

Cloverhill Prison  
Visiting Committee  
Annual Report 2016  
To  
Minister for Justice & Equality  
Frances Fitzgerald T.D

## Visiting committee

The Committee generally meet on the second Thursday of each month. At each monthly meeting we meet with Governors, senior staff and members of in house staff who work in different areas. During the year 2016 we met with medical personnel, nursing staff, drugs counselling service and the chaplaincy, at their request. We also visited the kitchen, laundry, library, D wing, saw the new facilities for psychology and methadone treatment. We have registered our concern regarding the acute shortage of nursing staff in Cloverhill.

On rota basis members make a monthly meeting to the prison. Both these arranged and unannounced meetings involve walking around the prison and ensuring that we are available at all time to meet with inmates. On these visits we meet and talk to both internal and external staff working in areas. We are a visible presence. We are very impressed at the general good relations we encounter on these visits, at the name recognition of the prisoners by the staff and general good will that exist

We agreed and set out at the start of the year an agenda of issues that we wished to monitor and explore. We set an objective for ourselves to meet both professional and non-prison service staff and in house staff who work in specific areas of the prison to gain a better understanding of the need to consider both security and prison sub-culture issues in the prison context.

The Committee began the year with six members. During the year three members retired and were not replaced. We would like to see the numbers of the Committee increased as we find the present position challenging.

During the year we had a most interesting visit to Mountjoy Prison. We would like to thank the Governor and staff of Mountjoy Prison for the welcome and hospitality they extended to us.

We would like to thank our retired colleagues for their hard work and helpful company. We would especially like to pay tribute to our former Chairperson for her outstanding work, persistence and enthusiasm.

We acknowledge the support of the Governors and Prison Officers in facilitating our visits and in the courtesy they have shown to us. We appreciate very much the helpfulness of the staff in the main prison services during the year.

## Visits to prisoners

The main issues raised by prisoners to the Visiting Committee during the year related to:

Health care issues  
Work requests  
Transfers to other prison  
Restrictions on family contact during visits

We met with one prisoner on two occasions. He had the same issues regarding transfer to other prisons. We discuss each case with the Governor and continue to monitor the position of prisoners that we have met.

We are satisfied that the representations we have made have been listened to and addressed in a manner sympathetic to the inmate and to his concerns and that, where possible and practicable, efforts have been made to accommodate his requests.

We wish to acknowledge the experience of these prisoners who spoke to us during the year. We were impressed by their willingness to engage with the services provided in the prison. We were particularly impressed with the enhanced prisoners that we see working around the general prison areas, including the kitchen, the laundry and gardening, with some instances of charitable fundraising, and also their positive attitude to rehabilitation.

We were most impressed at the readiness of some prisoners to speak to school students about avoiding a life of crime and the need to steer clear of drugs. The students and their schools very well received these talks we understand. It is a practice that brings great practical experience to both the prisoners and the students and we would like to see this continue on a regular basis.

## Accommodation

Cloverhill Prison is a closed, medium security prison for adult males and primarily caters for remand prisoners. It has an operational capacity for 431 inmates

During the year the bed occupancy numbers rarely went above 400. The highest figure occurred in October when the prison population reached 415.

Prisoner Population on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016 show that Cloverhill had an 86% of Inspector of Prisoners Bed Capacity. See below, extract from table 201 Irish Prison Service Census Prison Population

Institution	Number in custody	No on Temp. Release	No. on Trial/Remand	Total prisoners in system	Bed capacity	% of Bed capacity	Bed capacity per inspector of prisons	% of inspector of prisoners bed capacity
Cloverhill	354	6	295	369	431	82%	414	86%

Irish Prison Service Census 2016  
Table 1

We remain deeply concerned at the high number of prisoners that share prison cells and therefore lack toilet privacy. We consider this an affront to the dignity of the person. The Irish Prison Service Prisoner Population – October 2016 - Cell Occupancy – In-Cell Sanitation show that only a small number of inmates, 55, had 24-hour access to toilet facilities in private.

The census also shows that 276 prisoners were housed in triple cells and 32 inmates in 4+ cells.

Prison	Number in Custody 11 October 2016	No of prisoners in single cell	No of prisoners in double cell	No of prisoners in triple cell	No of prisoners in 4+ cells	No in-cell slopping out	Toilet in presence of others	24 access to toilet facilities in private
Cloverhill	415	55	52	276	32	0	360	55

Irish Prison Service Census 2016  
Table 2

## Deportations

We again voice our opinion that prisoners committed by the Garda National Immigration Bureau should be going to a secure holding centre and not to a prison. This is their right.

We found that there was a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness in the prison accommodation and throughout Cloverhill Prison.

## Prisoner Fatalities

There have been no fatalities in Cloverhill this year.

## Protection Prisoners

The numbers of protection prisoners remain high. This continues to impact on the management and day to day running of the prison regime. Every effort is made to normalise the regime of these prisoners. The logistics are extremely difficult to deal with. Gang culture continues to be a serious problem within the prison, especially with the recent inter gang violence.

## Security Measures – Drugs

We continue to highlight our disappointment that the passive drug detection dogs continues to be no longer used during the week in conjunction with the search procedures. As in the previous year we did not encounter any drug detection dogs while visiting the prison.

Cloverhill does operate screen visits, which eliminates the passing of drugs on visits, however drugs coming in over the wall from boundaries outside continues to be a huge

cause for concern. Prisoners retrieve some of the drugs that can lead to security and operational problems within the prison. A site outside the prison has been identified as an area that people are using to throw contraband over the walls. Due to resource issues outside the control of the prison it cannot be patrolled at all times. Cameras are due to be installed in spring 2017.

## **Yard Hubs**

The situation regarding yard hubs remains the same. While staff safety is of the utmost importance, and we acknowledge that the hubs do protect staff, however we are here to advocate on behalf of the prisoners. The Irish Prison Service mission statement is “Providing safe and secure custody, dignity of care and rehabilitation to prisoners for safer communities.” We believe that the hubs do not protect the prisoners in the yard. There is grave concern here among visiting committee members that the use of the hubs could lead to further serious incidents occurring.

## **Video links**

With regret we note that this continues to be an underused resource. The Governor had to decide to cease the operation of the facility at times where there have been resource issues. Remand prisoners are often collected from Cloverhill Prison very early in the morning to attend court appearances all over the country. Some of these remand prisoners may be on vital medication and may not arrive back to the prison until very late in the evening. We believe the continued under use of this facility is unfortunate and in our view is a scandalous waste of public funding.

## **Library**

The Library Service is an integral part of the Prison Education Service and is provided to Irish Prison Service by local authorities on an agency basis. Designated library officers operate the library on a daily basis. The Librarian provides training for the role of library assistance.

The aim of the service is to provide a dedicated space, accessible to all, with appropriate material to support recreation, information, education and culture. The prison library – closely modelled on the public library – is a space where library users can interact with prison staff and each other. The prisoners are encouraged to make requests for books and information in the knowledge that requests will be met whenever possible.

We have visited the library and note the wide range of materials and services provided by Cloverhill Prison, these include:

- Book lending
- Reference Collection
- Law collection
- Foreign language material
- Literacy material

Audio books  
Large print books  
Periodicals  
Music listening  
TV/DVD  
Music/DVD lending

It has been reported to us that the number of opening sessions is quite low with a corresponding low number of visitors to the library. The library is one of the first places to be closed when prison officers are in short supply and the library officers are reassigned elsewhere.

What is urgently needed is a regular schedule of library openings to build up the habit of using the library by all prisoners in Cloverhill and to maximise the use of the library facilities. If prisoners knew when they could visit the library, they could use regularly and fruitfully.

### **Issues for 2017**

- A regular schedule for library visits is urgently required.
- Computers, TV/DVD and other electronic equipment need to be replaced / repaired as they cause difficulties at present. This is to be pursued in 2017.
- The office move is scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.
- The new Senior Librarian will continue to build relationships and improve communications with all stakeholders in the library.

Deliveries to Cloverhill are currently via private car and this needs to be assessed in 2017.

The Visiting Committee are still concerned that prisoners who may have impairments such as deafness and other physical difficulties including cognitive difficulties, unfortunately, due to lack of recourse, cannot avail of the library service. We would therefore like to ask the Irish Prison Service again to review the services currently available in the library to cater for inmates with disabilities.

There is currently a new initiative to allow prisoners distribute books by a trolley service. Although this would provide limited library service to prisoners we feel this service would be of great of help to those prisoners who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to access the library facilities The Governor of Cloverhill fully supports this initiative.

### **Gymnasiums**

The Gym areas and equipment provide exercise and health classes for the inmates here at Cloverhill in conjunction with a VEC trained P.E. teacher. Equipment for these areas is presently being serviced and an audit of required and replacement equipment is being carried out. The results hopefully will help towards getting new equipment.

We note that 4 pieces of new gym equipment were secured for use on D2, which enables a gym officer at specific times to carry out physical education exercise to vulnerable prisoners.

## **Kitchen**

The Visiting Committee visited the kitchens several times during the year. The kitchen in Cloverhill is a very busy area, providing meals three times a day to the prison population. It also caters for around 100 meals to prisoners, and for their increasingly diverse dietary needs, attending the attached Cloverhill Courthouse each day. There are currently 23 inmates working in the kitchen (16 in the main kitchen and 7 in the staff canteen). The inmates work with Work Training Officer. They receive education and training in catering, health and safety, that when completed result in City and Guild awards and certificates. We found the team atmosphere there to be very positive and a very good relationship seemed to exist between the staff and working inmates. It is a popular place to work in.

It has been reported to us that some inmates seek to return to working in the prison kitchen when their sentence is completed. This indicates the value they place on the training and experience they received. Unfortunately due to operational reasons this is generally not possible. These requests, we feel, are most significant.

We have eaten the food prepared in the kitchen and were greatly impressed by the high standards and the balanced menu presented. We complement the staff on the professional quality and diversity of the food.

On all occasions we found the kitchens operated to a high standard. Areas we inspected including the cookers, worktops and storage areas were hygienic. The freezer, at a stage of uneconomical repair, was replaced during the year.

Never the less there are area of the kitchen that needs to be addressed urgently. It has been reported to us that the floor of the kitchen is in a very bad state of repair and would need to be repaired as a matter of priority. Also the structure and plant would need to be up-graded and replaced. We note that most of the painting and decorating is carried out by staff and inmates in order to reduce costs.

During the year the staff canteen provided meals for staff and visitors. Seven inmates work in this area. The mess is self-sustaining and self-sufficient, a new inmate's tea-room and shower were installed during the year and further improvements are envisaged. Again, we have been advised, some structural and service provision issues need to be updated and some replaced.

## **Laundry**

Members of the Visiting Committee, on random visits, called into the Laundry premises several times during 2016. We found a very good working environment, with good relations evident between the Manager and enhanced inmates. However the Laundry only operates from Monday to Friday and in this limited time is unable to reach the required level of service for Cloverhill Prison. This limits the amount of time available for basic laundry work of washing and drying and limits the amount of bed and personal clothing that can be thermally disinfected. We have been advised that the Laundry chemically disinfects the majority of items. While the laundry thermally disinfects all known infected materials, other items, which could be infected with contagious diseases, unknown to the staff, are not thermally disinfected. This we find unacceptable and unsatisfactory and would constitute a Health and Safety risk.

The Laundry services need to be open for longer hours. Over the last three years a back-to-back roster has been requested but has not, as yet, been implemented.

We understand that working practices introduced over the last three years are providing an efficient and cost effective service within the time limitations outlined.

## **ISM (Integrated Sentence Management)**

During the year our office has worked with prisoners both sentence and remand regarding the various issues that prisoners have presented to us such as homelessness on release, access to social welfare payments and medical cards and where required residential and day care facilities available in the community.

A new undertaking in relation to access to in reach services and the provision of office spaces for this purpose was commenced in late 2016 and this has progressed steadily and is near completion.

This undertaking has seen the relocation of a number of the offices on the E – Division to allow dedicated interview/therapy rooms to be incorporated which will give the prisoner's access to services, probation, welfare, CAP (Care after Prison), Psychology, listeners, laiso (housing) and addiction services. This undertaking required agreement from all of the above services along with the Governors, Chaplains and the ISM team to ensure that the envisaged relocations could progress as smoothly as possible. It is hoped that when complete this undertaking will give prisoners access to as many services as possible in the one location. Series provided would be able to pre-book the rooms, which will lead to an efficient and streamlined service.

The Integrated Sentence Management System has been updated recently and as such has been added to the PIMS system. That will give all services some access to update progression reported for prisoners with whom they are liaising and will be of great assistance when prisoner's reviews are to be undertaken.

We are pleased with the updating of the services and the Visiting committee will continue to monitor the progress of this section.

## **Health Care**

Cloverhill Prison has a 24 hour nursing cover and 7 day week GP cover plus on call GP service that form the basis of Primary Healthcare. All committals to Cloverhill have a Nursing Assessment on committal and are seen the following day by the GP. Prisoners can see the GP on request on 5 days per week. In addition to Primary Health a brief outline of services provided in Cloverhill include:

### **GP Service**

The service has had a turbulent year fraught with ongoing industrial relations problems between IPS and the GP service .A brief review of activity shows that GPs see an average of 80 committals per week and 100 reviews per week. We have been informed that there



are some cases where inmates have complained of been unable to see a Doctor for a few days. It is hoped a resolution can be reached to address this shortfall.

## **Nursing Service**

Cloverhill Nursing service has performed very well despite being seriously under strength for most of the year. At times during the year a compliment of 3 Nurses were on duty when there should have been 6 Nurses. Three nurses went on maternity leave and there were some resignations. There was great difficulty in finding agency nurses to fill the gap as the HSE use a lot of agency nurses. Some agency nurses were recruited, at the end of 2016 and this improved the overall situation for the nursing service. The planned recruitment of new nurses for the prisons by the IPS in 2017, it is hoped, will rectify this ongoing situation and Cloverhill will have a full establishment of nurses in 2017.

The visiting Committee were aware of this situation and were updated by the Chief Nursing Officer. We wrote to Irish Prison Service outlining our concerns and the urgent need for this situation to be rectified with immediate effect. The National Operational Nursing Manager, Irish Prison Service, replied courteously to us and advised that he was liaising with the Chief Nursing Officers and that contingencies, including access to pooled hours has been agreed until the new recruited nurses begin in 2017. We will closely monitor this situation and report in our next annual report.

## **Nurse Prescribing**

Two nurses are fully trained and registered with An Bord Altranaís. They assess and Prescribe medication for inmates. This is an especially useful service to have for prisoners at times when the GP's are off duty.

## **Nurse Phlebotomy**

This service is established in Cloverhill and operates on an ad hoc basis as staff availability allows. An average of five blood tests per week have been taken during the year by the nursing staff in Cloverhill. The nursing staff reports that during 2016 very few inmates were required to attend hospital for blood tests. This represents a significant saving to staff costs incurred by staff escorts to the hospitals and reduces security implications overall. Again delays, in getting time to do these tests, due to staff shortages, is a cause of some concern to the nursing service in Cloverhill.

## **ECG**

Cloverhill nursing staff performed all ECG's relating to methadone maintenance during the year. There were approximately two per week. Because of this in house service, there are again considerable savings in staff escort costs. Again there are some delays due to staff shortages.

## **Specialist compression bandaging (Profore Dressing)**

Nursing staff in Cloverhill also performs this service. In many prisons this service is carried out in outpatient clinics on a weekly basis. Consequently, reduction of escorts to clinics was again achieved. The Nursing Service expect to continue to organize such training as need arises.

## **Vaccination clinics**

This was the first year that the seasonal flu vaccine was not offered to all at risk inmates due again to staff shortage.

## **Methadone Clinic**

The Nursing staff in Cloverhill continues to dispense methadone on a daily basis. A daily average of 110 inmates attend the methadone clinic – the equivalent of a large methadone clinic in the community. There is an issue with doctors attending at weekends; on occasions there has been no doctors available. Prisoners must wait to be seen until the following Monday, or possibly Tuesday when a bank holiday occurs. This has a severe impact on issuing methadone as a doctor needs to be available to prescribe.

## **STI and HIV**

These clinics are being held on a Tuesday every two weeks on an ad hoc basis depending on staff availability.

## **Psychology Service**

Since 2008 the Visiting Committee has highlighted the absence of a psychology service in the prison. This was of major concern to the Visiting Committee members, the medical section and the chaplains. We are pleased to report that Cloverhill now has the provision of a Psychology clinic for two days per week. The new Psychology clinic was established in October 2016 and offers psychological services to both sentenced and remand prisoners.

At the end of 2016 the clinic has been in place for ten weeks and 23 prisoners have been referred to the service with those prisoners having an average remand or sentence duration of 17 months.

The Visiting Committee will report back on the situation

## **D2**

There has been a change on D2 with security prisoners being moved and medical prisoners taking up the cells. This has resulted in no overcrowding. It also has reduced the amount of segregation of prisoners. Medical prisoners get to use all the facilities on D2. Some improvements have been made that include new games, sound system and a Gym where prisoners can exercise. This has greatly improved the lives of the prisoners and has led to a more settled atmosphere. Continued improvements are being considered.

## **Optical Service**

The Visiting Committee notes that there is no optician service within the prison. We will continue to monitor this service.

## **Education Centre**

The Education Unit is a vital unit in the life of prisoners during the term of their sentence in prison and in their preparation for a full and participative life in their community, on release. A total of 391 prisoners were interviewed during the year. A total of 306 prisoners were allocated a timetable. The average weekly attendance was 83.

### **Access**

The priority for the education unit for 2016 was to increase access for protection prisoners to education. There have been negotiations with prison management but we are advised that as in previous year 2014-2015, these negotiations were unsuccessful. The unit secured an extra 9 hours P.E. contract and one of the P.E teachers now works on the protection landing twice weekly. Due to custody staff shortages, the C. Wing Protection gym was closed a number of times during the year. The P.E. teacher also developed a programme with prisoners who work in the mess and this has been successful with two prisoners achieving certification.

The education unit requires 3 school officers at a minimum to collect prisoners for education. While prison management are very supportive in terms of keeping the education unit open, this academic year has been the worst in terms of numbers of days when only two officers were available. For the first time ever the education centre was closed completely on four occasions during this academic year.

### **Curriculum**

The following were the awards, subject areas and courses available for the academic year 2015-2016.

#### **Awards:**

- ✓ General Learning Certificate – QQI Level 2
- ✓ Certificate in Employability Skills – QQI Level 3
- ✓ Certificate in General Learning – QQI Level 3
- ✓ Certificate in ICT – QQI Level 3
- ✓ Component Specifications at QQI Levels 4 & 5
- ✓ Maths, English, CSPE, Business Studies & Art at Junior Cert Level
- ✓ Maths and Art at Leaving Cert Level

**Certification was achieved in the awards highlighted in blue.**

Accreditation is provided by the following awarding bodies:

- ✓ Department of Education and Science
- ✓ QQI/QQI

- ✓ ECDL
- ✓ Associated Board of the Royal College of Music
- ✓ Rock-School
- ✓ Open University
- ✓ PHECC
- ✓ Red Cross

**Cloverhill Education Unit Curriculum 2015-2016**  
**Available courses**

Subject Area	Course Title	Accrediting Body	Level
<b>Art</b>	Craft	QQI	Level 2
	Drawing	QQI	Level 3
<b>Computer Studies</b>	Computer Studies	QQI	Level 2
	Computer Literacy	QQI	Level 3
	Word Processing	QQI	Level 3
	Spread-sheets	QQI	Level 3
	Data base	QQI	Level 3
	Desk Top Publishing	QQI	Level 3
	Computer Applications	QQI	Level 4
	IT Skills	QQI	Level 4
	Word Processing	QQI	Level 4
	Spreadsheet Methods	QQI	Level 4
	Modules 1-6	ECDL	Basic
	Modules 2,3,4	ECDL	Advanced
<b>Soft Skills</b>	Personal Effectiveness	QQI	Level 3
	Personal and Interpersonal Skills	QQI	Level 3
	Self-Advocacy	QQI	Level 3
	Personal Care and Presentation	QQI	Level 3
	Career Preparation	QQI	Level 3
<b>English</b>	Reading	QQI	Level 2
	Writing	QQI	Level 2
	Setting Learning Goals	QQI	Level 2
	Communications	QQI	Level 3
<b>Maths</b>	Quantitative Problem Solving	QQI	Level 2
	Shape and Space	QQI	Level 2
	Pattern and Relationship	QQI	Level 2
	Quantity and Number	QQI	Level 2

	Maths	QQI	Level 3
	Maths	QQI	Level 4
	Maths	Junior Cert	Foundation
	Maths	Leaving Cert	Foundation
<b>English for Speakers of other languages</b>	ESOL	QQI	Level 3
	ESOL	QQI	Level 4
<b>Music</b>	Sound Engineering	QQI	Level 5
	Music Theory	ABRSM	Grade 1
	Music Theory	ABRSM	Grade 2
<b>Physical Education</b>	Health and Exercise	QQI	Level 2
	Personal Care	QQI	Level 2
	Food Choice and Health	QQI	Level 2
	Relaxation Techniques	QQI	Level 2
	Health Related Fitness	QQI	Level 3
	Health Related Fitness	QQI	Level 4
<b>Red Cross</b>			
	Cardiac First Response	PHECC	Level 1
	<b>CBHFA</b>	<b>Red Cross</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Note: Courses in red denote new courses offered in 2015 – 2016.

## Accreditation Statistics 2015 - 2016

Course Title	Accrediting Body	Level	No of students
<b>Craft</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>8</b>
<b>Drawing</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>2</b>
<b>Computer Studies</b>	<b>QQI</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Computer Literacy</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>3</b>
<b>Word Processing</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>4</b>
<b>Spreadsheets</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>3</b>
<b>Data base</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>1</b>
<b>Word Processing</b>	QQI	Level 4	<b>2</b>
<b>Computer Applications</b>	QQI	Level 4	<b>1</b>
<b>IT Skills</b>	QQI	Level 4	<b>2</b>
<b>Personal Effectiveness</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>21</b>
<b>Personal and Interpersonal Skills</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>16</b>

<b>Self-Advocacy</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>16</b>
<b>Personal Care and Presentation</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>16</b>
<b>Career Preparation</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>16</b>
<b>Reading</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>6</b>
<b>Writing</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>6</b>
<b>Setting Learning Goals</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>6</b>
<b>Quantity and Number</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>11</b>
<b>Shapes &amp; Space</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>2</b>
<b>Pattern &amp; Relationship</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>2</b>
<b>Quantitative Problem</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>2</b>
<b>Maths</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>5</b>
<b>Maths</b>	Junior Cert	Foundation	<b>7</b>
<b>Maths</b>	Leaving Cert	Foundation	<b>2</b>
<b>ESOL</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>5</b>
<b>ESOL</b>	QQI	Level 4	<b>3</b>
<b>Music Theory</b>	ABRSM	Grade 1	<b>3</b>
<b>Music Theory</b>	ABRSM	Grade 2	<b>2</b>
<b>Health and Exercise</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>21</b>
<b>Food Choice &amp; Health</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>6</b>
<b>Relaxation Techniques</b>	QQI	Level 2	<b>3</b>
<b>Health Related Fitness</b>	QQI	Level 3	<b>10</b>
<b>Red Cross</b>	Red Cross	N/A	<b>6</b>

Within the above statistics the following are the total outcomes for QQI:

<b>Total Number of Students receiving accreditation in 2015 -2016</b>	<b>Total number of portfolios presented in 2013 -2014</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Full awards achieved</b>
<b>73</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>No of students for State Exams</b>	Junior Cert Leaving Cert	<b>7</b> <b>2</b>

## Red Cross

The Red Cross prison based programme has been operating in Cloverhill since 2010. This very successful project is a partnership between the Irish Red Cross, Irish Prison Services and Education and Training Board Ireland and also includes a number of prisoners trained as Red Cross Volunteers. As part of this training prisoners agree to abide by the Red Cross code and uphold the principles of the Red Cross.

During the year the Red Cross in Cloverhill Prison was very active and carried out a number of very successful events. Some of these activities include:

The Chinese New Year, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, was celebrated by inviting all Chinese national prisoners in Cloverhill to host a Chinese Cultural Day in the school. There were approximately eight Chinese nationals in custody at that time.. The kitchen prepared Chinese food for the occasion and there was a presentation for other prisoners

The following month, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the Red Cross met with the Inspector of Prisons representatives to discuss the organisation and its benefits to the prison environment as a whole, to the staff and prisoners. Greater involvement by staff and staff being detailed each Wednesday to assist with class work and projects was also discussed.

Six more volunteers received their certificates on completion of their six-month training, in May. They had an opportunity to make a presentation to their families and to spend some time with them, in an open forum setting. There are currently six volunteers with another 20 new volunteers presently doing a six-month Community Based Health First Aid course.

In June a successful amnesty was held to reduce the level of cuttings in Cloverhill.

In the same month a football match between Cloverhill and Wheatfield Irish Red Cross volunteers took place. This, it was reported, was a very successful and enjoyable occasion and we would hope that would become an annual fixture.

Also in June Red Cross Cloverhill Volunteers received training in Mental Health Awareness. This initiative was facilitated by Suicide or Survive.

A new 6-month CBHFA course started in November. A total of 25 volunteers attended for training.

World Aids Day was marked on 1<sup>st</sup> December by holding a number of information meetings and competitions in Cloverhill.

Throughout the month of December the Red Cross in Cloverhill Prison ran a campaign "Staying Alive at Christmas". This campaign targeted both prisoners and their families as a group. The aim was to highlight the risk of drugs at such a vulnerable time of the year, to stay with this initiative into 2017 and to explore in greater depth.

A hugely successful project organised by the Red Cross volunteers collected dry goods for Crosscare. All prisoners in Cloverhill contributed to this. The successful project was acknowledged in the community through The Echo newspaper.

The Visiting Committee was very impressed with the generosity of the prisoners, the organisation involved, and with the amount collected.

Volunteers also published a Christmas newsletter that contained crosswords and puzzles, TV guides and other items of interest. This was printed in various languages.

We are pleased to note that the Psychology service and Community Return Scheme are now on board with the Irish Red Cross in Cloverhill.

The Visiting Committee consider the work done by the Red Cross in Cloverhill to be imaginative, with wide ranging activities and a most worthwhile contribution to the wellbeing of prisoners and their families. We would encourage them to identify any further projects to improve health promotion in the prison and within the community.

## **Pastoral Care**

During the year the RC Chaplain requested a meeting with the Visiting Committee. In the course of our meeting he discussed the role and importance of the Chaplaincy, of all denominations, for the entire prison population, prisoners, staff and their families.

Chaplaincy is a valuable service for the entire prison population (prisoners and staff) and their families. Chaplains have access to the whole prison at all times and have a unique role to play, particularly in prisoner care. However, Cloverhill Prison was the only closed-prison in the Irish Prison Service without a full-time chaplain based in the prison from August 2014 until November 2016. While the current chaplainry quota in Cloverhill Prison since November 2016 is one full-time and two part-time chaplains, this falls short of the three full-time chaplain posts which Cloverhill Prison had up until 2011. It is essential that there is a sufficient allocation of Chaplains in Cloverhill Prison so as to provide a meaningful and consistent service. Allocating one more full-time chaplain to Cloverhill would have a positive impact on the access prisoners and staff have to chaplains. It would also enhance the support offered by chaplaincy to the whole prison population not only through their daily interaction but also at particular times such as bereavement and pre-release

We are happy that we now have a full time chaplain consigned to Cloverhill Prison. We agree that this is an essential service and support the Chaplain's call for one more full-time chaplain to Cloverhill.

Sr. Ann retired this year and we take this opportunity to thank her for her warm kindness, selfless work and the generosity of her time to all prisoners and their families during her time in Cloverhill Prison.



## Conclusion

We are pleased that we achieved our targets in 2016. In highlighting the need for Psychology services and the shortages of Nurses, which was brought to our attention. The Psychology section was established in 2016 and nursing shortage, we have been advised will have a full establishment of nurses in 2017. A full time chaplain has also been appointed.

Issues remain that we hope to see addressed in 2017. Our recommendations include...

- Health Care provisions
- Increase in Nursing Staff
- Library – regularising opening times and the trolley service
- Ending practice of GNIB prisoners in Cloverhill
- Education Unit - City and Gills Certificate Course maintained
- Access to education centre for protection prisoners
- Hubs – We will continue voice our concern and monitor the situation

We propose during the year 2017 to continue to liaise with all prison staff, medical staff, voluntary staff and other sections to identify issues that may arise with the relevant bodies.

We wish to thank the Governor's, the secretary to the committee and all staff in Cloverhill for their cooperation and assistance throughout the year.

The Visiting Committee would also like to thank the Minister for Justice & Equality and the Irish Prison Service. We look forward to working in a continued professional relationship in 2017.

Signed:

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Nuala Ryan  
Chairperson

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Mary O'Neill

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Fintan Hudson