí sin a riar ar bhealach cóir agus cothrom. Tugtar rialacha soiléire príosúin agus treoirlínte soiléire araíonachta do gach príosúnach. Níor cheart an réim sin a úsáid ar phríosúnaigh gan fógra soiléir a thabhairt don phríosúnach faoina shárú.

Tugtar luach a saothair do phríosúnaigh a chomhlíonann na caighdeáin níos dúshlánaí trí iad a uasghrádú go dtí an réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe. Tá buntáistí a bhaineann le bheith ar an réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe, mar shampla, suas le 7 n-uaire an chloig in aghaidh an lae a chaitheamh lasmuigh den chillín, tuilleadh rochtana ar an spórtlann, tuilleadh cuairteanna agus glaonna teileafóin. Is í an phribhléid is mó ná go bhfuil an réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe lonnaithe i sciathán nua an phríosúin. Tá an-tóir air sin toisc go bhfuil na dálaí sa sciathán nua níos fearr. Mothaíonn na príosúnaigh níos sábháilte agus níos compordaí sa sciathán nua. Tá na cillíní níos fearr agus tá a leagan amach dearaidh níos fearr ná leagan amach na coda den phríosún a tógadh níos luaithe. Ní mór do phríosúnaigh dul isteach sa réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe sular féidir iad a bhreithniú le haghaidh aistrithe chuig príosún oscailte nó le haghaidh scaoileadh sealadach. Níor cheart an réim sin a bhaint ó phríosúnach gan fógra soiléir a thabhairt dó faoina shárú. Creideann an coiste gur córas cothrom í úsáid na réimeanna éagsúla príosúin nuair a riartar é ar bhealach cóir agus cothrom. Tá cumarsáid shoiléir idir údaráis an phríosúin agus príosúnaigh an phríosúin tábhachtach chun gur féidir leis an gcóras seo oibriú go héifeachtach. Tá sé tábhachtach go bhfuil gach príosúnach eolach ar nósanna imeachta pionóis an phríosúin agus go dtuigeann siad na hiarmhairtí ar na rialacha a shárú.

Is féidir le príosúnaigh pionóis P19 a fháil má bhriseann siad rialacha laistigh den phríosún. Is é atá i gceist le pionós P19 ná cailleadh pribhléidí ar feadh tréimhse ainmnithe ama. Ní chreideann an coiste go n-úsáidtear pionós P19 go rómhínic i bPríosún Chruithneachtáin. Ba cheart a thabhairt faoi deara go gcreideann an coiste gur cheart míniú soiléir a thabhairt faoi cén fáth a bhfuair an príosúnach pionós P19. Tá próiseas achomhairc laistigh den chóras, rud trínar féidir leis an nGobharnóir cinneadh sáraitheach a dhéanamh. Tá bealaí eile trínar féidir le príosúnach pionós a achomharc. Is é atá i gceist leis sin ná go gcuirtear tuairisc chuig Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann (IPS) le haghaidh cinnidh. Creideann an coiste gur féidir leis an IPS barraíocht ama a thógáil chun rialú a thabhairt ar ghearán nó ar achomharc. Molann an coiste nár cheart don phróiseas achomhairc níos mó ná trí lá a thógáil.

I measc dreasachtaí eile a úsáidtear chun luach saothair a thabhairt ar son dea-iompair, tá an deis chun aistriú a fháil chuig príosún oscailte. Measann an coiste gurb é sin ceann de na huirlisí dreasachta is fearr atá ag an bpríosún. Ba cheart bagairt phionóis atá soiléir agus rialta a bheith ann i bPríosún Chruithneachtáin maidir leis an infhaighteacht áiteanna laistigh de na saoráidí sin. Ba cheart príosúnaigh a aistriú go measartha luath tar éis iad a cheadú. Measann an coiste go bhfuil drochthoradh ar an mbronnadh áiteanna ar phríosúnaigh a bhfuil 18 mí nó níos mó fágtha ar a bpianbhreith acu mar is éagóraithe, feargach agus díspregtha leis an bpríosún a mhothaíonn príosúnaigh ar réim dhreasaithe fheabhsaithe a rinne iarratas ar phríosún oscailte ag a bhfuil 12 mhí nó níos lú le caitheamh acu nár bogadh. Tá an cleachtas ina chúis le heasaontas do phríosúnaigh a iompraíonn go maith ar shlí eile. Tá clár Scaoilte Shealadaigh agus clár um fhilleadh ar an bpobal á gcur chun feidhme ag an bpríosún. Measann an coiste gur bearta dearfacha iad sin.

Cuairteanna Príosúin:

Tá príosúnaigh i dteideal cuairt amháin agus uasmhéid de thrí chuairt in aghaidh na seachtaine, ag brath ar an réim ar a bhfuil siad faoi láthair. Tá cuairteanna príosúin ar cheann de na príomhbhealaí trína dtéann drugaí agus earraí mídhleathacha eile isteach sa phríosún. Cuireann na húdaráis bearta ardslándaála i bhfeidhm chun é sin a chosc. Seiceáilann

cuariteoirí príosúin isteach i limistéar fáiltithe lasmuigh den phríosún agus ansin fanann siad go dtí go ngairfear iad. Tá an limistéar feithimh glan agus tá go leor suíochán ann. Tá taisceadáin ar féidir le cuairteoirí a gcuid giuirléidí a chur isteach iontu ar fáil. Ag amanna gnóthacha, is cosúil go n-úsáidtear na taisceadáin mhóra níos minice ná na taisceadáin bheaga. Ní mór na taisceadáin a choinneáil i ndea-riocht agus ní mór glais fheidhmiúla a bheith acu. Téann cuairteoirí isteach sa phríosún ina dhiaidh sin trí bhearta slándála amhail X-gha agus madraí bolaíochta. Má ghabhtar cuairteoir agus drugaí ina sheilbh, tugtar fógra do na Gardaí. Tá na madraí ina n-uirlis thábhachtach maidir le rialú drugaí. Má tharlaíonn sé go mbraitheann madra cuairteoir, tar éis an cuairteoir sin a chuardach, déantar an chuairt taobh thiar de scáileáin ghloine. Bhí fadhb leis an aonad madraí maidir le tásca bréagacha. Creideann an coiste go bhfuil an t-aonad madraí i gcontúirt agus ní mór é a athoilúint chun dualgais bheachta a dhéanamh. Coinnítear bail mhaith ar an limistéar fáiltithe ach, nuair atá sé lán agus nuair atá an dá chuid in úsáid, is féidir leis bheith deacair do dhaoine cloisteáil mar is ceart. Tá seomraí teaghlaigh ann agus tá rochtain ag roinnt príosúnach air. Sa chás go gcuirtear cosc ar chuairteoir ó chuairt a thabhairt, creideann an coiste gur cheart treoirlíne shoiléir a úsáid chun eolas a thabhairt don chuairteoir agus don phríosúnach cá fhad a mhairfidh an cosc agus cad é an prótacal ba cheart a leanúint chun an cosc a bhaint. Ba cheart rud beag a trua a bheith ann i gcásanna ina bhfuil fíorchúis ag an gcuariteoir le bheith mall.

Úsáidtear CCTV chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar chúirteanna a bhfuiltear in amhras orthu agus déantar cinneadh ina leith sin tar éis na cuairte de ghnáth. Ídíonn an próiseas cuairte méid mór acmhainní foirne toisc nach mór príosúnaigh a thabhairt suas ó gach cuid den phríosún. Tógann oifigigh am chun dul ó thaobh amháin den phríosún go dtí an chuid eile. Má tá amhras go bhfuair príosúnach rud neamhdhleathach ar bith, cuardaítear iad i seomra príobháideach coinneála. Creideann an coiste go bhfuil an limistéar cuairte á oibriú ag údaráis an phríosúin de réir caighdeán cóir agus ard. Mar sin féin, cuireadh roinnt saincheisteanna in iúl maidir le cuairteanna. Is minic a bhaintear mí-úsáid as an limistéar cuairte agus gur bearna gheata é le haghaidh drugaí a thabhairt isteach sa phríosún. Measann an Coiste gur cheart athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an tabhairt isteach leanaí nach gaolta na bpríosúnach iad. Tá sé an-deacair teacht ar an líne áirithinte. Ba cheart imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar úsáid na gcóras nua-aimseartha TF i gcás an phróisis áirithinte. Má tá cuairteoir faoi urchosc, ba cheart amanna fráma atá soiléir agus cóir a chur chun feidhme. Ba cheart an páipéarachas le haghaidh cuairteanna amach anseo a eisiúint seachtain amháin ar a laghad roimh dhul in éag an pháipéarachais roimhe sin. Ba cheart torthaí athbhreithnithe ar chuairteoirí a chur in iúl don phríosúnach atá i gceist. Ba cheart na seomraí teaghlaigh a úsáid chomh minic agus a bhíonn siad ar fáil.

Ba cheart a thabhairt faoi deara go bhfuil aghaidh á tabhairt ag na húdaráis ar chuma sheachtrach na limistéar poiblí. Rinneadh glantachán ar scála mór ar na carrchlóis agus rinneadh tírdhreachú orthu trí leas a bhaint as plandaí agus as bláthanna ón bpríosún. Téann sé sin i gcion ar chuairteoirí agus iad ag teacht. Tá an carrchlós poiblí saor in aisce agus tá neart spásanna ann. Is carrchlós neamhurráithe é agus bhí fadhbanna ann a bhain le carranna ar briseadh isteach iontu. Ar an iomlán, éiríonn go maith leis an limistéar cuairte agus níl aon fadhbanna móra ag na cuairteoirí leis an bpróiseas.

Sláinte:

Tá rochtain ag na príosúnaigh ar dhochtúirí, ar altraí, ar fhiacloirí agus ar radharceolaithe. Má tá gá ag príosúnach le cóireáil éigeandála, cuirtear an chóireáil sin ar fáil dó. I gcás scrúduithe sláinte, tá príosúnaigh i dteideal na minicíochta céanna cúraim a chuirtear ar fáil sa chóras poiblí. Faoi láthair, tá riaráiste chun an radharceolaí a fheiceáil toisc nár ceapadh radharceolaí nua go fóill. Faigheann príosúnaigh cóireáil chóir agus scrúduithe leantacha de réir mar is gá i gcomhréir leis an gcleachtas is fearr. Creideann an coiste go gcuirtear an cúram is fearr ar fáil do na príosúnaigh go léir a bhaineann leas as na seirbhísí leighis. Tá sé tábhachtach go bhfuil údarás an phríosúin ar an eolas faoi phríosúnaigh ar a bhfuil riochtaí leanúnacha a bhféadfadh forbairt ina riochtaí éagsúla. Tá sé tábhachtach go gcoinnítear línte cumarsáide idir príosúnaigh, an fhoireann leighis agus údarás an phríosúin oscailte agus soiléir. Tá comhphlé agus prótacal soiléir ag teastáil d'fhonn príosúnaigh a stopadh ó iarracht a dhéanamh cógas a stóráil nó d'fhonn stóráil chógais a bheith á cur ina leith a chosc. Tá an fhoireann leighis tiomanta dá gairm agus cuireann sí seirbhís den scoth ar fáil do phríosúnaigh.

Tá saincheist a bhaineann le príosúnaigh atá ag lorg an síceolaí a fheiceáil toisc go bhfuil riaráiste maidir leis an líon príosúnach a bhfuil gá acu le seirbhísí an tsíceolaí. Is cosúil go bhfuil na príosúnaigh an-sásta leis an tseirbhís agus dealraíonn sé go bhfuil dea-chaidreamh acu leis an bhfoireann. Tá an rannán seo mar chuid lárnach de chúram sláinte na bpríosúnach toisc gur féidir leis bheith deacair do roinnt acu strus shaol an phríosúin a sháru.

Cuirtear comhairleoireacht andúile ar fáil do phríosúnaigh sa phríosún freisin. Chomh maith leis sin, reáchtálann Príosún Chruithneachtáin clár chun saolta níos fearr a thógáil do phríosúnaigh roghnaithe. Cúrsa an-rathúil maidir le cúram meabhairshláinte na bpríosúnach is ea an cúrsa seo. Ba cheart smaoineamh faoi leaganacha den chúrsa seo a leathnú.

Séiplíneacht:

Tá séiplíneacht an phríosúin ina cuid lárnach de leas na bpríosúnach. Freastalaíonn sí ar riachtanais spioradálta na bpríosúnach. Cabhraíonn an tseirbhís seo le príosúnaigh maidir le saincheisteanna teaghlaigh agus le cúrsaí pearsanta eile. Is líne thábhachtach chumarsáide atá ag príosúnaigh í agus ba cheart í a chosaint. Oibríonn siad go dícheallach chun seirbhís chomhbhách agus mhuiníneach a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh.

Rinne an príosún forálacha do phríosúnaigh a bhfuil creidimh éagsúla acu freisin. Toisc go bhfuil príosúnaigh a bhfuil creidimh éagsúla acu i bPríosún Chruithneachtáin, ní mór monatóireacht agus uasghrádú a dhéanamh ar na forálacha sin más gá. Níor cuireadh aon saincheisteanna in iúl don choiste maidir leis an rannán seo i mbliana.

Drugaí:

Tá drugaí ina n-ábhar leanúnach imní i bpríosúin na hÉireann agus tá sé sin amhlaidh i bPríosún Chruithneachtáin. Cuireann údarás an phríosúin polasaí dian i leith drugaí i bhfeidhm, i gcomhréir le straitéis drugaí Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann. Cuirtear cuairteoirí chuig an bpríosún faoi scanóirí, faoi chuardaigh, faoi mhadraí bolaíochta, agus cuirtear a gcuid málaí faoi X-Ghathanna. Úsáidtear cctv chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chuairteanna ar an bpríosún agus amharctar air ag céim níos déanaí. Tá clóis an phríosúin

clúdaithe le líontán chun earraí a chosc ó bheith á gcaitheamh ó lasmuigh de na ballaí imlíneacha. Cuireann údaráis an phríosúin béim mhór ar bhrath drugaí; is féidir príosúnaigh a chur faoi thástálacha fuail d'fhonn réim a athrú. Tá cinn staighre atá saor ó dhruaí ar fáil do phríosúnaigh ar mhian leo leas a bhaint astu. Creideann an coiste gur cuid thábhachtach den straitéis seo iad cinn staighre atá saor ó dhruaí. Creidimid freisin nár cheart do phríosúnaigh nach bhfuil cead acu teacht chuig na cinn staighre sin a bheith le fáil ansin. Is féidir bulaíocht agus bagairt a dhéanamh ar phríosúnaigh agus ar chuariteoirí leochaileacha chun drugaí a thabhairt isteach.

Is féidir le príosúnaigh leas a bhaint as cláir athshlánaithe drugaí laistigh den phríosún agus tugann na húdaráis spreagadh do phríosúnaigh an tseirbhís sin a úsáid. Eascraíonn cuid mhór deacrachtaí as úsáid drugaí sa phríosún. Creideann an coiste gur cheart d'údaráis an phríosúin leanúint ar aghaidh lena gcuid crua-oibre chun drugaí a dhíothú as an bpríosún. Cuireann Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (HSE) seirbhísí i gcomhairleoireacht andúile ar fáil. Imríonn drugaí sa phríosún tionchar millteach ar shaolta na bpríosúnach. I gcás na bpríosúnach ar bhuaile an coiste leo le linn na bliana, bhí fadhb ag formhór díobh le drugaí ina saol ag am éigin. Creideann an coiste gur cheart do chomhrac údaráis an phríosúin in aghaidh drugaí sa phríosún na hacmhainní uile is gá dóibh a fháil ionas gur féidir leo leanúint ar aghaidh lena gcuid oibre.

Príosúnacht 21 Uair:

Gabhann príosúnaigh atá faoi phríosúnacht 21 uair trí eispéireas dian príosúin. Cé go bhfuil sé intuigthe go bhféadfadh sé bheith riachtanach príosúnachtaí 21 uair a úsáid i gcás príosúnaigh áirithe, níor cheart príosúnacht dheonach 21 uair a úsáid ach amháin mar rogha dheireanach. Tar éis bualadh le príosúnaigh a bhí faoi phríosúnacht 21 uair, tá sé soiléir go dtéann na brúnna, na struis, agus an t-ionannas a bhaineann le saol an phríosúin i ndéine. Creideann an coiste gur cheart tús áite a thabhairt do chúram meabhairshláinte na bpríosúnach sin. Tá roinnt príosúnach i bPríosún Chruithneachtáin atá faoi phríosúnacht 21 uair agus creideann an coiste go ndéanann údaráis an phríosúin iarracht príosúnaigh a spreagadh chun imeacht ón réim sin. D'éirigh go geal leis an bPríosún príosúnacht 23 uair a laghdú go príosúnacht 21 uair.

Aistrithe ó Fhoras Naomh Pádraig:

Tar éis Foras Naomh Pádraig a dhúnadh, bogadh roinnt de na príosúnaigh sin chuig Príosún Chruithneachtáin. Tá siad leithscartha ó phríomhphobal an Phríosúin. D'éirigh go geal le Lucht Bainistíochta Phríosún Chruithneachtáin an limistéar leithscartha a ullmhú. Is conspóideach a fhanann roinnt saincheistanna ar nós damáiste á dhéanamh ag príosúnaigh do na cillíní nua agus don trealamh nua.

Ciontóirí Gnéis:

Bhí roinnt ciontóirí gnéis ag Príosún Chruithneachtáin. Tá na príosúnaigh sin bogtha anois chuig Príosún an Láir Tíre. Chruthaigh sé sin spás chun cóiríocht a chur ar fáil d'ógánaigh Fhoras Naomh Pádraig.

Foréigean Príosúin:

Tá laghdú ag teacht ar an méid foréigin agus ar an líon ionsaithe i measc príosúnach sa phríosún. Chuir na húdaráis tarscaoilte armán i bhfeidhm chun na hearraí sin a bhaint ón bpríosún. Creideann an coiste go bhfuil torthaí dearfacha á mbaint amach laistigh den phríosún mar gheall ar an gcineál seo de chur chuige forásach i leith foréigean príosúin. Glacann foireann agus údaráis an phríosúin foréigean agus ionsaithe sa phríosún go han-dáiríre agus tá sábháilteacht na bpríosúnach an-ard ar a gcuid liosta tosaíochtaí.

Seirbhísí/Saoráidí Eile

Tá naisc ag an bpríosún le grúpaí seachtracha amhail an Chros Dhearg agus na Samáraigh. Soláthraíonn siad seirbhís den scoth ar féidir le príosúnaigh páirt a ghlacadh inti. I gcodanna áirithe den phríosún, chuir na Samáraigh oiliúint ar phríosúnaigh chun bheith ina n-éisteoirí. Is acmhainn an-luachmhar í sin, toisc gur féidir le príosúnaigh labhairt le daoine nuair atá fadhb acu. Faoi threoirínte dochta, cuireadh tús le 'grúpa príosúnach faoi phianbhreith saoil' a thriail ar feadh tréimhse sa todhchaí. Tá rochtain ag príosúnaigh ar chonsóil chluichí, ar tháblaí púil agus ar chártaí imeartha, i measc nithe eile. Níor cuireadh aon saincheisteanna in iúl don choiste maidir le cistí pearsanta na bpríosúnach.

Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe:

Oibríonn an príosún clár bainistíochta pianbhreithe comhtháite. Déantar comhphlé idir an príosún agus na príosúnaigh ar conas is féidir leo an chuid is fearr a bhaint as a gcuid ama sa phríosún. Tugann sé sin tuiscint shoiléir do na príosúnaigh faoina dtodhchaí laistigh den phríosún. Glacann na húdaráis le cur chuige dearfach i leith pianbhreitheanna a ghearradh. Creideann an coiste go n-oibríonn údaráis an phríosúin go dícheallach chun a chinntiú go bhfaigheann príosúnaigh ar réimeanna dreasaithe fheabhsaithe deis chun iarratas a dhéanamh ar Scaoileadh Sealadach nó ar aistriú chuig saoráidí oscailte. Tá an coiste den tuairim go nglacann údaráis an phríosúin le cur chuige cóir agus daonnachtúil i leith pianbhreitheanna príosúnach. Sa chás go bhfaigheann an Gobharnóir iarratas ar fhaisnéis nó ar aistrithe etc. ó phríosúnach, creideann an coiste gur cheart don Ghobharnóir céanna an t-iarratas sin a leanúint go dtí go dtabharfar chun críche é chun dúbailt agus mífhaisnéis a sheachaint. Ní mór do na línte cumarsáide bheith oscailte agus soiléir i gcónaí.

Conclúid:

Tá an Coiste Cuairte den tuairim go bhfuil Ionad Coinneála Chruithneachtáin ina shaoráid nua-aimseartha agus fhorásach agus go reáchtáiltear go maith é. Sa timpeallacht

dhúshlánach eacnamaíoch atá ann faoi láthair, creidimid go ndéanann údaráis agus foireann an phríosúin post den scoth maidir leis an tsaoráid a chothabháil. Oibríonn an fhoireann ar bhealach cothrom agus atruach agus iad ag déileáil leis na príosúnaigh. Tugtar gach deis do na príosúnaigh iad féin a fheabhsú laistigh den phríosún. Ní raibh orainn, an coiste, déileáil le haon teagmhais mhóra le linn na bliana agus tá sé sin ina ómós don obair a dhéanann an fhoireann. Táimid den tuairim go mbaineann an-tábhacht le cumarsáid shoiléir a bheith ann idir na húdaráis agus na príosúnaigh.

Ba mhian linn, Coiste Cuairte Phríosún Chruithneachtáin, buíochas a ghabháil leis an nGobharnóir, an tUasal Patrick Kavanagh, lena chuid comhghleacaithe agus leis an bhfoireann ar fad ag Príosún Chruithneachtáin as a gcuid tacaíochta agus comhoibrithe le linn na bliana. Guímid gach rath ar an Uasal John O'Neill, ball den Choiste, agus gabhaimid buíochas leis as a obair dhícheallach ar fud na mblianta. Leanfaidh Coiste Cuairte Phríosún Chruithneachtáin ar aghaidh lena chuid oibre sa bhliain atá le teacht in 2014.

An tUasal Stewart Stephens (Cathaoirleach)

Kathleen Gill Uas.

Brenda Coyne Uas.

Anne Carter Uas.