

Board Bulletin

Bulletin for Staff on the Board of Management Meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2026.

<p>The bulletin below provides an overview of the Board of Management meeting that took place on Thursday 26th February 2026. The meeting was attended by Board members and members of the Senior Management Team.</p>		
1.	Board Membership	<p>The Chair welcomed new Board member, Joyce Loughnan, to her first Board meeting.</p>
2.	Priority Agenda Item #1	<p>The Director updated the Board on several high priority items:</p> <p>HIQA: The final HIQA report was received on Monday 23rd February; the compliance plan is due to be submitted on Monday 2nd March 2026. The plan will be added to the Business Plan 2026 when agreed and brought to the Board in March 2026.</p> <p>Occupancy: As of January 31, there were 41 young people on site, with 23 on detention and 18 on remand, comprising of 40 males and 1 female; an almost 44% remand rate is quite concerning especially the lack of conversion to detention, and it raises the question as to whether detention is being used as a last resort.</p> <p>Capacity: The Minister recently announced an intention to increase the certified capacity for males by four during 2026, with an initial increase of two in March, possibly March 31. The intention is to have a second increase of two beds during September of this year, thus increasing the certified capacity by four. The Director advised that the Senior Team is engaging with managers and staff on a proposed action plan to manage the increase while complying with the Children’s Rights Policy Framework and other duties such as the Health & Safety Act and the Working Time Directive. He noted a level of anxiety across the campus and there is work ongoing to identify the safe number of staff to deal with this increase whilst maintaining the level of service to young people. Staffing levels continue to be a challenge. The Board agreed that the paramount concern is the safety of young people and staff. The Governance Framework will be developed to give the Board and Department oversight of how the action plan is implemented.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement: Oberstown continues to engage with the Department primarily on resources and occupancy/capacity.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>Young People Matters</p>	<p>The Young People Matters Report was taken as read with the following highlighted by the Director:</p> <p>Occupancy: January was a busy month on the campus with a population of (51) young people. There were (6) new admissions and (6) re-admission in January. There were (10) young people discharged. There were (3) bed referrals unavailable to the Courts during January, due to full occupancy.</p> <p>At the beginning of the month, Unit 8 was reopened for the re-admission of a female young person on remand and remained operational throughout the month as the designated unit for females. Despite staffing constraints, the unit remained fully operational. There has been a positive impact from the recruitment of the new DSO staff members across the teams. A number of DSO's are currently completing their induction and expect to be on the floor in a matter of weeks.</p> <p>Single Separation: There were 41 Single Separations involving 22 individual young people in January, a decrease of 11 separations on the previous month.</p> <p>It should be noted that of the 51 young people in residence in January there are 29 young people whose behaviour did not require management through Single Separation.</p> <p>There were no instances of single separations due to extenuating circumstances in January.</p> <p>Safety Interventions: There were four safety interventions in January 2026, these were confined to one unit.</p> <p>Child Protection: There were 13 matters recorded on the DLP database for January 2026. (7 internal and 6 external).</p> <p>Activities and Programmes: update on activities and programmes for young people was provided.</p> <p>Advocacy Officer Report January 2026: The Board noted the outline of advocacy and complaint activity for the young people on campus for December 2025.</p> <p>Minutes of the Meeting of the Young People Committee 17th February 2026: The minutes of the Young People Committee of 17th February 2026 were taken as read with the following highlighted by the Chair of the Committee (JG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recruitment of a Participation Officer is a priority. • Business Plan 2026 was reviewed. • The Young People Committee Workplan 2026 was agreed by the committee.
-----------	------------------------------------	--

		<p>Minutes the Meeting of the Young People Committee with Young People 26th January 2026: The minutes of the meeting with young people on 26th January 2026 were taken as read with the following highlighted by the Chair of the Committee (JG):</p> <p>Issues raised by the young people were discussed at length at the meeting of the Young People Committee on 17th February. It was agreed that a tracker would be developed to track issues and provide feedback to the young people.</p>
4.	People Matters	<p>The People Matters Report was taken as read with the following highlighted by the Head of HR:</p> <p>Union Engagement: The Board was updated on Union engagement around the increased capacity. The Head of HR will meet with the unions for feedback on the draft action plan to accommodate an increase in 2 boys.</p> <p>Recruitment: The Board noted staffing levels at 31st January 2026. While staffing is close to approved levels on paper, the WTE available to roster is lower once leave and absence are included.</p> <p>Training: New online training hub has been launched.</p> <p>Minutes of the People & Culture Committee Meeting of 12th February 2026</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the People & Culture Committee of 12th February 2026 were taken as read with the following highlighted by the Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMDS: A plan and champions are in place. The project will be progressed in 2026 and piloted in Q1 2027. • Committee Workplan: The committee workplan for 2026 was agreed. <p>The committee has added an extra meeting in April because of the workload and the need support the HR Team.</p>
5.	Board Committees	<p>Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting of 10th February 2026</p> <p>The minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 10th February were taken as read with the following highlighted by the Chair (BA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green masterplan, part of the Culture Review, is being progressed. • Business Plan 2026 was reviewed. • Meeting focussed on capital projects

Koulla Yiasouma
Chairperson