

Cork Prison Visiting Committee

Annual Report 2013

The Cork Visiting Committee met on a monthly basis during 2013. Two members visited the prison on a regular basis between meetings. Committee met prisoners at their request and processed their requests through the Governor and conveyed back all responses where appropriate. The visiting committee members met and spoke with prisoners on the landings, in workshops, kitchen and in the school.

The main issues by prisoners were:

1. Transfer to other prisons for personal and family reasons
2. Medical and mental health issues

Overcrowding

The management of the prison has seriously endeavoured to tackle the overcrowding in the prison. Prison numbers were up to 300 at time in 2012. The numbers in 2013 were down to an average of 220 and the management are continually working towards the recommended number by the Inspector of Prisons which is 173. This is extremely difficult because the prison has to take committals on demand.

Prison population has decreased through temporary release, community returns under the Probation Service, UCAS, Community Support Schemes, TR under Probation Supervision, etc.

There is no doubt but the atmosphere in the prison is quite relaxed between prisoner and prison staff. Some of the prisoners that we spoke to acknowledged the courtesy of staff in general and were high in their praise for the workshops, school and ancillary services.

1. EDUCATION

2013 was a successful year in the Education Unit, Cork Prison. They maintained their programme of offering a broad range of subjects from Basic Literacy to Open University. They continued to place great emphasis on catering for Basic Education students.

New Developments and Events

This year they employed their own Adult / Career Guidance teacher and started a course in Advanced Computers.

They had their first ever Education and Training Fair, which was attended by over 120 prisoners on the day, who visited a range of 20 different educational/ training/ health/ housing services from the city and county. They had their annual Christmas Art Exhibition / Open Day in December. Their first graduation of the CBHFA (Red Cross Prisoner Volunteer training) programme was presented with their certificates. This event represented a first for the Education Unit in many ways, not least in the fact that the prisoners' families attended the Graduation Ceremony in the school. The Education Unit would like to see more of these events including participations by families. The Unit had two artists in Residence workshops during the year.

Certification

FETAC Certification –172 certificates awarded ranging from Level 2 to Level 5 in subjects including – Horticulture, Ceramics, Drawing, Woodcraft, Technical Drawing, Craft/ Textiles, Computer Studies, Communications, Personal Effectiveness, Personal and Interpersonal Skills, Mathematics, Nutrition, Cookery, Health and Fitness, Caring for Children, Spanish, Occupational First Aid, English as a second language, Career Preparation.

State Exams –Leaving Certificate – 6 students, Junior Certificate – 1 student.

Subjects included Irish, English, Mathematics, History, Art.

This year one student obtained a full Leaving Certificate Award.

Cambridge English Exams (in conjunction with UCC) – 4 Students

Safe Pass – 20 Students

Drive for Life (Road Safety Awareness Training) – 23 Certificates awarded

Open University (Sociology) – 1 student

Post Release Service

This service, under the Co-Ordinator, Ms Frances Russell continued to perform a vital and necessary service of working with homeless prisoners and prisoners who require support in the community in terms of addiction, tenancy skills, social welfare/ medical card needs, further education and training.

Dillon's Cross Project

This year we expanded our Dillon's Cross Project (for the female relatives of prisoners) by extending the course for a second year. They had hoped to move into their own premises in the Glen Youthreach building but this has been delayed until Jan /Feb 2014. This new premises will allow them to expand the programme and introduce new subjects which will benefit the women attending. It will also allow the Education Unit to increase their numbers as they are always inundated with applicants. The Education Unit believe there will be potential in this new building also to work on Family programmes involving the women and the prisoners / ex-prisoners.

Multi-Disciplinary Activities

In the spirit of co-operation and support for a multi-disciplinary approach to providing the best service for the prisoners, staff members from the Education Unit are participating in working committees relating to the Prison Library, the Listener Scheme, Red Cross Training, Health and Safety Group and Unlocking Community Alternative Scheme (UCAS). The Education Unit is represented at the weekly Multi-Disciplinary meeting and the monthly Review Meetings. The Education Unit continues to liaise with the Addiction, Probation, Medical and Psychology services within the prison.

Issues Arising

This year the high turnover of prisoners, due to transfers and early release schemes, has had an effect on the Education Programme. This has led to a certain amount of frustration in terms of completing courses and fulfilling the potential of the students. The population of the prison is approx. 100 fewer than last year. The number of segregated prisoners has also dropped considerably and the moving of these prisoners to the A3 landing, has also resulted in changes in the Laundry School. With this in mind they will be reviewing any courses they may offer in the future in terms of catering for more short-term students and making sure that segregated prisoners gain as much access as possible to education.

2. CORK PRISON LIBRARY

The prison sees access to information and education as a basic right and can be a crucial factor in the rehabilitation of offenders. The library is run by two trained staff and contains a minimum of 4000 books and 2000 non book items which are mainly CDs, also DVDs and Audio/ eBooks.

3. PRINT AND COMPUTER SHOP

Printing work shop – ECDL 7 competencies; Word, Spreadsheets, Database, Presentation, Web, using manual files. ECDL advanced, printing, types of printing, work undertaken – forms, books, health and safety, journals etc.

The Print Shop / Computer room provide flyers, manuals, school calendars, information booklets for a variety of organisations etc.

In 2013, 11 Certified ECDL's were presented to Prisoners, along with 4 ECDL Start Certificates.

4. HURLEY SHOP /JOINERY

In this area the prison has a hurley repair section which is used by clubs all over the county. This workshop is certified by the Munster Council of the GAA. They also provide high class joinery work.

There is no doubt that the work in the computer and hurley shops are extremely high standards but we believe that this training should be linked to the appropriate industry in the community which would provide work experience and hopefully employment for suitable prisoners on release.

There are a number of other training facilities in the prison; kitchen, cleaning, embroidery, maintenance etc., all teaching prisoners' new skills and providing industry in the prison.

5. COMMUNITY RETURNS

Community Return (CRS) is an early release scheme operating in all Irish prisons. It is a structured temporary release scheme with a condition of voluntary work. The work is organised by the Probation Service and the released prisoner is supervised by the Probation staff during the course of the program.

Prisoners serving sentences between one and eight years can be considered for the scheme. All prisoners are free to make an application through their class officer to be considered for the scheme. Probation staff and other professionals within the prison may also refer names for consideration. Names are discussed at multi disciplinary meetings and review meetings. The Irish Prison Service (IPS) decide which prisoners will be selected to be formally assessed for the scheme. IPS will take into consideration the views of the profession as working with the prisoner's engagement and behaviour within the prison, public safety and the Garda view to early release.

IPS will send the Senior Probations Officer for the prison a list of names which to be assessed for community return scheme. Probations assessments for CRS will focus

whether the prisoner can comply with the conditions of the scheme. Probation look to address any barriers which might be present which could result in the prisoner not complying. Such barriers might be homeless issues, addiction supports, ability to travel to the work site, feuding or under threat, medical problems etc. The Probation report is returned to IPS for further and final consideration before a decision is made. The work involved is organised by community service supervisors who are employed through the Probation Service. The work is usually manual work such as grass cutting, painting, environmental site clearance, graffiti removal, butting up pallets for kindling, clothing recycle, computer recycle. There are a variety of projects around the city and the Probation service also have a bus to take a work crew out of the city to do work in rural areas.

The scheme has been hugely successful and compliance rates nationally are around 80 percent. The success rate to date is, in no doubt, due to the tight controls put in place by the IPS and Probation. Good assessments and close monitoring on release are key. Failure to attend work is reported immediately to the IPS who can swiftly act on the information when the prisoner presents for signing on in the prison once a week.

6. RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT WORKER

The Resettlement Service is in operation in Cork Prison since 2009. It is a joint initiative between the Irish Prison Service and the Irish Association of Social Integration of Offenders (IASIO). The Service is a 'through the gate' service offering support to clients both pre and post-release.

The Resettlement Worker meets with clients prior to release in order to explore firstly what brought them to prison and then to look forward to client's plans and goals for the future, a future beyond the gate. It is designed to complement the Integrated Sentence Management (ISM) process. This resettlement planning involves exploring with clients what changes need to happen in order to ensure that their future is outside the gate. The service is holistic in nature and works with other agencies to ensure that the clients' needs are met in the prison and outside. This involves referring clients to

relevant supports in the prison and in the community for example in regard to accommodation, work/ training/ education, income supports, mental health services, welfare services, family supports and other community supports. The Resettlement Worker co-facilitates a group work programme 'Changing Course' with the Training and Employment Officer. This is run in both the prison and in the community.

Following a client's release the Resettlement Worker meets clients who wish to avail of support with the transition from prison, and want assistance implementing their support plan. The Resettlement Worker has a community office in Churchfield Community Trust, and work in cooperation with CCT on their Outreach Programme. Support post-release comes in the form of; practical supports in terms of assistance / information regarding social welfare payments, rent supplement, signposting or emotional support, and the belief that the latter cannot be over-estimated, as leaving prison is a significant transition in a person's life, and to have assistance with the transition is important to ensure that the clients goals and plans are supported.

7. THE LINKAGE PROGRAMME

The Linkage Programme works with clients of the Criminal Justice System in the community and prisons across Ireland. Three separate programmes work to assist clients to progress their lives by providing a professional support system. The work of this service is primarily built on desistance, a belief that people can and do stop committing crime. The services are the Linkage Service, the Resettlement Service, both of which work in Cork Prison. The Gate Service is the third service and this service is available in other prisons in Ireland. The Linkage Service is a Guidance and Placement Service that offers a weekly clinic to prisoners through the Probation Service in Cork prison. It is fully funded by the Probation Service; the other programmes are funded through the Irish Prison Service.

Clients are referred and are met at any point during their sentence to look at future plans for their lives. At the start of a sentence this can be to encourage a client to utilise their sentence so that they can make changes in their lives on release by attending other services, training or education in the prison. Towards the end of a

sentence a professional relationship can be formed with the client so that on release the work can continue in the community to explore progression options with the client and support them with their choices. A group work programme run over 10/2 hr sessions called Changing Course is also available as an option for clients. This programme assists clients in a practical way through the combined knowledge in the group to explore future possibilities for their lives. This is facilitated by the Linkage and Resettlement persons in Cork Prison, Maria Walsh and Brid Wallace.

8. GRATTAN PROJECT

The Grattan Project was founded through the Probation Service in 1998. Among the services it provides is an addiction counselling service in Cork Prison. The project employs two full time Addiction Counsellors; one is based in Cork Prison full time. The other counsellor is based in the offices of the Probations Service in the City Centre.

The community based Addiction Counsellor working from the Probation Service offices provides and addiction counselling / assessment / referral service for clients of Probation Service. Many of these clients have been released from Cork Prison under supervision of the Probation Service. They are assessed for addiction issues and are offered appointments for either individual or group counselling sessions.

The prison based Addiction Counsellor provides both short and long term one to one counselling. Clients are referred to this service by the various agencies based in the prison.

9. MERCHANTS QUAY ADDICTION PROJECT

This project has been established in Cork Prison for over five years. There is one full time addiction counsellor and a part-time addiction counsellor based in the prison. The project provides one to one counselling, group work, and relapse programmes etc. The project works with individuals some of whom they can transfer directly from

prison to treatment centres in St Francis Farm (Carlow), Hyde Park and Coolmine (Dublin).

10. ST. NICHOLAS TRUST

St. Nicholas Trust is a support and information service which was set up in 2008 in response to the observed need for such a service from family members who had a member sentenced to a term in prison for the first time. The main concern for prison management and staff is the security of prisoners and staff. Prisoners have supports available to them and opportunities to re-habilitate while their families have to struggle with the many effects of imprisonment without recognition or support. They talk about their position as 'Doing time on the Outside'.

Families speak about the stigma attached to prison and being silenced because of not having anyone to talk to. SNT runs fortnightly support and information meetings where people with similar issues can discuss their problems, support each other and get information relevant to their individual cases. Some of the founding members remain in the trust to offer their invaluable experience to new people. Since its formation, St Nicholas Trust has established a hospitality service in the prison waiting room, printed two information booklets for families, set up an outreach service to schools and community groups, held a conference to inform services, given presentations at conferences, been invited to speak to training officers for prison officers, participated in a European Grundtvig prison project and made a concerted effort to have a family-friendly visitor centre included in the plans for the proposed new Cork Prison.

St. Nicholas Trust is managed by volunteers who give their time freely to promoting the rights of innocent family members and children in particular. Much of the research on imprisonment tells us that children of prisoners are many times more likely to enter prison than other children. Research also informs us that where families maintain ties, re-offending is much less likely to occur. We believe that by working together with the prison system, families can be used as a resource. The

counselling, training and education opportunities offered when possible has resulted in three of our members undertaking academic courses in UCC this year. The Trust continues to develop services and offer support with the hope that with positive support and information in this difficult period, families can hope for a more positive future.

11. THE CORK ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE

The Cork Alliance Centre works with individuals released from prison, with the support of both the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service. The Centre provides support to make a ‘fresh start’, both in terms of reducing offending and increasing positive participation in individual, family and community life. It aims to facilitate an individual to be more aware and have a greater understanding of the consequences of their choices and explore alternative, so that they may choose the option best suited to their circumstances, and become generally better equipped to manage their lives positively. The choice for change and the associated choice for desistance is not a once off decision, but rather a complex process of continuous choices to desist from crime. The importance of self-esteem, self-efficacy, self-respect and self-determination in the desistance journey cannot be underestimated. *“To desist from crime, ex-offenders need to develop a coherent pro-social identity for themselves”* (Maruna, 2001, p7), and be well grounded with positive self-efficacy. Further to this, the process of desistance can only be achieved through the nurturing of important relationships (McNeill, 2006). Facilitating service users as they are restoring their connection with their family, friends, community, society and most importantly with themselves is fundamental to the work of the Cork Alliance Centre.

The services at the centre directly target:

- Prisoners or former prisoners – both men and women – who on release from prison reside in the Cork area.
- Persons who want to voluntarily access support as they seek to desist from crime.

Over the past decade in excess of 1,000 people have chosen to seek support from the Cork Alliance Centre on their release from prison. On average 70 service users at any time access the supports of the service. Some service users have been through university, and many more are at or have been to college. Many have found recovery from addictions and while others are struggling with their recovery they are seeking support to change. Those who access the service of the Cork Alliance Centre choose to do so voluntarily; it is their commitment to change and desistance.

The Centre's relationship with its service users is based on a collaborative partnership approach rather than an expert recipient model. Within the Centre, service users are met on an appointment basis, where a support worker is assigned to work with them throughout their time with the programme. The frequency of meetings is determined by the needs of the individual at any given point in their programme.

Although each individual faces unique barriers, common challenges faced by many service users re-entering their communities – poly addictions, poor education and training, poor accommodation, poor mental health, lack of positive role models.

Therein the services offered at the Centre include:

- One to one support and motivation work where among other areas offending behaviours, thinking skills, coping mechanisms, socialisation skills etc. are addressed.
- Open, safe and non-judgemental environment
- Assistance to source and secure accommodation
- Assistance to secure social welfare supports
- Assistance to source, secure and sustain trainings, education and literacy supports
- Assistance to source, secure and sustain employment schemes and employment
- Supporting access to professional counselling
- Linking and supporting access to addiction treatment / services throughout the country

- Building and healing family relationships
- Acupuncture

12. SAMARITANS

A listening programme facilitated by the Samaritans was set up in 2013 to assist in reducing self-harm and helping to alleviate the feelings of those in distress or despair including those which may lead to suicide.

13. UCAS: PILOT

UCAS is an on-going Pilot Programme since May 2012, dealing with prisoners serving between 3 months and less than 12 months. Its objective involves assigning Case Manager from within multidisciplinary, putting release plan together with the full team and link person outside, objective to have the majority of prisoners in this category out in plans, linking in.

14. PRISON DVD

On the innovative side Cork VC put forward a proposal to create a DVD of the Rehabilitative, educational and training services and facilities available to all prisoners during their period of detention and also following their release from prison.

The medium through which the prisoners receive this information is extremely important to the success of this initiative as approximately 80% of prisoners that enter the system are semi-literate and are unable or unlikely to access information of such services through print media. Careful consideration of this fact needs to be incorporated when deciding the best approach to communicate the message.

15. PRISON AND X-RAY EQUIPMENT

Following a number of discussions with prison officials and the apparent lack of x-ray facilities in order to establish whether contraband is being smuggled into the prison

internally or not could lead to serious problems for both the authorities and prisoners. Problems could occur especially for vulnerable prisoners or otherwise who perhaps are forced to carry items that could lead to major health difficulties.

Consideration should be given to having on site all the necessary equipment that would enable full body searches to take place. By having this equipment in place it can also help protect the health of the prisoner.

16. MOUNTJOY PRISON AND DÓCHAS CENTRE

The Visiting Committee visited Mountjoy and Dóchas Prisons. The purpose of the visit was to compare programmes, view the facilities and exchange views. Our sincere thanks to Governor Whelan and his staff for the kind hospitality.

17. CONDITIONS IN CORK PRISON

As outlined in our VC Report in 2012 the committee continue to express concern about the Archaic and Dickenson conditions in some parts of Cork Prison. The prison is unfit for purpose and has been deemed so by a number of Reports and indeed by the local media in recent times.

The Visiting Committee welcomes the announcement by the government that a new modern, state of the art prison will be built commencing in January 2014. We would like to acknowledge the work of the Minister, the Director and the team that got it over the line.

Plans show that the new rehabilitative and educational facilities as well as the open spaces, court yards and new family visiting areas represent complete transformation.

Cork Prison is facing a number of serious challenges over the next two years while awaiting the new prison to be built, but we are confident from our observations that management, staff and ancillary services are dealing with prisoners in a very humane and professional manner in the circumstances.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Staff and Ancillary Services are enthusiastic and committed to what they do, and while there are many training facilities for prisoners on release, it falls very short of a 'real job' which is contributory for the long term rehabilitation of offenders.

Integration is important in the rehabilitation of offenders but many of the relevant agencies have worked at "arm's length" from offenders and their need. It is our view that these agencies should be based in the prison.

Prison is a catch all situation. While some prisoners are well capable of education and training, unfortunately many of those who end up in prison are more suited to a psychiatric hospital or drug treatment centres.

The Prison Visiting Committee notes the high level of participation in various FETAC courses. However, participation in Junior and Leaving Certificate courses remains relatively low. We acknowledge the difficulties involved in encouraging prisoners to continue with state exams post release, but given the correlation between educational attainment and a prisoners future prospects, we would hope for future strategies to encourage and incentivise greater participation in state examinations through the enhanced regimes etc.

60% of inmates are committed to Cork Prison because they are unwilling or unable to pay fines.

In processing these offenders, who are turned around on the same day is a waste of Garda, court and prison resources and makes a sham of the idea of a financial penalty as a disincentive to those who commit a crime.

We believe that it is incumbent on the appropriate authorities to come up with a coordinated response that addresses this issue, otherwise the whole Criminal Justice System in relation to fines will come into disrepute.

One of the highlights of 2013 was the training day organised by the Irish Prison Service. It highlighted the role and responsibility of the Visiting Committee.

THANKS

The Visiting Committee wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to Governors Collins, Governor O’Sullivan and Governor Foster and also Chief Officer Eileen Horgan, ACO Desmond and staff in the prison for their cooperation and courtesy shown to the committee. The committee would also like to thank the many statutory and voluntary organisations who assist prisoners and their families and who contributed to the report.

Special word of thanks to our most efficient secretary to the VC Ms Caroline O’Connor.

MEMBERS OF THE CORK VISITING COMMITTEE

1. Dermot O’Connell – Chairperson
2. Mary Loughnane
3. Thomas Ryan
4. Robin Murray
5. Anthony Donnelly

Coiste Cuairte Phríosún Chorcaí

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2013

Tháinig Coiste Cuairte Phríosún Chorcaí le chéile ar bhonn míosúil le linn 2013. Thug beirt bhall cuairt ar an bpríosún ar bhonn rialta idir cruinnithe. Bhuail an Coiste le príosúnaigh ar a n-iarratas féin agus rinne a n-iarratais a phróiseáil tríd an nGobharnóir agus gach freagra a chur in iúl nuair ab iomchuí. Bhuail baill an choiste cuairte le príosúnaigh agus labhair siad leo ar na cinn staighre, i gceardlanna, sa chistin agus sa scoil.

Ba iad seo na príomhfhadhbanna a bhí ag príosúnaigh:

3. Aistrithe chuig príosúin eile ar chúiseanna pearsanta agus teaghlaigh
4. Fadhbanna leighis agus sláinte meabhrach

Plódú

Rinne lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin dianiarracht dul i ngleic le plódú sa phríosún. B'ionann líon na bpríosúnach agus 300 príosúnach ó am go chéile i 2012. Laghdaíodh na líonta i 2013 go 220 príosúnach ar an meán agus tá an lucht bainistíochta ag obair go leanúnach chun an líon a mholann Cigire na bPríosún a bhaint amach, is é sin, 173 príosúnach. Tá sé sin ffordhoiligh mar go bhfuil ar an bpríosún cimithe a ghlacadh ar éileamh.

Tháinig laghdú ar líon na ndaoine sa phríosún trí na nithe seo: scaoileadh sealadach, fillleadh ar an bpobal faoi Scéim na Seirbhíse Promhaidh, faoin Scéim um Roghanna Pobail a Dhíghlasáil agus faoin Scéim Tacaíochta Pobail, Scaoileadh Sealadach faoi Mhaoirseacht Phromhaidh, etc.

Níl aon amhras go bhfuil an timpeallacht sa phríosún sách suaimhneach idir na príosúnaigh agus foireann an phríosúin. Thug roinnt de na príosúnaigh ar labhraíomar leo aitheantas do chúirtéis na foirne i gcoitinne agus mhol siad go mór na ceardlanna, an scoil agus na fosheirbhísí.

18. OIDEACHAS

Bliain rathúil san Aonad Oideachais, Príosún Chorcaí, a bhí sa bhliain 2013. Choinnigh sé a chlár um raon leathan ábhar a thairiscint, ó Litearthacht Bhunúsach go dtí an Ollscoil Oscailte. Lean sé ar aghaidh ag cur béim mhór ar lónadóireacht do mhic léinn Oideachais Bhunúsaigh.

Forbairtí agus Imeachtaí Nua

I mbliana, d'fhostaigh sé a mhúinteoir Aosach / Gairmthreorach féin agus chuir sé tús le cúrsa in Ard-Ríomhaireacht.

Reáchtáil sé a chéad Aonach Oideachais agus Oiliúna riamh, ar ar fhreastail breis agus 120 príosúnach a thug cuairt ar 20 seirbhís oideachais/ oiliúna/ sláinte/ tithíochta éagsúil ón gcathair agus ón gcontae. Chuir sé Taispeántas Ealaíne Nollag / Lá Oscailte bliantúil ar siúl i mí na Nollag. Bronnadh a dteastais ar an gcéad rang dá chuid a chuir an clár CBHFA (oiliúint na Croise Deirge um Oibrithe Deonacha is Príosúnaigh) i gcrích. Bhí an t-imeacht sin ar an gcéad imeacht den chineál sin don Aonad Oideachais ar roinnt mhaith bealaí, ní amháin san fhíric gur fhreastail teachlaigh na bpríosúnach ar an searmanas bronnta céimeanna sa scoil. Ba mhaith leis an Aonad Oideachais níos mó de na himeachtaí sin a fheiceáil agus páirt a bheith ag teachlaigh iontu. Bhí beirt ealaíontóirí i gceardlanna Cónaithe ag an Aonad le linn na bliana.

Deimhniú

Deimhniú FETAC - bronnadh 172 teastas ó Leibhéal 2 go Leibhéal 5 in ábhair a chuimsíonn na nithe seo - Gairneoireacht, Ceirmeacht, Líníocht, Ceardaíocht Adhmaid, Líníocht Theicniúil, Ceardaíocht/ Teicstílí, Staidéar Ríomhaireachta, Cumarsáid, Éifeachtacht Phearsanta, Scileanna Pearsanta agus Idirphearsanta, Matamaitic, Cothú, Cócaireacht, Sláinte agus Aclaíocht, I mBun Cúram do Leanaí, Spáinnis, Garchabhair ag an Obair, Béarla mar dhara teanga, Ullmhúchán Gairme.

Scrúduithe Stáit - an Ardteistiméireacht - 6 mac léinn, an Teastas Sóisearach - 1 mhac léinn.

Áiríodh leis na hábhair Gaeilge, Béarla, Matamaitic, Stair, Ealaín.

I mbliana, ghnóthaigh mac léinn amháin Dámhachtain iomlán na hArdteistiméireachta.

Scrúduithe Béarla Cambridge (i gcomhar le Coláiste Ollscoile Chorcaí) - 4 Mac Léinn

Safe Pass - 20 Mac Léinn

Drive for Life (Oiliúint um Fheasacht ar Shábháilteacht ar Bhóithre) - bronnadh 23 Teastas

An Ollscoil Oscailte (Socheolaíocht) - 1 mhac léinn

An tSeirbhís Iar-Scaoilte

Lean an tseirbhís seo ar aghaidh, faoi Frances Russell, ag comhlíonadh seirbhís ríthábhachtach riachtanach trí oibriú le príosúnaigh gan dídean agus le príosúnaigh a bhfuil tacaíocht sa phobal ag teastáil uathu maidir le handúil, le scileanna tionóntachta, le riachtanais leasa shóisialaigh/chárta liachta, le breisoideachas agus le hoiliúint.

Tionscadal Chrois an Diolúnaigh

I mbliana, leathnaíomar Tionscadal Chrois an Diolúnaigh (do bhanghaolta na bpríosúnach) tríd an gcúrsa a shíneadh go ceann bliain eile. Bhí súil aige go mbogfadh sé isteach ina áitreabh féin i bhfoirgneamh Ógtheagmháil an Ghleanna ach moillíodh é sin go dtí mí Eanáir/Feabhra 2014. Tabharfaidh an t-áitreabh nua an deis dó leathnú a dhéanamh ar an gclár agus ábhair nua a thabhairt isteach a mbainfidh na mná a bheidh ag freastal air leas astu. Tabharfaidh sé an deis don Aonad Oideachais freisin méadú a chur ar a líon mar go bhfaigheann sé an iomarca iarratasóir i gcónaí. Creideann an tAonad Oideachais go bhféadfaí oibriú ar chlár Theaghlaigh a bhfuil baint acu leis na mná agus leis na príosúnaigh / na hiarphríosúnaigh san fhoirgneamh nua sin freisin.

Gníomhaíochtaí Ildisciplíneacha

Ar mhaithe le comhar agus tacaíocht le haghaidh cur chuige ildisciplíneach um an tseirbhís is fearr a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh, tá baill foirne ón Aonad Oideachais ag glacadh páirt i gcoistí oibre a bhaineann le Leabharlann an Phríosúin, le Scéim an Éisteora, le hOiliúint na Croise Deirge, leis an nGrúpa Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta agus leis an Scéim um Roghanna Pobail a Dhíghlasáil (UCAS). Déantar ionadaíocht don Aonad Oideachais ag an gcrúinniú seachtainiúil Ildisciplíneach agus ag na Cruinnithe míosúla Athbhreithnithe. Leanann an tAonad Oideachais ar aghaidh ag dul i dteagmháil leis na seirbhísí Andúile, Promhaidh, Leighis agus Síceolaíochta laistigh den phríosún.

Saincheisteanna a Tháinig Aníos

I mbliana, chuaigh an t-athrú ard príosúnach, mar gheall ar aistriú agus scéimeanna luathscaoilte, i bhfeidhm ar an gClár Oideachais. Bhí sé sin ina chúis le méid áirithe frustrachais maidir le cúrsaí a chur i gcrích agus lánchumas na mac léinn a chomhlíonadh. Tháinig laghdú 100 duine ar phobal an phríosúin i gcomparáid leis an mbliain seo caite. Tháinig titim shuntasach ar líon na bpríosúnach scartha agus bhí bogadh na bpríosúnach sin chuig ceann staighre A3 ina chúis le hathruithe ar an Scoil Níocháin freisin. Agus aird á tabhairt ar an méid sin, beidh sé ag athbhreithniú aon chúrsaí a d'fhéadfadh sé a chur ar fáil sa todhchaí maidir le lónadóireacht do mhic léinn ghearrthéarmacha agus ag cinntiú go bhfuil a oiread rochtana is féidir ag príosúnaigh scartha ar an oideachas.

19. LEABHARLANN PHRÍOSÚN CHORCAÍ

Measann an príosún gur ceart bunúsach í rochtain ar fhaisnéis agus oideachas agus is féidir léi a bheith ina toisc ríthábhachtach san athinniúlú ciontóirí. Reáchtálann beirt bhall foirne inniúla an leabharlann agus cuimsíonn sí 4000 leabhar agus 2000 mír nach leabhar iad ar a laghad, ar CDanna, DVDanna agus Closleabhair/Ríomhleabhair iad den chuid is mó.

20. SIOPA PRIONTÁLA AGUS RÍOMHAIRÍ

Ceardlann phriontála - 7 n-inniúlacht ECDL; Word, Scarbhileoga, Bunachar Sonraí, Láithreoireacht, Gréasán, agus úsáid á baint as comhaid láimhe. Tugadh faoi ardleibhéal ECDL, priontáil, cineálacha priontála, obair - foirmeacha, leabhair, sláinte agus sábháilteacht, irisleabhair etc.

Soláthraíonn an Siopa Priontála / seomra ríomhairí fógráin, lámhleabhair, féilirí scoile, leabhráin faisnéise le haghaidh eagraíochtaí éagsúla etc.

I 2013, bronnadh 11 ECDL dheimhnithe ar Phríosúnaigh, i dteannta 4 Theastas ECDL Start.

21. SIOPA CAMÁN / SIÚINÉIREACHTA

Sa limistéar seo, tá rannóg um dheisiú camán ag an bpríosún a n-úsáideann clubanna ar fud an chontae í. Deimhníonn Comhairle na Mumhan den CLG an cheardlann sin. Cuireann sí obair shiúinéireachta ardchaighdeáin ar fáil freisin.

Níl aon amhras gur obair den chéad scoth í an obair sna siopaí ríomhairí agus camán ach creidimid gur cheart an oiliúint sin a bheith nasctha leis an tionscal iomchuí sa phobal a sholáthródh taithí oibre agus, go dóchasach, a sholáthródh fostaíocht do phríosúnaigh oiriúnacha ar a scaoileadh.

Tá roinnt áiseanna eile oiliúna sa phríosún; cistin, glantóireacht, bróidnéireacht, cothabháil etc. Teagascann siad uile scileanna nua do phríosúnaigh agus soláthraíonn siad tionsclaíocht sa phríosún.

22. FILLTEACHA AR AN bPOBAL

Tá Filleadh ar an bPobal (CRS) ina scéim luathscaoilte atá ag oibriú sna príosúin go léir in Éirinn. Is scéim struchtúrtha scaoilte shealadaigh í lena ngabhann obair dheonach mar choinníoll. Eagraíonn an tSeirbhís Promhaidh an obair agus déanann

an fhoireann Phromhaidh maoirseacht ar an bpríosúnach scaoilte le linn raon feidhme an chláir.

Is féidir príosúnaigh ag caitheamh pianbhreitheanna idir bliain amháin agus ocht mbliana a bhreithniú lena gcur san áireamh sa scéim. Tá an deis ag gach príosúnach iarratas a dhéanamh trína n-oifigeach freagrach le go mbreithneofar iad lena gcur san áireamh sa scéim. Féadfaidh an fhoireann phromhaidh agus gairmithe eile laistigh den phríosún ainmneacha a tharchur lena mbreithniú freisin. Pléitear ainmneacha ag cruinnithe ildisciplíneacha agus ag cruinnithe athbhreithnithe. Cinneann Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann na príosúnaigh a roghnófar lena measúnú foirmiúil le haghaidh na scéime. Déanfaidh Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann breithniú ar thuairimí na gairme ag obair le rannpháirtíocht agus iompar an phríosúnaigh laistigh den phríosún, ar shábháilteacht agus ar thuairimí na nGardaí maidir le luathscaoileadh.

Cuirfidh Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann liosta ainmneacha lena measúnú don scéim um fhilleadh ar an bpobal chuig an Oifigeach Sinsearach Promhaidh don phríosún. Díreoidh measúnachtaí na Seirbhíse Promhaidh do CRS ar cé acu is féidir, nó nach féidir, leis an bpríosúnach cloí le coinníollacha na scéime. Féachann an tseirbhís promhaidh le dul i ngleic le haon bhacainní a d'fhéadfadh bheith ann agus a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina gcúis le neamhchomhlíonadh an phríosúnaigh. D'fhéadfadh na bacainní sin na nithe seo a leanas a chuimsiú: saincheisteanna easpa dídine, tacaí andúile, cumas chun taisteal chuig an láithreán oibre, bruíon nó faoi bhagairt, fadhbanna leighis etc. Cuirtear tuarascáil na Seirbhíse Promhaidh ar ais chuig Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann le go ndéanfar tuilleadh breithnithe agus breithniú deiridh uirthi sula ndéanfar cinneadh.

Eagraíonn maoirseoirí seirbhís pobail an obair atá i gceist. Fostaítear iad tríd an tSeirbhís Promhaidh. Obair láimhe a bhíonn san obair de ghnáth, amhail féar a ghearradh, péinteáil, suíomh comhshaoil a ghlanadh, graifítí a bhaint, pailléid a bhútáil le haghaidh adhaint, éadaí a athchúrsáil, ríomhairí a athchúrsáil. Tá tionscadail éagsúla timpeall na cathrach agus tá bus ag an tSeirbhís Promhaidh freisin

chun foireann oibre a thabhairt amach as an gcathair chun obair a dhéanamh i gceantair thuaithe.

D'éirigh go geal leis an scéim agus is thart ar 80 faoin gcéad atá rátaí comhlíonta ar fud na tíre. Níl aon amhras gurb iad na rialuithe diana a chuir Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann agus an tSeirbhís Promhaidh i bhfeidhm is cúis leis an ráta ratha go dtí seo. Baineann ríthábhacht le measúnachtaí maithe agus le dlúth-mhonatóireacht. Má theipeann ar phríosúnach freastal ar obair, tabharfar tuairisc faoi do Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann a fhéadann gníomhú go tapa ar an bhfaisnéis nuair a thagann an príosúnach lena shíniú sa phríosún uair amháin sa tseachtain.

23. OIBRÍ TACAÍOCHTA ATHLONNAÍOCHTA

Tá an tSeirbhís Athlonnaíochta i bhfeidhm i bPríosún Chorcaí ón mbliain 2009 i leith. Is comhthionscnamh é idir Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann agus Cumann na hÉireann um Lánpháirtiú Sóisialach Ciontóirí (IASIO). Seirbhís ‘tríd an ngeata’ a thairgeann tacaíocht do chliant roimh a scaoileadh agus ina dhiaidh atá sa tSeirbhís.

Buaileann an tOibrí Athlonnaíochta le cliant sula scaoiltear iad chun fiosrú a dhéanamh ar dtús ar an bhfáth a bhfuil siad i bpríosún agus, ina dhiaidh sin, féachaint ar aghaidh ar phleananna agus spriocanna an chliant sa todhchaí, agus iad scaoilte. Tá sé deartha chun an próiseas um Bainistíocht Chomhtháite Pianbhreitheanna (ISM) a chomhlánú. Baineann an phleanáil athlonnaíochta sin le plé a dhéanamh le cliant ar na hathruithe nach mór a bheith ann chun a chinntiú gur lasmuigh den gheata a chaithfidh siad an todhchaí. Baineann cineál iomlánaíoch leis an tseirbhís agus oibríonn sí le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíontar riachtanais na gcliant laistigh den phríosún agus lasmuigh de. Is éard atá i gceist anseo ná cliant a atreorú chuig tacaí ábhartha sa phríosún agus sa phobal, mar shampla maidir le cóiríocht, obair/ oiliúint/ oideachas, liúntais tacaíochta ioncaim, seirbhísí meabhairshláinte, seirbhísí leasa, sochair theaghlaigh agus tacaí eile pobail. Déanann an tOibrí Athlonnaíochta comhéascú ar chlár grúpoibre ‘Changing Course’ leis an

Oifigeach Oiliúna agus Fostaíochta. Reáchtáiltear é sin sa phríosún agus sa phobal araon.

Tar éis scaoileadh cliaint, buaileann an tOibrí Athlonnaíochta le cliaint ar mian leo leas a bhaint as tacaíocht leis an trasdul ón bpríosún, agus cúnamh a fháil chun a bplean tacaíochta a chur chun feidhme. Tá oifig phobail ag an Oibrí Athlonnaíochta in Iontaobhas Pobail Pháirc an Teampaill, agus oibríonn sé i gcomhar le hIontaobhas Pobail Pháirc an Teampaill ar a Chlár For-rochtana. Is sna foirmeacha seo a leanas a chuirtear tacaíocht tar éis scaoilte ar fáil: tacaí praiticiúla maidir le cúnamh / faisnéis i ndáil le híocaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh, fordheontas cíosa, comharthaíocht nó tacaíocht mhothúcháinach, agus an creideamh nach féidir an ceann deireanach sin a rómheas, mar gur trasdul suntasach i saol duine é príosún a fhágáil, agus tá sé tábhachtach cabhair a fháil leis an trasdul chun a chinntiú go dtacaítear le spriocanna agus le pleananna an chliaint.

24. AN CLÁR NASCACHTA

Oibríonn an Clár Nascachta le cliaint an Chórais Cheartais Choiriúil sa phobal agus i bpríosúin ar fud na hÉireann. Oibríonn trí chlár ar leith chun cabhrú le cliaint dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ar a saol trí chóras tacaíochta gairmiúil a chur ar fáil. Tá obair na seirbhíse sin bunaithe go príomha ar éirí as, is é sin, creideamh gur féidir le daoine scaradh le coir a dhéanamh agus go ndéanann siad amhlaidh. Is iad na seirbhísí an tSeirbhís Nascachta agus an tSeirbhís Athlonnaíochta, a n-oibríonn an dá cheann díobh i bPríosún Chorcaí. Tá an tSeirbhís Geata ar an tríú seirbhís agus tá an tseirbhís sin ar fáil i bpríosúin eile in Éirinn. Is éard atá sa tSeirbhís Nascachta ná Seirbhís Treorach agus Socrúcháin a thairgeann clinic sheachtainiúil do phríosúnaigh tríd an tSeirbhís Promhaidh i bPríosún Chorcaí. Maoinítear go hiomlán í leis an tSeirbhís Promhaidh; maoinítear na cláir eile trí Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann.

Atreoraítear cliaint agus buailtear leo tráth ar bith le linn a bpianbhreithe chun féachaint ar phleananna amach anseo dá saol. Ag tús na pianbhreithe, is féidir é sin a úsáid chun spreagadh a thabhairt do chliant a phianbhreith a úsáid le gur féidir leis athruithe a dhéanamh ar a shaol ar a scaoileadh trí fhreastal ar sheirbhísí eile, ar

oiliúint nó ar oideachas sa phríosún. I dtreo dheireadh na pianbhreithe, is féidir caidreamh gairmiúil a chruthú leis an gcliánt le gur féidir leanúint ar aghaidh leis an obair sa phobal chun plé a dhéanamh ar roghanna dul chun cinn leis an gcliánt agus tacú leo a roghanna a dhéanamh. Tá clár grúpoibre a réachtáiltear thar 10 seisiún 2 uair ar a dtugtar ‘Changing Course’ ar fáil freisin mar rogha do chliánt. Cabhraíonn an clár sin le cliánt ar dhóigh phraiticiúil tríd an eolas comhcheangailte sa ghrúpa chun plé a dhéanamh ar fhéidearthachtaí amach anseo dá saol. Tá sé á éascú ag Maria Walsh agus Bríd Wallace, na pearsana Nascachta agus Athlonnaíochta i bPríosún Chorcaí.

25. TIONSCADAL GRATTAN

Cuireadh Tionscadal Grattan ar bun tríd an tSeirbhís Promhaidh sa bhliain 1998. I measc na seirbhísí a chuireann sé ar fáil, tá seirbhís comhairleoireachta andúile i bPríosún Chorcaí. Fostaíonn an tionscadal beirt Chomhairleoirí Andúile lánaimseartha; tá duine amháin acu lonnaithe go lánaimseartha i bPríosún Chorcaí. Tá an comhairleoir eile lonnaithe in oifigí na Seirbhíse Promhaidh i Lár na Cathrach.

Is éard a sholáthraíonn an Comhairleoir Andúile atá lonnaithe sa phobal agus a oibríonn amach ó oifigí na Seirbhíse Promhaidh ná seirbhís comhairleoireachta andúile / measúnaithe / atreoraithe do chliánt na Seirbhíse Promhaidh. Tá cuid mhór de na cliánt sin scaoilte saor ó Phríosún Chorcaí faoi mhaoirseacht na Seirbhíse Promhaidh. Déantar measúnú orthu i gcomhair fadhbanna andúile agus tairgtear coinní dóibh le haghaidh seisiúin chomhairleoireachta aonair nó seisiúin ghrúpchomhairleoireachta.

Cuireann an Comhairleoir Andúile atá lonnaithe sa phríosún idir chomhairleoireacht ghearrthéarmach duine le duine agus chomhairleoireacht fhadtéarmach duine le duine ar fáil. Is iad gníomhaireachtaí éagsúla atá lonnaithe sa phríosún a atreoraíonn cliánt chuig an tseirbhís sin.

26. TIONSCADAL ANDÚILE CHÉ NA gCEANNAITHE

Tá an tionscadal sin ar bun i bPríosún Chorcaí le níos mó ná cúig bliana anuas. Tá comhairleoir andúile lánaimseartha amháin agus comhairleoir andúile páirtaimseartha amháin lonnaithe sa phríosún. Soláthraíonn an tionscadal comhairleoireacht duine le duine, grúpobair agus cláir athiompaithe etc. Oibríonn an tionscadal le daoine aonair agus is féidir leis roinnt díobh a aistriú go díreach ón bpríosún go hionaid chóireála i bhFeirm Phroinsias (Ceatharlach), i bPáirc an Hídigh agus i gCúil Mhín (Baile Átha Cliath).

27. IONTAOBHAS NAOMH NIOCLÁS

Seirbhís tacaíochta agus faisnéise is ea Iontaobhas Naomh Nioclás agus bunaíodh é sa bhliain 2008 mar fhreagairt don ghá aitheanta lena leithéid seirbhíse a bhí ag daoine ar cuireadh téarma sa phríosún ar bhaill dá gcuid dteaghlach den chéad uair. Is é an príomhábhar inní atá ar bhainisteoirí agus ar fhoireann an phríosúin ná slándáil na bpríosúnach agus na foirne. Tá tacaí agus deiseanna ar fáil do phríosúnaigh chun athshlánú, ach bíonn a gcuid teaghlach ag streachailt gan aitheantas agus gan tacaíocht le tionchar na príosúnachta sin. Mothaíonn siad go bhfuil siad ‘Faoi Phríosúnacht ar an Taobh Amuigh’.

Labhraíonn teaghlaigh faoin stiogma a ghabhann le príosúnacht agus a ghabhann le bheith fágtha gan focal toisc nach bhfuil duine acu lena féidir leo labhairt. Reáchtálann Iontaobhas Naomh Nioclás cruinnithe coicísiúla tacaíochta agus faisnéise, áit ar féidir le daoine a bhfuil fadhbanna den chineál céanna acu labhairt faoina gcuid fadhbanna, tacaíocht a thabhairt dá chéile agus faisnéis a bhaineann lena gcuid cásanna aonair a fháil. Tá roinnt de na baill bhunaidh páirteach san iontaobhas go fóill chun gur féidir leo an taithí luachmhar atá acu a thairiscint do rannpháirtithe nua. Ó bunaíodh é, tá na nithe seo a leanas déanta ag Iontaobhas Naomh Nioclás: chuir sé seirbhís fáilteachais ar bun i seomra feithimh an phríosúin, phriontáil sé dhá leabhrán faisnéise do theaghlaigh, bhunaigh sé seirbhís for-rochtana do scoileanna agus do ghrúpaí pobail, thionóil sé comhdháil chun eolas a thabhairt do sheirbhísí, thug sé láithreoireachtaí ag comhdhálacha, fuair sé cuireadh chun labhairt le hoifigigh

a chuireann oiliúint ar oifigigh phríosúin, ghlac sé páirt i dtionscadal Eorpach Grundtvig maidir le príosúin agus rinne sé iarracht leanúnach ionad cuairteoirí a thacaíonn le teaghlaigh a chur chun cinn lena chur san áireamh sna pleananna do Phríosún Chorcaí nua atá beartaithe.

Tá Iontaobhas Naomh Nioclás á bhainistiú ag oibrithe deonacha a oibríonn saor in aisce chun cearta na mball neamhchiontach teaghlaigh, agus cearta na leanaí go háirithe, a chur chun cinn. Cuireann an chuid is mó den taighde ar phríosúnacht in iúl dúinn go mbíonn seans i bhfad níos mó ann go rachaidh leanaí príosúnach isteach i bpríosún ná leanaí eile. Cuireann taighde in iúl dúinn freisin go mbíonn seans níos lú ann go ndéanfaidh an príosúnach cion arís i gcásanna ina gcoinníonn teaghlaigh teagmháil leis an bpríosúnach. Creidimid gur féidir leas a bhaint as teaghlaigh mar acmhainn trína bheith ag obair leis an gcóras príosún. Mar thoradh ar na deiseanna comhairleoireachta, oiliúna agus oideachais a chuirtear ar fáil nuair is féidir, tá triúr dár gcuid ball ag tabhairt faoi chúrsaí acadúla i gColáiste Ollscoile Chorcaí i mbliana. Leanann an tIontaobhas le seirbhísí a fhorbairt agus le tacaíocht a thairiscint agus súil aige go mbeidh teaghlaigh ag tnúth le saol níos dearfaí a bheith i ndán dóibh mar gheall ar an tacaíocht agus ar an bhfaisnéis dhearfach a fhaigheann siad sa tréimhse dheacair seo.

28. COMHAONTAS CHORCAÍ AR SON AN CHEARTAIS

Le tacaíocht ón tSeirbhís Promhaidh agus ó Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann araon, oibríonn Ionad Comhaontais Chorcaí le daoine atá scaoilte saor ó phríosún. Cuireann an tIonad tacaíocht ar fáil chun gur féidir le daoine ‘tús úr’ a dhéanamh, maidir le hathchiontú a laghdú agus maidir le rannpháirtíocht dhearfach a mhéadú i saol an duine, i saol an teaghlaigh agus i saol an phobail araon. Is é is aidhm leis ná cabhrú leis an duine aonair níos mó eolais agus tuiscint níos fearr a bheith aige ar iarmhairtí a chuid roghanna agus roghanna eile a imscrúdú chun go roghnóidh sé an rogha is oiriúnaí dá chuid cúinsí agus chun go mbeidh sé ar a chumas a shaol a bhainistiú ar bhealach dearfach. Ní cinneadh aonuaire é an cinneadh chun dul i muintín athrú agus na rogha gaolmhaire a bhaineann le scor de choiriúlacht. Ina ionad sin, is próiseas

casta é lena ngabhann roghanna leanúnacha chun scor de choiriúlacht. Ní féidir beag a dhéanamh den tábhacht a bhaineann le féinmheas, le féinéifeachtúlacht agus le féintreorú sa turas chun scor de choiriúlacht. *“Chun gur féidir leo scor de choiriúlacht, is gá d’iarchiontóirí féiniúlacht chomhtháite shóisialta dhearfach a chruthú dóibh féin”* (Maruna, 2001, lch 7) agus is gá dóibh dea-thuisctint a bheith acu ar fhéinéifeachtúlacht dhearfach. Ina theannta sin, ní féidir scor de choiriúlacht ach amháin trí chaidrimh thábhachtacha a chothú (McNeill, 2006). Is cuid ríthábhachtach d’obair Ionad Comhaontais Chorcaí é úsáideoirí seirbhíse a éascú agus iad ag athbhunú an cheangail atá acu lena gcuid teaghlaigh, lena gcuid cairde, lena bpobail, lena sochaí agus, rud is tábhachtaí fós, leosan féin.

Díríonn na seirbhísí atá ar fáil ag an ionad go díreach ar na daoine seo a leanas:

- Príosúnaigh nó iarphríosúnaigh – idir fhir agus mhná – a chónaíonn i gceantar Chorcaí agus iad scaoilte amach ó phríosún.
- Daoine ar mian leo rochtain a fháil go deonach ar thacaíocht agus iad ag féachaint le scor de choiriúlacht.

Le deich mbliana anuas, tá sé roghnaithe ag níos mó ná 1,000 duine tacaíocht a lorg ó Ionad Comhaontais Chorcaí agus iad scaoilte amach ó phríosún. Ar an meán, baineann 70 úsáideoir leas as tacaíochtaí na seirbhíse ag aon am ar bith. Thug roinnt úsáideoirí faoi chúrsa ollscoile, agus d’fhreastail cuid mhór eile ar coláiste nó tá siad ag freastal air go fóill. Scinn cuid mhór acu ó andúil, cé go bhféachann daoine eile atá ag streachailt lena gcuid bisigh le tacaíocht a fháil chun gur féidir leo athrú. Is ar bhonn deonach a roghnaíonn daoine leas a bhaint as seirbhís Ionad Comhaontais Chorcaí; is iad féin a gheallann go n-athróidh siad agus go scoirfidh siad ó choiriúlacht.

Tá caidreamh an Ionaid le húsáideoirí a sheirbhíse bunaithe ar chur chuige comhpháirtíochta comhoibríche, agus ní ar shainmhúnla faighteoirí. Laistigh den Ionad, buailtear le húsáideoirí seirbhíse ar bhonn coinne agus sanntar oibrí tacaíochta chun obair leo le linn an ama a chaitheann siad sa chlár. Tá minicíocht na gcruinnithe

bunaithe ar riachtanais an duine aonair ag aon am ar leith le linn dóibh a bheith páirteach sa chlár.

Cé go bhfuil dúshlán ar leith roimh gach duine, tá dúshlán choitianta roimh a lán úsáideoirí seirbhíse agus iad ag dul isteach ina gcuid pobal – spleáchas ar pholashubstaintí, drochoideachas agus drochoiliúint, droch-chóiríocht, drochshláinte mheabhrach, an easpa eiseamláirí dearfacha.

Dá bhrí sin, tá na nithe seo a leanas i measc na seirbhísí a thairgtear ag an Ionad:

- Obair thacaíochta agus spreagtha duine le duine, áit a dtugtar aghaidh ar na nithe seo a leanas, i measc nithe eile: iompar ciontach, scileanna smaointeoireachta, meicníochtaí chun déileáil le deacrachtaí, scileanna sóisialaithe etc.
- Timpeallacht atá oscailte, sábháilte agus neamhbhreithiúnach
- Cúnamh chun cóiríocht a aimsiú agus a dhaingniú
- Cúnamh chun tacaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh a dhaingniú
- Cúnamh chun tacaíochtaí oiliúna, oideachais agus litearthachta a aimsiú, a dhaingniú agus a chothú
- Cúnamh chun scéimeanna fostaíochta agus fostaíocht a aimsiú, a dhaingniú agus a chothú
- Tacú le rochtain ar chomhairleoireacht ghairmiúil
- Rochtain a nascadh le cóireáil / seirbhísí andúile ar fud na tíre agus an tacaíocht a thabhairt don rochtain sin
- Caidrimh theaghlaigh a fhorbairt agus a réiteach
- Snáthaidpholladh

29. NA SAMÁRAIGH

Cuireadh clár éisteachta atá á éascú ag na Samáraigh ar bun sa bhliain 2013 chun cabhrú le féinchochar a laghdú agus chun cabhrú le mothúcháin na ndaoine siúd atá i

gcruchás nó in éadóchas a mhaolú, lena n-áirítear na mothúcháin sin a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina gcúis le féinmharú.

30. UCAS: CLÁR PÍOLÓTACH

Clár Píolótach leanúnach atá ar siúl ó mhí na Bealtaine 2012 agus a dhíríonn ar phríosúnaigh atá ag cur isteach téarma idir 3 mhí agus níos lú ná 12 mhí is ea UCAS. Is é atá i gceist leis an gcuipóir atá aige ná Bainisteoir Cáis a shannadh ó réimse ildisciplíneach, plean scaoilte a chur le chéile leis an bhfoireann iomlán agus leis an nascdhuine ar an taobh amuigh agus plean a chur ar fáil d'fhormhór na bpríosúnach sa chatagóir sin.

31. DVD AN PHRÍOSÚIN

Ar an taobh nuálach de, chuir Coiste Gairmoideachais Chorcaí togra ar aghaidh chun DVD a chur le chéile ar na seirbhísí agus ar na háiseanna Athshlánúcháin, oideachais agus oiliúna atá ar fáil do gach príosúnach agus iad faoi choinneáil agus tar éis iad a scaoileadh ó phríosún.

Tá an meán trína bhfaigheann na príosúnaigh an fhaisnéis sin thar a bheith tábhachtach maidir le rath an tionscnaimh sin toisc go bhfuil thart ar 80% de na príosúnaigh a théann isteach sa chóras leathliteartha nó nach bhfuil siad in ann, nó nach dóigh dóibh, rochtain a fháil ar fhaisnéis ar a leithéid seirbhísí trí na meáin chlóite. Ní mór breithniú cúramach a dhéanamh air sin nuair atá cinneadh á dhéanamh ar cad é an cur chuige is fearr chun an teachtaireacht a chur in iúl.

32. TREALAMH AN PHRÍOSÚIN AGUS TREALAMH X-GHA

Rinneadh roinnt plé le hoifigigh an phríosúin agus is cosúil go bhfuil easpa áiseanna x-gha chun gur féidir a fháil amach cé acu atá nó nach bhfuil contrabhanna á smuigleáil isteach sa phríosún, rud a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina chúis le fadhbanna tromchúiseacha do na húdaráis agus do na príosúnaigh araon. D'fhéadfadh fadhbanna teacht chun cinn, go háirithe i gcás príosúnaigh leochaileacha a gcuirtear iallach orthu míreanna a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina gcúis le mórdheacrachtaí sláinte a iompar.

Ba cheart breithniú a dhéanamh ar an trealamh ar fad a theastaíonn ar an láthair, rud a d'fhágfadh go mbeifí in ann cuardaigh choirp iomláin a dhéanamh. Is féidir lena leithéid trealamh cabhrú le sláinte an phríosúnaigh a chosaint freisin.

33. PRÍÓSÚN MHUINSEO AGUS IONAD DÓCHAS

Thug an Coiste Cuairte cuairt ar Phríosún Mhuinseo agus ar Phríosún Dóchas. Ba é cuspóir na cuairte ná cláir a chur i gcomparáid le chéile, féachaint ar na háiseanna agus tuairimí a mhalartú. Gabhaimid buíochas ó chroí leis an nGobharnóir Whelan agus lena chuid foirne as a gcuid flaithiúlachta.

34. DÁLAÍ I bPRÍÓSÚN CHORCAÍ

Mar a leagadh amach i dTuarascáil an Choiste Cuairte do 2012, lean an coiste le himní a chur in iúl faoi na dálaí ársa suaracha i gcodanna áirithe de Phríosún Chorcaí. Tá an príosún neamhoiriúnach don fheidhm agus measadh mar sin i roinnt Tuarascálacha agus, go deimhin, sna meáin áitiúla le déanaí.

Tugann an Coiste Cuairte fáilte roimh fhógra an rialtais go dtosófaí ag tógáil príosún nua-aimseartha den scoth i mí Eanáir 2014. Ba mhaith linn aitheantas a thabhairt don obair a rinne an tAire, an Stiúrthóir agus an fhoireann ina leith sin.

Léirítear sna pleananna gurb ionann na háiseanna nua athshlánúcháin agus oideachais, na spásanna oscailte, na clóis chúirte agus na limistéir nua chuairte teaghlaigh agus athrú iomlán ar an bpríosún atá ann cheana.

Beidh roinnt dúshlán thromchúiseacha roimh Phríosún Chorcaí thar an dá bhliain atá le teacht agus an príosún nua á thógáil, ach tá muintín againn as an bPríosún mar gheall ar ár gcuid tuairimí go bhfuil na bainisteoirí, an fhoireann agus na seirbhísí coimhdeacha ag caitheamh le príosúnaigh ar bhealach an-daonnachtúil agus an-ghairmiúil sna cúinsí atá ann.

TUAIRIMÍ GINEARÁLTA

Tá an Fhoireann agus na Seirbhísí Coimhdeacha an-díograiseach agus an-tiomanta dá ndéanann siad agus, cé go bhfuil a lán áiseanna oiliúna ar fáil do phríosúnaigh tar éis a scaoilte, níl siad inchomparáide ar bhealach ar bith le ‘fíorphost’, rud a chabhraíonn le hathshlánúchán fadtéarmach na gciontóirí.

Tá imeascadh tábhachtach maidir le hathshlánúchán na gciontóirí, ach bíonn cuid mhór de na gníomhaireachtaí ábhartha ag obair “fad a rí” ó chiontóirí agus ó riachtanais na gciontóirí sin. Táimid den tuairim gur cheart na gníomhaireachtaí sin a bheith lonnaithe sa phríosún.

Tá an príosún comhdhéanta de gach cineál duine. Cé go bhfuil roinnt príosúnach breá-ábaltá tabhairt faoi oideachas agus faoi oiliúint, is trua é go bhfuil cuid mhór díobh siúd a théann isteach sa phríosún níos oiriúnaí d’ospidéal síciatrach nó d’ionaid chóireála drugaí.

Tugann Coiste Cuairte an Phríosúin dá aire an t-ardleibhéal rannpháirtíochta i gcúrsaí éagsúla FETAC. Mar sin féin, is réasúnta íseal go fóill atá an rannpháirtíocht i gcúrsaí an Teastais Shóisearaigh agus na hArdteistiméireachta. Aithnímid na deacrachtaí a bhaineann le príosúnaigh a spreagadh chun leanúint le scrúduithe stáit tar éis a scaoilte, ach, mar gheall ar an gcomhghaol atá ann idir gnóthachtáil oideachasúil agus ionchais na bpríosúnach sa todhchaí, bheimis ag súil go gcuirfí straitéisí i bhfeidhm chun rannpháirtíocht mhéadaithe a spreagadh i scrúduithe stáit trí na córais ní b’fhearr etc.

Cuirtear 60% de phríosúnaigh chuig Príosún Chorcaí toisc nach bhfuil siad sásta nó in ann fíneálacha a íoc.

Is cur amú acmhainní an Gharda Síochána, na cúirte agus an phríosúin é na ciontóirí sin a phróiseáil agus léiríonn sé nach ndímhólaí pionós airgeadais daoine ó choir a dhéanamh.

Creidimid go bhfuil sé de dhualgas ar na húdaráis chuí freagairt chomhordaithe a chruthú don fhadhb sin. Mura gcruthaítear, tarraingeofar míchlú ar an gCóras Ceartais Choiriúil ar fad de réir mar a bhaineann sé le fíneálacha.

Ceann de bhuaicphointí na bliana 2013 ba ea an lá oiliúna a d’eagraigh Seirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann. Tharraing sé aird ar ról agus ar dhualgas an Choiste Cuirte.

BUÍOCHAS

Is mian leis an gCoiste Cuirte buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil leis an nGobharnóir Collins, leis an nGobharnóir O’Sullivan agus leis an nGobharnóir Foster, leis an bPríomh-Oifigeach Eileen Horgan agus leis an Leas-Phríomhoifigeach Desmond agus leis an bhfoireann sa phríosún as an gcomhoibriú agus as an gcúirtéis a thug siad don choiste. Ba mhaith leis an gcoiste buíochas a ghabháil freisin leis an iliomad eagraíochtaí reachtúla agus deonacha a chabhraíonn leis na príosúnaigh agus lena gcuid teaghlach agus a chuir leis an tuarascáil seo.

Tugtar buíochas ar leith do Caroline O’Connor Uas, atá ina rúnaí an-éifeachtúil don Choiste Cuirte.

BAILL DE CHOISTE CUAIRTE CHORCAÍ

1. Dermot O’Connell – Cathaoirleach
2. Mary Loughnane
3. Thomas Ryan
4. Robin Murray
5. Anthony Donnelly