

Dochas Centre Visiting Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

DOCHAS VISITING COMMITTEE

MOUNTJOY PRISON CAMPUS

Dochas Centre Visiting Committee

Mr Alan Shatter.
Minister of Justice and Equality

Dear Minister,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the Visiting Committee of the Dochas Women's Centre located in Mountjoy Prison Campus.

There are five members on this committee and it is my first duty to thank my colleagues Bernie Donnelly and Mary Elliott for the dedication they have shown in carrying out their duties over the past eleven months. I would like to welcome two new recent appointments to the Committee Ms Anne Delaney and Ms Ruth Gallagher and I look forward to working together in the coming year. The work has been challenging at times but we are happy that we are making steady progress in many areas for the betterment of conditions and the wellbeing of the women detained in the Dochas Centre.

I would also like to thank Campus Governor Whelan and Governor O'Connor of the Dochas Centre and her Staff on behalf of the committee for their attention, assistance and cooperation throughout the year.

The committee are deeply grateful to Ms Grainne Hyland for administrative support and the professional and pleasant manner in which she carried out the duties assigned to her.

Mr Noel Cloak (Chairperson)
Dochas Centre Visiting Committee

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Dochas Centre

Visiting Committee Members

Mr Noel Cloak (Chairperson)

Ms Bernie Donnelly (Vice-Chairperson)

Ms Mary Elliott

Ms Ann Delaney

Ms Ruth Gallagher

Statutory Role of Visiting Committee.

Prisons (Visiting Committees) Act, 1925

Mission Statement and Terms of Reference

The committee members have compiled a Mission Statement and Terms of Reference to define our commitment, ethics and the regulations under which we will work. We feel this is important for the good of all concerned in the Dochas Centre. The reporting to the media is of concern and we as a committee have agreed to one clear format in dealing with press releases or interviews which will only happen by agreement through the Chair.

Committee Meetings

The committee met every third Wednesday of the month for the last eleven months.

Monthly and unannounced visits

The committee individually and collectively made several frequent unannounced visits at various times throughout the year. This was very beneficial in observing the operations of the Centre and assessing the needs of the women, their environment, the general atmosphere and the women's residential accommodation. We gathered much information in relation to the concerns and issues of the women. The first thing that became very evident was that most women did not know about the Visiting Committee or their role. It was to this end we compiled a leaflet with information about the committee, our independent status and our role as appointed by the Minister. This was circulated widely. In agreement with management the VC Book is now in situ in the Control Room and members of staff put the names of the women in this book when a request is received to speak to a member of the committee.

First Night in Prison

The committee have compiled a leaflet for women sent to the Dochas Centre for the first time. This is designed to give short, clear information for the first night in the Centre as this can be a very traumatic experience for some women particularly if it is their first time in prison or separation from children particularly if they are the primary carer of the family.

Accommodation

In taking over, as a new committee, we have found that the general state of the centre was shabby.

Buildings

The roof of the Dochas Centre has had problems with leaks. Some staff had to move out of offices to have the roof repaired due to heavy rain. These repairs are now complete.

Residential Accommodation

The kitchens were in a state of disrepair, with doors missing or falling off in some cases. Quite a few appliances were not in working order. These included Berco water boilers, microwaves, fridges, washing machines and tumble dryers. A new kitchen has been installed in one house and further installations are to take place in the coming year. New and extra washing machines have been purchased and installed. A sizable portion of the centre has been painted and this is a work in progress. The committee will continue to monitor this work during the coming year and we are committed to bringing the Centre back to a state of good repair with appliances in working order. The women look after their own rooms which are basic, comfortable and warm. The committee has reservations about some communal recreation rooms being used as bedrooms. This is not acceptable as it denies residents access to these areas when this occurs.

Mothers and Babies

There are 2 babies with their mothers in the Centre. Both babies are on a shared care basis spending time each week with their mother and in the community with their partners. Facilities are good and both women have single rooms at ground level. Governor O' Connor and staff have been very accommodating in preparing, setting up and monitoring needs in both situations.

Outside

Flowers were planted in the flowerbeds.

Nets

The nets are working well with very little contraband getting through.

Overcrowding

While the Dochas Centre has been built to accommodate approx. 85 women, the average number of women on any given day was between 120 and 130 as per Dochas records. The refurbishment of the new wing has been completed by very dedicated and hardworking staff. It is a much needed and very welcome addition to the Centre and we will work closely with management to ensure that it will be occupied in the very near future.

Health Centre

The Health Centre housed any number of women from 2 to 6 as observed during our visits. The use of the centre for housing women without medical needs is not acceptable.

Visiting Room

The children's play area of the visiting room has been cleaned, toys cleaned and/or replaced, stocked with new books, colouring sheets and crayons supplied for the children while visiting the Dochas Centre. Two women have been given the task for the upkeep of this area on a continuing basis to ensure that toys are safe, clean and supplies are stocked up for visiting times. They will report back to the committee when supplies are needed.

The committee received many complaints of visits being curtailed because there were no toilet facilities available to visitors. Visitors have had to leave because of this and the time getting back through security again meant visiting time was over. On many occasions, children had to be taken outside the centre to use a toilet. The Visiting Room doubles up as a dining hall which means that visitors have to leave and visits could not be extended to make up for this lost time. The committee deem visits from family and loved ones of paramount importance for the wellbeing of the women. It was to this end that the committee pursued this as a priority.

The toilet off the Visiting Room is now available and accessible to visitors. This will maximize time for the women with their children and families, some of whom travel long distances for the visit. This toilet facility will be used by visitors only, monitored, searched and locked by the supervisory staff on duty. It is wholly unacceptable that visiting time with families especially children should be curtailed for any reason. The committee would like to see more contact between the women and their children where there are no child protection issues.

Communication

We noted the frustration of women in relation to getting answers to questions or requests put to staff. Receiving answers to their questions, whether they be negative or positive, is essential to alleviate this sense of frustration. This is an area where staff could benefit from inservice professional development or upskilling.

Mail to and from the Dochas Centre and between Prisons

The committee continue to be concerned at the length of time letters take to arrive to the women or to the recipients of letters from the women when sent through the mail. Some have claimed an inordinate delay of weeks or in some cases months. Mail appears to take quite some time to be received through internal post between prisons also. The Committee will monitor this situation.

Health

Physical Health

Two women complained about not being able to get adequate pain relief or access to hospital for X Ray for further medical intervention to diagnose and manage pain. This is not acceptable. Treatment available to the women in the community should be maintained while in the Dochas Centre.

Mental Health

Women with mental issues were housed in the Health Centre or in extreme cases were transferred to the Central Mental Hospital. The committee does have concerns in the area of staff skills in relation to recognising potential crisis incidents. Staff must exercise a degree of understanding and empathy particularly as many of the women have come from homes where they have suffered domestic, sexual and psychological violence. Some women have left children to the care of family or social services. Some women lose their homes as the family is broken up when the mother goes to prison. These women need a lot of emotional support and need to be treated with a level of empathy.

Dental Health

Dental Health is very inaccessible unless it is an emergency. Women are not having their teeth looked after in a manner that is acceptable. Long term Prisoners have not been able to have their teeth cleaned and scaled. Many have concerns that they will lose teeth through gum disease before their release date. Follow up in dental care must take priority. This is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

Well being

The committee is concerned about the limited prison chaplaincy resources. The spiritual needs of the prisoners are not being met. This is very important for the women while they are in the Dochas Centre. The committee will pursue other avenues through the voluntary sector to try and resolve this. Because of the cost implications, the authorities are unable to commit to resourcing extra staff.

We are committed to ensuring that the women's health and well-being is looked after. The current Chaplaincy team are doing an excellent job but need more resources to adequately meet the needs of the women.

Health and Safety

The Committee have asked Management to upgrade the Notices for Fire Exits and Assembly Points. Frequency of Fire Drills will be monitored.

New Listening Service

The new listening service is now up and running in the Dochas. Candidates were interviewed selected and trained by the Samaritans. We have had very positive feedback from both the trained listeners and the women generally. A small private room has been allocated specifically for this purpose kitted out with chairs, table, tea making facilities and supplies.

It provides emotional support for anyone experiencing a crisis particularly during the night when other services are not available. Notices have been placed throughout the Centre.

This is an excellent development and credit is due to all those involved in its inauguration.

Physical Exercise

We received many complaints about the inaccessibility of the Gym due to staff shortages and/or reassignment to other duties. Many women cited the Gym as one of the most important period of their prison day. We have spoken to a large number of women about this as the Gym closure became a persistent and on-going complaint from the women. This is key to the wellbeing of the women in alleviating stress, frustrations and tension. Closing the Gym is unacceptable and the committee will monitor this very closely so that closures, if any, will be kept to a minimum.

Education

It is noted that some of the women have had little or no schooling. Women according to their needs should have access to education and training in prison which would enable them to gain the skills and qualifications they need to hold down a job and have a positive role in society. Many of the women have never worked.

Classes are currently available to the women, some of which are at FETAC level 4,5 and 6: Business Administration, Mentoring, Computer Literacy, Crafts, Numeracy, Literacy, English at Junior and Leaving Cert level. The committee will work closely with the new Head of Education in the coming year.

Staffing

The staffing levels were of great concern to the Visiting Committee at the beginning of the year, particularly at management level. We welcome the appointment of a new member of staff at Assistant Governor level, Mr Paul Flynn. We would like to thank Director General Mr Michael Donnellan and Campus Governor Whelan for their cooperation in this. This has impacted very positively on the centre as it has distributed the very onerous work load which had been carried by Governor O'Connor.

Shop

Agreement and commitment has been given by Management that the shop which is currently housed in a small room will be relocated in a much larger space. An awning has been installed over the shop door to keep women dry while they queue outside sometimes for long period in all weather.

The stock available to the women is also limited due to space constraints. It is hoped that there will be extra and more varied stock when the work is complete on the new shop.

Exiting Dochas

The Committee will work on an Exit Pack for women being released. It is felt that a Citizens Information pack giving details of housing, Social Welfare entitlements, children's allowance should be given to women particularly those who have served long sentences.

Non Custodial Measures

The committee would like to see an open style prison or alternatives to imprisonment. The meeting convened in June by the Irish Probation Service in which there were a multiplicity of agencies and bodies has set a platform for forward action. Some of these bodies could be used to create work placement opportunities where a woman could leave prison to go to work each day. This would provide training for the woman and help towards her social integration. The committee will be advocating the implementation of the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2010. We will be looking more closely at international standards in the area of criminal justice with respect to the gender specific needs of women and alternatives to imprisonment.

It is very clear that a number of women detained long term in the Dochas could benefit from external education, training to reinstate self-worth and confidence in preparation for reintegration in their communities on release. Some women have outgrown or already completed classes available. An independent programme drawn up specifically for each woman would enhance her rehabilitation and personal development.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mr Noel Cloak (Chairperson)

Signature _____ Date _____

Ms Bernie Donnelly (Vice-Chairperson)

Signature _____ Date _____

Ms Mary Elliott

Signature _____ Date _____

Ms Ann Delaney

Signature _____ Date _____

Ms Ruth Gallagher

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2012
COISTE CUAIRTE IONAD DÓCHAS
CAMPAS PHRÍOSÚN MHUINSEO

An tUasal Alan Shatter.
An tAire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais

A Aire, a chara,
Tugann sé pléisiúr dom Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Ionad Dóchas do Mhná atá lonnaithe i gCampas Phríosún Mhuinseo a chur i láthair.

Tá cúigear comhaltaí ar an gcoiste seo agus is é mó chéad dualgas buíochas a ghabháil le mo chomhghleacaithe Bernie Donnelly agus Mary Elliott as an díograis atá táispeánta acu maidir lena ndualgais a chomhlíonadh le mí dhéag anuas. Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh dhá cheapachán ar an gCoiste le gairid, an tUasal Anne Delaney agus an tUasal Ruth Gallagher agus tá mé ag súil le bheith ag obair in éineacht leo an bhliain seo chugainn.

Bhí an obair dúslánach ag amanna agus táimid sásta go bhfuil dul chun cinn seasta á dhéanamh acu ina lán réimsí maidir le feabhsú riochtaí fholláine na mban atá coinnithe in Ionad Dóchas.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le Gobharnóir an Champais, an tUasal Whelan agus le Gobharnóir Ionad Dóchas, an tUasal O'Connor agus lena Foireann thar ceann an choiste as a n-aird, a gcuidiú agus a gcomhoibriú le linn na bliana.

Tá an coiste fíorbhíoch don Uasal Gráinne Hyland as an tacaíocht riaracháin agus as an dóigh ghairmiúil agus phléisiúrtha inar chomhlíon sí na dualgais a sannadh di.

An tUasal Noel Cloak (Cathaoirleach)
Coiste Cuairte Ionad Dóchas

Ionad Dóchas Comhaltaí an Choiste Cuairte

An tUasal Noel Cloak (Cathaoirleach)
An tUasal Bernie Donnelly (Leas-Chathaoirleach)
An tUasal Mary Elliott
An tUasal Ann Delaney
An tUasal Ruth Gallagher

Ról Reachtúil an Choiste Cuairte Prisons (Visiting Committees) Act, 1925

An Ráiteas Misin agus Téarmaí Tagartha

Rinne comhaltaí an Choiste Ráiteas Misin agus Téarmaí Tagartha a thiomsú chun ár dtiomantas, eitic agus rialacháin faoina n-oibreimid a shainiú. Mothaímid go bhfuil sé seo tábhachtach ar mhaithe le gach duine lena mbaineann in Ionad Dóchas. Tá an tuairisciú do na meáin ina bhuairt toisc gur chomhaontaigh muidne mar choiste ar fhormaid shoiléir amháin maidir le déileáil le preaseisiúintí nó agallaimh nach dtarlóidh ach le comhaontú tríd an gCathaoirleach.

Cruinnithe an Choiste

Bhuail an coiste le chéile gach trí Chéadaoin de gach mí le mí dheag anuas.

Cuairteanna míosúla agus cuairteanna gan fhógra

Thug an coiste cuairteanna gan fhógra aonair agus i dteannta a chéile go minic i rith na bliana ag amanna éagsúla. Bhí sé sin an-tairbhiúil maidir le hoibríochtaí an Ionaid a bhreathnú agus measúnú a dhéanamh ar riachtanais na mban, a dtimpeallacht, ar an atmaisféar ginearálta agus ar chóiríocht chónaitheach na mban. Bhailfomar a lán eolais maidir le buarthaí agus ceisteanna na mban. Ba é an chéad rud a bhí an-fhollasach nach raibh a fhios ag an gcuid is mó de na mná faoin gCoiste Cuairte nó faoina ról. Ba é chun na críche sin a thiomsaíomar bileog le heolas faoin gcoiste, ár stádas neamhspleách agus ár ról arna cheapadh ag an Aire. Scaipeadh é seo go forleithheadach. I gcomhaontú leis an mbainistíocht tá an Leabhar VC in situ sa Seomra Rialaithe agus cuireann na baill foirne ainmneacha na mban sa leabhar sin nuair a fhaightear iarratas chun labhairt le comhalta den choiste.

An Chéad Oíche sa Phríosún

Thiomsaigh an coiste bileog do mhná a chuirtear chuig Ionad Dóchas den chéad uair. Tá sé seo cheaptha chun mionfhaisnéis shoiléir a thabhairt dóibh faoina gcéad oíche san Ionad toisc go bhféadfadh sé sin a bheith ina eispéreas an-trámach ag roinnt ban go háirithe más é a gcéad uair sa phríosún nó an chéad uair a bheidh siad scartha óna bpáistí más príomhchúramaí an teaghlaigh iad.

Cóiríocht

Agus ceannas á ghlacadh againn, mar choiste úr, cheapamar go raibh riocht ginearálta an ionaid míshlachtmhar.

Foirgnimh

Bhí fadhbanna ann le díon Ionad Dóchas mar gheall ar sceitheadh. Bhí ar roinnt baill foirne bogadh amach as oifigí chun an díon a dheisiú de bharr sceite. Tá na deisiúcháin sin curtha i gcrích anois.

Cóiríocht Chónaitheach

Bhí na cistineacha damáiste le doirse ar iarraidh nó ag titim de i roinnt cásanna. Bhí roinnt mhaith gaireas nach raibh ag obair mar is ceart. Ina measc siúd bhí na coirí uisce Berco, micreathonnta, cuisneoirí, meaisíní níocháin agus triomadóirí rothlamacha. Suiteáladh cistin úr i dteach amháin agus agus tá suiteálacha eile le déanamh an bhliain amach romhainn. Rinneadh meaisíní níocháin úra agus breise a cheannach agus a shuiteáil. Rinneadh méid suntasach den ionad a pheinteáil agus tá an obair sin ar siúl. Leanfaidh an coiste de mhonatóireacht a dhéanamh ar an obair sin le linn na bliana amach romhainn agus táimid tiomanta don Ionad a dheisiú agus na gairis a chur ag obair mar is ceart. Tugann na mná aire dá gcuid seomraí féin, seomraí atá bunúsach, compardach agus te. Tá agúis ag an gcoiste faoi roinnt seomraí caitheamh aimsire comhchoiteanna a bheith á n-úsáid mar sheomraí leapa. Níl sé sin inghlactha toisc nach bhfaigheann cónaitheoirí rochtain ar na láithreacha sin nuair a tharlaíonn sé sin.

Máithreacha agus Leanaí

Tá beirt mháithreacha lena leanaí san Ionad. Tá an dá leanbh ar bhonn cúram roinnte agus caitheann siad roinnt ama gach seachtain lena máthair agus sa phobal lena bpáirtnéirí. Tá na saoráidí maith agus tá seomraí singile ag an mbeirt bhan ar leibhéal na talún. Bhí an Gobharnóir O' Connor agus an fhoireann an-chuidiúil maidir le hullmhú, socrú suas agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar riachtanais sa dá chás.

Lasmuigh

Cuireadh bláthanna sna ceapacha bláthanna.

Eangacha

Tá na heangacha ag obair go maith agus níl mórán contrabhanna ag fáil isteach.

Plódú

Cé gur tógadh Ionad Dóchas chun thart ar 85 bean a choinneáil, ba é an meánlíon ban a bhíonn ann ar lá faoi leith ar bith idir 120 agus 130 de réir thaifid Dóchas. Rinne baill foirne an-tiomanta agus dhíograiseacha an sciathán úr a athchóiriú. Tá an-ghá leis agus is breisiúchán é ar an Ionad a bhfuil an-fhálte roimhe agus oibreimid go dlúth leis an mbainistíocht lena chinntiú go mbeidh sé áitithe go luath.

An tIonad Sláinte

Coinníodh líon ar bith ban ó 2 go 6 san Ionad Sláinte faoi mar a bhreathnaíomar le linn ár gcuairteanna. Níl sé inghlactha an t-ionad a úsáid le mná nach bhfuil riachtanais leighis acu a choinneáil.

An Seomra Cuairte

Rinneadh láthair shúgartha na bpáistí sa seomra cuairte a ghlanadh, glanadh na bréagáin ann nó cuireadh bréagáin úra ina n-áit, cuireadh leabhair úra ann, agus cuireadh bileoga agus criáin úra ar fáil do pháistí agus iad ag tabhairt cuairte ar Ionad Dóchas. Tugadh an tasc do bheirt bhan chun an láthair a choinneáil slachtmhar ar bhonn leanúnach lena chinntiú go bhfuil na bréagáin sábháilte, glan agus go bhfuil go leor soláthairtí ann nuair is gá.

Fuair an coiste a lán gearán maidir le cuairteanna a ghiorrú toisc nach raibh saoráidí leithris ar bith ar fáil do chuairteoirí. B'éigean do chuairteoirí fágáil de bharr sin agus faoin am a ndeachaigh siad ar ais tríd an tslándáil bhí an t-am cuairte thart. B'éigean páistí a thabhairt taobh amuigh den ionad chun leithreas a úsáid go leor amanna. Úsáidtear an Seomra Cuairte le haghaidh halla bia chomh maith agus i ngeall air sin bíonn ar na cuairteoirí fágáil agus ní rabhthas ábalta cuairteanna a shíneadh chun an t-am sin a cailleadh a chúiteamh. Measann an coiste go bhfuil cuairteanna ó theaghlaigh agus ó dhaoine muirneacha fíorthábhachtach d'fholláine na mban. Is é sin an fáth gur thug an coiste tús áite don chás sin.

Tá an leithreas amach ón Seomra Cuairte ar fáil agus inrochtana do chuairteoirí anois. Déanfaidh sé sin am na mban lena bpáistí agus lena dteaghlaigh, cuid díobh a thaistilíonn achair fhada don chuairt, a uasmhéadú. Is iad cuairteoirí amháin a úsáidfidh an tsaoráid sin agus déanfaidh an fhoireann mhaoirseachta a bheidh ar dualgas monatóireacht air, é a chuardach agus é a ghlasáil. Tá sé go hiomlán doghlactha an t-am cuairte le teaghlaigh go háirithe le páistí a ghiorrú ar chúis ar bith. Ba mhaith leis an gcoiste níos mó teagmhála a fheiceáil idir na mná agus a bpáistí gan fadhbanna cosanta páistí ar bith a bheith ann.

Cumarsáid

Shonraíomar frustrachas na mban i dtaca le freagraí a fháil ar cheisteanna a chuireann siad ar an bhfoireann nó iarratais a thugann siad dóibh. Tá sé ríthábhachtach go bhfaigheann siad freagraí ar a gceisteanna, cibé acu freagraí diúltacha nó dearfacha, chun an mothú frustrachais sin a fhuascailt. Is é sin réimse ina bhféadfadh an fhoireann tairbhe a bhaint as forbairt ghairmiúil inseirbhíse nó uasoiliúint.

Post chuig Ionad Dóchas agus Post ón Ionad agus idir Príosúin

Leanann an coiste de bhuaire a bheith orthu faoin fhad ama a ghlacann sé do na mná a litreacha a fháil nó d'fhaighteoirí na litreacha ó na mná a fháil nuair a chuirtear tríd an bpost iad. Mhaígh cuid díobh moill iomarcach seachtainí, nó míonna i roinnt cásanna. Tá an chuma go nglacann sé a lán ama fosta post a fháil tríd an bpost inmheánach idir príosúin. Déanfaidh an Coiste monatóireacht ar an gcás sin.

Sláinte

Sláinte Coirp

Rinne beirt bhan gearáin nach raibh siad ábalta go leor faoiseamh péine a fháil nó rochtain a fháil ar an ospidéal le haghaidh X-gha chun idirghabháil leighis eile a fháil chun pian a dhiagnóisiú agus a láimhseáil. Ní sé sin inghlactha. Ba cheart an chóireáil atá ar fáil do mhná sa phobal a choinneáil agus iad in Ionad Dóchas.

Meabhairshláinte

Coinníodh mná le fadhbanna meabhrach san Ionad Sláinte nó i gcásanna foircneacha rinneadh iad a aistriú go dtí an tOspidéal Lárnach Mearbhaill. Tá buarthaí ag an gcoiste sa réimse um scileanna foirne i dtaca le teagmhais ghéarchéime fhéideartha a shainaitheint. Ba

cheart don fhoireann méid áirithe tuisceana agus ionbhá a thaispeáint go háirithe toisc go dtagann a lán de na mná ó bhailte inar fhulaing siad foréigean baile, gnéasach nó síceolaíoch. D'fhág roinnt de na mná a bpáistí faoi chúram an teaghlaigh nó na seirbhísí sóisialta. Cailleann roinnt ban a mbailte toisc go scarann an teaghlach nuair a théann an mháthair go príosún. Bíonn a lán tacaíochta mothúchánaí de dhíth ar na mná sin agus ba cheart déileáil leo le leibhéal ionbhá.

Sláinte Fiacla

Tá sé an-deacair Sláinte Fiacla a fháil mura bhfuil sé ina chás práinneach. Níltear ag tabhairt aire d'fhiacla ban ar dhóigh inghlactha. Níl Príosúnaigh Fhadtéarmacha ábalta a bhfiacla a fháil glanta agus scálaithe. Tá buarthaí ag a lán díobh go gcaillfidh siad fiacla trí ghalar drandail roimh dháta a scaoilte amach. Ní mór tús áite a thabhairt d'athleanúint i gcúram fiaclóireachta. Ní só é seo ach riachtanas.

Folláine

Tá an coiste buartha faoi na hacmhainní teoranta maidir le séiplíneacht an phríosúin. Níltear ag freastal ar riachtanais eaglasta na bpríosúnach. Tá sé sin an-tábhachtach do na mná agus iad in Ionad Dóchas. Féachfaidh an coiste do bhealaí eile tríd an earnáil dheonach chun iarraidh a thabhairt é sin a réiteach. I ngeall ar na himpleachtaí costais, níl na húdaráis ábalta tiomnú d'fhoireann bhreise a fhoinsiú. Táimid tiomanta dá chinntiú go dtabharfar aire do shláinte agus d'fholláine na mban. Tá an fhoireann Séiplíneachta reatha ag déanamh jab ar dóigh ach tá níos mó acmhainní de dhíth orthu chun freastal go himleor ar riachtanais na mban.

Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht

D'iarr an Coiste ar an lucht Bainistíochta na Fógraí i gcomhair na mBealaí Éalaithe Dóiteáin agus na Pointí Tionóil a uasghrádú. Ba cheart monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar mhinicíocht na nDruileanna Dóiteáin.

Seirbhís Éisteachta Úr

Tá an tseirbhís éisteachta úr i bhfeidhm anois in Ionad Dóchas. Roghnaíodh na hiarrthóirí trí agallamh agus chuir na Samáraighe oiliúint orthu. Fuaireamar aiseolas an-dearfach ó na héisteoirí oilte agus ó na mná i gcoitinne. Rinneadh seomra beag príobháideach a leithdháileadh go sainiúil chun na críche sin agus tá sé feistithe le cathaoireacha, tábla, saoráidí agus soláthairtí déanta tae.

Cuireann sé tacaíocht mhothúcháinach ar fáil do dhuine ar bith a dtarlaíonn géarchéim dóibh i rith na hoíche nuair nach mbíonn seirbhísí ar bith eile ar fáil. Cuireadh fógraí suas ar fud an Ionaid.

Is forbairt iontach é seo agus tá creidiúint ag dul do gach duine a bhí bainteach ina thionscnamh.

Aclaíocht

Fuaireamar a lán gearán faoi neamh-inrochtaineacht an Halla Aclaíochta i ngeall ar easnaimh foirne agus/nó athshannadh do dhualgais eile. Dúirt a lán ban gurb é an Halla Aclaíochta ceann de na tréimhsí is tábhachtaí dá lá sa phríosún. Labhraíomar le líon mór de na mná faoi toisc go raibh dúnadh an Halla Aclaíochta ina ghearán seasta agus leanúnach ó na mná. Tá sé seo an-tábhachtach d'fholláine na mban chun strus, frustrachas agus teannas a fhuascailt. Tá dúnadh an Halla Aclaíochta doghlactha agus déanfaidh an

coiste dlúthmhonatóireacht air seo ionas go gcoinneofar dúnadh ar bith chomh íseal agus is féidir.

Oideachas

Tá sé tugtha faoi deara nach bhfuil scolaíocht ar bith nó beagán scolaíochta faighte ag cuid de na mná. De réir a gcuid riachtanas ba cheart do mhná rochtain a bheith acu ar oideachas agus oiliúint sa phríosún a chuirfí ar a gcumas na scileanna agus cáilíochtaí atá de dhíth orthu a ghnóthú chun post a choinneáil agus chun ról dearfach a bheith acu sa tsochaí. Tá a lán de na mná nár oibrigh riamh.

Tá ranganna ar fáil do mhná faoi láthair, cuid díobh ar leibhéal FETAC 4, 5 agus 6: Riarachán Gnó, Meantóireacht, Ríomhaireacht, Litearthacht Ríomhairí, Ceardaíocht, Uimhearthacht, Béarla ar an leibhéal Sóisearach agus Ardteistiméireachta. Oibreoidh an coiste go dlúth leis an gCeannaire Oideachais sa bhliain amach romhainn.

Soláthar Foirne

Bhí na leibhéil soláthair foirne ina mórábhar imní don Choiste Cuairte ag tús na bliana, go háirithe ar an leibhéal bainistíochta. Cuirimid fáilte roimh cheapachán ball úr foirne ar leibhéal Gobharnóra Chúnta, an tUasal Paul Flynn. Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leis an Ard-Stiúrthóir, an tUasal Michael Donnellan agus Gobharnóir an Champais, an tUasal Whelan as a gcomhoibriú maidir leis seo. Bhí tionchar an-dearfach aige sin ar an ionad toisc gur leithdháileadh an t-ualach oibre an-trom a rinne an Gobharnóir O'Connor leis.

Siopa

Tá comhaontú agus tiomantas déanta ag an lucht Bainistíochta go ndéanfar an siopa atá i seomra beag faoi láthair a athlonnú go dtí spás i bhfad níos mó. Rinneadh díonbhrat a shuiteáil os cionn dhoras an tsiopa le mná a choinneáil tirim agus iad ag fanacht sa sciúine ar an taobh amuigh ar feadh tréimhse fada i ngach cineál aimsire.

Tá an stoc atá ar fáil do mhná teoranta chomh maith de bharr srianta spáis. Táthar ag súil go mbeid tuilleadh stoic agus stoc níos éagsúla ann nuair a bheidh an obair ar an siopa úr curtha i gcrích.

Ag Dul Amach as Ionad Dóchas

Oibreoidh an Coiste ar Phaca Amach do mhná a scaoiltear amach. Ceaptar gur cheart Paca Faisnéise do Shaoránaigh ina dtugtar sonraí faoi thithíoch, teidlíochtaí Leasa Shóisialaigh, liúntais páistí a thabhairt do mhná go háirithe iad siúd a bhfuil pianbhreitheanna fada curtha isteach acu.

Bearta Neamhchoinneála

Bheadh dúil ag an gcoiste príosún oscailte nó malairtí ar phríosúnacht a fheiceáil. Rinneadh ardán i gcomhair oibriú ar aghaidh a leagan amach ag an gcruinniú a thionóil Seirbhís Promhaidh na hÉireann i mí an Mheithimh ag a raibh iliomad gníomhaireachtaí agus comhlachtaí. D'fhéadfaí cuid de na comhlachtaí é sin a úsáid chun deiseanna socrúcháin oibre a chruthú sa chás go bhféadfadh bean an príosún a fhágáil chun dul ag obair gach lá. Chuirfeadh sé sin oiliúint ar fáil don bhean agus chuideoidh sé lena himeascadh sóisialta. Beidh an coiste ag moladh chur i bhfeidhm Rialacha na Náisiún Aontaithe um Chóir Banphríosúnach agus Bearta Neamhchoinneála um Banchiontóirí (Rialacha Bangkok) arna nglacadh ag Comhthionól Ginearálta na Náisiún Aontaithe i mí na Nollag 2010. Beidh dlúthbhreathnú á dhéanamh againn ar chaighdeáin idirnáisiúnta sa réimse um cheartas coiriúil maidir le riachtanais shainiúla inscne na mban agus malairtí ar phríosúnacht.

Tá sé an-soiléir go mbainfeadh líon ban atá faoi choinneáil ar bhonn fadtéarmach in Ionad Dóchas tairbhe as oideachas seachtrach, oiliúint chun féinfhiúntas agus muinín a fháil ar ais agus iad ag ullmhú dá n-ath-imeascadh ina bpobail ar a scaoileadh amach. Tá cuid de na mná atá fásaithe thar ranganna nó a bhfuil ranganna déanta acu cheana. Chuirfeadh clár neamhspleách a dhréachtófaí go sainiúil do gach bean feabhas ar a hathshláunú nó ar a forbairt phearsanta.

Síniú _ An tUasal Noel Cloak (Cathaoirleach)

Síniú _ An tUasal Bernie Donnelly (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Síniú _ An tUasal Mary Elliott

Síniú _ An tUasal Ann Delaney

Síniú _ An tUasal Ruth Gallagher

Dáta

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