



NEWS

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Newsletter of the Irish Youth Justice Service Issue 1, Summer 2008



A message from the National Director

Ms Michelle Shannon

“We are currently in the midst of arguably the most exciting few months for IYJS since our foundation in December 2005”

It is with great pleasure that we launch this, the first issue of the IYJS Newsletter. Along with our newly launched website, which can be found at www.iyjs.ie, we now have a greatly enhanced means of getting out the message of the Irish Youth Justice Service and keeping everyone up to date with what's happening in the area.

The timing could not be better; we are currently in the midst of arguably the most exciting few months for IYJS since our foundation following a Government Decision in December 2005. Between the staging of the first biennial IYJS Conference and the launch of the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010, clear strides have been made in helping us achieve the goal of our mission statement, “To create a safer society by working in partnership to reduce youth offending through appropriate interventions and linkages into services”.

Our conference, which took place in the Slieve Russell Hotel in Co Cavan on 6-7 March, was a great success. It provided a valuable forum for policy-makers, decision-makers

and service providers involved with planning and providing interventions for children in trouble with the law.

The National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010 highlights the partnership approach needed to achieve our goals and I am looking forward to working closely with all those involved in its implementation.

Much progress has also been made in developing new facilities in the children detention schools. Responsibility for the operation of detention school facilities for children transferred from the Department of Education and Science to the Irish Youth Justice Service on 1 March 2007. The children detention school model pro-

vides for appropriate educational, training and other programmes and facilities for children detained, to promote their reintegration into society and prepare them to take their place again in the community. This year Trinity House School is celebrating its 25 year anniversary. Details on this and plans for the further development of the detention schools is covered later in this issue.

In terms of community programmes, I welcome the expansion of the number of Garda Youth Diversion Projects from 71 to 100 over the course of 2007. The projects challenge offending behaviour and develop children's skills so they are in a better position to avail of opportunities such as education and employment while providing a structured environment to add stability and support to the young person's life. Since January, IYJS has also been providing funding for projects operated by the Young Persons Probation division of the Probation Service, who play a key role in the implementation of community sanctions for children.

I hope that you find this newsletter a useful source of information on our activities. I would encourage you to visit our newly launched website at www.iyjs.ie for more information on our organisation. If you have any further queries regarding our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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Trinity House School celebrates 25 years



The Minister for Children, Mr Brendan Smith TD

The Minister for Children launches National Youth Justice Strategy

The National Youth Justice Strategy was launched in Farmleigh on 27 March 2008 by the Minister for Children, Mr Brendan Smith TD. The Strategy covers the 3 year period from 2008 to 2010 and focuses on children who have already had some contact with the criminal justice system.

The aim of the National Youth Justice Strategy is to provide a partnership approach among agencies working in the youth justice system. It includes a number of goals and targets for IYJS and other Government Departments and agencies to help measure progress and to assess where available resources should be targeted.

Speaking at the launch of the Strategy, the Minister for Children said: "The purpose of the National Youth Justice Strategy is to develop a co-ordinated approach among agencies working in the youth justice system over the next three years. I am convinced that the Strategy lays strong foundations for the continued development of a successful youth justice system fo-

cused on reducing offending and improving outcomes for both young people and our community."

Based on the principles of the Children Act 2001, as amended, and the Government's decision to reform the youth justice area, the strategy contains five high level goals (see panel on opposite page).

The Strategy will be progressed at a

national level by the National Youth Justice Oversight Group, which the Minister for Children has established in order to facilitate the cross-agency collaboration needed. The group will be chaired by Ms Sylva Langford, Director General of the Office of the Minister for Children (OMC), and will also include Ms Michelle Shannon, National Director of the Irish Youth Justice Service, Mr Aidan Browne, CEO of the Children Acts Advisory Board, Ms Mary

"I am convinced that the Strategy lays strong foundations for the continued development of a successful youth justice system focused on reducing offending and improving outcomes for both young people and our community."

Minister for Children, Brendan Smith TD

Copies of the National Youth Justice Strategy can be downloaded at www.iyjs.ie

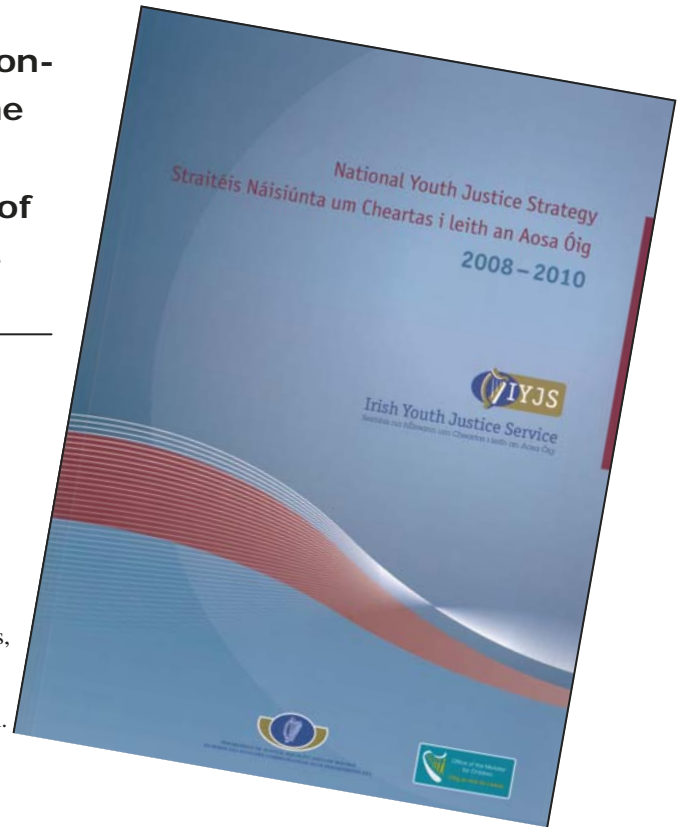
“In liaison with the OMC, the IYJS also consulted with children for their views on the Strategy. The overriding message from these consultations was the importance of prevention and intervention in children’s lives.”

Doyle, Assistant Secretary from the Department of the Taoiseach, Mr Hugh Kane from the Health Service Executive, Assistant Commissioner Louis Harkin of An Garda Síochána and Mr Paddy McDonagh, Assistant Secretary from the Department of Education and Science. Officials from other Departments and agencies may also be involved as required to report on progress in the areas under their remit.

At local level, where appropriate, Youth Justice Teams will be established as sub-groups of Children’s Services Committees to enhance delivery of outcomes for the children involved.

In liaison with the OMC, the IYJS also consulted with children for their views on the Strategy. These included children be-

tween the ages of 12-17 years from Garda Youth Diversion Projects in Monaghan NYP (MNYP); Knocknaheeny/Holyhill Youth Centre, Cork; Corpus Christi Youth Development Group, Moyross, Limerick (CCYDG); and GRAFT, Ronanstown, Dublin. The IYJS also met boys and girls from the Children and Young People’s Forum (CYPF), a group which the OMC consults on issues of concern to young people. The overriding message from these consultations was the importance of prevention and intervention in children’s lives, in particular for



The National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010. Copies of the Strategy are available at www.iyjs.ie

families and communities at risk. The Strategy aims to improve the delivery of services and outcomes for them, their families, victims and the community.

High Level Goals of the Strategy

1. To provide leadership and build public confidence in the youth justice system.
2. To work to reduce offending by diverting young people from offending behaviour.
3. To promote the greater use of community sanctions and initiatives to deal with young people who offend.
4. To provide a safe and secure environment for detained children which will assist their early re-integration into the community.
5. To strengthen and develop information and data sources in the youth justice system to support more effective policies and services.



Professor Paul Ekblom



Mr Bob Ashford



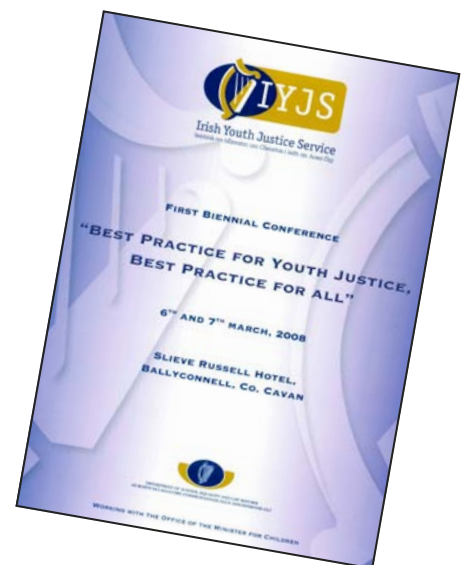
Mr David O'Mahony

First biennial IYJS Conference a great success

The first biennial Conference of the Irish Youth Justice Service took place on 6 -7 March 2008 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan.

Under the theme “Best Practice for Youth Justice, Best Practice for All”, the conference featured a range of Irish and international speakers including the Minister for Children, Mr Brendan Smith TD, Professor Paul Ekblom, Associate Director of the Design Against Crime Research Centre in the UK and Mr Bob Ashford, Head of Youth Justice Strategy at the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

The two day conference was aimed at policy-makers, decision-makers and service providers who plan and provide interventions for children who are in trouble with the law, or who are at risk of being so. The conference focused on recent developments in theory and best practice in interventions for children and at reducing youth offending and featured a mixture of presentations and workshops. Copies of all workshops and



presentations from the conference are available on our website, www.iyjs.ie.

“Opening the Conference, the Minister for Children officially announced the Government’s decision to approve the building of a new national children detention facility on the existing Oberstown campus”

Opening the Conference, the Minister for Children officially announced the Government’s decision to approve the building of a new national detention facility for children and teenagers. The decision to build this fa-

To view all presentations from the Conference, please visit www.iyjs.ie

cility, which will cater for all children in the system under the age of 18, was made following the recommendations of the Report of the cross-departmental Expert Group on Children Detention Schools. The facility will be built on the existing State-owned Oberstown campus in Lusk, Co Dublin. Upon completion, the new facility will bring into the detention school system 16 and 17 year old boys who are currently detained in St Patrick’s Institution. Announcing the new facilities, the Minister said that “When fully completed, Ireland far from lagging behind, will be a centre of international excellence in best practice for youth detention”.

Paul Ekblom has worked internationally with the EU Crime Prevention Network, Europol, the United Nations and the Council of Europe. He is currently Professor and Co-Director of the University of the Arts, London Research Centre on Design Against Crime. Drawing on his wide knowledge of international best practice, Professor Ekblom’s presentation was entitled “Capturing, assessing, transferring and applying knowledge of good practice in crime prevention – the 5 I’s framework”.

“When fully completed, Ireland far from lagging behind, will be a centre of international excellence in best practice for youth detention.”

Minister for Children, Brendan Smith TD

Bob Ashford is the Head of Youth Justice Strategy at the Youth Justice Board, a non-departmental government body set up to implement the British Government’s reforms of the youth justice system in England and Wales following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. He is responsible for the Youth Justice Board’s end-to-end strategy and delivery covering prevention and early intervention, effective sentences and inclusion. His role involves working cross-governmentally to ensure the needs of young offenders and victims are recognised in other Government Departments’ strategic and operational delivery. He addressed the conference on “The Growth of Targeted Youth Crime Prevention”.

Other speakers over the course of the conference were Mr John Fitzgerald of the Limerick Regeneration Agency, Ms Michelle Shannon, National Director of IYJS, Ms Sylva Langford, Director General of the Office of the Minister for Children, Profes-

sor Dermot Walsh, Professor of Law at the University of Liverpool, Ms Mary Geaney, National Manager of Detention School Services, and Mr David O’Mahony of Durham University. In addition to the keynote speakers, a number of workshops were held over the two days offering attendees a chance to discuss and debate key issues in the sector.

Reflecting on the event, Michelle Shannon, National Director of the Irish Youth Justice Service, welcomed the positive discussion on key issues which took place with national and international experts in the field. Noting the timeliness of the Conference, she commented that “The Conference was a great opportunity for key policy-makers, decision-makers and service providers in the field to come together and build on existing links for a cohesive vision for the future”.

The conference was officially closed by Mr Seán Aylward, Secretary General of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.



Ms Sylva Langford, Director General of the Office of the Minister for Children



Mr Seán Aylward, Secretary General of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Juvenile Diversion Programme and Initiatives in the Kevin Street/Kilmainham Area, Dublin 8



Garda Liam Holland and Garda Margaret Gavin are Juvenile Liaison Officers attached to Kevin Street Garda Station in Dublin. In this article, Garda Margaret Gavin outlines their work in the community.

The main objective of the Juvenile Diversion Programme is to deal with juveniles who offend, by way of administering a formal or an informal caution thus diverting the offender away from the courts and minimising the likelihood of further offending.

As members of An Garda Síochána we believe that best practice can be achieved through interagency involvement. We are actively involved on several committees where statutory, voluntary and community are equal shareholders.

The Londubh Project is a Community-based preventative project targeting children (aged 4-12 years) attending Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Inchicore, Dublin 8 that have been identified as being at risk of early school leaving. The Londubh Project is an inter-agency initiative which grew out of the ISP and is managed by an inter-agency management committee. It has two staff members who are employed by the Health Service Executive and work in the primary school. They work in and out of school hours. The project identifies children who are vulnerable and at risk.

The Londubh Project has submitted a proposal to the Garda Diversion Project office for two professional workers to engage with 12-17 year olds who have left the primary school and who were part of

the Londubh Project. This programme of work is seen as a further development of the intensive engagement around young vulnerable children who need support and affirmation in their adolescence. The Londubh Project received an award in Croke Park on the 14 February 2008 from the Children Acts Advisory Board. The award recognises our inter-agency work and best practice.

“We believe that best practice can be achieved through inter-agency involvement. We are actively involved on several committees where statutory, voluntary and community are equal shareholders.”

There are presently two Garda Diversion projects in the Kevin St/Kilmainham area. The Dan Project (St Teresa’s Gardens, Donore Avenue area) and the Youth Intervention Service (Pimlico/Meath Street/Oliver Bond). These two projects are funded by the Irish Youth Justice Service and make a valuable contribution to young people at risk through activities and programmes organised for the young people who engage with the projects.

The Garda Schools Programme involves a series of talks to 5th class primary school children. The aim of the talk is to teach children sensible and responsible behaviour patterns. The following subjects are covered: The role of the Gardaí, Crime and the effect

on our Society, Bullying, and Drugs. At Halloween all sixteen primary schools are visited and talks are delivered on safety. The aim of the talk is to highlight the dangers faced by the children.

As part of the schools programme an interschools indoor soccer tournament is held annually in St Catherine’s Sports Com-

plex, Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 8. The tournament is a partnership between the FAI Development Officers Jonathan Tormey and Dave Rake, Dublin City Council Sports Development Officer Sharon Kelly and the primary schools. The tournament is run over two days. Sixteen boys and girls teams take part in the tournament. This has resulted in young boys and girls getting involved in sports and playing for local teams. Secondary school pupils were selected to take part in a Futsal Soccer Coaching course to referee and manage teams in their community. Their involvement provides a positive role model for the younger children in their areas.

To complete our Garda Schools Pro-



The Londubh Project, Overall winner and category winner for effective practice in inter-agency working, CAAB Awards 2008. Back row: Peter O'Neill, Garda Margaret Gavin, Claudia Vaulont, Mary Keogh, Aidan Browne, Jo Kennedy, Minister for Children Brendan Smith TD, Glenda McCormack, Jacinta Stewart. Front row: Siobhán Brennan, Julie Mulligan, Nicky Fahy.

gramme a series of outings is organised over a three week period in May. 5th class primary school children visit the Hellfire Club in the Dublin Mountains. Emphasis is placed on positive activities like sport. A BBQ is included. We finish with a Nature trail around Massey's Forest.

There are three separate Youth and Community Achievement Awards held in the Kevin Street/Kilmainham area:

(a) SWICN (South West Inner City Network) – Chairperson Marie Stanley. In conjunction with local community and Gardaí, these awards are held annually and recognise the achievement of young people aged 10-18 years in the locality. The young people are presented with certificates of achievement and merits. The awards are presented by a Minister. The award ceremony is held in St Catherine's Church, Thomas Street, Dublin 8. Funding is received from the YIS Garda Diversion Project.

(b) The Droichead Awards are held every

two years and take in four primary schools and one secondary school in the Kilmainham Sub District. It recognises the contribution young people make to the local community.

(c) The Link Awards are held every two years. They involve two primary schools and one secondary school and early school leavers project. The awards acknowledge the good work which is carried out in the community by young people and adults alike.

The Liberties Festival has been running in the Dublin 8 area for over thirty years. The Juvenile Liaison Officers are on the steering committee for this event. We are involved in running a Primary Schools Soccer Tournament over three days. This is funded by the festival committee and involves eight primary schools and over two hundred children.

We are also involved in organising Gardaí v Local Traders Fun Soccer Match. This is very well received by the Local Community as an established part of the festival calendar. This event also promotes good relationships

between the Gardaí and Local Community.

We have several initiatives running in the A District and it is important to be able to source funding quickly when a particular need arises. Small amounts of funding can go a long way in helping the young people engage in positive activities which meet their needs. New and inventive ways have to be tried to engage young people at risk and to target those most in need. The benefits of working with the primary schools is a way of building positive relationships between the Gardaí and the young people.

We have found that early intervention and working with other agencies has helped to reduce anti-social behaviour in our area. Our feedback from the communities suggest that many of our initiatives have shown results.

Garda Youth Diversion Projects



Junction Project Recognition Event—
Garda Community Relations

The Junction Project

The Junction Project is a Garda Youth Diversion Project (GYDP) based in Ballinasloe, Co Galway. In this article they outline their work in the community.

The Junction Project was established as a partnership of Ballinasloe Gardaí, Youth Work Ireland, Galway and a local inter-agency committee in October 1999. The project is located in D'Cube, Youth Centre in Ballinasloe town and caters for the young people within the town boundaries.

We are a two-person project with a part time co-ordinator and a part time project worker. We are funded through the Community Programme of the Irish Youth Justice Service and our employing agency is Youth Work Ireland, Galway. We also have a local management committee comprising of our Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO), Regional Director of Youth Work Ireland, Galway,

members of the local Gardaí, Health Service Executive, Western Area, Probation Services, Voluntary and Statutory bodies and Community Representatives, all of whom support us by advising on project development.

Our focus as Youth Justice Workers is to support young people in identifying issues surrounding their offending behaviour and the need for behavioural change. We do this by providing support to the young person in the form of one to

one work and group work. We devise our programmes specific to the needs of the young person referred or to the group attending the project. We feel that it is important and fundamental to our role as facilitators that each young person feels listened to and heard.

Our social and educational programmes are a fundamental aspect of the project. We provide small group work programmes which include various aspects of the Copping On programme, Personal Development, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Communication, Bullying and The Justice System to name but

“Our focus as Youth Justice Workers is to support young people in identifying issues surrounding their offending behaviour and the need for behavioural change.”

A full list of Garda Youth Diversion Projects located nationwide can be found at our website, www.iyjs.ie

a few. The Project links with the local schools and facilitates discussions and workshops designed to engage young people in activities that complement and enhance the school curriculum. We also work with the local secondary schools to address the issue of early school leavers; we design programmes around behaviour modification to encourage young people to remain in education. We have also found that engaging in Restorative Cautions has been hugely beneficial to the participants of the project and their families. We firmly believe that this element will become a core part of our work and we look forward to seeing it develop and to supporting the JLO and local Gardaí in the facilitation of such meetings.

Our Project also offers support to parents of young people referred to the project. This is facilitated through individual support and we have also initiated a Parent Support Programme. This programme is devised in consultation with the parents. Outdoor activity programmes are hugely successful within the project; soccer is the main outdoor activity in Ballinasloe with our participants revelling in the weekly sessions on the local astro turf. It is activities like these that provide the informal groundwork for getting to know young people and building relationships. It is fun and non-threatening yet on a therapeutic level it encourages team work, time keeping, respect, goal keeping, establishing boundaries and of course it's fun!!!

Each year we take part in a competition titled the *World Cup Fun Event* in Galway. Youth groups from all over the country represent soccer teams involved in the International World Cup Competition. Our young people take great pride in their involvement in the event from costume and kit design (of which we have won awards on an annual basis) to learning about new countries and their cultures and norms. We also take part in the annual National Youth Work Games. We also facilitate the following interests expressed by our participants; fishing, cycling,



“Our project also offers support to parents of young people referred to the project. This is facilitated through individual support and a Parent Support Programme.”

orienteeing, surfing, and meeting up with other justice projects and engaging in friendly matches and activities. Occasional trips to adventure centres, bowling and laser quest are also a part of other programmes.

Support, communication and advice from our local management committee in relation to project development has been integral to our development. Our employing agency Youth Work Ireland, Galway and its management have ensured that we, as project staff are supported and that we are encouraged to explore new methodologies and training on a regular basis. It would be remiss to not mention our Juvenile Liaison Worker; JLO Garda Oliver King epitomises what a JLO should be in any project – a referrer, a support and most importantly, interested in the progress and development of the young person referred to the project and their families. We are delighted to welcome Treo Nua, a new Garda Youth Diversion Project to Tuam, Co. Galway. Youth Work Ireland, Galway is also the employing agency for this project and we were delighted to support them in their set up and establishment in Tuam. They also have the great benefit of sharing our JLO!

Informal communication with other Justice Projects keeps us connected, informed and aware of new concepts, ideas and programmes that may benefit our project and indeed vice versa. Whilst we all work from the national guidelines and have core principles, the fact is that all projects vary in terms of programming and management. While more and more Justice Projects are coming on stream, we would welcome, as those working on the ground the opportunity for a more co-ordinated networking in terms of structured regional meetings. This, we feel would be a step in ensuring the best and most comprehensive practice and provision of service within Garda Juvenile Justice Projects.

The Junction Project is very proud of its work and its success in diverting young people from involvement or further involvement in anti social behaviour. We look forward to continued positive relations with the participants of the project, their families, and the agencies with whom we work, with Garda Community Relations and the Irish Youth Justice Service. Our future is dedicated to developing our service and evolving to cater to the ever-changing needs of the young people referred to our project.

What are the Children Detention Schools?

There are four children detention schools in the State. These are Oberstown Girls School, Oberstown Boys School, Trinity House School and Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre.

Boys who are aged less than 16 years at the time of their detention are detained in one of three children detention schools. All girls detained, up to 18 years old, are accommodated in Oberstown Girls School.

Work is underway to create children detention school places for 16 and 17 year old boys. In the interim, provision has

been made to retain the use of St. Patrick's Institution.

Responsibility for the management of the children detention schools was transferred from the Department of Education and Science to the Irish Youth Justice Service on 1 March 2007.

The children detention school model provides for appropriate educational, training and other programmes and facilities for children detained to promote their reintegration into society and prepare them to take their place as law abiding members of the community.

Children can be remanded or committed by the Courts. A safe and secure environment is provided on a 24 hour/365 days a year basis, while simultaneously addressing the offences committed by the child.

Individualised education/training and rehabilitation programmes are offered to all children within a care focused ethos. Each child is allocated a key worker from the time they enter the detention school – this person is professionally responsible throughout the child's remand or period of committal. The aim is to ensure a continuity of services to children when they enter/leave detention.

Policies, Procedures and Programmes

Reform goes on everyday with the accumulation and communication of knowledge and experience. At the heart of this process is the IYJS, the Directors and staff in the schools. In bringing these groups together, it has been possible to combine this experience in a number of groupings. These include a Directors Forum and policy groups on bed management, drugs policy, behaviour management and serious incidents.

Right: Cuan Beag, Oberstown Girls School. Opened by Minister Brendan Smith, September 2007



Serious incidents policy for Detention Schools

A serious incidents policy was approved by the Boards of Management in early 2008. The document will be distributed to each of the children detention schools.

The written policy was drafted by a sub-committee of the Directors Forum representing the Children Detention School Directors and IYJS. The purpose of this serious incident policy is to clearly identify the reporting and recording responsibilities of staff and managers in response to serious incidents

occurring within the realm of responsibility of the schools. This is a national policy for the entire service. The data recorded will be used to gain valuable lessons in managing incidents in the future.

A universal grading structure for incidents will be introduced. It will provide a consistent basis for when, and to whom, an incident should be reported and the timescale for doing so.

Working with the Directors of the schools,

the IYJS will support the new policy which will incorporate a logging, reporting and review of all serious incidents. Support will also be provided in respect of any training needed to meet the reporting arrangements and the considerable challenges which staff encounter in their day-to-day work in the schools

The IYJS is grateful for the level of co-operation and input by everyone involved in developing this key policy.

We want to start collecting your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on developing the detention school service. Please send your views to the dedicated email address: developing4all@justice.ie

Development of Children Detention School Facilities

“The outcome of bringing 16 and 17 year old offenders into this new framework should be to allow the education-focused model of the detention school to become the objective for all children less than 18 years, in detention.”

- Report on the Youth Justice Review, 2006

The Government recently made a decision to build a new national detention facility based on the recommendations of an Expert Group Report on the development of facilities to cater for all children detained.

The creation of new children detention school facilities is included in the National Development Plan. The IYJS will prioritise the development of detention places for 16 and 17 year old boys currently accommodated in St Patrick’s Institution and the redevelopment of Oberstown Boys School.

This development will involve careful planning and consultation in the design and construction phases. We will produce a state of the art modern facility. It will support staff in delivering a safe, caring environment for education and rehabilitative programmes aimed at re-integrating children with their families and community.

Keeping the show on the road

Time and resources are needed to maintain and improve conditions for children and staff. This work involves a range of refurbishment initiatives. Some of the more recent projects include; new fencing at Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre, the commissioning of Cuan Beag in Oberstown Girls School, the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Oberstown Boys School and the replacement of the boilers at Trinity House.



Refurbishment of Trinity House School

Trinity House School is 25 years old, and was built more recently than the other children detention schools. The IYJS is currently in the process of carrying out a major refurbishment project to modernise some of the facilities, particularly the children’s accommodation area. Managing the delivery of services in Trinity House School during the refurbishment will be a key, but achievable, challenge.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is assisting the IYJS and Trinity House School in planning the works needed to extend the life of the building for the next 15 years. Staff were consulted on a number of options which would maximise the benefits of the upgrades to the facility, while minimising any disruption. The refurbishment work will commence in June 2008 and is scheduled for completion mid-2009.



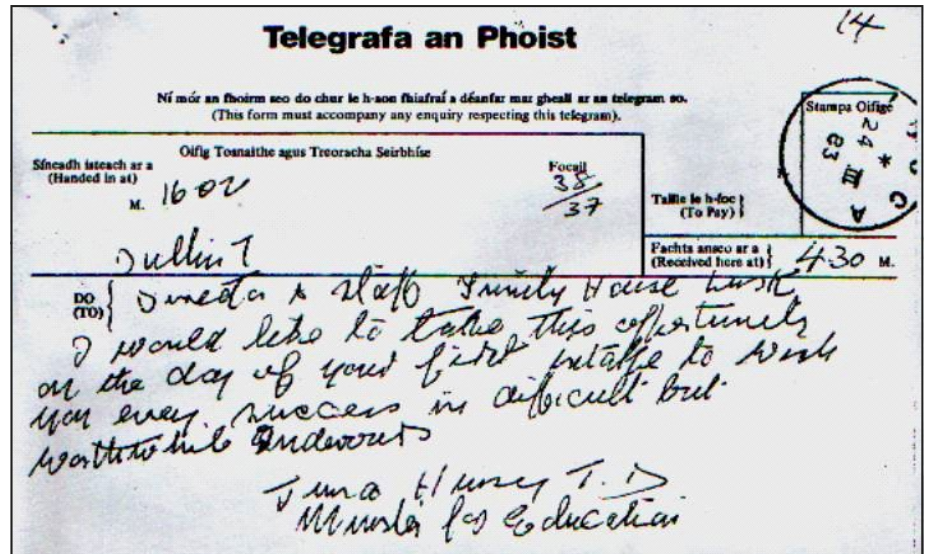
To read about Trinity House School’s 25 year anniversary, please see back page

Trinity House School celebrates 25 years

This year Trinity House School celebrates 25 years in operation. The school first opened its doors on 14 February 1983 as a secure unit to cater for young male offenders between the ages of 12 and 16 on admission and was officially opened by the then Minister for Education, Gemma Hussey TD, on 10 March 1983. The first four boys were transferred from Loughan House, Blacklion, Co Cavan on 24 March 1983 and were soon followed by another 9 from the same facility the following month.

Trinity House School was originally built and run by the Department of Education and Science and was a departure from the previous history of managing detained young people in that it operated under a care, education and rehabilitation model as opposed to a prison model. Each boy participated in a highly individualised programme drawn up by staff during the assessment period following admission. Regular House Reviews and full Case Conferences monitored each boy's progress through the School and helped to plan for the individual pupil's future.

Extracts from the first Board of Management Report state that 'the physical environment was designed to the most exacting modern standards to provide the maximum opportunity for the personal growth and development of the 30 young boys in residence, consistent with the needs for security'. The single storey building was sub-



Telegram on 1983 opening from then Minister for Education Gemma Hussey

divided into three main areas: three House Units (holding up to 10 boys each), a Tuition Block and an Administration Block. Attached to each House Unit was a secure yard and a larger recreation yard was attached to the Tuition Block. A sizeable school playing field was also provided within the secure area.

While much of the original philosophy continues to permeate services, there have also been changes with time. At the time of its opening, Trinity House operated under the Children Act 1908, legislation predating the establishment of the State. Today it operates under the Children Act 2001, as amended, and in March 2007 responsibility for the management of the school transferred from the Department of Education and Science to the Irish Youth Justice Service. These changes have helped provide the school with a thorough and modern environment for future development.

As seen earlier in this issue, IYJS is currently in the process of carrying out a major refurbishment project to modernise some of the facilities, particularly the children's accommodation area. Other major changes in this area have been the addition of the Fourth Unit (now Cuan Beag) and the conversion of the Directors Residence into a Step Down Unit. The educational curriculum of the school has also developed over the past quarter of a century, from that of a national school to a broader and more flexible curriculum which ensures that individuals' needs are identified and pursued accordingly.

Trinity House School owes its success over the past 25 years to the dedication and commitment of all those who have worked tirelessly to make it happen. This good work continues today under the School's present Director, Deirdre Seery, and her staff.

Contact us:



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