

Oberstown publishes Key Characteristics of Young People in Detention Report for Q1 2018

Oberstown-hosted event today will explore support for young people with mental health and substance misuse issues

Thursday, 14th June - New data has been published by Oberstown Children Detention Centre today which gives an insight into the characteristics of young people in detention in Ireland. The research is aimed at providing a better understanding of the challenges faced by young people in conflict with the law and to inform services and interventions to assist such young people. As well as offering insights into offending and sentencing, the data highlights the level of adversity and trauma young people have experienced, including neglect and abuse, high levels of substance misuse and disengagement from the education system.

Among the key findings in the report, *Key Characteristics of Young People in Detention - Q1 2018* (available [here](#)):

- Over half (52%) of young people arriving in Oberstown had a mental health need, with either a history of ADHD diagnosis, referral to mental health or psychiatric services, or experience of mediated illness
- 72% had substance misuse problems, of these 38 were identified as having a mental health problem
- Just under half of young people were not engaged in formal education prior to arriving in Oberstown
- Between one third and one half have suffered the loss of one or both parents either through death, imprisonment or no long-term contact

The data is being presented today by Oberstown's Deputy Director (Care Services), Lena Timoney at an Oberstown-hosted event on mental health and substance misuse, bringing together experts, community stakeholders and service providers to share knowledge and approaches on helping young people overcome their challenges. Speakers at the event include Dr Tony Bates, Founding Director of Jigsaw, Tony Geoghegan, CEO and Co-Founder of Merchants Quay Ireland and Dr Sharon Lambert, School of Applied Psychology, UCC.

Lena Timoney, Deputy Director Care Services in Oberstown, said: "The data we are publishing today outlines the significant challenge in assisting young people who have complex needs and risks, and it will help inform services and interventions for young people.

"In Oberstown we have a unique personalised care model for young people that takes into account these challenging factors and is centred on their care, education and health needs. Along with our own experienced residential social care workers and on-site medical team, we partner with other stakeholders and agencies such as ACTS (Assessment Consultation and Therapy Services) and the HSE to provide specialist services in the areas of psychiatry, psychology and substance misuse prevention and counselling programmes. We also work with partners like Le Chéile and YAP (Youth Advocate Programmes) who provide mentoring and other supports to young people and their family when they leave so that their positive progress can continue."

Chair of Oberstown Board Professor Ursula Kilkelly said: "What emerges from this data is a picture of significant adversity and complex need among young people in detention, which often requires a multiagency response. By publishing this data it is hoped that stakeholders, politicians, media, researchers and indeed the general public, are better informed about the characteristics of young people detained by the courts. Our mission of helping young people to move away from offending requires partnership with community-based organisations to ensure a co-ordinated

approach, particularly when it comes to mental health and substance misuse. To that end, today's event shines an important spotlight on the issues and will help chart a path forward to ensure the needs of young people are fully met."

ENDS

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Note to Editors:

- The Key Characteristics of Young People in Detention Q1 2018 Report is available [here](#)
- High-res pictures of the campus can be downloaded [here](#)
- [CEHOP infographic](#)
- [Language guide](#)

1. Oberstown

Oberstown Children Detention Campus provides a safe and secure environment for children who are placed in the campus by the Children Court. The objective of Oberstown is to provide children in the campus with education and development to address and change offending behaviour, so that they can return and contribute positively to their families and communities.

In June 2016, a single Oberstown campus was established, bringing together three children detention schools – Trinity House, Oberstown Boys' School and Oberstown Girls' School.

2. CEHOP

Oberstown helps young people to address their offending behaviour through a programme centred on their care, education and health needs. This programme is CEHOP, a bespoke Oberstown designed and delivered programme.

Upon arrival, each young person is assessed and an individual care plan is developed by a multi-disciplinary team. This produces a bespoke journey through care plan for each young person. This is achieved through a unique care model, developed by Oberstown, in which relationship building is key addressing core areas of care, education, health, offending behaviours and preparation for return to family and communities.