

Bulletin on the Board of Management Meeting held on 21st October 2021

The following is a summary of the Board of Management of Oberstown Children Detention Campus meeting that took place on Thursday 21st October 2021.

Ref	Subject	Summary
1.	New Meeting Format	A new meeting agenda format was introduced at this meeting. Its purpose is to create more time for discussion of strategic matters by the Board.
2.	Board Committees	<p>Audit & Risk Committee: The Board noted the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting of 12th October 2021, including that the IT Risk Assessment is to be undertaken by Mazars in the fourth quarter of the year.</p> <p>Governance Committee: The Board noted the minutes of the Governance Committee meeting of 5th October 2021. Particular reference was made to the revised reporting in relation to restrictive practices.</p> <p>Strategy Committee: The Chair of the Strategy Committee provided an update on the development of the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Young People Committee: The Board noted the Advocacy Officer's report for September. The Chair of the Committee advised that additional ways to engage with young people are being actively explored.</p>
3.	COVID 19	In light of increased COVID rates among staff, testing on Campus has increased. Some units are on restricted movements, with young people tested as precaution. Staffing levels are not a concern.
4.	Restrictive Practices	<p>The Board considered a comprehensive report on Restrictive Practices including data on Single Separation and Physical Interventions, with some narrative providing context.</p> <p>The Report also introduced two additional restrictive practices set out in the Children's Rights Policy Framework, namely use of handcuffs and searches, which the Board will keep under review.</p> <p>There was lengthy discussion on the use of Restrictive Practices and the importance of ensuring consistency in practice. The Director outlined the systems used.</p> <p>The data on Single Separation were examined, with a focus on the main reasons for separation, i.e. threats to staff and young people. It was noted that by international standards, the rate of restrictive practices continues to be relatively low, but will nonetheless be kept under close review.</p>
5.	Reporting on Staff Matters	<p>The Board were updated on staff matters in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment • Employee Relations • Industrial Relations <p>The CPO updated the Board with regard to the trade dispute lodged by Forsa at the WR. The Board considered the concerns of staff, with particular input into the Board discussion from the staff members. The Board was advised that</p>

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		<p>actions had already been undertaken in response to the trade dispute, including a meeting between Oberstown management, Forasa and An Garda Síochána about the emergency response to incidents on Campus and a staff engagement process to hear the views and perspectives of staff.</p> <p>The Board welcomed the attention to these matters and offered full support to management in bringing the process under the WRC to a successful conclusion.</p>
6.	Role of Social Worker/Designated Liaison Person	<p>Bill Byrne gave the Board a presentation on Role of Social Worker / Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection.</p> <p>The presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Duties of Social Worker Role • Main Duties of Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection Role under Children First • Duties of Mandated Reporters under Children First Act 2015 • Statistics for the year from mid-October 2020 to mid-October 2021 • How the role is explained to young people <p>He responded to questions from the Board on how complaints/referrals are managed. He outlined the recording process; all referrals and complaints are recorded whether or not they meet the threshold for reporting to TUSLA. The Board thanked Bill Byrne for his valuable and useful presentation.</p>
7.	Children's Rights Policy Framework	<p>An Assessment Judgment Framework has been developed by HIQA as the new set of national standards against which Oberstown will be assessed, based on the Oberstown Children's Rights Policy Framework.</p> <p>The Board welcomed the adoption of the new Assessment Framework that will support a more transparent inspection process and provide a set of benchmarks against which implementation of the Children's Rights Policy Framework can be measured internally and externally.</p> <p>HIQA has given notice that it will undertake a full inspection from 1st – 4th November 2021.</p>
8.	Snapshot Profile of Young People in Oberstown.	<p>The Board received a document providing a snapshot of the Oberstown population on 24 September 2021 including information on the length of orders being served and a high-level summary of the charges and offences with which young people are associated.</p> <p>This data will inform the strategic development of the Campus.</p>

Professor Ursula Kilkelly
Chairperson

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