

Oberstown Children Detention Campus statement on HIQA inspection report

9/10/11: Oberstown Children Detention Campus notes the publication by HIQA today of a report on its inspection of the campus in March 2018.

The unannounced full inspection took place over five days during which inspectors met with children and staff on the campus as well as professionals from other agencies. Inspectors also analysed data, and reviewed documentation such as children's care files and placement plans, policies and procedures, and minutes of staff, management and board meetings.

The report finds the campus substantially compliant or compliant across five areas. It contains no findings of major non-compliance, and a reduction in the number of non-compliance findings overall compared with last year's HIQA report.

Oberstown accepts the findings of HIQA's report and has developed a comprehensive Action Plan, currently being implemented.

Oberstown Director Pat Bergin said: *"We continue to work to ensure that all our practices are in line with national and international standards, and we are pleased that today's HIQA report documents significant improvement in terms of care of children, children's rights, safety and security, health and education. We have developed an Action Plan, accepted by HIQA, which will help us address some of the observations made in the report. Many of these actions are already underway and in place.*

Chair of the Board of Management Ursula Kilkelly said: *"The last year has seen steady and consistent progress in Oberstown after a period of major change, and this too is noted in the report. The Action Plan we have developed with HIQA, along with the ambitious three-year Oberstown strategy that is already in place, will help us make the necessary further improvements to achieve the best possible care for young people on campus."*

HIQA noted positive developments in a number of areas including:

- Progress in relation to care of children, children's rights, health care, premises, and safety and security.
- Children's health needs were met to a good standard and significant improvements were evident.
- Children's education needs were appropriately assessed and met.
- Inspectors observed staff being 'warm, empathetic and child-centred in their interaction with children, and firm in their ability to establish boundaries'.
- Improvement in the management of challenging behaviour and a reduction in the necessity for use of restrictive practices.
- The establishment of a campus council providing increased consultation with children, containing an 'impressive list of achievements'.
- Evidence that many of the recommendations from external reports were implemented in full and work on the remainder was underway.

ENDS

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Note to Editors:

- High-res pictures of the campus, CEHOP infographic and Language guide can be downloaded from the Oberstown media toolkit [here](#)

1. Oberstown

Oberstown Children Detention Campus provides a safe and secure environment for children who are placed in the campus by the Children. The objective of Oberstown is to provide children in the campus with education and development in order 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.

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:

- **C** – care, we give these young people a routine that for almost all has been absent – bed, food, responsibility.
- **E** – education, there is a full education programme at Oberstown. Junior and Leaving Certificate cycles are covered and a summer school ensures continuous learning.
- **H** - health and well-being, from on-site nurses through full medical care, dentist and psychological care.
- **O**ffending behaviour - each young person attends modules designed to achieve understanding of their behavior and reactions.
- **P**reparation - for return to families and communities looking towards reintegration, we work in partnership with both Le Chéile and YAP who provide family and community support structures after release.