

asylum seekers. He described Mt Trenchard as a very special place historically. "It is sad there are suggestions this place is now being used as a punishment block for refugees," he added but said he had reservations about closing it in the absence of reports.

If Irish people were treated similarly in Canada, Australia or the US, "we would be outraged", Cllr Maurice Quinlivan (SF) said while Cllr John Gilligan (Ind) described the direct provision system as one of "suspended animation" where "nobody tackles the problem."

"What is done in Mt Trenchard is not done in my name," he declared. Cllr Sean Lynch (FF) spoke of the conditions facing asylum

the time to visit the centres."

Supporting the motion, Fianna Fail council leader, Cllr Michael Collins described the system as appalling and inhumane while Fine Gael's leader, Cllr John Sheahan agreed Direct Provision was not the way. "It is hard to understand that it is taking 12-14 years to get a review," he said.

"In all the times I have attended events organised by Doras Luimni, the most striking, the most hurting was to meet seven, eight, nine and ten-year-olds who were born in this country and they are confined to these centres. The day will come when somebody has to answer for that. It is a criminal act to have Irish people confined in that manner," Mayor Kevin Sheahan said.

THE VOTE WAS 15 IN FAVOUR, 11 AGAINST, WITH SINN FEIN ABSTAINED.

Paranormal team to return to city museum

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

concluded, there are definitely "lots of residual energies" left in the building, which he described as "very unique".

Other children's names which came to the minds of the investigators were Shaney, Mairead, Breda, Katie, and they are interested in the history of the site, before it became Leamy's school circa 1840. Five areas of the historic building were investigated, including the classroom, 'Angela's bedroom' upstairs in the museum, which has been modelled on the old McCourt home, the basement, and the dining in room in the basement.

Mr Kerrigan said they began their investigations by conducting a seance - an attempt to communicate with spirits - in which questions are asked in five languages over 40 minutes, and a minute is allowed after each question for the spirit to 'reply'.

The languages used were English, French, Irish, old English, and Spanish, and the latter for some reason connected powerfully with whatever spirits remain in the building, he said. "I could feel myself shaking and the table started to rock," he said, after the questions were asked in Spanish.

During the seance, the investigators said they could also sense children in wet clothes, a woman sitting in the corner, and a mother waiting for a child to come home.

They also believed they heard a high pitched child's voice, saying 'It has to be up to you', and could also hear a soft exhalation. In the dining room of the basement, they heard a dragging noise on the floor and their heat sensing equipment picked up heat sources on crockery, in a room which was otherwise cold at that time of night. Any other findings in their visual recordings will be known in another two weeks' time. The building is currently up for sale for €325,000 on the instructions of a bank, but the museum curator Una Heaton said: "It won't be sold



and Health Games at UL were, from left, Pierre Lusinch, chief executive of CSO, Minister for
ctor of special projects at UL
Picture: Sean Curtin Photo

return to city 20 years on

chief executive
the games will
people of all
in medical and
A promotional
underway to
Health Service
in Ireland to
the games as
ting their peers

they are delighted
are returning

He also said that he recognises Ireland as a country easily capable of hosting major international events and is keen to encourage Irish participation in the games, hoping in particular that the triathlon, half marathon, cycling, soccer and tag rugby will attract Irish competitors.

A special registration fee of €50 is available to Irish participants (overseas registration is usually €100). For the first time in its

Cycling Club, Triathlon Club, Limerick Lawn Tennis Club and Ballyneety and Castletroy Golf Clubs.

"The great advantage UL has in hosting an event of this scale is that apart from the sports facilities, participants can avail of many of UL's amenities including its attractive ensuite residences and the wonderful atmosphere in our great value bar restaurants and cafés dotted across the campus. We will also Games visitors down walks



Anthony and Jennifer Kerrigan, from Killarney, and Xak Aroo, also a psychic medium from West Cork