

September 2018 'Point in Time' Analysis¹

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 44 young people in detention on the date in question, 42 male and 2 female.

Of those: 24 were on detention orders, 20 were on remand orders.

The offences for which young people were detained included:

- Theft and Fraud – 25 young people had charges for this offence.
- Assault – 15 young people.
- Criminal damage – 3 young people.
- Road Traffic Offences – 5 young people.

Of those remanded:

- 5 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.
- 5 young people were on remand in Oberstown for more than 100 days.

Of those sentenced:

- 14 young people had a sentence of between 1 and 10 months.
- 7 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 44 young people in detention, 35 had been in Oberstown previously, however 15 of those had served remand orders only. Of the 44, 9 had never been in detention before.

3. Origins/background

Of the young people:

¹ The data here is based on the information available in young peoples' files on the day in question.

- 17 were from Dublin, 3 were from Cork, 4 were from Galway, and the rest came from counties: Cavan; Carlow; Kildare; Leitrim; Limerick; Louth; Longford; Meath; Offaly; Westmeath; Waterford; Wexford; Wicklow.
- 29 were Irish nationals, 9 were Travellers, 2 were EU Nationals, 2 were African, and there were 2 young people from other ethnicity.

4. Health and Well-being

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

- 3 young people had a physical health concern.
- 3 young people were on medication for mental health concerns.
- 7 were previously on medication for mental health concerns.
- 8 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 Care²

Of the 44 young people in Oberstown:

- 11 young people were in care prior to detention and a further 8 had significant involvement with Tusla.³
- 1 young person was under Special Care orders prior to detention.⁴
- Files indicated that there were child protection concerns in respect of 12 young people.
- 17 young people had a social worker; 2 young people had a Guardian Ad Litem.⁶

² This covers all forms of care as outlined in the Child Care Act, 1991, namely voluntary, foster, residential, special care or emergency care

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Child protection concerns refers to young people who are at risk of abuse/neglect. See Tusla, <http://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/>.

⁶ A GAL is a court appointed representative who advocates for a young person during court proceedings.