

Annual Report

2016/2017



OBERSTOWN
CHILDREN
DETENTION **CAMPUS**

CARE EDUCATION HEALTH & WELLBEING



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CHILDREN
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CARE EDUCATION HEALTH & WELLBEING

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Preface



As chair of the Board of Management of Oberstown Children Detention Campus, I am pleased to present our annual report to the Minister for Children and Youth affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, TD, in accordance with section 174 of the Children Act 2001. This is the first report of the Board of Management for the new Campus, established under the Children (Amendment) Act 2015, which came into effect on 1 June 2016. As a result, this report covers an 18 month period from 1 June 2016 to 31 December 2017. The Annual Accounts will be presented separately to the Minister in accordance with section 173 of the Children Act 2001.

This newly formatted annual report provides background information about Oberstown Children Detention Campus. It sets out current legislative arrangements for the governance and management of the Campus and explains how the Campus is held publicly accountable, including through independent inspections and external oversight. The report presents details of Campus operations and developments over the time period, including the development of our workforce and internal and external communications. The CEHOP model of care is explained as the basis for how young people

in Oberstown have their rights met in the areas of care, education, health, work on offending behaviour and preparation for leaving.

In addition to detailing operations on Campus during 2016 and 2017, our report highlights some key developments, challenges and achievements. A particularly important highlight was the development and launch by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs of the Campus' first Strategic Plan. Designed to inform and guide all aspects of Campus development over the period 2017-2020, the Strategic Plan commits to the pursuit of five goals namely:

- 1.** Providing the best possible care for young people;
- 2.** Developing our people and our organisation;
- 3.** Implementing the policies, procedures and standards consistent with the best model of detention for young people;
- 4.** Enhanced communications aligned to our values and mission;
- 5.** Delivering robust governance at all levels and driving effective accountability.

With associated actions and commitments, the Oberstown Strategic Plan 2017-2020 brings clear direction to the

development of the Campus such that all of our priority actions and activities now serve these goals. Although the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the end of 2018, there have been some especially important achievements during the lifetime of this annual report including:

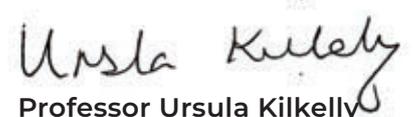
- The adoption of the first Campus Strategy to promote the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels;
- The development of a Communications and Engagement plan to enhance internal and external relationships;
- The adoption of a new policy framework covering all aspects of Campus operations;
- The collation of data and the development of IT systems to ensure young people detained in Oberstown receive the best possible care;
- The development of systems to enhance the performance, training and support for staff and management.

A vital element of the Strategic Plan 2017-2020 was to ensure priority attention is given to the needs of young people in Oberstown. The Annual Report thus provides information on the personal and social

adversity experienced by young people who are referred to Oberstown by the courts and highlights the high levels of unmet, complex need with which they present in all areas of their lives from mental health to substance misuse, poor educational experiences to childhood trauma. This information provides important context to the work we do in Oberstown, but it is also important for public understanding of the young people who end up in our youth justice system and in detention.

There is no doubt that the Campus experienced some very serious challenges in 2016 and 2017. These are documented in this annual report which also highlights external reviews undertaken in late 2016/early 2017 to assist the future direction of the Campus. Careful analysis of these recommendations is now complete through the work of the Review Implementation Group which presented its final report to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in December 2017. Extensive work has also been underway in Oberstown to ensure the implementation of these recommendations and the reviews have all helped to shape Campus priorities in the development of the Campus Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

Throughout 2017, there has been clear and substantial progress made in bringing stability to Campus operations to the benefit of both young people and staff. Although challenges remain, the Campus is now on a solid footing from which it can move forward in the fulfilment of its mission to provide the best possible care for young people in detention. It is important at this point to express thanks to all our stakeholders who have supported the Campus in different ways during 2016 and 2017: my fellow members of the Board of Management; the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the Irish Youth Justice Service; members of the Oireachtas; the local community; our partner organisations and all those who have supported and taken an interest in our work. Special thanks are also due to the staff of Oberstown, right across the organisation, for their continuing commitment and to the Director and his management team for providing the Campus with the direction it needs to ensure that young people detained in Oberstown receive the best possible care.



Professor Ursula Kilkelly
Chair, Board of Management

1.0 Mission, Vision, Values

Mission

To ensure that young people detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus are supported to move away from offending behaviour to make a more positive contribution to society.

Vision

To provide safe, secure and appropriate care for young people to meet their health and education needs to support them to address their offending behaviour and prepare them to return to their families and communities following release from detention.

Full strategy available on Oberstown.com



1.1 Overview of operations

Statutory framework

Under s. 158 of the Children Act, 2001, the principal objective of Oberstown is to provide appropriate educational, training and other programmes and facilities for children having regard to their health, safety, welfare and interests, including their physical, psychological and emotional well-being. According to s 180 of the Act, young people in Oberstown are in the care of the Director who has 'like control over the child as if he or she were the child's parent or guardian' and who shall 'do what is reasonable...in all the circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's... health, development or welfare.'

National policy

National government policy, Tackling Youth Crime, the Youth Justice Action Plan 2014-2018, commits, as a high-level goal, to provide a safe, secure environment and necessary support for detained young people to assist their re-integration into the community. The Action Plan commits to the provision of evidence-based care and development opportunities to enable young people to return to their communities to play a constructive role in society. The Plan also requires the development of integrated services and the adoption of various measures to complete

the new national detention facility in Oberstown.

Law reform

On June 1 2016, the Children (Amendment) Act 2015 came into force creating a single entity –the Oberstown Children Detention Campus (Oberstown).¹ The new Board of Management came into effect on that date also, as appointed by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, TD. Throughout 2016 and 2017, Oberstown helped to achieve the fulfilment of national policy commitments to end the detention of children in adult prison. Specifically, in March 2017, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone TD, announced that all young people under the age of 18 sentenced to detention by the courts would be sent to Oberstown.² Since that date, Oberstown has accommodated all young people remanded or sentenced by the courts within its licence of 48 boys and 6 girls.

Budget & staff

During the period of this report, there were 270 employees based at Oberstown, which can accommodate up to 54 young people at any one time. The service has an annual allocation of €21m – €16m for pay, €5m for non-pay related costs.

¹ S.I. No. 273/2016 - Children Act 2001 (Amalgamation of Children Detention Schools) Order 2016.

² S.I. No. 110/2017 - Children (Amendment) Act 2015 (Section 3(1)).

The Children Act, 2001, as amended by the Criminal Justice Act, 2006, extended the children detention school model to all children up to the age of 18. Announcement from The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone TD regarding ending practice of sentencing under 18s to adult prison. Available at: <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?Docid=4165&CatID=11&mn=&StartDate=1+January+2017>



Development of the Campus

A new €57m campus was completed in 2016 with the opening of residential units and a fully operational new school, gym and other facilities. The development of the Campus continues to evolve with retrofitting and remedial works taking place throughout 2017.

2012: Capital funding for a new campus to amalgamate three detention schools at Oberstown is announced.

2013: Construction on the Oberstown development project begins.

2015: First new residential units become operational and the new school opens in September 2015.

2016: On 1 June 2016, the new Oberstown Children Detention Campus is established.

2.0 Governance

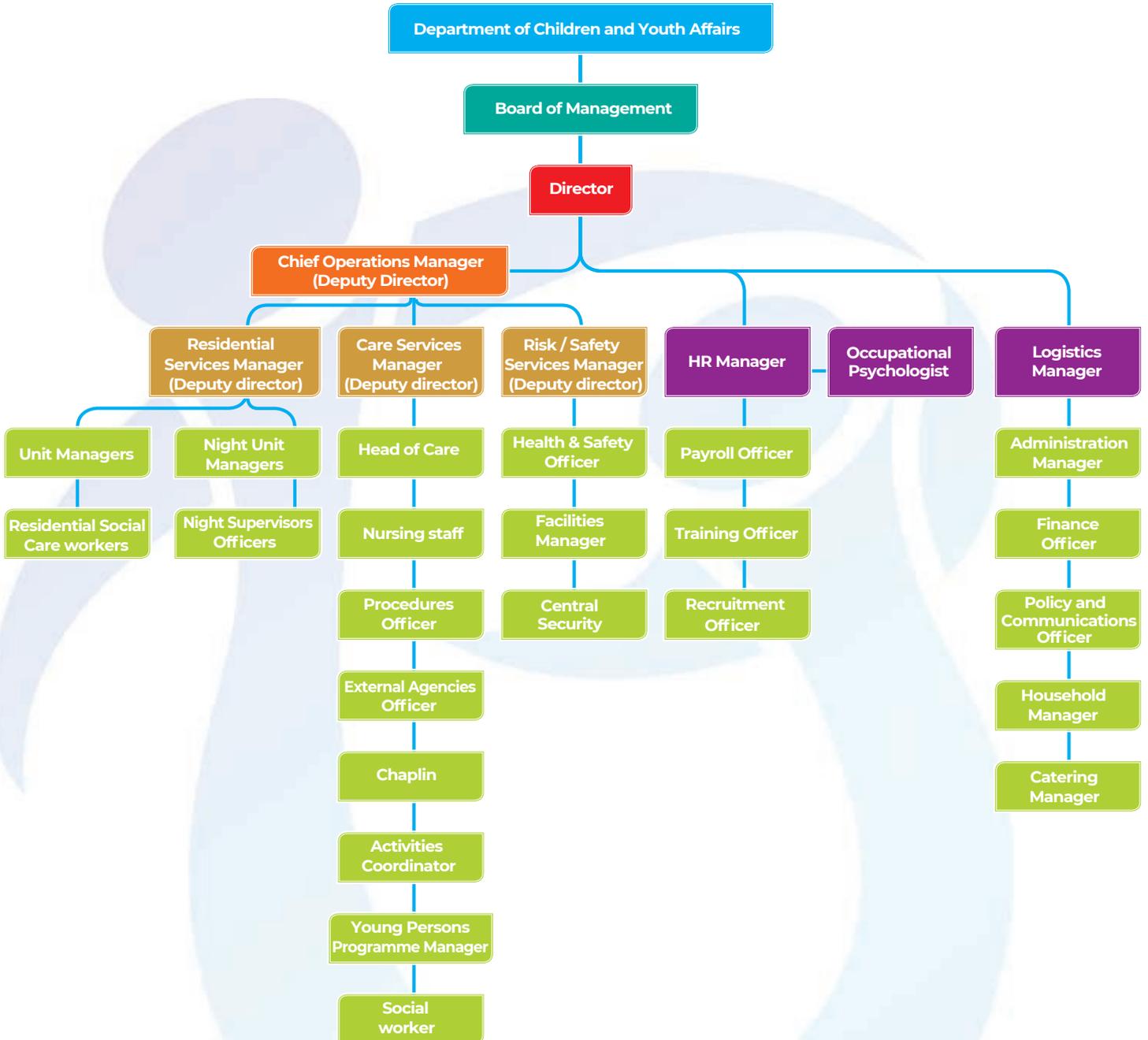
2.1 Organisational structure

Responsibility for youth justice in Ireland is vested in the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. Oberstown operates under the aegis of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, as part of the Irish Youth Justice Service, an executive office in the department. Oberstown is governed by a Board of Management, including representatives of government departments, nominees from staff and the local community and five members selected via the State Boards appointment process. There are two sub-committees, the Governance sub-committee, and the Finance, Audit & Risk sub-committee. Work in these areas included monitoring and reviewing the 2017 Financial Accounts and Risk Register and the development of a Governance Handbook for the Board of Management. The Board is chaired by Professor Ursula Kilkelly.

2.2 Board of Management membership

Board Member	Term	Finance, Audit & Risk Sub-Committee	Governance Sub-Committee
Fionnuala Anderson	June 2016 – July 2016		
Fiachra Barrett	June 2016 – Dec 2016		
Tadhg Delaney	July 2016-	Member	
Michael Farrell	June 2016-		Member Chair
Diego Gallagher	June 2016-	Member	
Jim Gibson	June 2016-		
Elizabeth Howard	June 2016-		
Charles Irwin	June 2016-	Member Chair	
Dan Kelleher	June 2016- July 2016		
Ursula Kilkelly, Chair	June 2016-		Member
Laoise Manners	Jan 2017-		
Fiona Murphy	June 2016 – June 2017		
Sinead O'Herlihy	June 2016-		Member
Don O'Leary	July 2017-		
Pat Rooney	June 2016-		
Liam Walsh	Nov 2016-		Member
Emer Woodful	June 2016-		

2.3 Organogram



2.4 Strategic Plan

In January 2017, Oberstown adopted a short-term Action Plan focusing on five key areas: Young people, staff, standards, communication and accountability. The management of the Campus began to shape a work plan around these priorities and throughout the Spring and Summer of 2017 the Campus' first strategic plan was developed by the Board in consultation with stakeholders including staff, young people, the Irish Youth Justice Service, external agencies and the Board of Management.

Adopted by the Board in October 2017, the Oberstown Strategic Plan 2017-2020³ was launched by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in December 2017.

Under the strategy, the five key strategic objectives driving the operations of the Campus until 2020 are: providing the best care for young people; developing our people and organisation; implementing policies, procedures and standards consistent with the best model of detention for young people; enhancing communications aligned to our values and mission and delivering robust

governance at all levels to drive effective accountability.

2.5 Policy, accountability and inspections

2.5.1 Policy

During 2017, Oberstown began streamlining and revising all of its policies and procedures. All of the new and revised Oberstown policies now adhere to a set template, distinguish between policy and procedures and are fully in line with legislation and international best practice. New policies were adopted in the following areas: Single Separation; Care; Health & Well-being; Safeguarding; Dignity & Privacy; Anti-bullying; Medication Management; Handcuffs; Information Management and Supervision.

In October 2017 the Board of Management signed off on a statement of restrictive practices. The statement sets out the Oberstown position regarding the use of 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.

2.5.2 Accountability

■ Reviews of Oberstown

In late Summer 2016, Oberstown experienced substantial industrial relations difficulties and during strike action on 29 August 2016 young people



Minister for Children Katherine Zappone and Chair of the Board of Oberstown Professor Ursula Kilkelly at the launch of the Oberstown strategy.

³ Oberstown Strategy, 2017 -2020, available at: <https://www.oberstown.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Oberstown-Strategy-2017-2020-1.pdf>

caused substantial criminal damage to the Campus including the destruction by fire of one of the residential units. Subsequent engagement between staff representatives and management resulted in the Forde Framework Agreement which committed to the completion of a number of reviews relating to the health and safety, security and behaviour management of young people. Separately, in September 2016, the Board of Management commissioned a review of the operation of the Campus against international best practice and standards with a view to enabling the Campus to move forward in a supportive and developmental manner. These reviews were all completed during the course of 2016 and 2017.

■ Review Implementation Group

In March 2017, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs established a Review Implementation Group to analyse all of the recommendations from the various reviews undertaken during 2016 and 2017 and produce a comprehensive implementation plan.

The group was chaired by Professor Ursula Kilkelly, Chair of the Board of Management of Oberstown, with representation from Oberstown management, staff, trade union, the Irish Youth Justice Service and an external expert in child development. Throughout 2017, this group collated and analysed the



hundreds of recommendations from the various reviews undertaken and a final report was presented to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on schedule in December 2017. By the end of 2017, most of these recommendations were found either to have been implemented or were in the process of being implemented.

■ Protected Disclosures

Oberstown has in place a protected disclosures policy. In line with this policy the Board of Management report on any such disclosures for the annual report period. During the period June 2016 to December 2017, no protected disclosures were made in line with the policy.

■ High Court judgment

Five young people took legal action against Oberstown with respect to their treatment. The judgment in this matter was handed down by the High Court in November 2017.

According to the judgment, young people had their

constitutional rights breached in a limited way, as they were deprived of physical exercise and contact with their families during periods of separation. The length and conditions of their separation had not breached their rights but their rights were also breached as a result of an absence of procedural safeguards relating to separation, particularly inadequate formal written recording of decisions. Measures to respond to the judgment were put in place immediately and more robust oversight of single separation and other restrictive practices in Oberstown is now in place in line with legal requirements.

■ Joint Oireachtas Committee

In October 2016 and November 2017, the Director and the Chair of the Board of Management appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth Affairs. The 2016 appearance related to the operation of Oberstown, while the 2017 appearance was in relation to the HIQA inspection of March 2017. Both appearances

covered a wide range of topics including: care of young people with mental health concerns; restrictive practices and education. The Director's opening statements and the full transcript of the sessions are available on Oberstown.com and Oireachtas.ie.

2.5.3 Inspections

The Children Act, 2001 requires that inspections of Detention Schools be carried out annually. Inspectors from the Health, Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) are authorised to carry out independent inspections of Oberstown against the Standards and Criteria for Children Detention

Schools, issued by the Department of Education in 2004 and adopted in 2008 by the IYJS. The Standards are currently being revised, in consultation with young people and other stakeholders, to ensure they are in line with contemporary and international standards of children's rights and welfare and youth detention.

Inspections can be announced or unannounced. The themes of the inspections, as set out in the 2008 standards, are: Purpose and function; care of young people; child protection; children's rights; planning for young people; staff and

management; education; health in care of young people; premises, safety and security; tackling offending behaviour. A full announced inspection of Oberstown took place in March 2017.

The Department of Education carried out an inspection of the Oberstown school in December 2017.

A number of other bodies have an oversight role with respect of Oberstown. The Ombudsman for Children has a remit to consider complaints of young people in Oberstown under the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002, as amended.



3.0 Care of Young People

“ The journey is split into three key phases: preparing for the young person's arrival; arrival and reception of the young person; the activation of the young person's placement plan, as guided by the CEHOP pillars. ”

3.1 Overview of young people

Young people under 18 years can be sent to Oberstown by the courts for a period of detention following committal (sentence) or when placed on remand awaiting a court decision. Between June and December 2016, there were 112 young people detained in Oberstown.

Of the 112, 110 were male and two were female, 32 young people served committal orders and 80 young people were on remand orders.

During 2017 there were 135 individual young people detained in Oberstown. Of the 135, 133 were male and two were female, 48 served committal orders, while 87 young people were on remand orders.

Young people who come to Oberstown have generally experienced significant adversity and disadvantage in their lives. In 2017, as part of its Communications and Engagement Strategy, Oberstown began to publish anonymous data on the young people in its care with a view to documenting their circumstances and increasing public understanding of the challenges they face.

Research undertaken in 2017 highlighted that young people

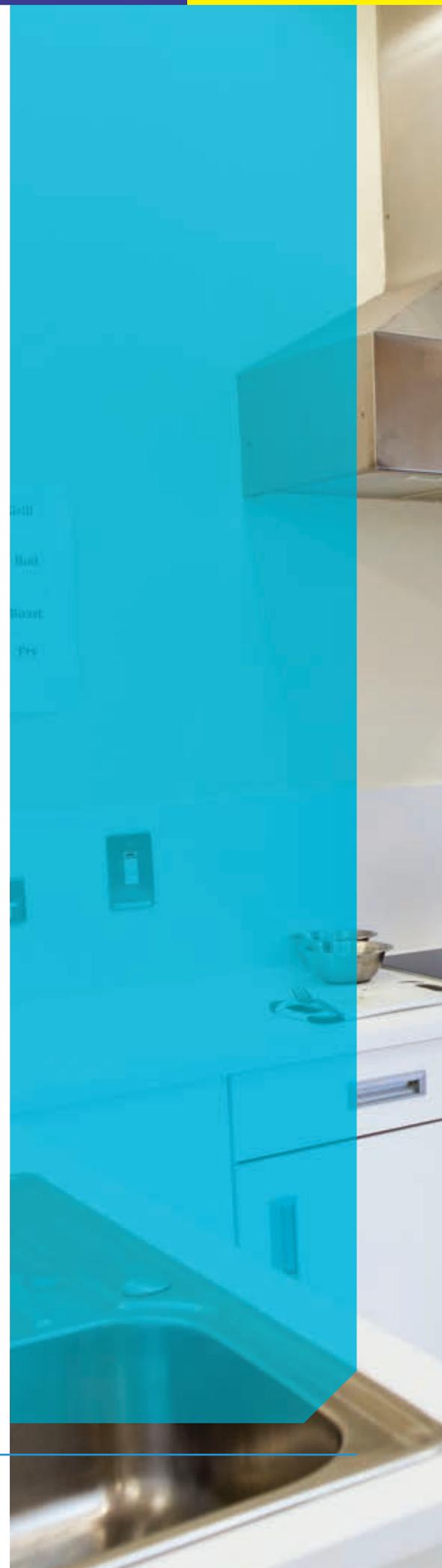
in Oberstown have experienced adversity and trauma including the loss of parents, neglect and abuse, and multiple care placements.⁴ Some of the findings of *Key Characteristics of Young People in Detention, Q1 2017*, were that of the young people in detention in that period: 49 were not engaging in education prior to detention; 31 had been in care prior to detention; 38 had a mental health need; 54 had substance misuse problems. The report was the first step in an on-going process to provide contemporaneous data about young people in detention and provided a baseline to build on with a view to tracking trends and patterns in the future. The findings confirmed that young people in detention have a wide range of complex needs often requiring a holistic, multi-agency response.

Find research about young people on Oberstown.com

3.2 Model of care

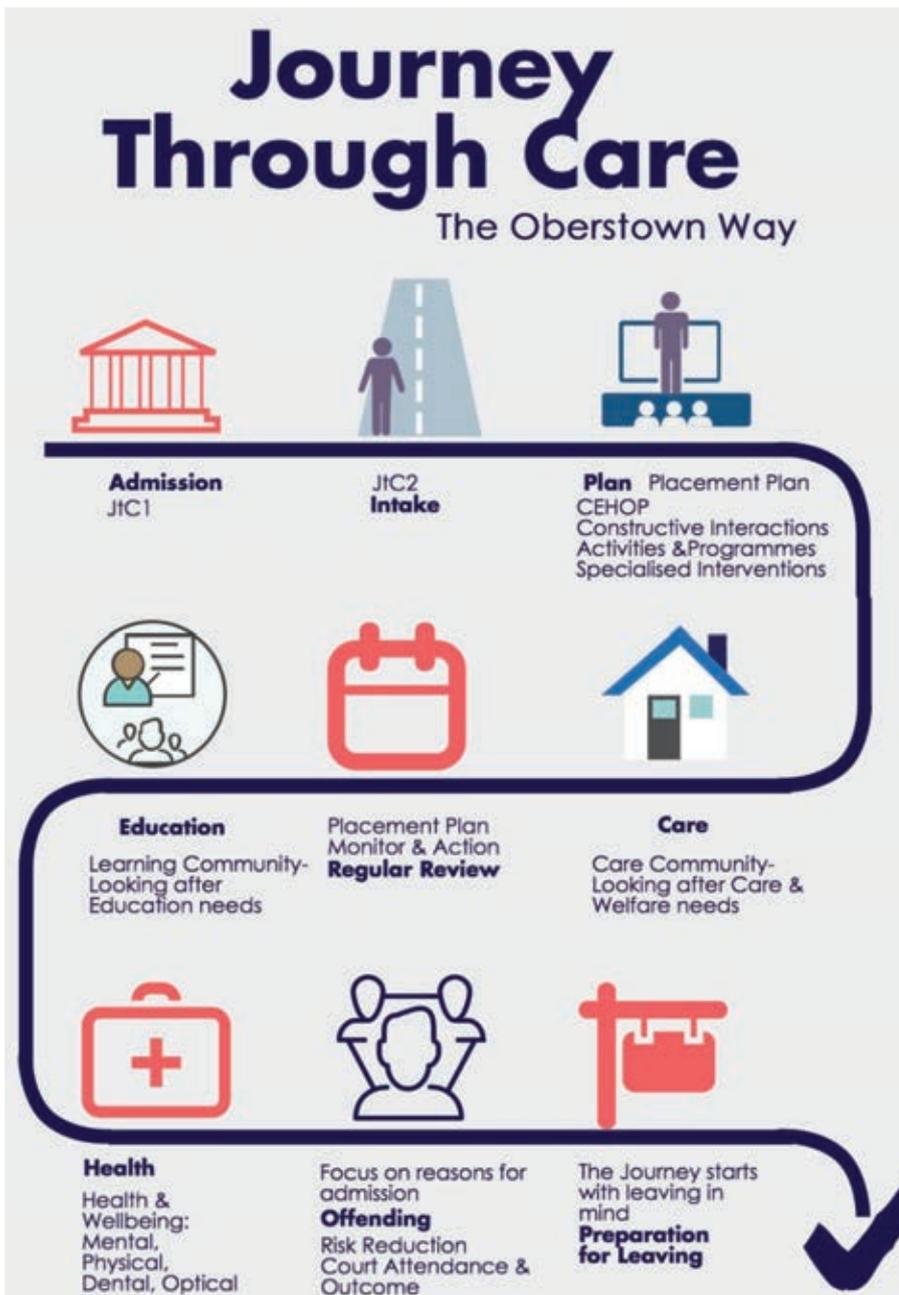
The care provided to young people in Oberstown is based on a model with the following elements: **C**are, **E**ducation, **H**ealthcare, work on **O**ffending Behaviour and **P**reparation for leaving (CEHOP)⁵ as set out in s. 158 of the Children Act, 2001.

⁴ <https://www.oberstown.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Key-Characteristics-Q1-2017.pdf>



“ Young people address their offending behaviour through programmes that allow them to consider the consequences of their behaviour and think about the victims of their crime. ”





When young people arrive to the Campus, staff develop an individual and comprehensive placement plan for every young person. These plans, which are constantly reviewed, cover strengths, needs and next steps in the five key areas.

3.2.1 Care

The CEHOP framework is used at each stage of a young person's journey, from entry to exit and the practical expression of the framework on the ground is the Journey through Care (JtC) process

(inset). The Journey through Care (JtC) refers to the stages of a young person's journey through the Oberstown Campus. The journey is split into three key phases: preparing for the young person's arrival; reception of the young person; the activation of the young person's placement plan, as guided by the CEHOP pillars.

Upon arrival to Oberstown, each young person's care needs are assessed in detail by a professional care team. Individual care is provided by a multi-disciplinary team with training and expertise in the range of care services that young people require.

3.2.2 Education

The provision of education and access to appropriate training programmes is a core element of each person's Journey through Care. Learning at Oberstown takes three main forms: structured, such as school, specialised, such as risk reduction programmes and informal, such as daily life in the residential unit. All young people attend school while they are in Oberstown.

A partnership approach to education is taken and the purpose-built school is run by the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB). At the school, all young people have access to

⁵ This approach was developed by Oberstown in light of the legislation, regulations, standards and best practices associated with meeting young people's needs within the detention environment. For an overview see: Bamber, J., Broly, C., Mills, E. and Farrar, C. (2016) Lessons from the literature – Building relationships with detained young people to improve pro-social outcomes. Oberstown Children Detention Campus (Oberstown), Dublin

subjects that are part of the national curriculum. All teachers are professional, qualified and experienced and encourage each young person to complete state exams and continue vocational training. Educational outcomes are measured in a number of ways including looking at improvements in literacy and numeracy, to participation in state examinations, with the ultimate objective of equipping young people for their successful return to the community.

Outside of school hours, young people have a timetable of

activities including football, art classes, pyrography, gym access, pool and snooker, cooking, textiles and music.

3.2.3 Health

Young people in Oberstown have access to medical services delivered in a designated medical suite. The health and well-being suite is managed by a clinical nurse manager, who works with two nurses and a social care worker. Services also include access to a GP and a dentist, as required.

In Oberstown, the clinical and therapeutic services provided

by a psychologist, drugs counsellor and speech and language therapist are made available to young people by Tusla's Assessment Consultation Therapy Service (ACTS). ACTS works as part of a multi-disciplinary team providing clinical services to young people who are referred based on a mental health screening.

The National Forensic Mental Health Service provides psychiatric services to young people in Oberstown, also working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.



3.2.4 Offending behaviour

In Oberstown, a young person's programme coordinator supports the delivery of programmes for young people. The coordinator is responsible for ensuring that young people address their offending behaviour through programmes that allow them to consider the consequences of their behaviour and think about the victims of their crime. Oberstown also works with a number of external partners and state agencies to help young people address their offending behaviour.

3.2.5 Preparation for release

From the moment young people arrive to Oberstown they are being prepared for release. Every young person has a placement plan that not only looks at their time in detention, but to the future. Placement Planning Meetings (PPMs) take place every six to eight weeks and are attended by young people, their unit manager, key worker, parent/guardian and other professionals who work with them. Issues such as mobility trips, home leave and plans for the future are discussed at these meetings. Key stakeholders are also key to the smooth transitioning of young people from detention to the community.

3.3 Oberstown Stakeholders

Oberstown works with a range of external agencies in delivering services to young



people while they are in Oberstown and once they have left, too. (See graphic on page 19.)

3.4 Participation of young people in decision-making

The Strategy for the Participation of Children in Decision-Making (available on Oberstown.com) was developed and approved by the Board of Management in October 2017 in consultation with Professor Laura Lundy of Queen's University Belfast. The Strategy provides for young people to participate in decision-making on Campus in various ways, in line with national policy and Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights

of the Child. It makes provision for the establishment of a Campus Council to provide young people's views to Campus management on the operation of the Campus. In late 2017, the Campus Council wrote to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs inviting her to meet with them to hear about their achievements in Oberstown. The Campus Council also acted as an advisory group for consultation, undertaken by Hub na nOg (the national centre of excellence for children's participation) in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs on new national standards for the inspection of children in detention. Implementation of the Oberstown Participation Strategy is monitored quarterly by the Board of Management.



Oberstown Stakeholders

National Forensic
Mental Health Service

YAP

EPIC

An Crinan

EPIC

Tallaght West Childhood
Development Initiative

OS

Ombudsman
for Children

Le Cheile

OS

Extern

AG

Gardaí Tusla

AG

Probation

4.0 Oberstown Staff

4.1 Developing the workforce

More than 270 staff members were employed by Oberstown during 2016 and 2017.

The Campus management team is comprised of a Director and deputy directors for Residential Care, Young People's Care, Risk and Safety and General Operations. A HR manager and logistics manager also report to the Director. Staff include residential social care workers; night supervisor officers; unit managers, catering staff; household staff; maintenance and administration staff.

A human resources department was established in Oberstown in 2016. The department is led by a human resources manager and comprises six staff allowing for all aspects of the human resources function to be managed on the Campus, in

consultation with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The HR department coordinates staff training, including child protection, implementation of the CEHOP framework, managing behaviour and health and safety.

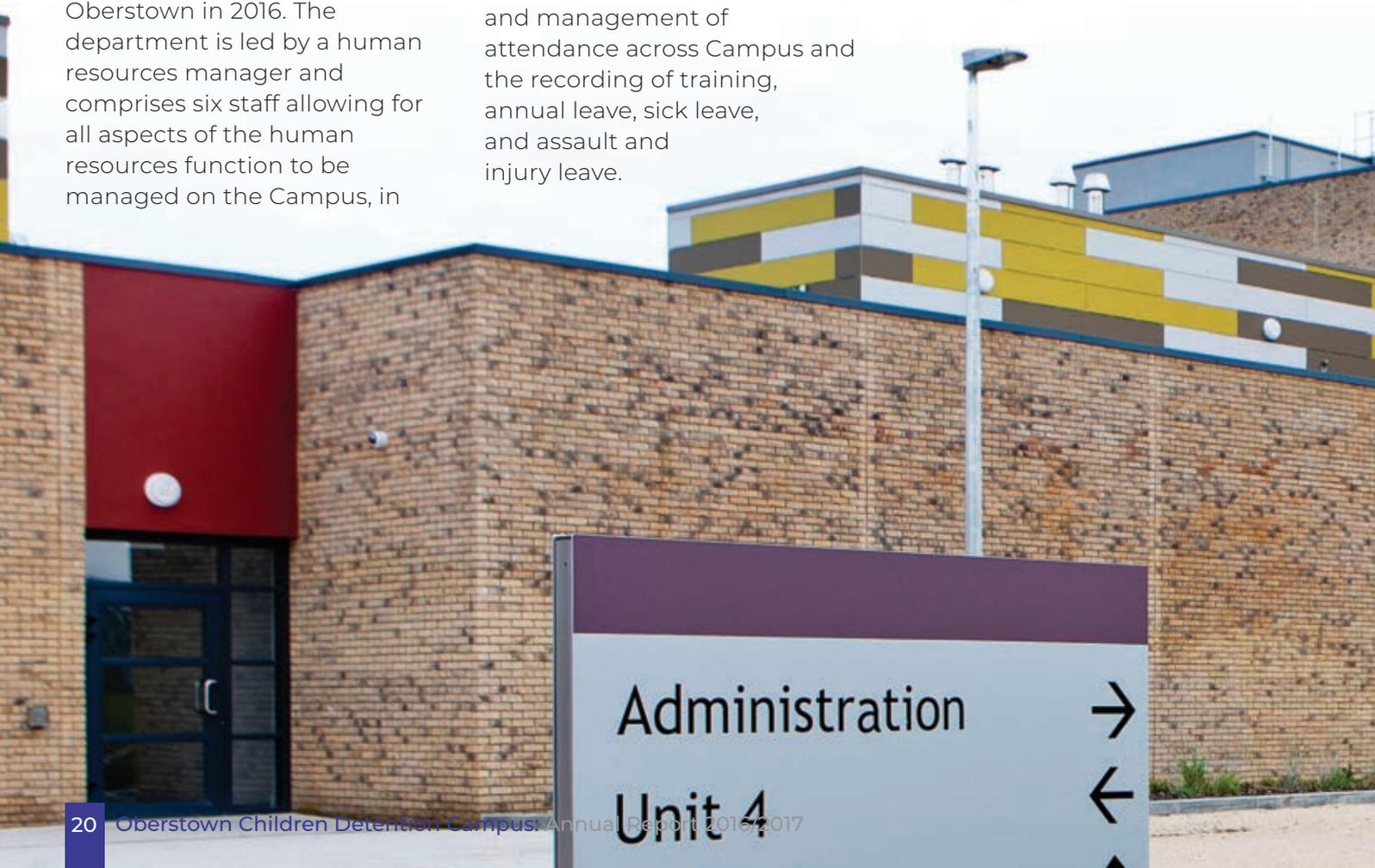
During 2016 and 2017, a significant number of recruitment campaigns took place, increasing the workforce to its current complement.

4.2 IT developments

Significant investment has been made in new IT systems for the Campus, including a HR system to support the rostering and management of attendance across Campus and the recording of training, annual leave, sick leave, and assault and injury leave.

This means that up-to-date, accurate data is now available on all aspects of staff engagement at Oberstown and this information is taken into account in Campus management and Board decision-making.

During 2017, work on a case management system to digitalise all Oberstown's records was advanced. The system includes a bed management component and gathers data on young people's journey through care in Oberstown. When fully operational, the system will make recording, record keeping and management of information at Oberstown more efficient and effective and will provide a wealth of



useful statistical information on young people in detention, enabling staff and management to take this information into account.

4.3 Health & Safety

A Deputy Director for Risk & Safety was appointed in May 2017 and a permanent Health & Safety Officer position was planned. Oberstown also appointed an investigations officer to investigate all incidents and injuries and report to the Health and Safety Authority and the State Claims Agency.

A daily incident accident and assaults meeting provides an overview of all incidents, accidents, assaults and near misses on Campus.

Information on injuries are recorded and analysed on a weekly basis.

A new safety policy and safety statement was developed and communicated to all staff during 2017. A risk management policy was approved by the Board of Management and associated procedures were developed. A comprehensive corporate risk register also received Board approval in November 2017 and is reviewed and updated as required. A

critical incident plan was developed to assist managers in the response and recovery phase of incidents on Campus. A review of the Oberstown fire safety policy was also well underway in 2017 in consultation with the Office of Public Works.

The strategic goal of achieving ISO Accreditation by 2019 in the area of Catering and Safety Management System was also approved by the Director in September 2017.



Oberstown staff graduate from CISM cert.

During 2016, the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Service was launched in Oberstown. CISM refers to a package of techniques and tools put in place to assist staff to address stress that may arise following a critical incident. The package includes policy, procedure, workshops and a peer support team. The peer support team now comprises over 40 staff members, from different roles across campus, who successfully completed a certificate in critical incident stress management in Carlow IT. The role of the peer supporter is to provide a confidential, easily accessible and highly responsive 'psychological first aid' service to fellow staff who are experiencing emotional distress arising from a critical incident at work.

5.0 Communications & Engagement

Improving internal and external communication was a significant commitment throughout 2017 and the Campus dedicated internal and external resources to this area. A press office function was put in place for the Campus in 2016 and a Communications and Engagement Strategy was developed and approved by the Board of Management to oversee this activity in October 2017.

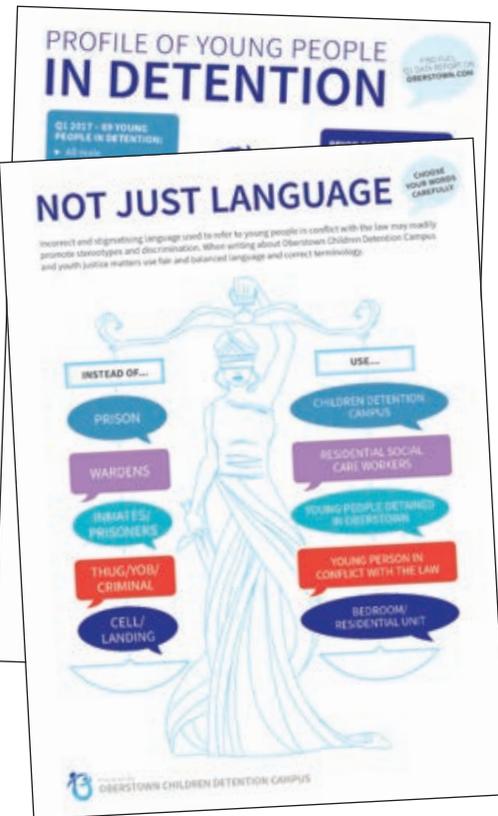
5.1 Internal communications

Town Hall meetings were held to launch the Oberstown Communications & Engagement Strategy, and to give staff feedback on the strategic plan employee survey completed during 2017. The internal newsletter system was digitalised during 2017 allowing for more streamlined communication and for tracking of statistics. Additionally, the Chair of the Board of Management keeps staff apprised of relevant information from board meetings, and bulletins from the campus communications meeting are also sent out campus wide.

5.2 External communications

During 2016 and 2017, Oberstown expanded its website as a source of expertise for external audiences.

A publications and resources section hosts a wide range of information relating to youth justice, while a news and media hub provides up-to-date news, press statements, high-resolution



file images and a media language guide. The guide, 'Not Just Language' –dispels the myths and stereotypes that can be used in relation to youth justice, and makes it easier to use the correct language and terminology when talking about young people in conflict with the law.

Find all of Oberstown's communications publications on Oberstown.com

As part of increased transparency and external engagement in its activities, Oberstown held an event, Building the Future, in May 2017 to highlight its work advancing the rights of young people in detention in Ireland. In line with the Oberstown Strategic Plan, 2017-2020 and the Oberstown Communications and



Director of Oberstown, Pat Bergin, addresses the Building the Future event.





Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, is presented with portrait painted by young people at Building the Future event by John Smith, Oberstown Activities Coordinator.

Engagement Plan, the event was designed to engage partners and stakeholders across the youth justice sector and was the first event of its kind for Oberstown.

In September 2017, Oberstown hosted a stakeholder engagement session on Campus with a view to sharing information and building understanding about developments in Oberstown,

and some of the challenges faced by the Campus. The meeting was attended by a range of interested parties including the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Ombudsman for Children, HIQA and civil society groups. The session provided an opportunity to update stakeholders about the Oberstown Strategic Plan, to share recent research data, and to provide some relevant information about the restrictive

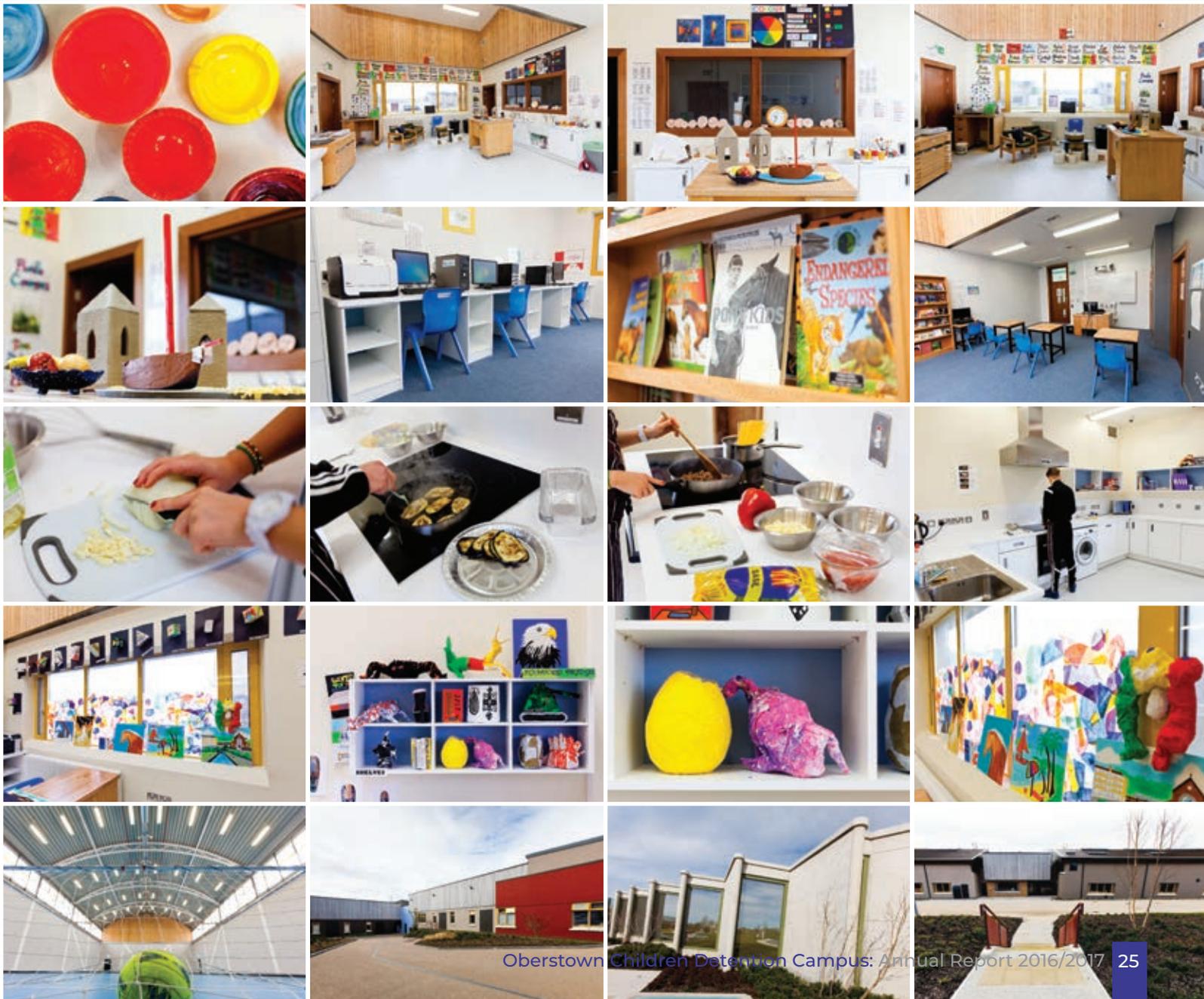
practices used in Oberstown.

During 2017, Oberstown continued to build and nurture its relationships with its neighbouring community, putting in place enhanced communication systems to ensure they are kept up to date with developments. Regular meetings took place between Oberstown management and the local community in 2016 and 2017.



Appendices

Oberstown Data & Statistics



1.0 Oberstown Statistics, June to December 2016

Admissions of Young People, June - Dec, 2016

During 2016, there were 112 young people detained in Oberstown.
Of the 112:

- 110 were male and two were female
- 32 young people were on committal orders
- 80 young people were on remand orders

1.1 Oberstown Statistics, 2017

Admissions of Young People in 2017

During 2017 there were 135 individual young people detained in Oberstown.
Of the 135:

- 133 were male and two were female
- 48 young people were on committal orders
- 87 young people were on remand orders



2.0 Profile of young people in detention, Q1 2017

The data presented here provides an overview of the characteristics of young people detained in Oberstown during the first quarter of 2017. The information was derived from a set of questions answered by reviewing the information available on the files of each young person in Oberstown from January 1 to March 31, 2017.

Population profile

In the first quarter of 2017, there were 69 individual young people present in Oberstown. All of the young people were male.

Of the 69 young people in detention from January to March 2017:

- 36 were on remand orders and 33 were on detention orders.⁵
- 37 had multiple charges of the offence of Theft & Fraud.
- 13 had received a detention order of one year or more, and of these 5 were serving a detention order in excess of four years.

Background & Family

Of the 69 young people on campus: 46 were Irish, 16 were Irish Travellers; 4 were EU nationals; two were African and one was of mixed ethnicity. Of this group of young people:

- 37 had suffered the loss of one or both parents either through death, imprisonment or no long-term contact.



Children in care

Of the 69 young people:

- 31 young people were in care prior to detention.
- a further 6 young people had significant involvement with Tusla prior to detention.⁶

Health & wellbeing

Of the 69 young people:

- 38 had a mental health need,⁷ while 22 had at one time been prescribed medication (almost exclusively for ADHD).

- 54 young people had substance misuse problems.

Learning

Of the 69 young people:

- 49 young people were not engaging in education prior to detention
- 25 had some form of diagnosed learning disability

More detailed information on the full Q1 data report is available on Oberstown.com

⁵ Remand orders refers to young people who have been ordered to spend time in detention on remand or awaiting trial; detention orders refers to young people who have been committed or sentenced to a period of detention following conviction.

⁶ Significant involvement with Tusla means that there was clear evidence of a long history with either the young person or their family.

⁷ Mental health data relates to actual diagnoses young people have received from health professionals during their lives, or in a smaller number of cases where there is clear evidence of psychological concerns in a young person's file. See appendix for more information.



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