

Board statement on Restrictive Practices

11th 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 and Handcuffs.

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.