

## Minister Lenihan Highlights Youth Justice at MacGill Summer School

Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, in one of his first public comments since becoming Minister, spoke on a range of issues at the MacGill Summer School, including youth justice which was one of his priorities when he was Minister for Children.

Investment being made in the area of youth justice, the Minister added, provides “us with a chance to tackle criminal behaviour by young people, by and large on a relatively minor scale, and do what we can to prevent them throwing their lives away and becoming involved in serious crime later on.”

Minister Lenihan said that with the implementation of the Children Act 2001 and, in particular, with the establishment of the new Irish Youth Justice Service “we at long last have proper structures in place to deal with offending by young people.”

## Update from the National Manager

The IYJS is currently working with a range of stakeholders to discuss developments related to the Detention School Service. Also we are currently funding over 60 projects valued at €4 million.

The Directors, the IYJS and the Expert Group visited the youth justice centre at Rathgael, Bangor. We examined the benefits which specifically constructed modern buildings can provide to safety and service delivery. In the coming months, we will be actively supporting staff to visit this centre to help you look to the future with us.

Over recent weeks, I have also been holding meetings with staff across each of the four schools, updating on developments and answering any questions or concerns that may currently exist. This is the start of the partnership and consultation approach which is core to the modernisation agenda of the detention school service. We will be holding workshops and setting up more working groups in the coming months, once we know the future configuration of the overall service. We will of course maximise current partnership arrangements which are in place under the *Towards 2016* structure.

We want to start collecting your thoughts ideas and suggestions on developing the detention school service. Please send your views to the dedicated e-mail address:

*developing4all@justice.ie*

*Mary*

## Cuan Beag

Cuan Beag has been chosen as the name for the new Girls Remand and Assessment building. From a strong field, the winning name came from 2 girls in the long term unit.



## Swedes Visit Trinity House

In July Trinity House played host to a delegation from Sweden. The step down unit was the focus of the visit. “Outcomes 2006” reported positive results from its services including on the job training and the outreach services. The step down provides a range of services to assist the reintegration of young people into their communities.

## Cuan Beag - the new Girls Unit

The reconfiguration works to prepare the building for use have been underway for a few weeks now and are nearing completion. The building and internal services have been certified as being ready for use. The additional work highlighted to the IYJS by staff and management in Oberstown Girls School are all at an advanced stage.



Frank, Freida and Joan discuss route for new path

Drawings and costing for using the surgery in Cuan Beag as a dental suite that can be used all schools on the campus have been commissioned by the IYJS. The IYJS will arrange for the fit out to be undertaken once a technical layout is agreed which will serve the needs of the Dentist and of the Nurse.

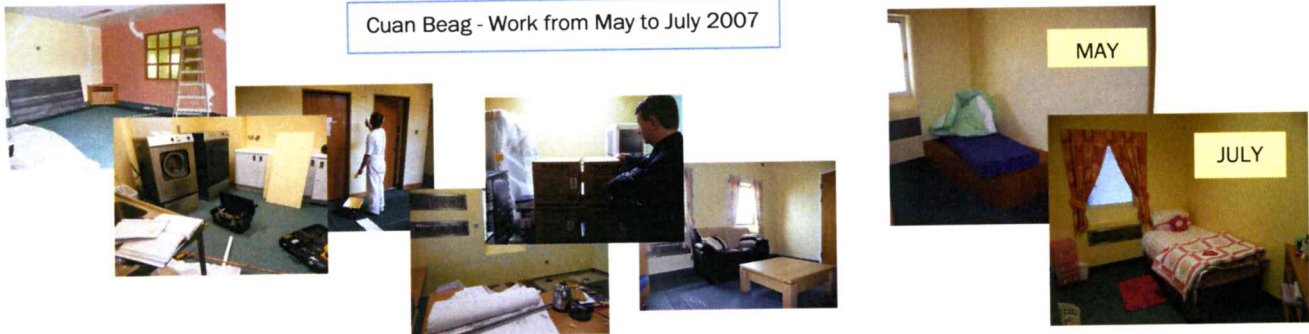


With Patricia Flynn, Director, are Sean Aylward, Secretary General; Michelle Shannon National Director and Mary Geaney, National Manager.

The IYJS would like to thank Patricia, Frank and all who have been involved in moving the project forward. Particular thanks goes to Joan O'Connor who took on the role of project co-ordinator at local level, liaising with Jimmy Lynch in the IYJS on procurement. This was not an easy task and support from management and staff on the unit gave Joan the space and time in helping to make it all possible. Staff familiarisation and training is now underway for September when the unit will become operational.



Site Meeting with Contractors



Cuan Beag - Work from May to July 2007

### Secretary General Visits Cuan Beag

Seán Aylward, Secretary General of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, visited Cuan Beag to see the good progress that has been made to date. He congratulated all involved and praised the attention to detail which had made such a difference to the feel of the unit.

#### *Life Long Learning*

Over coffee, Mr. Aylward, Ms. Shannon and Ms. Geaney chatted informally with the Director and staff from Oberstown Girls School. Mr. Aylward backed the idea of life long learning and suggested that a space, such as a resource room, be put aside in the redeveloped campus for staff to use when pursuing their studies. Ms. Geaney said that work was ongoing with the schools and that training in youth offending programmes is being given particular attention.

#### *Swimming Pool*

Staff raised the recently advertised tender and asked if the swimming pool could be made available to the community as well. Mr. Aylward said he would welcome this approach. The Secretary General commented that the IYJS, and the Department, had made a serious commitment to youth justice and the children detention schools. Work on the swimming pool is visible evidence of this commitment.



Sean Aylward discussing some finer points of art with Rosaleen Brennan

## Finglas Fence Works

Work is well underway for the long awaited fencing and associated works, including a new perimeter roadway, at Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre. The "Summer" weather has been hindering the work but significant progress has been made to date. The work on the perimeter roadway has been completed. A tender for the refurbishment of the swimming pool complex has been placed on e-tenders with a closing date of 20 August 2007.



## Successful Awards Day at Oberstown



Children, parents, staff and teachers gathered on 21 June for the end of school year awards and open day. A very enjoyable time was had by all. There was a wide variety of very imaginative and colourful achievements on display. An impressive array of excellent detailed pieces gave a very positive perspective on the children's lives and talents.



The event was highly successful and the board of management, school principals, teachers, directors and staff of the two schools were joined by many guests including representatives from VECs, Irish Youth Justice Service and parents, guardians and family of the children



*The day was a celebration of the achievements of the children in the schools.*



The main feature of the day was a prize-giving ceremony and exhibitions of arts, crafts and items such as poems, letters and other literary fare. It was clear that a lot of work had gone in to the preparation for the event.



The limericks on display were very witty and an IYJS favourite was "A Poodle was charged":

A poodle was charged by the law  
For eating meat that was raw  
He was sent to jail  
He asked for bail  
And that was the last of him we saw



Achievements in the sporting field and in games were also celebrated with the children introducing the various presenters including Michelle Shannon of IYJS, John Lynch Chair of the Board and Shaun Purcell of Co. Dublin VEC.



Making some presentations were Michelle Shannon, National Director IYJS, Shaun Purcell, Education Officer Co. Dublin VEC and John Lynch, Chair of the Board of Management

*All speakers commented on the positive aspects that an award day can bring in terms of morale and camaraderie.*

