

Annual Report
of the
Visiting Committee
for
Mountjoy Prison
2013

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Overview

The Visiting Committee would like to thank the Minister for Justice, Equality & Defence, The Director General of the Irish Prison Service (IPS) and Governor Whelan and his staff for the significant improvements to the building structure of Mountjoy Prison, which are now at an advanced stage. The provision of in-cell sanitation to all prisoners is a major element of the prison renovation programme. At the invitation of the Governor, a member of the Visiting Committee has attended meetings where renovation plans have been outlined. An integral part of prison renovation programme will see a consolidated maintenance programme put in place.

Throughout the year we have worked closely with prison management. Our monthly meetings with the Governor provides a forum to discuss matters which have come to the attention of the Visiting Committee and affords the prison management an opportunity to advise on matters raised relevant to all concerned.

Renovations to the prison continue at a steady pace. The re-vamped D Wing in the main prison will incorporate new workshops, school facilities, meeting rooms and kitchen. Also included will be a communal dining area for prisoners engaged in employment and training. This is a very welcome development.

Complaints and requests throughout the year have shown a slight decrease. The new cell accommodation for prisoners on restricted regimes, who were previously held in the now closed D1 Wing, has contributed to this positive development. The acquisition of new space in the former St. Patrick's Institution, now known as D West Wing, has paved the way for single cell accommodation for many prisoners housed under restricted regimes. The Visiting Committee has formed the view that the improved accommodation has lead to an improvement in the morale of the prisoners concerned.

We would like to thank all the internal departments who play a pivotal role within the criminal justice system in helping to reduce the level of crime and increase public safety by working with prisoners to change their offending behaviour and make our communities safe.

During the course of the year we found the prison to be clean and well-maintained. Matters coming to our attention were highlighted to prison management and dealt with without any undue delay.

For real change to happen people in prison need to be challenged, but they also need to be helped, motivated and encouraged to believe they can live a better way. Creative activity is widely recognised as a powerful activity of personal growth. The suggestion that prisoner re-offending is reduced, through participation in academic and physical education, is strong. It is important that the wider community recognises that what goes on in prison is very relevant to what happens after people are released.

Members of the Visiting Committee would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the families of our late colleague, Tom Crean, and Prison Officer Daragh Kenny who both passed away during the year.

Finally, Mountjoy Prison is making great strides to eliminate the simple warehousing of prisoners. Governor Whelan and his staff are to be commended for their continuing improvements in work placement activities and education within the prison.

Governor/ Visiting Committee Meetings

An invitation is extended to the Governor to attend our monthly, where matters of relevance are discussed. This is an opportunity to appraise the Governor of matters coming to our attention with a view to seeking positive outcomes.

We must report that prison management is very pro-active in dealing with all issues. However, items forwarded by the Governor to other departments that require a prompt response are, in many cases, unduly delayed. This in itself can create unwarranted difficulties for all concerned and will require closer observance going forward.

Library Service

Prisons have long been the centre of much social, political and even philosophical debate. What rights prisoners have, what works to rehabilitate them and how much of our public finances should go to support prisons have been key issues in throughout history and, particularly so, in recent years. Prison libraries touch on all three of these issues.

The library is an integral part of rehabilitation programmes in place in Mountjoy Prison. Access to the library and the benefits it provides can be most useful in preparing offenders for life outside prison. It has been accepted the education helps reduce rates of recidivism. Libraries make a valid contribution by providing access to books and educational instruction.

The prison library functions identically to those outside and allow prisoners to make choices of their own accord, something that is virtually non-existent in many other aspects of their daily lives. By providing a sense of continuity and stability it allows inmates to stay in touch with modern life outside prison and gain new meanings about human interactions, society and themselves.

Prisoners have the same information needs as persons in regular society, but with a greater number of them having lower education skills, they experience difficulties in articulating their information needs or in their attempts to seek information. In this regard, the prison library service puts special emphasis on collection development in areas that are particularly relevant to the prison population, i.e. literacy, foreign language and legal material.

Prisoners' access to the library service in the prison varies. In the main, this is due to opening hours; employment schedules; security and operational reasons. The library must also deliver services to offenders who are segregated from the general prison population, either for protection or institutional infractions.

The provision of library services to segregated offenders is challenging for the librarians and requires the full support of prison staff. To assist in this regard consideration should be given the commencement on segregated wings of an *inmate clerk* scheme, whereby those appointed would distribute and collect books at regular intervals. A small trial in this regard has worked well in 2013 and is an option that would be welcomed by the Visiting Committee on a wider basis.

Another challenge for the prison library service is the provision of *access technologies* that offer a higher quality of life to offenders with physical, mental or cognitive difficulties and, therefore, are unable to access current library services. The Visiting Committee believes the time is now opportune for prison management to request the library service to conduct a review of new technologies available to the library to cater for offenders with disabilities. The library service should report its findings to the Governor within a designated period, and any new measures implemented should prove beneficial and cost effective in the long-term.

It has been shown during the course of the year that the library facility in the main prison has been used to facilitate the holding of meetings relevant to prisoner's welfare. Notwithstanding the importance of such meetings, this development has created a hindrance to the provision of a full library service as a result of the facility being closed at certain times. Having discussed this matter with prison management the Visiting Committee is satisfied that a solution to this difficulty has been found, which should prove beneficial to all concerned.

The recent opening of the new D West Wing presents new challenges regarding the provision of a full library service to prisoners detained there. Suitable accommodation to facilitate a functioning library has been designated; however, it will require adaption to ensure it is fit for purpose. Prison management and the library service are working together to ensure this project is not unduly delayed.

Notwithstanding future plans for this new wing, the provision of an adequate library service in the short-term should be deemed a priority and not hindered in any way. The Visiting Committee welcomes any developments in this regard.

We are happy to report that the demand for library service has increased during the year. While this is a positive step, it can have its drawbacks in terms of logistics and lack of resources. While library staff strive to provide an efficient service within the prison they cannot be expected to begin a piecemeal system for providing books on request. Funding for the provision of library services in the prison should allow for increased demand and the provision of special stock.

The return of books to the prison library is still presenting problems. In this regard, certain recommendations have been suggested by the Visiting Committee with a view to having them implemented at an early stage.

The planning, implementation and valuation of the library service to offenders should be regularly reviewed throughout the year. With this in mind, the Visiting Committee recommends that monthly meetings are held between prison management and the library service to discuss all relevant matters.

Education Centre

It is widely recognised that education helps create stable and structured avenues towards the rehabilitation of prisoners. Education is one of the two main activities in prison in Ireland – the other being work-training. Everyone who is committed to custody is entitled to, and encouraged to participate in the extensive educational opportunities available.

The Irish prison system works in association with a range of educational agencies (for example, community colleges, public libraries, Education and Training boards) to provide a broad programme of education. Prisoners may participate in classes ranging from basic literacy to Open University degrees.

Educational programmes in prison are designed to help prisoners cope with their sentences and prepare them for release. In particular, these programmes offer opportunities to discover and develop new skills. Methods and approaches used to encourage prisoners to enter these programmes are drawn from adult and communication education. Participation is voluntary.

Objectives of prison education services are:

- help prepare prisoners for life after release,
- give special attention to offenders with basic education needs,
- achieve personal development,
- help prisoners cope with their sentences,
- ensure harmony and teamwork between the various educational agencies and groups,
- co-operate fully with other services in the prison system to promote positive sentence management.

One of the principal aims of education programmes is to reduce the likelihood of prisoners re-offending; the aim is to encourage them into employment rather than commit another crime and end up back in prison. Encouraging prisoners to follow educational programmes enables them to realise that they have capabilities and talents and helps build self-esteem and ambition.

The Education Centre at Mountjoy Prison, with its committed and dedicated staff, is to the forefront in implementing educational programmes in accordance with Department of Justice guidelines. Classes are held in the main prison, Medical Unit and Separation Unit. Regular visits carried out by the Visiting Committee show that classes are well attended and the range of skills displayed by prisoners of a high standard. New initiatives headlined by the Education Centre for the current academic year are:

Improved access to education for prisoners

This will include implementing the Incentivised Schemes initiative; the canvas of prisoners to establish if they have difficulty accessing education programmes and seeking their advice on solutions; working closely with Integrated Sentence Management staff and developing programmes for prisoners; participation in structured meetings with prison management to advise on and to agree on education policies going forward.

The Visiting Committee is of the view that the use of technology to deliver, support and evaluate education and training is one of the ways forward, though subject to strong controls. With this in mind, we would recommend the creation of a pilot programme that allows prisoners to take online courses, thus allowing expanded access to educational facilities to a greater number of inmates.

Continue to develop curriculum

To consolidate the Open Learning Centre in the Separation Unit; provision of blended learning for basic learners; expansion of the Red Cross programme; apply the Literacy & Numeracy Assessment standard to all students enrolling in the school; continuation of extra-curricular activities, such as school concerts, drama, debates and exhibitions.

Communications

The Education Centre continues to interact with colleagues in other prisons and outside agencies to ensure good practice is the basis on which their education plan is built. This includes holding individual meetings with all students throughout the year; ongoing meetings with local prison management, the Irish Prison Service and their respective staff members.

Throughout the year members of the Visiting Committee have liaised with the Education Centre and have attended many of their extra-curricular projects.

The education curriculum covers many forms and includes basic learning programmes, health education, physical education, social education and creative activities. In addition, pre-release courses on addiction, health issues and offending behaviour.

Certification for the various courses is offered by FETAC with evaluation in three stages, as follows: -

- Term review by students,
- Term review of school by Education Staff,
- End of year review of the academic year.

A contributory factor to the success of education programmes in the prison would be to ensure that prison officers have a good understanding of the role learning can play in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Education, in its many forms, is an opportunity for more prison officers to become involved in the delivery of learning to prisoners. However, they may be prevented from doing so by as a result of being constrained by the demands of their job and lack of time. This is likely to require further investment in the training of prison officers and in the current context this may be difficult,

with prison management are already under increasing pressure to allocate staff to other tasks, beyond security, due to overcrowding and limited resources. Perhaps this is an area that can be researched further by the Irish Prison Service at a more favourable time.

Prisoners can face **barriers** to community re-entry and employment on their release. These can be identified as lack of adequate education; being prohibited by law from working in certain jobs; limited work experience; substance abuse and mental problems; lack of social networks. This is compounded by the reluctance generally of employers to afford job opportunities to ex-prisoners, no matter what the reasons were for their detention. Far more needs to be done to change this mindset.

Prison education is a means of rehabilitating and re-directing which can lead to positive outcomes. The prison education programmes often show considerable improvement in general prison conduct and discipline. Changes in behaviour can be attributed to improved knowledge and gives prisoners the opportunity to feel human again by engaging in an activity as commonplace as going to classes.

Education is a means of supporting offenders in the transition from prison to the outside world. In conjunction with work training programmes it forms part of a range of interventions which together form a structured approach to rehabilitation. It can mean the difference between a life of crime and a productive life. Providing learning opportunities in prison presents a range of potential benefits to the prisoner and society.

Prison governors and officers can play an important role in determining prisoners' access to learning and whether the prison itself is a positive environment in which learning can take place. The physical environment of the prison education centre in itself also has a role to play in influencing education and the feeling of normalisation which can be offered by education and training in prison.

Physical Education (PE)

Sport in prisons can be used as a means for learning, leading to the development of social identities and improved employment opportunities. Some prisoners may be hesitant to get involved with traditional classroom settings, while a gym environment can be less formal and an ideal place to engage with reluctant learners. Mountjoy Prison is no exception in this regard. Apart from the benefits of group classes or one-to-one instruction in the prison gyms, fitness-related problem solving and numeracy can prove an innovative and accessible method for learning. Further education and training in the fitness industry have also proven a successful path to employment for some prisoners after release.

Sport can play a key role in addressing a multitude of prisoners health needs whilst helping to achieve healthy prison objectives in practice. Sport and physical activity clearly offers a valuable way of motivating prisoners to engage in health promoting activities. There is a requirement on prison management to deliver a safe, decent PE programme that helps to ensure prisoners are physically fit to engage in prison work and activity opportunities, whilst maintaining physical health and mental fitness in custody.

The gyms within the prison are the main focus for sporting activities and continued to be well supported throughout the year.

The role of the qualified instructor staff in ensuring the prison gyms operate to their full potential is fully recognised by the Visiting Committee. Supported by the recommendations of medical staff, gym instructors ensure that prisoners:-

- (i) have access to approved and structured training programmes,
- (ii) have access to remedial PE activity, where identified,
- (iii) complete a physical assessment prior to participating in any PE activity,
- (iv) comply with PE induction arrangements in place.

PE plays an important part in the prison regime by providing high quality purposeful activity and engagement with prisoners; in addition PE can make a noted contribution to the physical, mental and social well-being of prisoners. However, there is always scope for improvement in terms of gym capacity and additional instructor staff.

Lack of or delayed maintenance of gym equipment can have adverse effect on the morale of instructor staff tasked with implementing PE programmes, and the participation of prisoners in those programmes. Prison management should be mindful of the importance of having gym equipment functional at all times.

During the course of the year a number of prisoners were awarded International Therapy Examination Council (ITEC) diplomas in Gym Instruction. The ITEC Diploma in Gym Instruction is the most widely recognised qualification for fitness instructors in Ireland and the United Kingdom. The course includes a combination of theory and practical components including exercise techniques; fitness testing; business awareness and nutrition. The Visiting Committee congratulates all of the successful students who received this much coveted award.

The Visiting Committee would welcome more opportunities for prisoners to participate in outdoor sports. The encouragement of team spirit and responsibility will contribute to good order and control, and this can easily be facilitated by the installation of facilities for the participation in outdoor games. The intention to install an 'all weather pitch' as part of the overall development plan for the Mountjoy campus is a positive development. The Visiting Committee recommends that prison management undertake a review of outdoor sporting activities with a view to establishing cost effective programmes.

Over the years, Mountjoy Prison has established links with various sporting bodies and personalities. This is an area that can further be enhanced, in particular, by providing further opportunities for sporting personalities to address prisoners. Members of the Visiting Committee would welcome the opportunity to assist in this regard.

Integrated Sentence Management (ISM)

As pointed out in our report for 2012, the Visiting Committee (VC) views the ISM system as a key contributor to enabling offenders complete their sentences in a constructive way and emerge better adjusted to life outside prison. As stated by the Irish Prison Service (IPS), the ISM involves a new emphasis on prisoners taking greater responsibility for their own development,

the end result of which will be a 'prison centred, multi disciplinary approach to working with prisoners with provision for initial assessment, goal setting and periodic review to measure progress'.

The effective implementation of the system poses a huge challenge to prison management and staff. In our 2012 report we stated that we were not satisfied that the level of staffing (two Prison Officers) then in place was adequate to meet the requirements of over 500 offenders. During 2013 a third member of staff was deployed to ISM duties, but this has now been reduced once again to two members.

The members of the VC are satisfied that the prison management shares their view of the central importance of the ISM system and we understand the competing demands made on staff numbers. Prison Officers with ISM training and experience are in position in other areas of the Mountjoy Campus such as the Dóchas Centre and the Training Wing, both of which contain a smaller number of offenders. We suggest that if the ISM were made a campus wide function, it would reduce the caseload of the Mountjoy staff and make the expertise of those currently employed in areas with smaller numbers available to a larger number throughout the campus.

Restricted Regimes

The primary responsibility of prison management and staff is that of ensuring the personal safety and security of offenders. Prisoners, identified as being vulnerable or who seek protection, are immediately separated from the general population or from specific prisoners who might present a threat. Those who might have an adverse effect on the general prison population are also separated. This has led in the past to a significant number of offenders being confined to their cells for up to 23 hours per day.

The improvements being realised in the modernisation of accommodation in Mountjoy, has facilitated a significant reduction in the number of people on lock-up for excessive periods. The number of prisoners on 23hour lock-up was reduced from 45 in July 2013 to 5 in January 2014. However, in January 2014, there were still 30 prisoners confined to their cells for 20 hours per day and a further 10 confined for a period of 19 hours.

The Director General of the IPS has established a high level group to look at measures to reduce numbers on restrictive regimes with a view to ensuring that all receive a minimum standard of out of cell time of three hours per day to engage in exercise and activity. As noted above, this standard was achieved in Mountjoy by the end of 2013 in all but 5 cases. The Visiting Committee welcomes the initiative taken by the IPS to prioritise this problem and anticipate further improvement during 2014.

The Visiting Committee is aware that it is the intention of the IPS to align its capacity numbers with those as identified by the Inspector of Prisons. This measure should be implemented as early as possible. Overcrowding clearly exacerbates the difficulty of dealing with prisoners on restricted regimes and mitigates the benefits of modernised accommodation.

Fire Emergency Plan

A comprehensive Fire Emergency Plan is in place in the prison to ensure a co-ordinated response to on-site emergencies resulting from the outbreak of fire. Drawn up by local management, IPS Fire Safety Officer and the Fire Safety sub-group the plan. The plan includes an identification of the various fire/emergency situations to be dealt with, sets out the responses necessary for each one and tests the effectiveness of those responses.

Situations that arise outside the scope of the Fire Emergency Plan such as hostage taking, riot and disturbances are dealt with in separate Emergency and Contingency plans. Fire Safety Drills are held in conjunction with structured guidelines on a quarterly basis to ensure effectiveness of the plan.

Human Rights Training

The Visiting Committee welcomes the recent initiatives that will see prison staff countrywide receive training on human rights issues. Developed by the Irish Prison service, in conjunction with the Irish Human Rights Commission, it will ensure that prisoners have the right to be treated with dignity in a safe secure environment while serving their sentences. We commend the Director General on the launch and explanation of this new initiative at a recent Information Day at IPS College, Portlaoise.

Security Screening

Throughout 2013 we received a number of complaints from prisoners about their visitors being targeted unfairly by officers of the Operational Support Group (OSG) and the search dog being encouraged to sit on purpose during searches. All complaints investigated by the Visiting Committee were established to be unfounded. Observation of CCTV showed that in no circumstance complaints made were justified and it could be seen and concluded that prison staff acted professionally and fairly in all circumstances.

The Visiting Committee fully supports the difficult duty performed by OSG officers, which is aimed at preventing illegal items being brought into the prison.

Prisoners' Committee Programme

A welcome development undertaken during the year saw the formation of the User Voice/Prison Committee initiative.

This new initiative sets in place a structured format whereby prison management and locally elected prisoners work together within clearly defined areas. It presents an opportunity for the wider prison community, through their elected representatives, to work closely with prison management to address specific needs such as diet, recreational facilities, work and educational prospects. While the process is still in its infancy the Visiting Committee look forward to seeing it grow in the coming years.

Tuck Shop

A matter of concern highlighted to the Visiting committee throughout the year has been the *tuck shop* system. In its present format it can be time consuming and staff intensive. Members of the Visiting Committee are in full agreement with the pending establishment of a workshop/distribution centre in the prison. This new process will incorporate a *bag & tag* system where orders will be forwarded to the new centre, prepared and distributed within a period of three days. This new initiative will provide further job opportunities for prisoners and the re-allocation of officers to other duties. A price review will also form part of this new initiative.

Outside Agencies

During the course of the year the Visiting Committee met with a number of agencies who offer and provide a range of services to persons about to be released from prison. The services provided are wide-ranging and cover a number of post-prisons options such as accommodation, education, guidance, health and social welfare. This is an area that will receive further attention. The Visiting Committee would like to thank all of the agencies it engaged with during the year.

Long Service Medals

The Visiting Committee would like to congratulate all officers who received Long Service Medals during the course of the year. Their commitment and dedication to duty is to be commended.

Toastmasters

The prison *Toastmasters* club is vibrant and friendly with meetings held on two evenings each month. Each meeting is a *learn-by-doing* workshop in which participants build on their speaking and learning skills in a no pressure atmosphere. Learning is at a pace suitable to the needs of each participant.

Each meeting is well attended as it allows participants to improve communication and leadership skills in a positive, supportive environment. Notwithstanding the success of this project, the Visiting Committee believes that there is scope for further expansion.

The Visiting Committee would like to show its appreciation to members of Dublin Toastmasters and prison staff who give their time voluntary to ensure the success of this project.

Maple Garden

The original gravesite of the 10 volunteers, known as the Maple Garden, has been totally transformed into a commemorative garden, with all work to this area carried out by prisoners and staff. Now complete, it is hoped it can be officially opened in 2014.

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Ba mhaith leis an nGobharnóir buíochas a ghabháil leis an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Cosanta, le hArd-Stiúrthóir Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann (IPS) agus leis an nGobharnóir Whelan agus lena fhoireann as na feabhsúcháin shuntasacha ar struchtúr foirgnimh Phríosún Mhuinseo, atá ag céim chun cinn anois. Gné mhór de chlár athchóirithe an phríosúin is ea sláintíocht laistigh den chillín a chur ar fáil do na príosúnaigh go léir. Tar éis cuireadh a fháil ón nGobharnóir, d'fhreastail comhalta den Choiste Cuirte ar chruinnithe inar leagadh amach pleananna um athchóiriú. Cuirfear clár cothabhála comhdhlúite i bhfeidhm mar chuid de chlár athchóirithe an phríosúin.

D'oibríomar go dlúth le lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin ar fud na bliana. Soláthraíonn ár gcruinnithe míosúla leis an nGobharnóir fóram le haghaidh plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair ar thug an Coiste Cuirte suntas dóibh agus tugann siad an deis do lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin comhairle a chur ar fáil faoi ábhair arna n-ardú atá ábhartha do gach duine lena mbaineann.

Leantar d'athchóirithe ar an bpríosún ar luas seasta. Is é a bheidh i Sciathán D tar éis a athchóirithe ná ceardlanna nua, áiseanna scoile, seomraí cruinnithe agus cistin. Chomh maith leis sin, beidh limistéar proinne comhchoiteann do phríosúnaigh atá páirteach i bhfostaíocht agus in oiliúint. Is forbairt í sin ar cuireadh fearadh na fáilte roimpi.

Tháinig laghdú beag ar ghearáin agus ar iarratais ar fud na bliana. An chóiríocht nua chillíní do na príosúnaigh ar chórais shrianta, a coinníodh roimhe sin i Sciathán D1 atá dúnta anois, chuir sí leis an bhforbairt dhearfach sin. Shocraigh an fháil spáis nua i bhForas Naomh Pádraig mar a bhí sé roimhe, Sciathán D Thiar anois, an bealach le haghaidh cóiríocht chillín aonair do roinnt mhaith príosúnach a coinníodh faoi chórais shrianta. Tá an Coiste Cuirte den tuairim go mbeidh cóiríocht fheabhsaithe ina cúis le feabhas ar mheánma na bpríosúnach lena mbaineann.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leis na rannóga inmheánacha go léir a imríonn ról ríthábhachtach laistigh den chóras ceartais choiriúil maidir leis an leibhéal coireachta a laghdú agus sábháilteacht an phobail a mhéadú trí oibriú

le príosúnaigh a n-iompar ciontaithe a athrú agus ár bpobail a dhéanamh sábháilte.

Le linn na bliana, cheapamar gur glan agus dea-chothabháilte a bhí an príosún. Cuireadh ábhair ar thugamar suntas dóibh in iúl do lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin agus déileáladh leo gan aon mhoill mhíchuí.

Ar mhaithe le hathrú fíor a bhaint amach, ní mór dúshlán a chur faoi dhaoine i bpríosún. Ina theannta sin, áfach, ní mór cabhrú, spreagadh agus misniú a thabhairt dóibh le go gcreideann siad gur féidir leo maireachtáil ar bhealach níos fearr. Aithnítear go minic gur gníomhaíocht chumhachtach fáis phearsanta í gníomhaíocht chruthaitheach. Is láidir atá an tuairim go laghdaítear athchiontú na bpríosúnach nuair a ghlacann siad páirt in oideachas acadúil agus i gcorpoideachas. Tá sé tábhachtach go n-aithníonn an pobal i gcoitinne go mbaineann gach a dtarlaíonn sa phríosún go mór lena dtarlaíonn tar éis daoine a scaoileadh.

Ba mhaith le comhaltaí den Choiste Cuairte ár gcomhbhrón domhain a dhéanamh le teaghlach Tom Crean, ár gcomhghleacaí, agus le teaghlach Daragh Kenny, Oifigeach an Phríosúin, a fuair bás le linn na bliana.

Mar scoir, tá an-dul chun cinn á dhéanamh ag Príosún Mhuinseo ar ollstóráil shimplí na bpríosúnach a dhíothú. Ba cheart an Gobharnóir Whelan agus a fhoireann a mholadh as a bhfeabhsúcháin leantacha i ngníomhaíochtaí socrúchán oibre agus in oideachas laistigh den phríosún.

Cruinnithe an Ghobharnóra/ an Choiste Cuairte

Tugtar cuireadh don Ghobharnóir freastal ar ár gcruinniú míosúil, mar a bpléitear ábhair lena mbaineann ábharthacht. Is deis í seo eolas a thabhairt don Ghobharnóir faoi ábhair a dtugaimid suntas dóibh d'fhonn torthaí dearfacha a shaothrú.

Is gá dúinn a thuairisciú go ndéileálann lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin le gach ábhar ar bhealach an-réamhghníomhach. Mar sin féin, i roinnt mhaith cásanna, déantar moill mhíchuí ar mhíreanna a dteastaíonn freagra mear uathu a chuireann an Gobharnóir ar aghaidh chuig rannóga eile. Is féidir leis sin deacrachtaí neamhriachtanacha a dhéanamh ann féin do gach duine lena mbaineann agus caithfear breathnú go géar air amach anseo.

An tSeirbhís Leabharlainne

Is le fada an lá atá an-chuid plé á dhéanamh ar phríosún ón taobh sóisialta agus polaitiúil de agus fiú ó thaobh na fealsúnachta de. Saincheisteanna tábhachtacha ar fud na staire agus go háirithe le blianta beaga anuas atá sna cearta atá ag príosúnaigh, sna bearta a n-éiríonn leo iad a athshlánú agus sa mhéid den airgeadas poiblí ba cheart a thabhairt chun tacú le príosúin. Pléann leabharlanna príosúin gach ceann de na trí shaincheist sin.

Cuid dhílis de na cláir athshlánúcháin atá i bhfeidhm i bPríosún Mhuinseo is ea an leabharlann. Is féidir an-leas a bhaint as rochtain ar an leabharlann agus as na buntáistí a chuireann sí ar fáil chun ciontóirí a ullmhú le haghaidh a saoil lasmuigh den phríosún. Glactar leis go gcuireann an t-oideachas le rátaí atitimeachais a laghdú. Cuireann leabharlanna go fónta leis trí rochtain ar leabhair agus ar threoir oideachais a chur ar fáil.

Feidhmíonn leabharlann an phríosúin sa dóigh chéanna is a fheidhmíonn iad siúd lasmuigh de phríosún agus tugann sí an deis do phríosúnaigh roghanna a dhéanamh as a stuaim féin, rud nach ann di a bheag nó a mhór i roinnt mhaith

gnéithe eile dá saol laethúil. Trí bhraistint leanúnachais agus seasmhachta a chur ar fáil, tugann sí an deis do phríosúnaigh coinneáil suas leis an saol nua-aimseartha lasmuigh den phríosún agus cialla nua a ghnóthú le hidirghníomhaíochtaí daonna, leis an tsochaí agus leo féin.

Tá an gá céanna le faisnéis ag príosúnaigh is atá ag daoine sa ghnáthshochaí. Ós rud é go bhfuil scileanna oideachais níos ísle ag líon níos mó díobh, áfach, bíonn deacrachtaí acu a riachtanais faisnéise a chur in iúl nó ina n-iarrachtaí faisnéis a lorg. Chuige sin, cuireann seirbhís leabharlainne an phríosúin béim ar leith ar fhorbairt bhailiúcháin i réimsí a bhaineann go háirithe le pobal an phríosúin, i.e. litearthacht, teanga iasachta agus ábhar dlí.

Tá éagsúlacht sa rochtain atá ag na príosúnaigh ar sheirbhís leabharlainne an phríosúin. Den chuid is mó, is iad uaireanta oscailte, sceidil fostaíochta agus fáthanna slándála agus oibriúcháin is cúis leis sin. Ní mór don leabharlann seirbhísí a sholáthar freisin do chiontóirí atá leithscartha ó phobal ginearálta an phríosúin, de bharr cosanta nó sárúithe institiúideacha.

Is dúshlán do na leabharlannaithe é seirbhísí leabharlainne a chur ar fáil do chiontóirí leithscartha agus tá tacaíocht iomlán bhaill foirne an phríosúin ag teastáil ina leith sin. Chun cabhrú leis sin, ba cheart breithniú a dhéanamh ar thús a chur le scéim um *chléireach príosúnaigh* ar sciatháin leithscartha, trína ndéanfadh na daoine sin atá ceaptha leabhair a dháileadh agus a bhailiú ar eatraimh rialta. D'éirigh go maith le tástáil bheag ina leith sin in 2013 agus is rogha í a gcuirfeadh an Coiste Cuairte fáilte roimpi ar bhonn níos leithne.

Dúshlán eile do sheirbhís leabharlainne an phríosúin is ea *teicneolaíochtaí rochtana* a chur ar fáil a thugann cáilíocht beatha níos airde do chiontóirí a bhfuil deacrachtaí fisiciúla, meabhrach nó cognaíocha acu agus, dá bhrí sin, nach bhfuil ábalta rochtain ar sheirbhísí leabharlainne reatha. Creideann an Coiste Cuairte go bhfuil sé tráthúil anois do lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin iarraidh ar an tseirbhís leabharlainne athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar theicneolaíochtaí nua atá ar fáil don leabharlann d'fhonn freastal ar chiontóirí faoi mhíchumas. Ba cheart don tseirbhís leabharlainne a torthaí a thuairisciú don Ghobharnóir laistigh de thréimhse shainithe, agus ba cheart gur tairbhiúil agus cost-éifeachtúil san fhadtéarma a bheadh aon bhearta nua atá curtha chun feidhme.

Léiríodh le linn na bliana gur baineadh úsáid as an tsaoráid leabharlainne sa phríomhphríosún d'fhonn an tionól cruinnithe a bhaineann le leas an phríosúnaigh a éascú. D'ainneoin thábhacht na gcruinnithe sin, tá an fhorbairt sin ina bac le seirbhís leabharlainne iomlán a chur ar fáil toisc an tsaoráid a bheith dúnta ag amanna áirithe. Tar éis an t-ábhar sin a phlé le lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin, tá an Coiste Cuairte sásta gur aimsíodh réiteach leis an deacracht sin. Ba cheart go mbainfeadh gach duine lena mbaineann leas as an réiteach sin.

Ó osclaíodh Sciathán D Thiar nua le déanaí, tugtar dúshláin nua maidir le seirbhís leabharlainne iomlán a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh a choimeádtar ann. Sainíodh cóiríocht oiriúnach d'fhonn leabharlann fheidhmiúil a éascú; caithfear í a oiriúnú, áfach, lena chinntiú go bhfuil sí oiriúnach don fheidhm. Tá lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin agus an tseirbhís leabharlainne ag oibriú le chéile chun a chinntiú nach moillítear an tionscadal seo go míchuí.

D'ainneoin pleananna amach anseo le haghaidh an sciatháin nua seo, ba cheart an soláthar seirbhís leabharlainne imleor sa ghearrthéarma a mheas mar thosaíocht agus níor cheart aon bhac a chur leis. Fáiltíonn an Coiste Cuairte roimh aon fhorbairtí ina leith sin.

Táimid sásta a thuairisciú gur tháinig méadú ar an éileamh ar an tseirbhís leabharlainne le linn na bliana. Cé gur céim dhearfach í sin, is féidir go mbaineann míbhuntáistí léi ó thaobh lóistíochta agus easpa acmhainní de. Cé go ndéanann baill foirne na leabharlainne a ndícheall seirbhís éifeachtúil a chur ar fáil laistigh den phríosún, ní féidir a bheith ag súil go dtosaíonn siad córas céimnithe le haghaidh leabhair a chur ar fáil ar iarratas. Ba cheart go n-éascódh maoiniú ar mhaithe le seirbhísí leabharlainne a chur ar fáil sa phríosún éileamh méadaithe agus an soláthar stoic speisialta.

Tá an cur ar ais leabhar chuig leabharlann an phríosúin ina chúis le fadhbanna go fóill. Chuige sin, tá moltaí áirithe tugtha ag an gCoiste Cuairte d'fhonn iad a chur chun feidhme ag céim luath.

Ba cheart athbhreithniú rialta a dhéanamh ar fud na bliana ar phleanáil, ar chur chun feidhme agus ar luach na seirbhíse leabharlainne do chiontóirí. Agus aird á tabhairt air sin, molann an Coiste Cuairte go reáchtáiltear cruinnithe míosúla idir lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin agus an tseirbhís leabharlainne chun gach ábhar lena mbaineann a phlé.

An tlonad Oideachais

Aithnítear go minic go gcabhraíonn an t-oideachas le bealaí seasmhacha agus struchtúracha a chruthú i gcomhair príosúnaigh a athshlánú. Tá oideachas ar cheann amháin den dá ghníomhaíocht phríomha i bpríosún in Éirinn - is í oiliúint oibre an ghníomhaíocht eile. Tá gach duine faoi choimeád i dteideal páirt a ghlacadh sna deiseanna fairsinge oideachais atá ar fáil agus tugtar spreagadh dóibh déanamh amhlaidh.

Oibríonn córas príosún na hÉireann i gcomhar le raon gníomhaíochtaí oideachais (mar shampla, coláistí pobail, leabharlanna poiblí, Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna) chun clár leathan oideachais a chur ar fáil. Is féidir le príosúnaigh páirt a ghlacadh i ranganna ó litearthacht bhunúsach go céimeanna san Ollscoil Oscailte.

Tá cláir oideachais i bpríosúin ceaptha chun cabhrú le príosúnaigh a bpianbhreitheanna a bharráíocht agus chun iad a ullmhú lena scaoileadh. Go háirithe, tairgeann na cláir sin deiseanna chun scileanna nua a aimsiú agus a fhorbairt. Glactar as oideachas aosach agus oideachas pobail na modhanna agus roinnt cur chuige a mbaintear úsáid astu chun spreagadh a thabhairt do phríosúnaigh dul isteach sna cláir sin. Is deonach atá rannpháirtíocht.

Is iad cuspóirí na seirbhísí oideachais príosúin:

- cabhrú le príosúnaigh ullmhú dá saol tar éis a scaoilte,
- aird speisialta a thabhairt do chiontóirí a bhfuil bunriachtanais oideachais acu,
- forbairt phearsanta a bhaint amach,
- cabhrú le príosúnaigh a bpianbhreith a bharráíocht,
- comhchuibheacht agus obair bhuíne a chinntiú idir na gníomhaireachtaí agus na grúpaí éagsúla oideachais,
- comhoibriú go hiomlán le seirbhísí eile sa chóras príosún chun bainistíocht pianbhreithe dearfach a chur chun cinn.

Ceann de na príomhaidhmeanna atá ag cláir oideachais is ea an fhéidearthacht go gciontóidh príosúnaigh an athuir a laghdú; is é an aidhm iad a spreagadh isteach san fhostaíocht in ionad coir eile a dhéanamh agus dul ar ais go príosún. Má spreagtar príosúnaigh cláir oideachais a leanúint, cuirfear ar a

gcumas a aithint go bhfuil inniúlachtaí agus buanna acu agus cuideofar leo féinmheas agus uailmhian a fhorbairt.

Tá an tlonad Oideachas ag Príosún Mhuinseo, mar aon lena fhoireann thiomanta agus thiomnaithe, chun tosaigh maidir le cláir oideachais a chur chun feidhme de réir threoirlínte na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt. Cuirtear ranganna ar siúl sa phríomhphríosún, san Aonad Míochaine agus san Aonad Deighilte. Léiríonn cuairteanna rialta a thugann an Coiste Cuairte go mbíonn tinreamh mór i láthair ag ranganna agus go mbíonn an raon scileanna a thaispeánann príosúnaigh ar ardchaighdeán. Is iad seo a leanas na tionscnaimh nua a bhrúigh an tlonad Oideachais chun cinn le haghaidh na bliana acadúla reatha:

Rochtain fheabhsaithe ar oideachas do phríosúnaigh

Áireofar leis sin an tionscnamh um Scéimeanna Dreasaithe a chur chun cinn; canbhasáil a dhéanamh ar phríosúnaigh chun a fháil amach an bhfuil deacracht acu rochtain ar chlár oideachais nó nach bhfuil agus a gcomhairle maidir le réitigh a iarraidh; oibriú go dlúth leis an bhfoireann Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite agus cláir a fhorbairt do phríosúnaigh; rannpháirtíocht i gcrúinnithe struchtúrtha le lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin chun comhairle a chur ar fáil maidir le beartais oideachais amach anseo agus iad a chomhaontú.

Tá an Coiste Cuairte den tuairim gur ceann de na bealaí ar aghaidh é úsáid a bhaint as teicneolaíocht chun oideachas agus oiliúint a sholáthar agus a mheas agus chun tacú leo, cé go mbeidh sí faoi réir rialuithe láidre. Agus aird air sin, mholfaimis clár pólótach a chruthú a thugann an deis do phríosúnaigh tabhairt faoi chúrsaí ar líne, rud a chuireann rochtain mhéadaithe ar áiseanna oideachais ar fáil do líon níos mó príosúnach.

Leanúint den churaclam a fhorbairt

An tlonad Foghlama Oscailte san Aonad Deighilte a chomhdhlúthú; foghlaim chumaisc a chur ar fáil d'fhoghlaimoirí bunúsacha; clár na Croise Deirge a leathnú; caighdeán an Mheasúnaithe Litearthachta agus Uimhearthachta a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le gach mac léinn a chláraíonn sa scoil; leanúint de ghníomhaíochtaí seach-churaclaim amhail ceolchoirmeacha scoile, drámaíocht, díospóireachtaí agus taispeántais.

Cumarsáid

Leanann an tIonad Oideachais ar aghaidh ag caidreamh le comhghleacaithe i bpríosúin eile agus i ngníomhaireachtaí seachtracha chun a chinntiú gurb é dea-chleachtas an bonn ar a bhforbraítear a phlean oideachais. Áirítear leis sin cruinnithe aonair a chur ar siúl le gach mac léinn ar fud na bliana; cruinnithe leanúnacha le lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin áitiúil, le Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann agus lena mbaill foirne faoi seach.

Ar fud na bliana, rinne comhaltaí den Choiste Cuairte teagmháil leis an Ionad Oideachais agus d'fhreastail siad ar roinnt mhaith dá dtionscadail seach-churaclaim.

Clúdaíonn an curaclam oideachais roinnt mhaith foirmeacha agus áirítear leis cláir foghlama bunúsaí, oideachas sláinte, corpoideachas, oideachas sóisialta agus gníomhaíochtaí cruthaitheacha. Ina theannta sin, tá cúrsaí réamhscaoilte um andúil, um shaincheisteanna sláinte agus um iompar ciontaithe san áireamh.

Tairgeann FETAC deimhniúchán le haghaidh na gcúrsaí éagsúla. Déantar measúnú i dtrí chéim, mar seo a leanas:-

- Athbhreithniú téarma arna dhéanamh ag mic léinn,
- Athbhreithniú téarma ar an scoil arna dhéanamh ag an bhFoireann Oideachais,
- Athbhreithniú deireadh bliana ar an mbliain acadúil.

Toisc a chuireann le rath na gclár oideachais sa phríosún ba ea a chinntiú go bhfuil dea-thuisctint ag oifigh phríosúin ar an ról a fhéadann an fhoghlaim a imirt in athshlánú na bpríosúnach.

Tá an t-oideachas, maidir lena roinnt mhaith foirmeacha, ina dheis do thuilleadh oifigh phríosúin páirt a bheith acu i bhfoghlaim a sholáthar do phríosúnaigh. Mar sin, is féidir go gcuirtear cosc orthu déanamh amhlaidh toisc go bhfuil siad srianta ag éilimh a bpoist agus ag easpa ama. Is dócha go n-éileoidh sé sin tuilleadh infheistíochta san oiliúint oifigeach príosúin agus is féidir go mbeidh an méid sin doiligh sa chomhthéacs reatha,

mar go bhfuil brú méadaithe ar lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin cheana baill foirne a leithdháileadh ar mhaithe le tascanna eile, lasmuigh de thascanna

slándála, mar gheall ar phlódú agus ar acmhainní teoranta. Is féidir gur réimse é seo a bhféadann Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann tuilleadh taighde a dhéanamh air ag tráth níos fabhraí.

Is féidir go bhfuil bacainní ar athiontráil sa phobal agus ar an bhfostaíocht os comhair príosúnach ar a scaoileadh. Is féidir iad a shainaithint mar seo a leanas: easpa oideachas iomchuí; a bheith coiscthe de réir an dlí oibriú i bpoist áirithe; taithí oibre teoranta; mí-úsáid substaintí agus fadhbanna meabhrach; easpa líonraí sóisialta. Déantar an cás sin níos measa leis an drogall a bhíonn ar fhostóirí de ghnáth deiseanna fostaíochta a thabhairt d'iarphríosúnaigh, beag beann ar na cúiseanna lena gcoinneáil. Ní mór i bhfad níos mó oibre a dhéanamh chun an meon sin a athrú.

Modh athshlánúcháin agus atreorúcháin is ea oideachas príosúin, agus féadann torthaí dearfacha teacht as. Is minic a léiríonn cláir oideachais phríosúin feabhsú suntasach ar iompar agus ar dhisciplín ginearálta an phríosúin. Is féidir athruithe ar iompar a chur i leith eolas feabhsaithe agus tugann sé an deis do phríosúnaigh mothú gur daoine iad arís trí pháirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíocht atá chomh coitianta le dul chuig ranganna.

Tá an t-oideachas ina mhodh chun tacú le ciontóirí sa trasdul ón bpríosún go dtí an saol amuigh. I gcomhar le cláir oiliúna oibre, tá sé ina chuid de raon idirghabhálacha a chruthaíonn cur chuige struchtúrtha maidir le hathshlánú i dteannta a chéile. Féadann sé a bheith ina chúis le gabháil do shaol táirgiúil in ionad leanúint le saol coireachta. Trí dheiseanna foghlama a chur ar fáil i bpríosún, tugtar raon buntáistí féideartha don phríosúnach agus don tsochaí.

Is féidir le gobharnóirí príosúin agus le hoifigigh phríosúin ról tábhachtach a imirt i gcinneadh a dhéanamh ar an rochtain atá ag na príosúnaigh ar fhoghlaim agus ar cé acu atá, nó nach bhfuil, an príosún é féin ina thimpeallacht dhearfach ina bhféadann foghlaim bheith ar siúl. Chomh maith leis sin, tá ról le himirt ag timpeallacht fhisiceach ionad oideachais an phríosúin ann féin i dtionchar a imirt ar an oideachas agus ar an mothú normalaithe ar féidir leis an oideachas agus an oiliúint é a thairiscint i bpríosún.

Is féidir spórt i bpríosúin a úsáid ar mhaithe le foghlaim, rud is cúis le féiniúlachtaí sóisialta agus le deiseanna feabhsaithe fostaíochta á bhforbairt. Is féidir go bhfuil drogall ar roinnt príosúnach baint a bheith acu le timpeallachtaí traidisiúnta seomra ranga. Níl timpeallacht spórtlainne chomh foirmiúil sin agus is áit iontach é le dul i dteagmháil le foghlaimoirí drogallacha. Ní eisceacht é Príosún Mhuinseo ina leith sin. Cé is moite de na buntáistí a bhaineann le ranganna grúpa nó le teagasc duine le duine sna spórtlanna príosúin, féadann fadhbréiteach a bhaineann le corpacmhainn agus uimhearthacht modh nuálach agus inrochtana a chur ar fáil ar mhaithe le foghlaim. Tá sé cruthaithe gur bealach rathúil i dtreo na fostaíochta é breisoideachas agus oiliúint sa tionscal corpacmhainne do roinnt príosúnach tar éis a scaoilte.

Is féidir le spórt ról tábhachtach a imirt in aghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais sláinte éagsúla na bpríosúnach le linn cuspóirí príosúin shláintiúil a bhaint amach ó thaobh na praiticiúlachta de. Tá sé soiléir go dtairgeann spórt agus gníomhaíocht choirp bealach luachmhar chun príosúnaigh a spreagadh i ngníomhaíochtaí a chuireann sláinte chun cinn. Tá ceanglas ar lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin clár sábháilte agus fóna corpoideachais a sholáthar a chuireann lena chinntiú go bhfuil príosúnaigh aclaí chun páirt i nglacadh i ndeiseanna oibre agus gníomhaíochta sa phríosún, le linn dóibh folláine coirp agus corpacmhainn mheabhrach a choinneáil agus iad faoi choimeád.

Is iad na spórtlanna laistigh den phríosún an príomhfhócas le haghaidh gníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus leanadh ar aghaidh le tacaíocht mhaith a thabhairt dóibh ar fud na bliana.

Aithníonn an Coiste Cuairte go hiomlán an ról atá ag an bhfoireann de theagascóirí cáilithe ina chinntiú go mbaineann spórtlanna an phríosúin a lánchumas amach. Le tacaíocht ó mholtaí na foirne míochaine, cinntíonn teagascóirí spórtlainne:-

- (v) go bhfuil rochtain ag príosúnaigh ar chlár oiliúna atá formheasta agus struchtúrtha,
- (vi) go bhfuil rochtain ag príosúnaigh ar ghníomhaíocht leasúcháin chorpoideachais, nuair atá sí sainaitheanta,
- (vii) go gcuireann príosúnaigh measúnú corpacmhainne i gcrích sula nglacann siad páirt in aon ghníomhaíocht chorpoideachais,

(viii) go gcloíonn príosúnaigh leis na socruithe ionductúcháin chorpoideachais atá i bhfeidhm.

Imríonn an corpoideachas ról tábhachtach sa chóras príosúin trí ghníomhaíocht ardchaighdeán a bhfuil cuspóir léi agus teagmháil ardchaighdeán le príosúnaigh a chur ar fáil; de bhreis air sin, is féidir le corpoideachas cur go mór le folláine fhisiceach, mheabhrach agus shóisialta na bpríosúnach. Mar sin féin, is ann do raon le haghaidh feabhais i gcónaí maidir le cumas na spórtlainne agus maidir le tuilleadh baill foirne is teagascóirí.

Is féidir le heaspa cothabhála nó le cothabháil mhoillithe an trealamh spórtlainne dul i bhfeidhm go diúltach ar mheanma na mball foirne is teagascóirí a gcuirtear de chúram orthu cláir chorpoideachais a chur chun feidhme agus dul i bhfeidhm ar rannpháirtíocht na bpríosúnach sna cláir sin. Ba cheart do lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin bheith aireach ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le trealamh spórtlainne a bheith in ord oibre i gcónaí.

Le linn na bliana, bronnadh dioplómaí na Comhairle Idirnáisiúnta um Scrúdú Teiripe (ITEC) i dTeagasc Aclaíochta ar roinnt príosúnach. Is é Dioplóma an ITEC i dTeagasc Aclaíochta ceann de na cáilíochtaí is leithne aitheantas do theagascóirí corpacmhainne in Éirinn agus sa Ríocht Aontaithe. Cuimsíonn an cúrsa comhcheangal de chomhphárteanna teoirice agus praiticiúla, lena n-áirítear teicnící aclaíochta, tástáil chorpacmhainne, feasacht gnó agus cothú. Déanann an Coiste Cuairte comhghairdeas leis na mic léinn rathúla go léir a ghnóthaigh an dámhachtain an-inmhianaithe seo.

D'fháilteodh an Coiste Cuairte roimh thuilleadh deiseanna do phríosúnaigh páirt a ghlacadh i spóirt lasmuigh. Trí spiorad foirne agus fhreagracht a spreagadh, cuirfear le dea-ord agus le dea-rialú, agus is féidir é sin a éascú go réidh ach áiseanna a shuiteáil le haghaidh rannpháirtíochta i gcluichí lasmuigh. Forbairt dhearfach is ea an rún 'páirc atá fóinteach don uile aimsir' a shuiteáil mar chuid den phlean forbartha iomlán i gcomhair champas Mhuinseo. Molann an Coiste Cuairte do lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin tabhairt faoi athbhreithniú ar ghníomhaíochtaí spóirt lasmuigh d'fhonn cláir atá cost-éifeachtúil a bhunú.

Thar na blianta, bhunaigh Príosún Mhuinseo naisc le comhlachtaí agus le pearsantachtaí éagsúla spóirt. Is réimse é sin ar féidir é a fheabhsú tuilleadh, go háirithe trí thuilleadh deiseanna a chur ar fáil do phearsantachtaí spóirt

labhairt le príosúnaigh. D'fháilteodh comhaltaí den Choiste Cuairte roimh an deis cabhrú leis sin.

Bainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite (ISM)

Mar a sonraíodh inár dtuarascáil do 2012, measann an Coiste Cuairte go gcuireann an córas ISM go mór le ciontóirí a chumasú a bpianbhreith a chur i gcrích ar bhealach cuiditheach agus éirí níos oiriúnaithe don saol lasmuigh de phríosún. Mar a luaigh Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann, is é atá san ISM ná béim nua ar phríosúnaigh freagracht níos mó a ghlacadh as a bhforbairt féin. Is é an toradh deiridh a bheidh air sin ná 'cur chuige atá bunaithe ar an bpríosún agus ildisciplíneach maidir le hoibriú le príosúnaigh agus foráil á déanamh do mheasúnú tosaigh, do shocrú spriocanna agus d'athbhreithniú tréimhsiúil chun dul chun cinn a mheas'.

Tá cur chun feidhme éifeachtach an chórais ina dhúshlán ollmhór do lucht bainistíochta agus d'fhoireann an phríosúin. Inár dtuarascáil do 2012, luamar nach rabhamar sásta gur leor an leibhéal líon foirne (beirt Oifigeach Príosúin) a bhí i bhfeidhm ag an am chun freastal ar na riachtanais atá ag breis agus 500 ciontóir. Le linn 2013, imlonnaíodh tríú ball foirne chuig dualgais ISM, ach tá sé sin laghdaithe an athuair go beirt bhall anois.

Tá na comhaltaí den Choiste Cuairte sásta go bhfuil an tuairim chéanna ag lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin faoi thábhacht lárnach an chórais ISM agus tuigimid na héilimh iomaíocha a dhéantar ar líon foirne. Tá Oifig Phríosúin a bhfuil oiliúint ISM agus taithí ar ISM á bhfostú i limistéir eile de Champas Mhuinseo, amhail Ionad Dóchas agus an Sciathán Oiliúna, a bhfuil líon níos lú ciontóirí sa dá cheann díobh. Molaimid go laghdófaí riar cásanna fhoireann Mhuinseo agus go gcuirfí saineolas na ndaoine sin atá fostaithe faoi láthair i limistéir ag a bhfuil líonta níos ísle ar fáil do líon níos mó ar fud an champais dá ndéanfaí feidhm ar fud an champais den Bhainistíocht Pianbhreithe Chomhtháite.

Córais Shrianta

Is í an phríomhfhreagracht atá ar lucht bainistíochta agus ar fhoireann an phríosúin ná freagracht as sábháilteacht phearsanta agus slándáil na gciontóirí

a chinntiú. Déantar príosúnaigh a shainiú a bheith leochaileach nó atá ag iarraidh cosanta a dheighilt lom láithreach ón bpobal ginearálta nó ó phríosúnaigh ar leith a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina mbagairt. Déantar na daoine sin a bhféadfadh drochthionchar a bheith acu ar phobal ginearálta an phríosúin a dheighilt freisin. San am atá thart, ba é sin ba chúis le líon suntasach ciontóirí a bheith teoranta dá gcillín ar feadh suas go dtí 23 uair sa lá.

D'éascaigh na feabhsúcháin atá á ndéanamh ar nuachóiriú na cóiríochta i bPríosún Mhuinseo

laghdú suntasach ar líon na daoine atá faoi ghlas ar feadh tréimhsí iomarcacha. Laghdaíodh líon na bpríosúnach faoi ghlas ar feadh 23 uair ó 45 príosúnach i mí Iúil 2013 go 5 príosúnach i mí Eanáir 2014. I mí Eanáir 2014, áfach, bhí 30 príosúnach teoranta dá gcillín ar feadh 20 uair sa lá go fóill agus bhí 10 príosúnach sa bhreis teoranta ar feadh tréimhse 19 n-uaire.

Bhunaigh Ard-Stiúrthóir Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann grúpa ardleibhéil chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar bhearta a laghdódh líon na ndaoine faoi chórais shrianta d'fhonn a chinntiú go bhfaigheann gach duine acu íoschaighdeán d'am as an gcillín de thrí huaire sa lá le haghaidh páirt a ghlacadh in aclaíocht agus i ngníomhaíochtaí. Mar a tugadh faoi deara thuas, baineadh an caighdeán sin amach i bPríosún Mhuinseo in 2013 i ngach cás gan 5 chás a áireamh. Fáiltíonn an Coiste Cuairte roimh an tionscnamh atá á ghlacadh ag Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann chun tosaíocht a thabhairt don fhadhb sin agus tá sé ag coinne le feabhsú breise le linn 2014.

Tá an Coiste Cuairte eolach go bhfuil sé mar rún ag Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann a líonta acmhainne a chur ar chomhréim leo siúd ar shainiú an Cigire Príosún iad. Ba cheart an beart sin a chur chun feidhme a luaithe is féidir. Is soiléir go ngéaraíonn plódú an deacracht a bhaineann le déileáil le príosúnaigh faoi chórais shrianta agus maolaíonn sé na buntáistí a thagann as cóiríocht nuachóirithe.

An Plean Éigeandála Dóiteáin

Tá Plean Éigeandála Dóiteáin cuimsitheach i bhfeidhm sa phríosún chun freagairt chomhordaithe a chinntiú d'éigeandálaí ar an láithreán a thagann as briseadh amach tine. Ba é an lucht bainistíochta áitiúil, Oifigeach

Sábháilteachta Dóiteáin Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann agus an foghrúpa um Shábháilteacht ar Dhóiteáin a dhréachtaigh an plean. Cuireann an plean san áireamh na cásanna éagsúla dóiteáin/éigeandála nach mór déileáil leo a shainaithint, leagann sé amach na freagairtí atá riachtanach do gach ceann acu agus tástálann sé a éifeachtaí atá na freagairtí sin.

Cásanna a thagann aníos lasmuigh de raon feidhme an Phlean Éigeandála Dóiteáin amhail gabháil giall, círéibeacha agus suaitheadh de chineálacha éagsúla, pléitear leo i bpleananna Éigeandála agus Teagmhasacha ar leith. Cuirtear Druileanna Sábháilteachta Dóiteáin i gcomhar le treoirlínte struchtúrtha ar siúl ar bhonn ráithiúil chun éifeachtacht an phlean a chinntiú.

Oiliúint um Chearta an Duine

Fáiltíonn an Coiste Cuairte roimh na tionscnaimh le déanaí ina bhfaighidh foireann príosúin ar fud na tíre oiliúint ar shaincheisteanna um chearta an duine. Arna forbairt ag Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann, i gcomhar le Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine, cinnteoidh sí go bhfuil an ceart ag príosúnaigh go gcaitear leo le dínit i dtimpeallacht atá slán agus sábháilte le linn dóibh a bpianbhreith a chaitheamh. Molaimid an tArd-Stiúrthóir as an tionscnamh nua sin a sheoladh agus a mhíniú ag Lá Faisnéise le déanaí ag Coláiste Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann, Port Laoise.

Criathrú Slándála

Fuaireamar roinnt gearán ó phríosúnaigh ar fud 2013 faoin díriú éagothrom ar a gcuairteoirí atá á dhéanamh ag oifigigh an Ghrúpa Tacaíochta Oibriúcháin (OSG) agus faoin spreagadh atá á thabhairt acu don mhadra cuardaigh suí d'aon ghnó le linn cuardach. Rinneadh amach gur gan bhunús a bhí na gearáin go léir a d'imscrúdaigh an Coiste Cuairte. Léirigh breathnú ar TFCl nach raibh call le haon ghearáin a rinneadh i gcás ar bith agus d'fhéadfaí a fheiceáil agus teacht ar an gconclúid gur ghníomhaigh foireann an phríosúin ar bhealach gairmiúil agus cóir i ngach cás.

Tacaíonn an Coiste Cuairte go hiomlán leis an dualgas deacair a chomhlíonann oifigigh OSG, dualgas atá dírithe ar chosc a chur ar mhíreanna neamhdhleathacha á dtabhairt isteach sa phríosún.

Clár Coiste na bPríosúnach

Forbairt ar cuireadh fáilte roimpi ar tugadh fúithi le linn na bliana ba ea bunú an tionscnaimh um Ghlór Úsáideora/Coiste an Phríosúin.

Cuireann an tionscnamh nua seo formáid struchtúrtha i bhfeidhm trína n-oibríonn lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin agus príosúnaigh atá tofa go háitiúil le chéile laistigh de réimsí atá sainithe go soiléir. Tugann sé deis do phobal leathan an phríosúin, trína n-ionadaithe tofa, oibriú go dlúth le lucht bainistíochta an phríosúin chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais shonracha amhail aiste bia, áiseanna caitheamh aimsire agus ionchais oibre agus oideachais. Cé go bhfuil an próiseas ina chéimeanna luatha go fóill, tá an Coiste Cuarite ag súil lena fhás a fheiceáil sna blianta romhainn.

Siopa Milseán

Ábhar imní a cuireadh in iúl don Choiste Cuarite ar fud na bliana ba ea córas an *tsiopa milseán*. Is féidir leis bheith am-íditheach agus dian ar fhoireann ina fformáid reatha. Comhaontaíonn comhaltaí den Choiste Cuarite go hiomlán le bunú ar feitheamh na ceardlainne/an ionaid dáileacháin sa phríosún.

Cuimseoidh an próiseas nua seo córas *pacála agus lipéadaithe* mar a ndéanfar orduithe a chur ar aghaidh chuig an ionad nua, a ullmhú agus a dháileadh laistigh de thréimhse trí lá. Cuirfidh an tionscnamh nua seo tuilleadh deiseanna fostaíochta ar fáil do phríosúnaigh mar aon le hath-implonú oifigeach chuig dualgais eile. Beidh athbhreithniú ar phraghsanna mar chuid den athbhreithniú nua sin freisin.

Gníomhaireachtaí Seachtracha

Le linn na bliana, bhuail an Coiste Cuarite le roinnt gníomhaireachtaí a dhéanann raon seirbhísí a thairiscint agus a chur ar fáil do dhaoine atá ar tí bheith scaoilte ón bpríosún. Is seirbhísí fadréimseacha iad na seirbhísí a chuirtear ar fáil agus clúdaíonn siad roinnt roghanna iarphríosúin amhail cóiríocht, oideachas, treoir, sláinte agus leas sóisialach. Is réimse é sin a dtabharfar aird bhreise air. Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuarite buíochas a ghabháil leis na gníomhaireachtaí go léir a raibh sé i dteagmháil leo sa bhliain.

Boinn Seirbhíse Fada

Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuairte comhghairdeas a dhéanamh leis na hoifigigh go léir a fuair Boinn Seirbhíse Fada le linn na bliana. Is ceart a dtiomantas agus a ndíograis a mholadh.

Máistrí Sláintí

Is beoga agus cairdiúil atá club *Máistrí Sláintí* an phríosúin agus cuirtear cruinnithe ar siúl dhá oíche gach mí. Tá gach cruinniú ina cheardlann *foghlaim trína dhéanamh* ina ndéanann rannpháirtithe forbairt ar a scileanna labhartha i dtimpeallacht gan bhrú. Déantar foghlaim ar luas atá oiriúnach do riachtanais gach rannpháirtí.

Bíonn tinreamh maith ag gach cruinniú mar go dtugann sé an deis do rannpháirtithe scileanna cumarsáide agus ceannaireachta a fheabhsú i dtimpeallacht atá dearfach agus tacúil. D'ainneoin rath an tionscadail seo, creideann an Coiste Cuairte gur féidir é a leathnú tuilleadh.

Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuairte a bhuíochas a ghabháil le baill de Mháistrí Sláintí Bhaile Átha Cliath agus le baill foirne an phríosúin a thug a gcuid ama go deonach d'fhonn rath an tionscadail seo a chinntiú.

An Gairdín Mailpe

Bunathraíodh reilig bhunaidh an 10 óglach, ar a dtugtar an Gairdín Mailpe, ina gairdín cuimhneacháin. Is iad na príosúnaigh agus na baill foirne a rinne an obair ar fad ar an limistéar seo. Agus é réidh anois, táthar dóchasach gur féidir é a oscailt go hoifigiúil in 2014.

