

VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2012

The Midlands Prison Visiting Committee have a function of ensuring that all prisoners in the care of the Irish Prison Service at the Midlands Prison are treated fairly and humanely and also with dignity and respect.

The Committee meet in the Prison on the second Thursday of every month whereby we conduct our monthly meetings and meet with any prisoners requesting to see us. Also two members visit on one other visit during that month and if requested by Prison Management on other occasions which are very rare.

On our many visits during the year of 2012 we listened to prisoner complaints, concerns and requests privately and in confidence. We raised all issues with the authorities at Governor Level and sought to bring all issues to a satisfactory conclusion. We wish to say that all Staff and Services working within the Prison and those external services working with Prisoners do so in a professional manner with the interest of the Prisoners welfare a priority.

PRISONERS REQUESTS

In 2012 the Committee met with thirty prisoners during the course of the year and heard all concerns presented to them by the prisoners. We mention some of the issues raised at our meetings below.

- Visitors Searching
- Inter-Prison Transfers
- Loss of Clothing
- Temporary Release Escorts on Compassionate Grounds
- Complaints regarding Staff Members
- Health Care Issues

Visitors Searching

Prisoners have complained that the Search Dog indicates on visitors that have no contact with drugs or prohibited articles of any kind. They feel aggrieved that they are offered screened visits on these occasions. Having discussed the matter with Management we the committee are satisfied that the passive drug dog and O.S.G Unit have helped enormously in keeping drugs out of the prison.

Inter Prison Transfers

During 2012 a lot of prisoners we met with had complained that they were being transferred to Midlands from Dublin Prisons and did not request such a transfer. They felt aggrieved as it disrupted contact with family members and put extra pressure on their families to travel to Portlaoise.

Unfortunately due to the large volume of prisoners in the system and operational constraints due to the refurbishment of Mountjoy and other Prisons we are satisfied that Management at the Midlands Prison are obliged to facilitate these transfers until such time as refurbishment has been completed in other prisons. We also understand that Midlands will shortly be the largest prison in the country with their capacity reaching 900 prisoners in 2013.

Loss of Clothing

Due to the high number of inter-prison transfers we had some complaints from prisoners of clothing being misplaced or lost. In our investigations, we found that the Prison, having conducted an inquiry, have compensated prisoners if they find that any clothing was accidentally lost during the course of these transfers taking place.

Temporary Release

During the year prisoners have requested compassionate release to visit graves of loved ones, or family day release for communions or confirmations.

The granting of temporary release for communions and confirmations is not encouraged.

However the Prison facilitates the visits to graves and funeral homes wherever practicable and possible.

Complaints regarding Staff Members

One issue arose regarding alleged verbal abuse by an Officer. The Committee are satisfied that the Complaints Procedure in place in the prison deals with these issues appropriately.

Health Care Issues

A small number of prisoners were unhappy with Medical Care. They had issues regarding doctors visits. They appeared to favour one doctor and it was not always possible to get an appointment with him. The committee is satisfied that Health Care are providing satisfactory service with the resources presently in place. We are happy to hear that there will be a further full time doctor joining the team shortly. This should help alleviate the queuing time for prisoners.

SENTENCE MANAGEMENT

Prisoner applications for temporary release and transfers are considered on an on-going basis. The Midlands Prison conduct a monthly review meeting attended by A Prison Operations Official, Prison Governor and Heads of Functions i.e. Chief, Chaplain, Work & Training and Education in order to access applications and agree suitable prisoners for early release and transfers to open centre's.

PROBATION SERVICE

The Prison Service and the Probation Service have a long history of working in partnership in managing persons convicted of offences who are committed to prison. Child and Community protection continues to be to the forefront of the Probation Services. We the Visiting Committee acknowledge that the Probation continue to engage with community based services both statutory and voluntary and more recently are carrying out assessments and organizing placement work in conjunction with their community based colleagues and prison management for the Community Returns Programme.

The Probation Service in conjunction with the Irish Prison Service have developed 'The Living with Life forum, for Life sentenced prisoners. This focuses on the development of a forum to allow men serving a life sentence equip themselves with adequate information and skills to serve their life sentence in a positive and social manner.

VISIT TO SHELTON ABBEY

This year the Committee had the pleasure of visiting Shelton Abbey in October. We met with a member of the Shelton Abbey Visiting Committee and the Prison Management Team. The committee commend the Management & Staff on their excellent work and facilities afforded to prisoners prior to and in preparation for their release. The farm work and garden facilities are excellent and their work with Bothar is to be commended. The Education Facilities are excellent also.

The committee agree that more of the prison population should be transferred to Shelton in preparation for release, in particular longer term prisoners. The committee find that, in their discussions with some prisoners in Midlands Prison, they are not prepared for release and are stressed about coping on release.

WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Committee welcome Mr Michael Donnellan to the Prison Service and looked forward to working with him. Chairperson Colm Wylie would like to express thanks to Mr Donlon for his address to the Chairs meeting during the year and welcomed his ideas for change and reform.

We also welcome Governor Martin Mullen to Portlaoise as the Campus Governor.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Committee were delighted to visit the new kitchen which was opened during the year. It provides work/training for an increased no of prisoners and is a necessity to service the increasing numbers in the Midlands Prison with the addition of the G & E Wings. We also welcome the opening of the New Wing. We had hoped that some of this facility could be used as a drug free unit initially but on speaking with Gov Dawson we are satisfied that Management are endeavoring to have other parts of the prison drug free under the new **Incentivised Regimes Programme**. This programme was initially piloted on C2 and C3 Divisions and following on from the excellent work there the programme is currently being rolled out to the rest of the Prison. We welcome this Programme to the Midlands Prison and see it as natural progression.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The Midlands Prison Medical Services is led by two full time Doctors and a staffing of qualified nurses to care for the diverse needs of the prisoners. They also provide Dental Care, Chiropody, Drug Counsellors, Psychiatric Care and Optical Clinics on an ongoing basis. The level of care shown to all prisoners in their care is second to none and we commend the Medical team in doing so. However during this year we did find some prisoners had issues regarding their treatment but we understand that there should be another full time doctor joining the team in 2013 which should alleviate any issues.

The Committee noted that a lot of resources are taken up escorting prisoners to hospital for x rays. We would recommend that the possibility of that facility being available within the prison should be explored.

EDUCATION

The Education Centre is committed to working with prison management to extend the length of time which students can access classes on a daily basis. There are increased demands on their service due to the increase in prison population at the Midlands They are looking forward to fulfilling their commitments to maintain access to education for students.

Education provision in the Midlands continues to develop according to the learning needs of prisoners. In line with the vocational focus of the education programme, there is a strong emphasis on personal development, literacy and basic skills and the acquisition of appropriate certification. The Education Centre continues to support learners in meeting their personal learning goals and to achieve skills and accreditation which assists them to progress upon release from prison.

Gaisce Awards

President Michael D Higgins visited the Education Centre, Midlands Prison on Friday November 9th to present Gold Gaisce medals. Only 70 Gold medals were awarded in the whole island of Ireland last year which puts the significance of the two presented in the Midlands into context. An Gaisce – The President's Award has been running in the School in the Midlands Prison since September 2008. Seven participants were awarded with the Bronze Medal in May 2009. Five Silver and five Bronze Medals were awarded in May 2010. In October 2011, two Gold Medals, two Silver Medals and one Bronze medal were awarded. At the 2012 Awards Ceremony, two Gold Medals, one Silver Medal and three Bronze Medals were awarded and presented by the President Michael D Higgins. The two students who received Gold Medals in 2011 were only the second and third students to receive the Gold Medal while in prison. They were, however, the first in the country to have completed Bronze, Silver and Gold while in prison. This year's two Gold recipients repeated that pattern.

The Committee commend School Principal Ms. Linda Tynan and staff on their continued hard work and commitment in providing ongoing support to the Prison Community.

PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

The Psychology team in the Midlands Prison aim to respond to the mental health and offence related needs of those detained in the Prison. A defining characteristic of the population is the number of men serving long or indeterminate sentences. The service find this presents both challenges and opportunities to the team in meeting the services dual mandate of mental health and offence work. The Visiting Committee would like to commend the Psychology team in the Midlands for their continued commitment in working with the increasing numbers in the Midlands Prison.

CHAPLAINCY

The Committee found that the chaplaincy formed a vital part of the prison communities every day lives. They offers weekly masses, confessions and pastoral care to all divisions of the prison. Choirs and Readers are trained and prepared for the liturgies. Chaplains visit the Landings on a daily basis and are available to all prisoners who wish to speak to them privately or in a group. Chaplains maintain contact with family members especially during times of bereavement or serious sickness. Officers frequently direct chaplains to prisoners who are vulnerable or who are in particularly difficult circumstances. The chaplaincy also facilitates Bereavement Groups for those who experience bereavement while in prison. The chaplains are strongly supported in their work.

KITCHEN/CATERING

The Committee commend the Catering Staff in the prison on the quality of food and hygiene standards maintained on an ongoing basis. Since the opening of the New Kitchen this year it has afforded the opportunity for employment and training for higher numbers of prisoners. We congratulate the team on their exceptionally high scores on their annual food audits as more demands are made on the delivery of high quality service due to the increasing prisoner population. Prisoners working in this area receive training and accreditation/certificates in City and Guilds.

INDUSTRIAL AREA/WORKSHOPS

The Midlands Prison provide a number of workshops which provide meaningful employment and training for a number of inmates during their time in prison. The Carpentry, Metalwork, and Print Shops employ a number of prisoners on a daily basis and the committee are delighted to report that the quantity and quality of work produced in these workshops is exceptional. The Laundry facility look after the laundry needs of the entire prison and employ up to thirty prisoners on a daily basis. We commend the Industrial Manager and his staff in each of these workshops for their continued hard work in working with reduced resources and increasing prison numbers in the current climate.

HORTICULTURE

The Committee commend the Horticulture staff and prisoners for keeping the complex beautifully maintained during all seasons. On all of our visits to the prison the gardens, flower beds, hanging baskets both externally and internally were immaculate and all areas are well kept.

CONCLUSION

We the Midlands Visiting Committee would like to thank Governor Mullen, Governor Malone who addressed us at our monthly meetings and kept us up to date and informed during the year and facilitated us at all times. We thank Eileen Fennelly for her work as Secretary to the Committee and all the Management and Staff whom we met with during 2012 and who made themselves available and dealt with any issues we presented to them throughout the year.

Finally, the Committee wish to commend all the Staff and Services attached to the Midlands Prison for their continued work, commitment and dedication and their professional approach despite the ever increasing lack of resources during the current economic climate in their everyday work in the Prison. All are a credit to the Midlands Prison.

We look forward to again working alongside all in 2013.

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL AN CHOISTE CUAIRTE - 2012

Tá feidhm ag Coiste Cuairte Phríosún an Láir Tíre chun a chinntiú go gcaitear go cothrom agus go daonnachtúil le gach príosúnach faoi chúram Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann ag Príosún an Láir Tíre agus go dtugtar dínit agus meas dóibh freisin.

Tagann an Coiste le chéile sa Phríosún ar an dara Déardaoin de gach mí trína ndéanaimid ár gcruinnithe míosúla agus trína mbuailimid le haon phríosúnaigh a iarrann bualadh linn. Chomh maith leis sin, tugann beirt bhall cuairt ar ócáid amháin eile i rith na míosa sin agus ar ócáidí eile i gcás ina n-iarrann Bainisteoireacht an Phríosúin orthu cuairt a thabhairt, ach is an-annamh a dhéantar é.

Ar an iomaí cuairt a thugamar i rith na bliana 2012, d'éisteamar le gearáin, buarthaí agus iarratais ó phríosúnaigh go príobháideach agus i muintinn. D'ardaíomar gach saincheist leis na húdaráis ag Leibhéal Gobharnóra agus d'fhéachamar leis na saincheisteanna go léir a thabhairt chun críche go sásúil. Is mian linn a rá go n-oibríonn gach Foireann agus Seirbhís atá ag obair laistigh den Phríosún agus na seirbhísí seachtracha sin atá ag obair le Príosúnaigh ar bhealach gairmiúil ina bhfuil cúrsa leas na bPríosúnach ina thosaíocht.

IARRATAIS Ó PHRÍOSÚNAIGH

I 2012, bhuail an Coiste le tríocha príosúnach i rith na bliana agus d'éist sé leis na buarthaí a chuir na príosúnaigh in iúl dó. Luaimid cuid de na saincheisteanna a ardaíodh ag ár gcruinnithe thíos.

- Cuardach Cuairteoirí
- Aistrithe Idirphríosúin
- Caillteanas Éadaigh
- Coimhdirí Scaoilte Shealadaigh ar Fhorais Atruacha
- Gearáin a bhaineann le Baill Foirne
- Saincheisteanna Cúram Sláinte

Cuardach Cuairteoirí

Rinne príosúnaigh gearáin faoi na tásca Madra Chuardaigh ar chuairoteoirí nach bhfuil tadhall ar bith acu le drugaí ná le hearraí coiscthe de chineál ar bith. Tá míshásamh orthu go dtairgtear cuairteanna sciata dóibh ar na hócáidí sin. Tar éis dúinn an tsaincheist a phlé le Bainisteoireacht, tá an Coiste sásta gur imir an madra drugaí éighníomhacha agus an tAonad GTO páirt ollmhór i ndrugáí a choinneáil amach ón bpríosún.

Aistrithe Idirphríosúin

I rith 2012, rinne cuid mhór príosúnach ar bhuaileamar leo gearán go rabhadar á n-aistriú go Príosún an Láir Tíre ó Phríosúin Bhaile Átha Cliath agus nár iarradar an t-aistriú sin. Bhí míshásamh orthu toisc gur chuir sé isteach ar theagmháil le baill teaghlaigh agus gur chuir sé tuilleadh brú ar a dteaghlach taisteal go Port Laoise.

Ar an drochuair, mar gheall ar an líon mór príosúnach sa chóras agus ar chonstaicí oibriúcháin de dheasca athchóiriú Phríosúin Mhuinseo agus Príosún eile, táimid sásta gurb éigean don Bhainisteoireacht ag Príosún an Láir Tíre na haistrithe sin a éascú go dtí go gcuirfear athchóiriú i gcrích i bpríosúin eile. Tuigimid freisin go mbeidh Príosún an Láir Tíre ar an bpríosún is mó sa tír sula i bhfad toisc go mbeidh a thuilleadh príosúnach cothrom le 900 príosúnach i 2013.

Cailteanas Éadaigh

Mar gheall ar an líon ard aistrithe idirphríosúin, fuair eamar roinnt gearán ó phríosúnaigh faoi éadach a cuireadh as áit nó a cailleadh. Inár n-imscrúduithe, d'aimsíomar gur thug an Príosún, tar éis dó fiosrú a dhéanamh, cúiteamh do phríosúnaigh má d'aimsigh sé gur cailleadh aon éadach de thaisme i rith na n-aistrithe sin.

Scaoileadh Sealadach

I rith na bliana, d'iarr príosúnaigh saoire atruach chun cuairt a thabhairt ar uaigneanna a gclann, nó scaoileadh lae teaghlaigh le haghaidh comaoineach nó cóineartuithe.

Ní mholtar an deonú scaoilte shealadaigh le haghaidh comaoineach nó cóineartuithe.

Mar sin féin, éascaíonn an Príosún na cuairteanna ar uaigneanna agus ar thithe tórraimh nuair is infheidhmithe agus is féidir.

Gearáin a bhaineann le Baill Foirne

Tháinig saincheist amháin aníos maidir le mí-úsáid bhriathartha líomhnaithe arna déanamh ag Oifigeach. Tá an Coiste sásta go ndéileálann an Nós Imeachta maidir le Déileáil le Gearáin atá i bhfeidhm sa phríosún leis na saincheisteanna seo mar is iomchuí.

Saincheisteanna Cúram Sláinte

Bhí líon beag príosúnach míshásta le Cúram Míochaine. Bhí saincheisteanna acu maidir le cuairteanna dochtúirí. Ba chosúil gurbh fhearr leo dochtúir amháin agus níorbh fhéidir i gcónaí coinne a fháil leis. Tá an coiste sásta go bhfuil seirbhís shásúil á cur ar fáil ag Cúram Sláinte leis na hacmhainní atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair. Táimid sásta le cloisteáil go rachaidh dochtúir lánaimseartha breise isteach san fhoireann ar ball. Ba cheart go gcabhródh sé seo leis an aga ciúála do phríosúnaigh a laghdú.

BAINISTÍOCHT PIANBHREITHEANNA

Breithnítear iarratais scaoilte shealadaigh agus aistrithe ó phríosúnaigh ar bhonn leanúnach. Déanann Príosún an Láir Tíre cruinniú míosúil athbhreithnithe ar a bhfreastalaíonn Oifigeach Oibríochtaí Príosúin, Gobharnóir Príosúin agus Cinn Feidhmeanna i.e. Príomhfheidhmeanna, Feidhmeanna Séiplínigh, Feidhmeanna Oibre agus Oiliúna agus Feidhmeanna Oideachais d'fhonn measúnú a dhéanamh ar iarratais agus comhaontú a dhéanamh ar phríosúnaigh atá oiriúnach do luath-scaoileadh agus d'aistrithe go hionaid oscailte.

AN tSEIRBHÍS PROMHAIDH

Tá stair fhada ag an tSeirbhís Príosún agus ag an tSeirbhís Promhaidh maidir le hoibriú i gcomhpháirtíocht chun daoine a chiontaítear as cionta a chuirtear chun príosúin smachtú. Leanann cosaint Leanaí agus Pobail uirthi a bheith i bhfíorthosach na Seirbhísí Promhaidh. Aithnímid, an Coiste Cuairte, go leanann an tSeirbhís Promhaidh uirthi teagmháil a dhéanamh le seirbhísí pobalbhunaithe reachtúla agus deonacha araon agus, níos déanaí ná sin, tá measúnuithe á ndéanamh agus socrúcháin oibre á n-eagrú aici i gcomhar lena comhghleacaithe pobalbhunaithe agus le bainisteoireacht an phríosúin le haghaidh an Chláir um Fhilleadh ar an bPobal.

D'fhorbair an tSeirbhís Promhaidh, i gcomhar le Seirbhís Príosún na hÉireann an fóram 'Living with Life' ('Maireachtáil le Pianbhreith Shaoil') do phríosúnaigh ar tugadh pianbhreith Shaoil dóibh. Díríonn sé seo ar an bhforbairt fóraim chun ligean d'fhir a chaitheann pianbhreith shaoil faisnéis agus scileanna iomchuí a ghnóthú chun a bpiambhreith shaoil a chaitheamh ar bhealach dearfach agus sóisialta.

CUAIRT AR THEACH NA gCANÓNACH

Thug sé taitneamh don Choiste cuairt a thabhairt ar Theach na gCanónach i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Bhuaileamar le ball de Choiste Cuairte Theach na gCanónach agus le Foireann Bainistíochta an Phríosúin. Molann an coiste an Bhainisteoireacht agus an Fhoireann as a n-obair shármhaith agus as na háiseanna a tugadh do phríosúnaigh roimh a scaoileadh agus mar ullmhúchán dá scaoileadh. Tá an obair feirme agus na háiseanna gairdín sármhaith agus ba cheart a gcuid oibre le Bóthar a mholadh. Tá na háiseanna Oideachais sármhaith freisin.

Comhaontaíonn an coiste gur cheart céatadán níos mó de phobal an phríosúin, agus príosúnaigh níos fadtéarmaí go háirithe, a aistriú go Teach na gCanónach mar ullmhúchán dá scaoileadh. Aimsíonn an coiste ina bplé le roinnt príosúnach i bPríosún an Láir Tíre nach bhfuil siad ullmhaithe do scaoileadh agus go bhfuil strus orthu faoin saol tar éis a scaoilte a bharraíocht.

FÁILTE ROIMH AN ARD-STIÚRTHÓIR NUA

Fáiltíonn an Coiste roimh an Uasal Michael Donnellan chuig an tSeirbhís Príosún agus tá sí ag súil le bheith ag obair leis. Ba mhaith leis an gCathaoirleach Colm Wylie buíochas a

ghabháil leis an Uasal Donnellan as a aitheasc do chruinniú na gCathaoirleach i rith na bliana agus chuir sé fáilte roimh a smaointe d'athrú agus d'athchóiriú. Cuirimid fáilte roimh an nGobharnóir Martin Mullen go Príosún Phort Laoise mar Ghobharnóir an Champais.

FORBAIRTÍ NUA

Bhí ríméad ar an gCoiste cuairt a thabhairt ar an gcistin nua a osclaíodh i rith na bliana. Soláthraíonn sé obair/oiliúint do líon méadaithe príosúnach agus is riachtanas é chun freastal ar an líon méadaithe i bPríosún an Láir Tíre tar éis Sciathán G agus Sciathán E a chur leis. Fáiltimid roimh oscailt an Sciatháin Nua freisin. Bhí súil againn go bhféadfadh cuid den tsaoráid seo a úsáid mar aonad saor ó dhruaí ar dtús ach, tar éis dúinn labhairt leis an nGobharnóir Dawson, táimid sásta go bhfuil a dícheall á dhéanamh ag Bainisteoireacht le go mbeidh codanna eile den phríosún saor ó dhruaí faoin **gClár Réime Dreasaíthe** nua. Rinneadh an clár nua seo a thriail ar Rannóg C2 agus Rannóg C3 agus, ag teacht as an obair shármhaith seo, tá an clár á thabhairt isteach sa chuid eile den Phríosún faoi láthair. Fáiltimid roimh an gClár seo chuig Príosún an Láir Tíre agus measaimid gur dul chun cinn nádúrtha é.

SEIRBHÍSÍ MÍOCHAINÉ

Treoraíonn beirt Dochtúirí lánaimseartha agus foireann d'altraí cáilithe Seirbhísí Míochaine Phríosún an Láir Tíre chun aire a thabhairt do riachtanais éagsúla na bpríosúnach. Cuireann siad Cúram Fiacla, Cosliacht, Comhairleoirí Druaí, Cúram Síciatrach agus Clinicí Optúla ar fáil freisin ar bhonn leanúnach. Is den chéad scoth atá leibhéal an chúraim a thugtar do phríosúnaigh ina gcúram agus molaimid an fhoireann Míochaine as an méid sin a dhéanamh. I rith na bliana seo, áfach, d'aimsíomar go raibh saincheistanna ag roinnt príosúnach maidir lena gcóireáil ach tuigimid gur cheart go mbeadh dochtúir lánaimseartha amháin eile ag dul isteach san fhoireann i 2013, agus ba cheart go maolódh sé sin aon saincheistanna.

Thug an Coiste dá aire go n-úsáidtear cuid mhór acmhainní agus príosúnaigh á dtabhairt chuig an ospidéal le haghaidh x-gathanna a fháil. Mholfaimis gur cheart plé a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht a bhaineann leis an áis sin a chur ar fáil laistigh den phríosún.

OIDEACHAS

Tá an tIonad Oideachais tiomanta do bheith ag obair le bainisteoireacht an phríosúin chun an fad ama a fhéadann daltaí ranganna a rochtain ar bhonn laethúil a mhéadú. Tá éilimh mhéadaithe ar a seirbhís mar gheall ar an méadú ar an bpobal príosúin ag Príosún an Láir Tíre. Tá siad ag súil le comhlíonadh a dhéanamh ar a gcuid tiomantas chun rochtain ar oideachas a choinneáil do dhaltáí.

Leanann soláthar an oideachais i bPríosún an Láir Tíre air forbairt i gcomhréir le riachtanais foghlama na bpríosúnach. Ar an dul le fócas gairme an chlár oideachais, tá béim láidir ar fhorbairt phearsanta, ar litearthacht agus ar scileanna bunúsacha agus ar

theastasú iomchuí a ghnóthú. Leanann an tIonad Oideachais air tacú le foghlaimeoirí chun a spriocanna pearsanta foghlama a bhaint amach agus chun scileanna agus creidiúnú a chabhraíonn leo dul chun cinn a dhéanamh i ndiaidh iad a scaoileadh ó phríosún a bhaint amach.

Dámhachtainí Gaisce

Thug an tUachtarán Michael D Higgins cuairt ar an Ionad Oideachais, Príosún an Láir Tíre, Dé hAoine an 9 Samhain chun boinn Gaisce Óir a bhronnadh. Níor bronnadh ach 70 Bonn Óir ar fud oileán na hÉireann ar fad anuraidh, rud a chuireann comhthéacs le tábhacht an dá bhonn a bronnadh ar Phríosún an Láir Tíre. Reáchtáladh an Gaisce – Dámhachtain an Uachtaráin sa scoil i bPríosún an Láir Tíre ó mhí Mheán Fómhair 2008. Bronnadh an Bonn Umha ar sheachtar rannpháirtithe i mí na Bealtaine 2009. Bronnadh cúig Bhonn Airgid agus cúig Bhonn Umha i mí na Bealtaine 2010. I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2011, bronnadh dhá Bhonn Óir, dhá Bhonn Airgid agus Bonn Umha amháin. Ag Searmanas Dámhachtainí 2012, rinne an tUachtarán Michael D Higgins dhá Bhonn Óir, Bonn Airgid amháin agus trí Bhonn Umha a bhronnadh agus a thabhairt. Níorbh iad an bheirt daltaí a fuair Boinn Óir i 2011 ach an dara agus an tríú dalta a fuair an Bonn Óir agus iad i bpríosún. Mar sin féin, ba iadsan na chéad daoine sa tír a ghnóthaigh an Bonn Umha, an Bonn Airgid agus an Bonn Óir agus iad i bpríosún. Lean an bheirt a fuair an Bonn Óir an patrún sin.

Molann an Coiste Príomhoide na Scoile, Linda Tynan Uasal, agus a foireann as a n-obair dhícheallach leantach agus a dtiomantas leantach chun tacaíocht leanúnach a chur ar fáil do Phobal an Phríosúin.

AN tSEIRBHÍS SÍCEOLAÍOCHTA

Is é is aidhm don fhoireann Síceolaíochta i bPríosún an Láir Tíre freagairt do na riachtanais a bhaineann le meabhairshláinte agus le cion atá acu siúd a choimeádtar sa Phríosún. Saintréith shainithe den phobal is ea líon na bhfear a chaitheann pianbhreitheanna fada nó neamhchinntithe. Aimsíonn an tseirbhís go dtugann sé seo dúshlán agus deiseanna araon don fhoireann chun dé-shainordú na seirbhíse um obair mheabhairshláinte agus chiona a chomhlíonadh. Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuairte an fhoireann Síceolaíochta i bPríosún an Láir Tíre a mholadh as a tiomantas leantach d'obair leis an líon daoine atá ag méadú i bPríosún an Láir Tíre.

SÉIPLÍNEACHT

D'aimsigh an Coiste go raibh an tséiplíneacht ina cuid ríthábhachtach de shaol laethúil phobail an phríosúin. Tairgeann sí Aifrinn, faoistíní agus tréadchúram gach seachtain do gach rannóg den phríosún. Déantar Cóir agus Léitheoirí a oiliúint agus a ullmhú do na liotúirgí. Tugann séiplínigh cuairt ar na Cinn Staighre ar bhonn laethúil agus tá siad ar fáil do gach príosúnach ar mian leis labhairt leo go príobháideach nó i ngrúpa. Coinníonn séiplínigh teagmháil le baill teaghlaigh, go háirithe in amanna méala nó tinnis throim. Go minic, cuireann oifigigh séiplínigh chuig príosúnaigh atá leochaileach nó a bhfuil tosca atá deacair go háirithe orthu. Chomh maith leis sin, éascaíonn an tséiplíneacht Grúpaí

Méala dóibh siúd a fhulaingíonn méala agus iad i bpríosún. Tacaítear go mór leis na séiplínigh ina gcuid oibre.

CISTIN/LÓNADÓIREACHT

Molann an Coiste an Fhoireann Lónadóireachta sa phríosún as caighdeán an bhia agus an tsláinteachais a choinnítear ar bhonn leanúnach. Ó osclaíodh an Chistin Nua i mbliana, thug sí deis fostaíochta agus oiliúna do líon níos airde príosúnach. Déanaimid comhghairdeas leis an bhfoireann mar gheall ar a gcuid scór rí-ard sna hiniúchóireachtaí bliantúla bia ós rud é go leagtar tuilleadh éileamh ar an soláthar seirbhíse ardchaighdeán mar gheall ar an bpobal príosúnach atá ag méadú. Faigheann príosúnaigh atá ag obair sa réimse seo oiliúint agus creidiúnú/teastais in City and Guilds.

AN RÉIMSE TIONSCAIL/CEARDLANNA

Soláthraíonn Príosún an Láir Tíre roinnt ceardlann a chuireann fostaíocht agus oiliúint bhríoch ar fáil do roinnt áitritheoirí le linn a dtréimhse i bpríosún. Fostaíonn na Siopaí Cearpantóireachta, Miotalóireachta agus Priontála roinnt príosúnach ar bhonn laethúil agus tá ríméad ar an gcoiste a thuirisciú gur fíormhaith atá méid agus caighdeán na hoibre a dhéantar sna ceardlanna seo. Déileálann an áis Níocháin le riachtanais níocháin an phríosúin ar fad agus fostaíonn sí suas go dtí tríocha príosúnach ar bhonn laethúil. Molaimid an Bainisteoir Tionscail agus a fhoireann i ngach ceann de na ceardlanna seo as a n-obair dhícheallach leantach agus iad ag obair le hacmhainní laghdaithe agus líon daoine atá ag méadú sa phríosún sna cúinsí reatha.

GAIRNEOIREACHT

Molann an Coiste an fhoireann Ghairneoireachta agus príosúnaigh as an gcoimpléacs a choinneáil dea-chothabháilte i rith na séasúr go léir. Ar na cuairteanna go léir a tugadh ar an bpríosún, bhí na gairdíní, na ceapacha bláthanna agus na bláthchiseáin ar crochadh ar an taobh amuigh agus ar an taobh istigh ríghlan agus tá na limistéir go léir dea-chothabháilte.

CONCLÚID

Ba mhaith linne, Coiste Cuairte Phríosún an Láir Tíre, buíochas a ghabháil leis an nGobharnóir Mullen agus leis an nGobharnóir Malone a thug aitheasc dúinn ag ár gcruinnithe míosúla agus a choinnigh ar an eolas sinn i rith na bliana agus a d'éascaigh sinn i gcónaí. Gabhaimid buíochas le Eileen Fennelly as a cuid oibre mar Rúnaí don Choiste agus leis an mBainisteoireacht agus leis an bhFoireann ar fad ar bhuaileamar leo i rith 2012 agus a chuir iad féin ar fáil agus a dhéileáil le haon saincheistean a chuireamar chucu ar fud na bliana.

Mar chríoch, is mian leis an gCoiste an Fhoireann ar fad agus na Seirbhísí go léir a bhfuil baint acu le Príosún an Láir Tíre a mholadh as a n-obair, a dtiomantas agus a ndílseacht leantach agus as a gcur chuige gairmiúil, in ainneoin na heaspa síormhéadaithe acmhainní i rith na gcúinsí eacnamaíochta reatha ina gcuid oibre laethúil sa Phríosún. Is mór an clú do Phríosún an Láir Tíre iad go léir.

Táimid ag súil le hobair leo siúd go léir arís i 2013.