



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

**Social Services
Inspectorate**

**OBERSTOWN BOYS'
DETENTION SCHOOL**

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION

Carried out on 21st July 2009

INSPECTION REPORT ID NUMBER: 336

**Publication Date: 2nd October 2009
SSI Inspection Period: 11
Centre ID Number: 415**

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Introduction

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) carried out an announced inspection of a children's detention school under Section 69 (2) of the Child Care Act 1991. This inspection, by Michael McNamara, Lead Inspector, accompanied by the Orla Murphy, co-inspector, took place on 21st July 2009. The purpose of the inspection was to assess compliance with the action plan returned to the inspectorate by the Oberstown Boy's School (OBS) in response to the recommendations of the last inspection report (*inspection ID 269*).

Inspectors found that of the 32 recommendations made in the report, eight were fully implemented, 12 were partly implemented and twelve were not met.

Inspectors found that apart from the recommendations concerning safety, the director, managers and staff of the school had made considerable progress in implementing the recommendations, and they were pleased to see that the processes undertaken to respond to the recommendations involved staff at every level. For other recommendations there were interdependencies on IYJS, the board of management and other agencies, and the discussions and developments are acknowledged by inspectors to take time to come to a conclusion.

The recommendations that have yet to be met concern the following actions:

- OBS to review policy and practice of care and control (6)
- Revision of single separation guidelines by IYJS within the process of the revision of standards by HIQA (8)
- Liaison by IYJS with the HSE regarding notification of child protection concerns (11)
- Improvement of planning for and support after discharge by IYJS in liaison with the HSE and the probation service (17)
- Preparation for leaving care procedures by OBS (18)
- Preparation of a statement by the OBS board of management about its role (19)
- OBS to carry out a review of the deployment of staff (21)
- OBS to look at streamlining the system of recording (26)
- the board of management and director of OBS to arrange for a representative of the Fire Authority to visit the school annually in accordance with standard 9.10 (27)
- OBS to provide all staff with clear direction, training and guidance in health and safety (28)
- IYJS to determine a policy on the requirement of the standard 9.9 that the school requires written confirmation of compliance with building control and fire safety regulations (29)
- OBS to arrange for a comprehensive health and safety audit to be carried out including an assessment of the potential for self-harm (30).

Findings

Inspectors acknowledge the work that has been done to respond to the inspection. The partly met and unmet recommendations will be followed up in the next inspection, and for the majority, which are near to the projected deadlines, inspectors have requested reports on the progress in their implementation. In focussing on the whole range of recommendations inspectors note in particular that the recommendations on safety (27 – 30) are not met, and they urge the IYJS, board of management and director to give them their urgent attention.

Please see attached action plan in response to the inspection recommendations.

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Action Plan for Inspection No. 269 / 336

Name of Centre: Oberstown Boys Detention School

Date Action Plan Dispatched: 30th April 2009

Date of Follow-up Inspection: 21st July 2009

No.	Recommendation	OBS Response	Person Responsible	Implementation Date	SSI Comment
1	The director and board of management of OBS, in consultation with the IYJS, should revise the statement of purpose and function and ensure that the revision of the young people's and parents' booklets be completed as soon as possible.	Booklet to be revised.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	31 st August 2009	This recommendation has been mostly met. The young people's and parents' booklets have been revised and drafts were given to the inspectors. An approved revised statement covering the current purpose and function of the school should be sent to the Inspectorate by 9 th October 2009
2	The director of OBS should consult with the young people about ways in which greater choice can be exercised over the meals they receive.	Liaise with the young people, Trinity House School. Boys currently have input into shopping for food on unit.	Unit Manager	31 st July 2009	This recommendation has been met.
3	The director and board of management of OBS should develop greater opportunities for exercise and recreation outside the units, including making better use of open spaces already available to them.	Implemented. A full review of the skills staff can share with young people has been carried out. Staff have compiled a list of shared skills.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director	June 2009	This recommendation has been met.
4	The director and board of management of OBS, in consultation with the IYJS, should develop the roles of all staff in providing living skills training to young people.	Implemented. To be rolled out at Unit Meetings	Unit Managers	3 rd June 2009	This recommendation has been met.

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5	The director and board of management of OBS should arrange for the routines of the remand unit to be reviewed in order to make the time spent there as purposeful and positive as possible.	Chair of Board of Management, Director and Unit Manager to review and make submission to the Board on the 16 th June 2009.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Unit Manager	16 th June 2009	This recommendation has been met.
6	<p>The director and board of management of FCAC, in consultation with the IYJS, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review its policy on care and control, • revise its system for managing behaviour, • review the use of physical restraint and single separation, • develop a policy and practice on the management of risk, • give consideration to making further opportunities for privacy available within the behaviour management system, • develop practice that emphasises the distinction between the management of behaviour and the management of risk. 	<p>CPI – a system of crisis intervention, has been approved by IYJS, but has yet to be rolled out. TCI is still in use.</p> <p>The review on care and control and the management of risk has yet to be conducted. IYJS has asked that the four schools look at this together.</p>	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	September 2009	<p style="text-align: center;">This recommendation has not been met.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A report of the progress in implementing this recommendation should be sent to the inspectorate by 9th October 2009.</p>

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7	<p>As a matter of priority, the director and board of management of OBS should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the use of single separation, • reduce its frequency, • ensure that in every instance it conforms to the standards, and • ensure that practice reflects the principles of children's rights. 	<p>The review has taken place, but time is required to see how it will impact on practice.</p>	<p>Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS</p>	<p>June 2009</p>	<p>This recommendation has been partly met.</p> <p>The review has taken place. However, the practice of separating young people who were not in school had started again before the end of the school term. This practice should cease immediately.</p> <p>Practice will be assessed at the next inspection.</p>
8	<p>The IYJS should enter into discussion with the Department of Health and Children with a view to developing common standards for the use of single separation in all places where young people can be legally detained.</p>	<p>A revision of the guidelines has yet to commence as part of the general revision of the children's standards by HIQA.</p>	<p>Director representing Children's Detention Schools, & Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS</p>		<p>This recommendation has not been met.</p>
9	<p>The director and board of management of OBS should ascertain and record the wishes of parents about the religious upbringing of their children.</p>	<p>To be included in the boys booklet</p>	<p>Unit Managers</p>	<p>26th June 2009</p>	<p>This recommendation has been met.</p> <p>Practice will be assessed at the next inspection.</p>

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10	The director and board of management of OBS, in revising the system for the management of behaviour should give consideration to making further opportunities for privacy available.	The school has looked at this, but the review needs to look closely at the link between the 'Levels' reward system and awarding opportunities for privacy.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	31 st August 2009	This recommendation has been partly met. A report of the progress in implementing this recommendation should be sent to the inspectorate by 9 th October 2009.
11	The IYJS should review the school's child protection policy, liaise with the HSE to develop protocols for notification of child protection concerns, and ensure that a competent external element is involved in the process.	OBS awaiting guidance from IYJS on this.	Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	31 st August 2009	This recommendation has not been met. Common child protection policies were due to be discussed between the directors of children's detention schools and the IYJS in August 2009. To be assessed at the next inspection.
12	The IYJS, in consultation with the school's director and board of management, should review the whistleblowing policy and ensure that staff have sufficient confidence in it for it to fulfil its purpose of protecting young people.	OBS awaiting guidance from IYJS on this.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director and Deputy Director	September 30 th 2009	This recommendation has been only partly met as the issue is still under consideration by the IYJS. A progress report should be sent to the Inspectorate by IYJS by 9 th October 2009. To be assessed at the next inspection.

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13	The director and board of management of OBS, in consultation with the IYJS, should carry out a review of practice in children's rights to ensure that staff are confident about them and able to promote their facilitation.	OBS has reviewed practice in children's rights and is considering ways of improving it.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	31 st August 2009	This recommendation has been mostly met. Work needs to be done to ensure that staff confidently promote rights. To be assessed at the next inspection.
14	The IYJS should develop policy and set out clear objectives and definition of roles for independent advocates.	FCAC will work in conjunction with the IYJS to implement recommendation 10.	Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	31 st December 2009	This recommendation has been partly met. IYJS have been in discussion with the Irish Association of Young People in Care (IAYPIC) and the policy will be formulated through those discussions. To be completed by the agreed deadline of 31 st December 2009, and to be assessed at the next inspection.
15	The director and board of management of OBS, in consultation with the IYJS, should introduce a formal risk assessment at the point of admission of young people placed on remand that informs an individualised programme for managing risk and behaviour.	The risk of self-harm has been embedded in the referral form, but other risks, such as the potential for peer abuse, need to be included.	Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS		This recommendation has been mostly met. To be assessed at the next inspection.

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16	The director and board of management of OBS, in consultation with the IYJS, should carry out a thorough review of the planning process. It should rename the plans in order to avoid confusion with statutory care plans, and it should ensure that the plans, programmes of action and reviews are tailored to lengths of sentences.	Plans to be re-named 'Programme of Care'. Review of process ongoing. OBS have set up a 'shorter sentence group' to look at the impact on all aspects of practice of the shorter sentences.	Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	26 th June 2009	This recommendation has been partly met. A progress report should be sent to the Inspectorate by the Director by 9 th October 2009. To be assessed at the next inspection.
17	The IYJS should enter into discussion with the HSE and probation service about the continuity of support for young people in preparation for and after their leaving the school.	OBS awaiting guidance from the IYJS. There are monthly meetings between IYJS and the probation service.	Director and Deputy Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	September 30 th 2009	This recommendation has not been met. The IYJS has arranged to meet with the probation service and the HSE. A report of the progress of the IYJS in implementing this recommendation should be sent to the inspectorate by 9 th October 2009.
18	The director and board of management of OBS should develop further its preparation for leaving and aftercare procedures and practice guidelines.	Progress in implementing this recommendation depends on the recommendation above.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Director of Trinity House Children's Detention School	September 30 th 2009	This recommendation has not been met.

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19	The board of management should produce a statement clearly defining the role of the board, its responsibilities, authority, monitoring function in accordance with standard 6.9, including in the statement the lines of accountability of the directors and the board's relationship with the IYJS.	The role of the Board of Management is already in legislation in the 2001 Child Act. However, a statement will be prepared in order to comply with standard 6.9. Due to be raised in the board meeting in June 2009.	Chair of the Board of Management	September 30 th 2009	This recommendation has not been met. A copy of the statement should be sent to the inspectorate by 9 th October 2009.
20	The director and board of management of OBS should review the unit managers' role in monitoring care practices and ensure that it is better evidenced.	Care Review Meetings to take place each Monday, Unit Manager & Deputy Director. Evidenced in on-call log.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director	8 th June 2009	This recommendation has been met.
21	The director and board of management of OBS, in consultation with the IYJS, should review the deployment of staff.	Ongoing	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	31 st August 2009	This recommendation has not been met. A report of the progress in implementing this recommendation should be sent to the inspectorate by 9 th October 2009.

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22	The director and the board of management, in consultation with the IYJS, should determine how it is to remedy the deficiencies in vetting, and ensure that in all future appointments the national guidelines on vetting are rigorously followed.	All deficiencies have been attended to. The IYJS has carried out a review of the vetting of staff to ensure that they are all Garda cleared.	Chair of the Board of Management, Director, Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	June 2009	This recommendation has been met.
23	The board of management should give priority to arranging visits to the school in accordance with the recommendation of the 2005 inspection.	To be discussed at Board of Management meeting in June 2009. Two visits have been made since the last inspection.	Chair of the Board of Management	June 2009	This recommendation has been partly met. To be assessed at the next inspection.
24	The IYJS should determine which model of staff supervision is to be used in the detention schools and the director should ensure that it is properly implemented.	The IYJS have made a determination about which model of supervision is to be used. It now has to be put into practice. Under Review	Child Welfare Advisor, IYJS	ongoing	This recommendation has been partly met. Progress in the full implementation of this recommendation will be assessed at the next inspection.