

## **Update of Oberstown Children Detention Campus –Board of Management Meeting**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The following is an update of the Oberstown Children Detention Campus - Board of Management meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

- A discussion took place about the Education Strategy and the Board agreed to establish a small working group to consider the needs of young people in this area and the educational approach on Campus.
- Following discussions on the Behavioural Management Review, the Director is in the process of establishing a group to consider policy, practices and training.
- The Board reviewed a report on young people titled “Key characteristics of young people in detention: A snapshot (Q1-2017)” and approved publication and circulation to staff, key stakeholders, politicians and wider public.
- The Board discussed a “Board Statement on Restrictive Practices” in light of revised policies on the use of single separation and physical restraint. It was agreed to publish this statement to highlight the Board’s position on this matter.
- A review of Performance Management Development System for all managers is due to take place in the coming months.
- Recent errors in the operation of the text alert to Neighbours were discussed and the actions taken to ensure the system operates effectively were highlighted.
- The Communication and Engagement Strategy 2018-2020 was approved and an Action Plan will now be developed.
- Consultation with young people is ongoing with regular meetings of the Campus Council in line with the newly adopted Campus strategy to promote the participation of young people in decision-making. This policy was approved by the Board.
- An update on the implementation of the Action Plan submitted to HIQA following their last inspection was provided to the Board.
- The use of PPE (body armour) was discussed and the strategy set out by the Director.
- A feature on Oberstown in the Irish Times on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 was acknowledged as a very positive piece, reflecting the on-going developments at Oberstown. This is available on [www.oberstown.com](http://www.oberstown.com)

Professor Ursula Kilkelly  
Chairperson

**Oberstown Children Detention Campus  
Oberstown, Lusk, Co Dublin**

**Phone: 01-8526400 email: [info@oberstown.com](mailto:info@oberstown.com)**

October 2017

## **Board statement on Restrictive Practices**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

This statement from the Board of Management sets out the accepted position on the use of restrictive practices in Oberstown Children Detention Campus.

Oberstown is committed to a child-centred approach with a focus on Care, Education, Health, Offending Behaviour and Preparation for leaving (CEHOP).

Young people placed in Oberstown are on detention/remand orders of a court and their liberty is thus restricted through their detention on the Campus. The Board of Management expect that any other restrictions on the freedom or rights of a young person to be an exceptional measure, as a last resort and strictly in line with policy and procedures, specifically those on Behaviour Management, Single Separation, Handcuffs and Medication Management.

From time to time, young people may display challenging behaviour that poses a risk to themselves, other young people, staff or the security of the Campus. In such exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to use restrictive practices to protect a young person (or persons) from harm, to prevent injury to staff, to prevent damage to property and to protect Oberstown security.

### **Definition of Restrictive Practice**

Restrictive practices are any type of support or practice that limits the rights or freedom of movement of a young person. Restrictive practices include single separation, physical restraint and the use of handcuffs.

### **Circumstances for the use of Restrictive Practices**

Sometimes, a restrictive practice might be necessary in an emergency or high risk situation. An emergency / high-risk situation means trying to save a person's life, trying to stop a person from being injured or trying to stop other people being injured. Restrictive practices may only be used as an exceptional measure where other normal behaviour management approaches are ineffective or insufficient to respond safely to the young person's behaviour due to level of risk.

### **Limitation on the use of Restrictive Practices?**

Restrictive practices must only be used in strict compliance with Oberstown policies and procedures. Restrictive practices must be used as a last resort only.

### **Who is approved to use restrictive practices?**

Restrictive practices must only be used by skilled and appropriately trained staff.

### **When restrictive practices may be used?**

Restrictive practices must only be used following a risk assessment, where other behaviour management approaches are ineffective or inappropriate.

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