

Report of the Board of Management on its Meeting of 5th October 2016

The following is a report of the Board of Management of Oberstown Children Detention Campus which took place on 5th October 2016.

- The minutes of the Board on 7th September 2016 were accepted as an accurate record of our discussions and follow up actions were noted.
- Under correspondence, the Chair noted that she had received correspondence from a young person with respect to his care. This matter is being progressed.
- The terms of reference of the operational review were considered, having been previously approved by the Board. Dates were noted and the Board welcomed the opportunity to engage with the independent review process.
- Progress in the establishment of the Board's sub-committees was reported. Terms of reference have been referred to the prospective chairs of both the Governance Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee for their consideration. Discussions as to how best to ensure Board visibility of the experience of young people continues to be actively considered.
- The Director provided a briefing on the buildings and the actions to be taken in the immediate term to address the shortcomings. It was noted that in the past two weeks the risks associated with the deficits in the buildings had been discussed between the Chair and the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and they had been escalated to the relevant parties to address as a matter of urgency. It was agreed that pending the remedial works to Units 1 and 2, the placement of young people on remand to those units will take effect. The Board was updated about the damage to Unit 4 which occurred on 20 September 2016. The Chair will be following up on these issues as a matter of priority.
- An update was provided on the meeting between management and Impact at the Workplace relations Commission on 14 September 2016. The Board welcomed the agreement of the State Claims Agency to undertake the Health and Safety review on Campus. A number of local meetings have taken place with local representatives to agree agenda items to be progressed. The Board warmly welcomed this dialogue and encouraged every effort to be made to advance these issues urgently.
- The Board was updated on the proposed review of security on the Campus, the details of which will be finalised in the coming days.
- The Board was briefed on the ongoing litigation being taken by four young people. A date for trial has now been set for January 17, 2017.
- The June 2016 Action Plan (in response to the HIQA inspection from November 2015) was circulated with all items updated. HIQA have invited the chairperson to a meeting which will take place on October 10th 2016.

- It was noted that a change management programme is being rolled out across the Campus and a report on this process has been requested for the next meeting.
- The Board received details of the School's educational achievements – 20 students had successfully sat the Junior Certificate across 12 different subjects and 94 QQI certificates were awarded to 72 students. The Board wished to extend their congratulations to the students, their teachers and the School Principal on these achievements.
- The Chair and Director informed the Board that they had attended the Joint Committee on Children and Youth Affairs on 5th October 2016 and noted the Committee's intention to visit the Campus in coming weeks. The public dialogue with the Committee was welcomed.
- Discussion took place about the ICW and the concerns of local community members. It was agreed that this matter would be followed up as a matter of importance.
- Discussion took place around additional professional supports that should be available on the Campus. The Board agreed in principle with the appointment of both a Risk Manager and In-House Counsel to address and support specific areas of concern for staff. The matter is to be progressed by the Director.
- An update was provided from Tusla with respect to their review of the trends of assaults and aggression in residential settings. The option of developing a community-based service to work with young people is being developed by the Agency. The Board will be kept to date on these important developments.
- The IYJS report was noted. There was some discussion of the rules and regulations to be developed for the introduction of remission under the Children (Amendment) Act 2015. The need to involve Oberstown in this process was highlighted.
- An anonymous letter was received by the Board and its contents were noted.
- In conclusion, the Board acknowledged the difficult challenges faced by staff in recent weeks and thanked them for their continued commitment to their work in these very difficult circumstances. The Board expressed its full support for the Director and management in their ongoing work in dealing with the consequences of recent events and in the ongoing integration of the services on campus. It noted the important range of initiatives underway and being planned that are aimed to alleviate staff concerns and improve the experience of young people in Oberstown. The situation will be kept under continuous and close review by the Board.

5th October 2016

Professor Ursula Kilkelly (Chair)