

Loughan House

Visiting Committee

Annual Report 2005

(01.12.04 - 30.11.05)

Loughan House Visiting Committee Annual Report 2005

We, the undersigned members of the Loughan House Visiting Committee, have pleasure in presenting this our Annual Report for 2005

The committee held a total of 12 meetings during the year all of which were well attended. During the year Mr Clifford Kelly , Mr Eddie Feeley , Mrs Rita Delahunty, Mr Eugene Delaney, Mrs Kathleen Richey , Mr Naul Mc Cole , Mrs Mary Kathleen Johnston , Mr Brendan Hughes , Mr Phil Cantwell and Mr Martin Doonan served on the Committee. Mr Clifford Kelly served as Chairperson of the Visiting Committee and Mrs Kathleen Richey as Vice Chairperson.

Mrs Mary K Johnston came to the end of her term as a member of the Visiting Committee during the year

Three new members were appointed to the Board in October 2005 , Mr Phil Cantwell , Mr Declan Connolly and Ms Sirena Campbell.

We had a total of 417 committals from other institutions during the year to the end of November 2005. The Temporary Release programme continues to work well with only a very small percentage of inmates failing to comply with their conditions of release.

Twenty two(22) inmates absconded from Loughan House during the year with most inmates being returned to custody shortly afterwards.

Mr Derek Brennan and Ms Catherine Comerford served as Governor in Loughan House and Mr James Reilly as Assistant Governor.

Visits.

During the year the committee members visited the house on their unscheduled visits and found all inmates in a good and contented manner. The house and grounds were always in a neat and tidy condition and likewise the kitchen area which received excellent reports when audited, being in pristine condition on each of our inspections.

No annual visit was carried out to any other institution during the year on the instruction of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Education

The education unit continues to offer an excellent range of subjects to the inmates from basic literacy skills up to comprehensive third level courses. Such diverse subjects and topics as cookery skills , woodwork and parenting skills are on offer. Inmates continue to attend this unit on an enthusiastic and totally voluntary basis.

In addition inmates attend various courses outside Loughan House whenever the opportunity and demand arises .Such courses as Cookery, ECDL, Computing ,Transportation Management, Sage Accounting , Sculpturing and Organic food production are attended.

The CAIT initiative

This continues to be in use seven days of the week and has a high level of participation from the inmates. Inmates have benefited greatly from this facility and it compliments the activities ongoing in the education area.

Probation and Welfare Service.

There is a full time Probation and Welfare Officer attached to Loughan House Ms. Tracey Kelly A good service is provided with inmates making good use of the service. A pre- release substance abuse programme is run in the institution by this service in conjunction with the Education unit and the North Western Health Board with inmates very willing to participate. Other programmes run under this service include the Linkage Programme which was in part funded by the Department of Social and Family affairs providing a link between pre release inmates and the various training and employment services in the broader community.

Pre-release Programme

A formal pre-release programme called “New Horizons” is running in Loughan House and this should greatly assist inmates when they are released as it covers all practical aspects of living in the community following release. The topics and skills learned include Safe Pass Certification , Forklift training , Driver Theory Tests , Personal Finance Management and Men's Health

External Agencies

The needs of the inmates continues to be attended to by members of Alcoholics Anonymous when they have volunteers available. The Samaritans continue to promote their service within the institution through the provision of informative documentation and the help of the various bodies within the institution itself.

Health Care.

The provision of health care continues to be provided by our two visiting doctors and dental surgeon to a very high standard. Psychiatric and Psychology services are provided whenever the need arises.

Kitchen

A wide and varied menu is provided on a daily basis to inmates.

During the year, seven (7) inmates, who work in the kitchen area, completed a Primary Course in Food Hygiene. Also, four (4) staff, who work in the kitchen area, successfully completed a Train the Trainer course to provide training to inmates working in the kitchen on best practices in catering skills.

Inmates Requests.

During the year one (1) inmate requested to meet with the Committee. All inmates are given the opportunity to speak to the Committee in an unhindered manner. Inmates requests to the committee are dealt with promptly but none complained about their treatment in Loughan House. Inmates expressed a high level of satisfaction with the staff and the facilities provided.

Chaplaincy

The spiritual needs of the inmates are attended to by a visiting chaplain from the local parish. Mass is celebrated on a weekly basis and on all the various feast days during the year.

The chaplain is available to attend to any inmate whenever called upon to do so and is greatly assisted by Sister Ellen Wallace who attends on a regular basis.

The requirements of all inmates of whatever religious persuasion are attended to as required.

