

Oberstown Children Detention Campus statement on HIQA inspection report

18 March 2021: Oberstown Children Detention Campus has today welcomed the findings of a December 2020 inspection by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). This was a thematic inspection undertaken in December 2020, so notably, while the campus continued to address the challenges presented by COVID-19.

The inspection found that there was either ‘compliance’ or ‘substantial compliance’ across all standards inspected. The inspection found ‘substantial compliance’ in relation to planning for young people and management and staffing at Oberstown while it found Oberstown ‘compliant’ with respect to the area of Children’s Rights.

The inspection, held on December 8th, 9th and 10th 2020, involved HIQA inspectors speaking with young people, staff and management at Oberstown, observing practice and daily life on Campus and reviewing documents and records.

According to the report, the young people interviewed by HIQA described positive experiences of their care at Oberstown and welcomed the support given to them by staff. Young people said that they were aware of their rights at Oberstown and confirmed that the staff explained their rights clearly to them.

Where young people wanted to make a complaint or raise a concern, they were happy that these were heard and addressed.

Damien Heron, Director of Oberstown Children Detention Campus, said: *“We are pleased with HIQA’s findings which confirm the continuing and positive progress that Oberstown has made over the past number of years. This report is one of a series of increasingly positive reports from HIQA and we welcome the fact that this progress is vindicated by the views and experiences of young people.*

At Oberstown we operate a unique personalised care model for young people which takes into account their complexity of unmet need and is centred on their care, education and health. This model, the CEHOP model, involves young people in their care planning and we are pleased the inspection notes that young people felt involved in this process.”

Professor Ursula Kilkelly, Chair of Oberstown Board of Management said:

“A key priority for us here at Oberstown is to ensure that young people are aware of their rights, are involved in decision-making at all levels and have a right to complain and have those complaints addressed. We are pleased the 2020 HIQA Report evidences this.

At Oberstown, we are committed not only to an ambitious, ongoing programme of improvement in the delivery of our service but also to ensuring that these positive changes are embedded in Oberstown governance, culture and ways of working. The Board of Management would like to acknowledge the commitment of management and staff at Oberstown in helping to bring about these positive changes and thank them for their incredible dedication and hard work in what has been an extremely challenging time.”

ENDS

For media queries contact:

Danielle Martin at Danielle.martin@drury.ie / 086 776 1592

Ben Connolly ben.connolly@drury.ie / 087 281 9467

Note to Editors:

- The HIQA inspection report is available [here](#).

1. [Oberstown](#)

Oberstown Children Detention Campus provides a safe and secure environment for children who are placed in the campus by the Children Court. The objective of Oberstown is to provide children in the campus with education and development to address and change offending behaviour, so that they can return and contribute positively to their families and communities.

In June 2016, a single Oberstown campus was established, bringing together three children detention schools – Trinity House, Oberstown Boys’ School and Oberstown Girls’ School.

2. [CEHOP](#)

Oberstown helps young people to address their offending behaviour through a programme centred on their care, education and health needs. This programme is CEHOP, a bespoke Oberstown designed and delivered programme.

Upon arrival, each young person is assessed, and an individual care plan is developed by a multi-disciplinary team. This produces a customised journey through care plan for each young person. This is achieved through a unique care model, developed by Oberstown, in which relationship building is key, addressing core areas of care, education, health, offending behaviours and preparation for return to family and communities.