

To The Minister for Justice and Law Reform
Ms Frances Fitzgerald T.D.

Annual Report-Training Unit –Year 2015

We The Training Unit Visiting Committee wish to submit our Annual Report for 2015; a total of 12 meetings were held.

The first meeting of 2015 was held on the 7th.January with a full compliment of 6 Visiting Committee members in attendance. This meeting was the last meeting of 4 V.C.(Visiting Committee) members.

The V.C. members extended their gratitude and a big thank you to the Governor, ACOs, all staff and service providers for their courtesy and assistance throughout 2014.

As there were no new appointments/reappointments the meeting in February was attended by the remaining members Pat Holton in chair and Anne Confrey. This remained the position throughout 2015.

JANUARY 2015

As it was previously assessed that many inmates within the Training Unit have trade skills the Governor informed us in January that their skills would be used in cell refurbishment. As there was no capital budget a programme of refurbishment of cells was initiated with the work carried out by the inmates utilizing their talents.

An Art Exhibition called Fallen Bird drew a large attendance to City Hall Dublin on 15th.January which was attended by The Lord Mayor of Dublin Ald. Christy Burke and The Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald T.D.

FEBRUARY 2015

At the February meeting the future plans for The Training Unit was raised. It was mentioned that it may be considered for older prisoners....nobody really knows what plans there are for the future. The issue of those going out to external classes being provided with mobile phones was discussed and subsequently put in place. The main emphasis throughout the year was on training, education and integration. Access to the internet was discussed and daily release times to courses were extended for those who needed to access college libraries.

Bohemians F.C. involvement in soccer and stand-up comedy was expanded upon.

The tuck shop's opening times of Thursday mornings were changed to an evening opening to facilitate those attending outside courses.

Plans were outlined for an eight week deep clean up followed by a painting programme.

A number of inmates expressed an interest in doing the HGV course and were accommodated.

MARCH 2015

A training day scheduled for 26th March in Stack House Portlaoise was cancelled indefinitely due to overall low V.C. membership. A number of inmates sat FETAC examinations.

APRIL 2015

During the month of April a number of members of the Travellers' community were transferred to The Training Unit. They tended to meet collectively and expressed concerns that they were being discriminated against. Most of them were subsequently met individually by the V.C. and their concerns were brought to the Governor's attention. The Governor assured the V.C. that all inmates were treated equally and that there was no discrimination against them.

Some members of the travelling community did lovely craft metal work in the Metal Workshop.

MAY 2015

One of our former V.C. members Noel Turley R.I.P. died in May. As a mark of respect a minute silence was observed at our June meeting. A Mass for the repose of his soul arranged by Sr. Mairead, The Chaplin, celebrated by Fr. Murphy on 31st May in The Training Unit and attended by inmates and V.C. members.

JUNE 2015

During the month of June the manager of Bohemians F.C. presented certificates to 15 inmates who completed the soccer coaching course.

We have noticed that the Music Room is always very uplifting and provide the inmates with a good mix of opportunities to develop their individual skills in music and video editing and creation in between others. Individuals are encouraged to express themselves and their talents are developed and recognized.

From time to time the V.C. members received complaints about the functioning of the gym equipment. In general problems were attended to and service carried out periodically. Delays servicing kitchen equipment was also raised on occasion.

JULY 2015

A Tree of Hope was planted in July with the involvement of the Chaplin. Around this time an elderly Jewish prisoner was transferred to The Training Unit. He is satisfied that his food requirements are catered for. The Jewish Rabbi visits him regularly.

A Services Open Day took place on the 1st July and V.C. members were invited to attend. This was a very open instructive forum attended by inmates and proved very

enlightening to us V.C. members as it gave a good insight on services available when prisoners finish their sentences.

AUGUST 2015

The prison was quiet during the month of August.

There was an element of anxiety expressed as to who would be allowed to attend external colleges in September.

The V.C. had a very comprehensive and informative meeting with Officer Flanagan who is responsible and involved in conjunction with others in The Training Unit in the assessment of inmates' training and needs.

SEPTEMBER 2015

The number of offenders in custody in September 2015 was 96.

The total population in External Programmes represented 41% of the entire number of inmates. Ten new inmates, in addition to those already attending, were selected to attend outside colleges in September. A number of prisoners were presented with certificates in industrial cleaning from City and Guilds from courses previously attended during the year in September.

A plan was introduced for those attending to contribute 10% of course fees as an incentive to completing the course. This plan was endorsed by the V.C members and the initiative commended. The re-socializing of inmates prior to their daily release to college was also highly commended.

A six day STEPS programme was introduced to teach inmates soft life skills and instructing inmates in how to handle particular situations once outside the prison; candidates to attend to be selected by a multi-disciplinary committee.

As there were issues around lunch and dinner serving times for inmates availing of external courses a pilot programme was run during the month of September and as it proved satisfactory it was continued. To facilitate those going out to college a decision was taken to have dinner in the evening with lunch at mid-day. All specific diets were taken care of and being maintained in the kitchen; the quality of meals is excellent as is the standard of cleanliness. There are 9 to 11 inmates working regularly in the kitchen who take great pride in their work.

The Comedy Club information evening was run in conjunction with Bohemians F.C. and was attended by one third of the prisoners and got off to a good start.

Yoga classes are taking place in the gym Monday, Wednesday and Fridays and are well attended and utilized as well.

There is much activity in the Metal Workshop with inmates taking pride in their work Sad to say Brian the manager is retiring in May 2016.

The Picture Framing Shop is going well; it has turned out good work and has given great training to those that worked there.

The Art Room continues to attract and develop talents as does the Computer Room.

The grounds are tended well with some inmates working in the Officers Mess.

OCTOBER 2015

On Saturday 31st October Mountjoy Training Unit's TUFC soccer team played a match at Dalymount Park against Bohemians F.C. The score was 5- 2 in favour of Bohemians F.C. Refreshments were served by the TU inmates. V.C. members attended and a great day's entertainment was had by all.

The Library is well stocked and welcoming.

NOVEMBER 2015

In November the V.C. together with Governor Walsh and Chief O'Connell visited Loughan House Open Prison Co. Cavan. We were welcomed and had an informal meeting with Governor Mullins who gave us a brief outline on the prison and its activities and initiatives.

We were taken on a walk on the premises and on the grounds and noted the various programmes in place, the workshops and the very innovative visiting areas.

The Gaisce awards were presented in November at the T.U. with many inmates attaining high marks, all governors and V.Cs within the Mountjoy Campus attended as well.

The old folks in the local catchments area of The Training Unit were treated to a Christmas dinner cooked by the inmates themselves and the dinner was attended by local politicians and councillors.

DECEMBER 2015

On Sunday the 13th.December the V.C. members attended the Lifers Christmas Dinner with their families; a very enjoyable dinner was prepared and served by those inmates working in the kitchen under the direction of Mr. Furlong.

Again, The Visiting Committee thank the Governors, ACO's and Staff for their courtesy at all times during 2015 and look forward to working with them for the benefit and rehabilitation of all prisoners in 2016.

We wish to thank Ms Margaret Joyce and all teachers for all their hard work in The Training Unit Education Centre.

With this report there is an Appendix outlining the details regarding all aspects of education courses and awards provided to the inmates during 2015.

Signed-----

Chairperson

Members-----

Training Unit Education Centre Report 2015

The Education Centre continued to offer a wide range of courses from Basic Education to Degree Level in 2015. Most courses were certified by Quality Qualifications Ireland (formerly FETAC). QQI is the appropriate educational certification to pursue in the Education Unit as modules have a vocational orientation as well as an emphasis on developing personal and basic skills. QQI modules are geared towards developing the necessary competencies for successful entry to further education, training and the workplace. Training Unit students are exploring these options as they approach release.

QQI is also the appropriate certification body in the Training Unit because students are quite mobile. Many students are eligible for daily work parties, community return, temporary day release to various projects, are coming to the end of sentences or transferred back to closed prisons.

For example from a population of 96 prisoners up to 35+ were on day release programmes at any one time in Further Education (FE) Colleges, Thornton Hall, PACE, Priorswood House, Addiction Services, Jobcare, Matt Talbot Centre, Mountjoy Mess, and the Training Unit Grounds.

QQI certification suits this student population as it allows continuous access and modules can be completed in other education units if students are transferred.

There are other accrediting bodies in the Unit and some courses are accredited from within the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETb).

Certification numbers were high this year.

Certifying Body	Student Numbers	Folders Presented	Number of Subjects
QQI (Formerly FETAC)	105	292	29
PHECC Cardiac First Responder	29		
Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)	6		
Open University	5	Areas of Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Sport, Fitness & Management • Software Development with Java • Introduction to Business • Professional Communication Skills for Business Studies • The Art Of English 	
CDETb Cert (Painting)	24		

CDETb Cert (Music)	11		
CDETb Cert (History)	20		
CDETb Cert Addiction Studies)	19		

The QQI modules offered in The Training Unit were:

Computers QQI Level 2,3,4,5 Computer Skills, Word Processing, Information Technology, Computer Applications, Spreadsheets, Database Methods, Data Entry.

Soft Skills QQI Level 2, 3 Personal Care and Presentation, Personal Effectiveness, Personal and Interpersonal Skills, Self Advocacy, Career Preparation.

Horticulture QQI Level 2, 3 (Life Science, Container Gardening, Garden Planning, Outdoor Vegetable Production, Planting and Potting).

Maths QQI Level 2,3,4.

Health Related Fitness QQI Level 2,3,4.

Occupational First Aid QQI Level 5.

English/Communications QQI Level 1, 4.

Child Development QQI Level 3.

Craft QQI Level 2.

Work Experience QQI Level 3.

Art QQI Level 2,3.

The Education Centre continued to place literacy, digital literacy and numeracy at the heart of its curriculum through literacy assessment, the provision of dedicated 1:1 and small group tutoring and by integrating literacy across the curriculum.

During the year the Training Unit curriculum was mapped with college courses and training and employment opportunities available in the community. This mapping was used as a recruiting and motivational tool to enable new students see the relevance of the subjects offered in the Training Unit as a real preparation for release.

Mapping

T.U Curriculum

College Courses /Training and Work Programmes in the Community

Computers /Maths/ Business Studies	Business and IT Studies, Warehouse and Data Management, Computer Applications
Music/Sound Engineering	Music Performance (Rock and Traditional), Sound Engineering, Music Management
Art/Multi Media	Art Portfolio Preparation
General Learning	Access College Courses, Return to Learning, Preparation for College
General Learning/Addiction Studies	Social Studies, Addiction Studies
Open University	Access courses; Degrees, Masters
Horticulture	Horticultural Studies
Kitchen Workers/Mountjoy Mess Workers	Culinary Arts
Computers /Metalwork/Engineering	Various courses
Health Related Fitness/Sports/Occupational First Aid	Leisure Management/Gym Instructor /Soccer Coaching
Personal/Interpersonal (Soft Skills) /Parenting Skills	Crucial to preparing students for release on any programme.

Progression to outside education courses was very successful in 2015. 13 students successfully secured places, mainly to CDETB colleges, in a range of subject areas: Computer Programming, Applied Social Studies, Health Related Fitness, Veterinary Assistant, Leisure Management, Renewable Energy, Music and Event Management, Addiction Studies, ESOL and Business Studies, Business and Estate Management and Basic Education.



Minister Fitzgerald and Training Unit Artist and Painter of Fallen Bird, the promotional exhibition painting at the National Art Exhibition

A Training Unit student painting was chosen as the promotional exhibition painting at the National Art Exhibition which had its Dublin opening in Dublin Castle in January 2015.

In conclusion, despite a lot of student mobility 2015 was a successful year in the Education Unit. Part of this success was due to the rejuvenation of Multi-D, ISM, Review and Client-Centred planning meetings which were held regularly.

Margaret Joyce
Head Teacher
March 2016