

Report of the Board of Management Meeting of 18th September 2017

The following is a report of the Board of Management of Oberstown Children Detention Campus, which took place on 18th July 2017.

- A successful stakeholder meeting took place on Campus on 7th September 2017, at the invitation of the Chair and the Director. A large group attended from civil society, service providers, the Ombudsman for Children's Office and HIQA along with the Campus Management Team. The aim of the meeting was to share information in order to develop a better understanding about the development and challenges that face the campus. The meeting, which lasted two hours, was very constructive and concluded with a tour of the facility. The feedback was very positive.
- The Board congratulated the 10 young people who achieved their Junior Certificates, and noted the participation of young people in over 300 QQI awards.
- A note on two incidents, which occurred on 17th and 18th August, where Garda assistance was sought was considered by the Board, which noted the learning achieved.
- A report on the use of single separation from January to August 2017 was discussed. Although the figures hide a level of complexity, it was agreed that a range of steps – including further training and development – is required to reduce the use of this restrictive practice. The Chair brought to the Board's attention an interview by the Director with Pat Kenny on Newstalk 106-108fm on the issue. This interview is available on the Oberstown webpage under the News heading.
- Relating to searches on Campus, a process is underway to identify the use of an x-ray machine and metal detectors. A joint training effort with the Irish Prison Service took place on Campus on 6th September 2017 where a dog controller and an active dog swept the Campus for drugs. None were found.
- Following on from its review of the ACTS service, Tusla have confirmed a dedicated team will be in place to meet the needs of young people in Oberstown. The availability of an addiction counsellor was noted as an obvious gap in current provision and work is ongoing to ensure that this is addressed as a priority.
- There was a discussion of the integration between the Oberstown school and the Campus and of the integration of care services with external supports and providers. Lena Timoney, Deputy Directory (Care Services), has been invited to attend the October 2017 Board meeting to discuss the care of young people on Campus.
- The Board were informed that there is an exploratory investigation underway on Campus into the use of body cameras for staff. It was noted this is not an everyday piece of equipment but only to be used in the management of critical incidents.
- The Board was briefed on the recent transfer of a young person from Oberstown to Wheatfield who had turned 18. It was noted there was very good collaboration between Wheatfield staff and Oberstown to enable the smooth transfer and the excellent teamwork was welcomed.
- The Campus Research and Policy Officer, is holding fortnightly meetings with the Campus Council to enable young people's views to be heard and taken into account on matters that concern them. A Campus

policy to enhance the participation of young people in decision-making on Campus has been drafted in light of the National Policy on the Participation of Young People in Decision-Making.

- A schedule of staff training on behaviour management will be in place for Q4, 2017.
- The Case Management System is ready for rollout with testing etc. completed.
- The Strategic Plan 2017-2020 was approved by the Board of Management. This Plan, based on consultation with staff and other stakeholders, sets out the direction of the Campus for the coming three years and was warmly welcomed by the Board.
- A Communications and Engagement Strategy 2017-2020, which aims to improve communications internally and externally using a variety of methods, was considered. The Strategy was approved by the Board of Management.
- An Information Management Policy and Supervision Policy were approved by the Board of Management.
- The Board welcomed the publication of its response to the recommendations of the Operational Review and a report, also published in August 2017, summarising all of the reviews undertaken on Campus in 2016/17. The work of the Review Implementation Group is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The Chair reported that a briefing note issued to Minister Katherine Zappone in August.

Professor Ursula Kilkelly

Chairperson