Cloverhill Visiting Committee Annual Report 2013

Cloverhill Visiting Committee Annual Report 2013

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

Prisoners before committee:
The committee met with 26 prisoners during the year. The main issues raised by these prisoners were
gym access, medical issues, visits, harassment, education and high tuck shop prices. All of their issues were discussed with the Governor and when dealt with, the results were reported back to the committee. It has been noted that the ratio of sentence prisoners to remand prisoners has risen quite considerably due to Cloverhill prison becoming a committal prison.

Overcrowding:
Overcrowding is still an ongoing issue in Cloverhill with the population of the prison up over 400 inmates at times during the year. This has led to inmates sleeping with 3 or 4 per cell and sometimes having to sleep on floors. This has been highlighted with complaints being voiced by prisoners to the visiting committee.

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

Drugs:
Again we wish to highlight our disappointment that the passive drug detection dog continues to be only used on Sunday s for family visits but welcome the news that the OSDU unit will bring in the dogs to search certain areas at different times.

Health Care
There has been great strides in health care with T.B under control and there is now continuous monitoring and a pro active regime in place. We are also happy with Governor Reports in regards to health care and even though there have being some scares overall health in Cloverhill Prison is continuously improving.

Education:
We are very pleased with the education program in the prison. There are many courses of which the Inmates can avail of, these include Arts, Computers, English, Maths and Physical Education to name just a few. 84 inmates received accreditations during 2012 to 2013 school term with 336 allocated a timetable. We feel that there should be further expansion of these courses. Also the partnership with Red Cross who some have being recently

certified, is a continuing success and partnerships with other such agencies would be a benefit.

Cloverhill Visiting Committee Annual Report 2013

Library:
The facility of the library is being seriously undermined by staff shortages and this is disappointing and we hope this will improve in the coming year as we feel this a great resource.

Gym:
There are 3 gymnasiums in Cloverhill with 2 open at any one time where possible. The main LDU (learning development unit) is the larger of the gyms and caters for the main population of the prison with C and D division gyms catering more for the inmates on protection. Again this facility is being undermined with staff shortages. We are getting complaints about the level of use available to prisoners.

Tuck Shop:
With the new PAMS system in place and the issuing of receipts to prisoners the tuck shop is running smoothly, with some requests for fruit to be made available all needs are being met.

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

Integrated Sentence Management:
The setting up of this department is something we feel has and will benefit the prison service in the coming years. This ensures the prisoner is linked in with all relevant services while in custody and also linked in with services outside the prison when coming they release.

Workshops:
Industrial Cleaning:

Industrial Cleaning continues to be an ever evolving role for the staff concerned. There have been problems with accreditation and redeployment, but it is hoped to have this resolved in early 2014.

Computers:

Due to its location the uptake for computers has been not as anticipated but hopefully with the opening of a second workshop on A division which will be kitted out in mid January numbers will increase. A second qualified WTO has recently been appointed to this workshop which gives inmates a chance to achieve a FETAC standard award.

Cloverhill Visiting Committee Annual Report 2013

Laundry:

The laundry in Cloverhill lacks the equipment to deal with the demand it faces. The Laundry is currently working at 75% of its previous capacity. This is due to condemned machinery not being replaced when previously decommissioned. If new machinery is bought the efficiency of the Laundry will improve and the capacity to deal with emergencies will be expanded enormously. A business case has been submitted in relation to same.

Soft Skills:

This post has remained unfilled for nearly 18 months. There is a large amount of equipment sitting unused and awaiting an appointment of a WTO. It is hoped this will be resolved in the next few weeks.

Kitchen:

Once again the kitchen under the leadership of IS R.Fleming, continued to set high standards and this showed with the kitchen receiving increased markings from the external auditors. The kitchen in Cloverhill in a very busy workshop with meals for over 400 prisoners cooked 3 times a day, as well as lunches for roughly 100 prisoners attending Cloverhill Court on a daily basis. At present there are 23 inmates working in the kitchens (16 in main kitchen and 7 in the staff canteen). These inmates work with the WTO s and receive education and training in catering and health and safety, which if completed can receive recognized awards or certificates.

During December we had the chance to sample the food with the Governors and clerical staff and were impressed with the high standards and professionalism of the staff and we compliment the staff on the quality of the food. Continued support should be given to the kitchen to continue moving forward.

Surgery:

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

Cloverhill Visiting Committee Annual Report 2013

Video Conferencing:
There have been steady improvements with video conferencing this year. District Courts have participated with the video conferencing this year with links between Cloverhill Prison and Cloverhill, Cork, Limerick and Donegal District Courts all being successful and with Circuit Court 5 coming on board in mid December, plans are at an advanced stage to bring more on board. There are also plans for professional visits to be done by video link in the coming year.

Conclusion:
We would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of all the different agencies who give their time and services on a daily/weekly basis to the benefit of the prison service. The committee has exercised its duties diligently and is committed to exercising them in full in 2014.

We would like to thank long serving committee members Michael Coyle and Eddie Martin for there work during the years and commitment to the workings of the visiting committee. We wish them well into the future. We would like to welcome new members Laura Jenkins and David Ruddy and look forward to working together in 2014. We also would like to thank Governor's Ronan Maher, Fergus Woods and Christopher Mc Cormack and the committee's secretary John Brennan and all the staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

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

____

Peggy Downey
Chairperson

Príosún Chnoic na Seimre

Seirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann

Cloverhill Prison

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 2013

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

Príosúnaigh os comhair an choiste:
Bhuail an coiste le 26 príosúnach le linn na bliana. Ba iad seo a leanas na príomhcheisteanna a d'ardaigh na príosúnaigh: rochtain ar an ngiomnáisiam, fadhbanna míochaine, cuairteanna, ciapadh, oideachas agus ardphraghsanna sa siopa milseán. Pléadh gach ceann de na ceisteanna sin leis an nGobharnóir agus, tar éis déileáil leo, tugadh tuairisc ar thorthaí an phlé sin don choiste. Tugadh faoi deara go bhfuil méadú an-suntasach tagtha ar an gcóimheas príosúnaigh phianbhreithe le príosúnaigh athchurtha de bharr go bhfuil Príosún Chnoc Seimre ina phríosún cimithe anois.

Plódú:
Is fadhb leanúnach é plódú i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre go fóill agus bhí níos mó ná 400 príosúnach sa phríosún ag amanna áirithe le linn na bliana. Dá bharr sin, bíonn ar thriúr nó ceathrar príosúnach codladh i gcillín amháin ó am go chéile. Uaireanta, bíonn orthu codladh ar an urlár. Tarraingíodh aird air sin trí na gearáin a chuir na príosúnaigh in iúl don choiste cuairte.

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

Drugaí:
Ba mhaith linn aird a tharraingt arís eile ar an díomá atá orainn nach leantar leis an madra bolaíochta drugaí éigníomhach a úsáid ach amháin do chuairteanna teaghlaigh ar an Domhnach. Cuirimid fáilte, áfach, leis an nuacht go dtabharfaidh an t-aonad OSDU na madraí isteach chun limistéir áirithe a chuardach ag amanna éagsúla.

Cúram Sláinte
Tháinig feabhas mór ar chúrsaí cúram sláinte – tá eitinn (TB) faoi smacht agus tá córas réamghníomhach monatóireachta leanúnaí i bhfeidhm anois. Táimid sásta freisin le Tuarascálacha Gobharnóra maidir le cúram sláinte. Cé go raibh roinnt ábhair imní ann, bíonn sláinte fhoriomlán i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre ag feabhsú i gcónaí.

Oideachas:

Táimid an-sásta leis an gclár oideachais sa phríosún. Tá a lán cúrsaí ar féidir leis na Príosúnaigh leas a bhaint astu, lena n-áirítear na hEalaíona, Ríomhairí, Béarla, Mata agus Corpoideachas, i measc ábhair eile. Bhain 84 príosúnach creidiúnú amach le linn an téarma scoile 2012 go 2013 agus bhí amchlár ag 336 príosúnach. Creidimid gur cheart na cúrsaí sin a leathnú arís eile. Ina theannta sin, tá ag éirí go maith leis an gcomhpháirtíocht leis an gCros Dhearg, ar bhain roinnt príosúnach creidiúnú amach ina leith, agus bhainfí tairbhe as comhpháirtíochtaí le gníomhaireachtaí eile den sórt sin.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 2013

Leabharlann:
Tá an bonn á bhaint ón leabharlann de bharr ganntanais foirne. Is ábhar díomá é sin agus, toisc go gcreidimid gur acmhainn den scoth í, tá súil againn go dtiocfaidh feabhas air an gcás sin sa bhliain atá le teacht.

Giomnáisiam:
Tá 3 ghiomnáisiam i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre agus bíonn 2 cheann acu ar oscailte ag aon am amháin nuair is féidir é. Is é an príomhaonad forbartha foghlama (LDU) an giomnáisiam is mó agus freastalaíonn sé ar phríomhphobal an phríosúin. Den chuid is mó, is iad príosúnaigh atá faoi chosaint ar freastalaíonn na giomnáisiamaí i limistéar C agus i limistéar D orthu. Mar an gcéanna, tá an bonn á bhaint ón tsaoráid sin mar gheall ar ghanntanais foirne. Tá gearáin a bhfáil againn faoin leibhéal úsáide atá ar fáil do phríosúnaigh.

Siopa Milseán:
Agus córas nua PAMS i bhfeidhm agus mar gheall ar an eisiúint admhálacha do phríosúnaigh, bíonn ag éirí go réidh leis an siopa milseán. Faighimid iarratais chun torthaí a chur ar fáil agus táthar ag freastal ar na riachtanais uile.

Cúram Tréadach:
Tugaimid aitheantas don obair a dhéanann an tSiúr Ann agus an tSiúr Margaret, a bhfuil caidreamh den scoth acu leis na príosúnaigh. Tá siad an-luachmhar maidir leis an gcaidreamh atá ann idir teaghlaigh agus príosúnaigh agus maidir le cúram na bpríosúnach nach bhfuil teaghlaigh ar bith acu lasmuigh den phríosúin, idir Náisiúnaigh Éireannacha agus Náisiúnaigh Eachtracha araon.

Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite:
Ceapaimid go bhfuil bunú na rannóige sin tairbhiúil don phríosún agus go mbeidh sé tairbhiúil freisin sna blianta amach romhainn. Cinntíonn sé sin go mbíonn baint ag an bpríosúnach leis na seirbhísí gaolmhara agus é faoi choimeád agus go mbíonn baint aige le seirbhísí lasmuigh den phríosún ar a scaoileadh.

Ceardlanna:
Glanadh Tionsclaíoch:

I gcás na foirne lena mbaineann, leanann na dualgais a ghabhann le Glanadh Tionsclaíoch de bheith ag athrú. Bhí fadhbanna ó thaobh creidiúnaithe agus ath-imlonnaithe de, ach táthar ag súil go réiteofar na fadhbanna sin go luath sa bhliain 2014.

Ríomhairí:

Mar gheall ar a suíomh, ní raibh an t-éileamh ar na ríomhairí chomh hard agus a bhíothas ag súil, ach tá súil againn go méadóidh an t-éileamh sin nuair a osclófar ceardlann eile i limistéar A, rud a bheidh réidh i lár mhí Eanáir. Ceapadh WTO cáilithe eile don cheardlann sin le déanaí, rud a thugann deis do phríosúnaigh dámhachtain ar chaighdeán FETAC a bhaint amach.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 2013

Neachtlann:

Ní ag an neachtlann i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre atá an trealamh chun déileáil leis an éileamh atá uirthi. Faoi láthair, tá an Neachtlann ag obair ag 75% den chumas a bhí aici roimhe sin. Tá sé sin amhlaidh toisc nár cuireadh innealra nua in áir an innealra chaite a tarraingíodh as seirbhís roimhe sin. Dá gceannófaí innealra nua, thiocfadh feabhas ar éifeachtúlacht na Neachtlainne agus cuirfear go mór leis an gcumas atá aici dul i ngleic le héigeandálaí. Cuireadh cás gnó isteach ina leith sin.

Scileanna Boga:

Tá an post seo gan líonadh le beagnach 18 mí anuas. Tá méid mór trealaimh ina shuí gan úsáid go dtí go gceapfar WTO. Táthar ag súil go réiteofar é sin sa chéad chúpla seachtain eile.

Cistin:
Arís eile, lean an chistin, agus í faoi cheannaireacht IS R.Fleming, le hardchaighdeáin a bhaint amach. Bhí an méid sin soiléir nuair a fuair an chistin torthaí níos fearr arís ó na hiniúchóirí seachtracha. Ceardlann an-ghnóthach is ea an chistin i bPríosún Chnoc Seimre agus, ar bhonn laethúil, cócaráiltear béilí do níos mó ná 400 príosúnach 3 huaire sa lá, chomh maith le lón do thart ar 100 príosúnach a fhreastalaíonn ar Chúirt Chnoc Seimre. Faoi láthair, oibríonn 23 príosúnach sna cistineacha (16 duine sa phríomhchistin agus seachtar i gceaintín na foirne). Oibríonn na príosúnaigh sin leis na WTOnna agus cuirtear oideachas agus oiliúint orthu sa lónadóireacht agus sa tsláinte agus sábháilteacht. Má éiríonn leo na cúrsaí sin a chur i gcrích, faigheann siad dámhachtainí nó teastais aitheanta.

Le linn mhí na Nollag, bhí deis againn an bia a shampláil leis na Gobharnóirí agus leis an bhfoireann cléireachais agus bhíomar an-tógtha leis na hardchaighdeáin agus le hardghairmiúlacht na foirne. Molaimid an fhoireann as caighdeán an bhia freisin. Ba cheart tacaíocht leanúnach a thabhairt don chistin chun gur féidir léi leanúint le dul chun cinn a dhéanamh.

Lialann:
Bhí gairmiúlacht na foirne le feiceáil arís eile nuair a thugamar cuairt ar ionad míochaine an phríosúin le linn mhí Dheireadh Fómhair. Táthar den tuairim go bhféadfaí dul i ngleic le hinfhaighteacht seirbhísí áirithe trí chleachtóir páirtaimseartha/lánaimseartha (i.e. Síceolaí) a cheapadh.

<u>Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Phríosún Chnoc Seimre 2013</u>

Físchomhdháil:
Bhí feabhsuithe seasta i bhfíschomhdháil i mbliana. Ghlac Cúirteanna Dúiche páirt san fhíschomhdháil i mbliana. D'éirigh leis na naisc atá ann idir Príosún Chnoc Seimre agus Cúirt Dúiche Chnoc Seimre, Cúirt Dúiche Chorcaí, Cúirt Dúiche Luimnigh agus Cúirt Dúiche Dhún na nGall. Toisc go mbeidh an cúigiú Cúirt Chuarda ar bord i lár mhí na Nollag, táthar amach go mór sna pleananna chun cúirteanna eile a thabhairt ar bord. Chomh maith leis sin, tá pleananna ar bun le haghaidh cuairteanna gairmiúla a dhéanamh trí nasc físe sa bhliain amach romhainn.

Conclúid:
Ba mhaith linn aitheantas a thabhairt do rannchuidiú na ngníomhaireachtaí éagsúla a thug a gcuid ama agus a gcuid seirbhísí ar bhonn laethúil/seachtainiúil chun tairbhe sheirbhís an phríosúin. D'fheidhmigh an coiste a chuid dualgas go dícheallach agus tá sé tiomanta dóibh a fheidhmiú go hiomlán in 2014.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil le Michael Coyle agus le Eddie Martin, atá ina chomhaltaí coiste le fada an lá, as a gcuid oibre agus as a gcuid tiomantais d'obair an choiste cuairte. Guímid gach rath orthu sa todhchaí. Ba mhaith linn fáilte a chur freisin roimh Laura Jenkins agus David Ruddy, comhaltaí nua coiste, agus táimid ag tnúth le bheith ag obair leo in 2014. Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil chomh maith leis an nGobharnóir Ronan Maher, leis an nGobharnóir Fergus Woods agus leis an nGobharnóir Christopher Mc Cormack agus le John Brennan, rúnaí an choiste, agus leis an bhfoireann ar fad as an gcuidiú agus as an gcomhoibriú a thug siad le linn na bliana.

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

____
Peggy Downey
Cathaoirleach