

## August 2018 'Point in Time' Analysis

### 1. Introduction

The Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and the Communications and Engagement Strategy 2017-2020 of Oberstown Children Detention Campus contain a commitment to collate and analyse good quality data to support the quality of care provided to young people. Following on from the publication of a detailed Q1 snapshot of the circumstances of young people, and continuing our commitment to publish timely and relevant statistics on young people in detention, it is proposed to compile a 'point-in-time' statistical report for publication on a monthly basis.

The data captured here reflects a snapshot of young people in Oberstown on a given day each month. The bulletin provides an overview of the population in terms of offending, background, health and well-being, education and care.

### 2. Overview of population

There were 46 young people in detention on the date in question.

Of those: 29 were on detention orders, 17 were on remand orders.

The offences for which young people were detained included:

- Theft and Fraud – 23 young people had charges for this offence.
- Assault – 14 young people.
- Criminal damage – 6 young people.
- Road Traffic Offences – 5 young people.

Of those remanded:

- 3 young people were on remand in Oberstown for between 1 and 10 days.
- 10 young people were on remand in Oberstown for between 11 and 90 days.
- 4 young people were on remand in Oberstown for more than 100 days.

Of those sentenced:

- 6 young people had a sentence of between 1 and 10 months.
- 20 young people had a sentence of between 11 and 18 months.
- 3 young people had a sentence of between 2 and 6 years.

Of the 46 young people in detention, 36 young people had been in Oberstown previously, however 17 of those had served remand orders only. Of the 46, 10 had never been in detention before.

### 3. Origins/background

Of the young people:

- 18 were from Dublin, 4 were from Cork, 4 were from Galway, 5 were from Limerick and the rest came from counties: Carlow; Kildare; Longford; Meath; Offaly; Westmeath; Waterford; Wexford; Wicklow.
- 31 were Irish nationals, 8 were Travellers, 2 were EU Nationals, 2 were African, and there were 3 young people from other ethnicities.

## 4. Health and Well-being

Regarding health, young people's files recorded the following data:

- 2 young people had a physical health concern.
- 3 young people were on medication for mental health concerns.
- 6 were previously on medication for mental health concerns.
- 6 young people had a history of self-harm.
- 29 young people were recorded as having misused alcohol and/or drugs prior to detention.
- There were concerns for 16 young people in respect of their mental health, of which 9 were related to ADHD.

## 5. Education

Regarding education, young people's files recorded the following data:

- 21 young people had not been engaging in education prior to admission.
- 9 young people had learning difficulties/disabilities.

## 6. Children in Care<sup>1</sup>

Of the 46 young people in Oberstown:

- 9 young people were in care prior to detention and a further 6 had significant involvement with Tusla.<sup>2</sup>
- 2 young people were under Special Care orders prior to detention.<sup>3</sup>
- Files indicated that there were child protection concerns<sup>4</sup> in respect of 8 young people.
- 18 young people had a social worker.
- 3 young people had a Guardian Ad Litem.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This covers all forms of care as outlined in the *Child Care Act, 1991*, namely voluntary, foster, residential, special care or emergency care

<sup>2</sup> Care placements may not always have been active immediately prior to detention.

In some cases, the young people in question had multiple placements over a number of years, while in others young people were under long-term full care orders. Others still had just recently come to the attention of the care services.

<sup>3</sup> Special Care is short term, stabilising and safe care in a secured therapeutic environment. A placement in Special Care can only be made pursuant to an Order of the High Court.

<sup>4</sup> Child protection concerns refers to young people who are at risk of abuse/neglect. See Tusla, <http://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/>.

<sup>5</sup> A GAL is a court appointed representative who advocates for a young person during court proceedings.