



**HMP/YOI
ASHFIELD**

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2009 – JUNE 2010

1. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- 1 Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- 2 Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concerns it has.
- 3 **Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.**

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

2. CONTENTS

1. Statutory Role of the IMB

2. Contents

3. Description of HMP & YOI Ashfield

4. Executive Summary

5. Areas of Special Interest

5.1 Diversity

5.2 Learning and Skills

5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

5.4 Safer Custody

5.5 Brunel Unit (Segregation)

6. Other Areas

6.1 Accommodation

6.2 Catering and Kitchens

6.3 Chapel and Other Faiths

6.4 Drug Strategy and Substance Misuse

6.5 Gymnasium and Physical Education

6.6 Resettlement

6.7 Transport

6.8 Phoenix (Life and Indeterminate Sentenced Prisoners) Unit

6.9 Visits

7. The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board

8. Appendix A – General Statistics

9. Appendix B – Glossary of Prison Related Abbreviations

3. DESCRIPTION OF HMP & YOI ASHFIELD

HMP & YOI Ashfield opened on 1st November 1999 and is a contracted prison operated by Serco Home Affairs Ltd (formerly known as Premier Prison Services Ltd). It is located in the village of Pucklechurch, near Bristol. Negotiations during the last year have reduced the roll from 400 to 360 YPs. Ashfield has the capacity, if necessary, to revert back to 400 places, but this would have implications for the Phoenix unit where double cells have been converted to singles. Juveniles are received from Courts covering the West Country, Wales, the Midlands and the London area. At the end of the reporting period there were 257 Juveniles accommodated at Ashfield; a significant reduction from last year's high of almost 400 and reflecting the decline in the national Juvenile prison population.

Accommodation consists of two house blocks each having four wings. The accommodation is of a high standard and most young persons (YPs) have their own room with integral sanitation. There are comprehensive sports facilities, an 8-bed Healthcare Centre and a 17-cell Segregation unit. Education and training courses are offered to the YPs, including GCSE, A, AS, NVQ, City & Guilds, Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme and the Princes Trust.

The Director is equivalent to Governor in the public sector, with the exception of certain functions which remain the responsibility of other bodies. The current Director, Brian Anderson was appointed in September 2009.

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The arrival of a new Director has led to significant changes in the management of the prison and the falling YP roll has provided its own challenges and opportunities.

Last year's report highlighted the more volatile nature of the YPs being sent to Ashfield and this trend has continued with an inevitable effect on behaviour, particularly when large numbers of YPs were received this summer from Feltham and from Huntercombe when it was re-roled as an Adult prison.

The setting up of the Phoenix (Life and Indeterminate Sentenced Prisoners) Unit was a noteworthy event. This is a national resource for up to 24 YPs.

Two members of the Independent Monitoring Board resigned due to a conflict of interest which arose through their involvement in the setting up of an excellent resettlement hostel which will have a Service Level Agreement with Ashfield.

Late arrivals caused considerable concern last year and the Board was pleased to note a reduction in late arrivals over the last twelve months. However, this seems to have been due to the fall in the prison population, and it has been noted with alarm that since the roll at Ashfield has started to increase, the number of late arrivals has been on the increase. The Board will remain vigilant regarding this issue.

Ashfield had an announced inspection from HM Chief Inspector of Prisons from 10th –14th May which had many positive outcomes and confirmed the Board's view that the Director and staff are working hard to provide a supportive environment for YPs to enable them to develop the education and life skills necessary for them to integrate successfully back into society.

Matters for the Secretary of State

The Board is very concerned about the treatment of vulnerable 18 year old YPs and questions who has responsibility for them when they are discharged from prison. We also question why a very a vulnerable YP who came to Ashfield in April 2010 having attempted suicide twice the previous week while in Police custody was sent to prison rather than being sectioned from the community (see section 5.4).

The Board is also concerned about the lack of access to public estate services like SMS QA / staff training and the P-NOMIS computer system in private prisons, which could have an impact on YPs moving between public estate prisons and Ashfield. In addition there have been difficulties in moving Section 91 YPs who have turned 18 on to a YOI, and some feeling the transfer protocol is less effective for private establishments.

Our previous annual reports have highlighted continuing concern about the length of time YPs spend segregated awaiting Police interviews following serious assaults committed within the establishment. This, coupled with the Crown Prosecution Service's apparent reluctance to prosecute such cases, leaves the victims of assault feeling ill served by the judicial system. (see section 5.5)

A number of foreign national young people continue to be detained at Ashfield on Deport status after they are eligible for release. This year one young person spent 23 weeks longer in prison than their maximum sentence required. The IMB consider that this is an unacceptable restriction of liberty. (see section 5.2)

As the juvenile prison population has declined and a number of juvenile prisons have been re-roled, the number of YPs placed on remand at Ashfield whose court appearances are far away (typically London) has risen. The long journeys to and from court each day are onerous on the YPs and staff as well as being costly to the public purse. The IMB would like to see greater use of video conferencing and consideration of alternative accommodation being made available closer to the court while YPs are on trial.

As highlighted in the Board's previous two Annual Reports the lack of a dedicated social worker results in a diminished provision of essential services for looked after children (see section 5.4).

5. AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

5.1 Diversity

The population of Ashfield remains diverse, with about 35% of the young people identifying themselves as non-white and about 10% registering a religion other than Christianity (mostly Muslim).

Signpost, a Bristol-based charity that works with people of African, Caribbean and dual heritage, continues to work with young people and staff at Ashfield. They are represented at the monthly REAT meeting, review Racial Incident Report (RIRF) responses and are actively involved in other diversity events in the prison, including Black History Month. Cultural awareness work is also done through the PVE (Positive Voices for Everyone) initiative. This has included regular sessions with young people identified through RIRFs and other intelligence as well as visits from external agencies, for example, a theatre group and an exhibition about Anne Frank. RightTrack, a local charity working to combat the

over-representation of young black people in the criminal justice system, were commissioned in July 2009 to deliver parts of the PVE Programme as well as to assist in supporting the BME and Asian young people in diversity related issues.

The resources being applied to diversity have increased during the year with the appointment of a full time deputy to the diversity manager. Staff have continued to strive to give the monthly REAT meetings greater relevance to the young people attending – a challenge given the prescriptive nature of the agenda (mandated by PSO), the volume of data presented and the rate of change of the YP representatives.

There was only one application to the IMB during the year relating to racial issues, indicative, perhaps, of a good level of confidence in the RIRF process.

Foreign National Prisoners

During the reporting year Ashfield accommodated 79 foreign national prisoners; 34 nationalities were represented, with the largest numbers coming (like last year) from Jamaica (7), Somalia (9) and Vietnam (11). Because of their diversity this remains a difficult group for the prison to cater for, although more has been done to make life easier for non-native English speakers, including a pictorial list for canteen and meal orders.

At the beginning of the reporting year arrangements were put in place for a regular (2 monthly) visit from a member of BIA staff. These immigration clinics continue, and appear to be valuable to the young people and their caseworkers.

Four young people have been transferred to IRCs during the year, three of them approximately 5 weeks after their release date. The fourth, who was eligible for early release in January, was still at the prison on Deport status at the end of the reporting year, some 23 weeks later. The IMB consider this protracted imprisonment after a young person is otherwise eligible for release to be unacceptable.

The age of some foreign national young people continues to be open to question, with at least one young person moved on after finally admitting to be over age.

The lack of juvenile-specific advice in PSO 4630 continues. We have raised this deficiency in our previous 2 Annual Reports and have contested the response we received to our last year's report, so far without reply. We repeat here our view that lack of clarity is particularly unhelpful at a time when the young people affected will inevitably be vulnerable, and that it is therefore a pity that the PSO has not been updated to explicitly describe how the rules apply to juvenile foreign nationals.

Close to the end of the reporting year the assistant diversity manager was given explicit responsibility for foreign nationals. This increase in the support of foreign nationals at Ashfield is a positive and much-needed step.

5.2 Learning and Skills

The College was visited by OFSTED in May as part of the HMCIP Inspection, and maintained its overall Grade 2 (Good) grading.

The last year has seen a number of commendable curriculum developments, including an increased range of AS courses for the more able YPs, a new programme to assist young people to develop life skills, the introduction of RISE (Resilience in Social Environments) to support the most vulnerable and least confident of the YPs, and the allocation of designated Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) to YPs who have difficulties with their behaviour to support reintegration with the College.

An NVQ level 2 Design & Print Workshop has been created to provide a realistic work environment for the YPs and 5 out of 6 of the first students obtained this qualification. Design & Print takes on external business, and achieved a profit of £12 000 on a turnover of £40 000 over the last 12 months. A 1946 MG was restored to its former glory by motor vehicle students from Ashfield in collaboration with S&B Automotive Academy and then auctioned for charity.

At the same time, expectations of teachers are rising: all teachers at Ashfield have become members of the Institute for Learning (IFL), a professional body which strives for excellence in teaching and learning; there is an increasing emphasis on peer review and development as a way of achieving consistently high standards; and a mentoring scheme is being introduced to support staff that are having some difficulty.

Funding has been secured for the implementation of a number of capital projects including interactive whiteboards and the installation of air conditioning in all classrooms, both of which should assist learning, and there are plans for the Carpentry workshop and the Construction areas to be significantly expanded.

It goes without saying that in a YOI there is a particular focus on education and training, with an aim to improve resettlement opportunities for the YPs. The mission of Ashfield College includes *creating a safe and positive learning environment where individuals develop self confidence, increase their self esteem and achieve their potential*. Through its work in the classrooms, the vocational areas, and on personal development, Ashfield College makes the most commendable of efforts to achieve these goals for the YPs.

The Library

On average, between 400 and 500 of the library's approximately 10, 000 books are borrowed each month. Magazines, audio books, college prospectuses, careers guidance material etc are stocked in addition to the fiction and non-fiction books; six daily newspapers are taken, and board games are also available for use within the library.

The stock reflects the disparate nature of the Ashfield population with regard to ethnicity, language, religion, cultural background, and reading ability. Keep-fit, sports true stories and biographies are popular choices, while favourite authors are Robert Muchamore, Anthony Horowitz, Garth Nix, and Andy McNab. Regular YP feedback is collected, and most reasonable requests are implemented.

The more easily read stock was significantly increased as result of the OFSTED recommendation of 2008. At the other end of the scale, the non-fiction stock now also supports the AS level students, who all have private study periods in the library.

The room is timetabled into the College's curriculum, and is occupied by students for 18 (out of a possible 19) periods per week. It is also open two evenings per week, and on a Saturday morning, and Wings are timetabled for access to it at these times. DVDs and PS2 games can

then be borrowed, and are very popular. Thus, 84% of YPs are timetabled to the library for one period per week in College hours, and the remainder can access it in evening, weekend, or Enrichment hours.

Recent re-painting (carried out by YPs) has improved the library as a bright and attractive environment; the sort of place it is pleasant to spend time in. The library always seems tidy, with appropriate displays, and a calm but by no means funereal atmosphere.

The Librarian maintains good links with the College's curriculum planning and is also a member of the Diversity team. Liaison with Connexions and Information and Guidance (IAG) ensures that there is a goodly stock of materials which help YPs plan for their release. The Librarian has also developed a link with Bath Literature Festival. Over the past year, four authors – Alex Wheatle, Courttia Newland, Richard Grant (poet) and Jonathan Trigell – have given talks to interested groups of YPs. These sparked exciting discussions in the library, and inspired the YPs to read more books by these authors.

The pragmatic function of the library would be enhanced if teaching staff had library periods with their students, so that researching topics, searching, reading (perhaps skimming and scanning), use of the computers etc could be expanded, in order to help the students work in as independent a way as possible. In short, if the Information Literacy Skills which are virtually vital for independence in modern living were further developed by moving the library even closer to the core of what Ashfield attempts to achieve with its YPs, the overall quality of provision might be raised even higher.

5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

All YPs are seen by a nurse on arrival at Ashfield; all have good and timely access to a dentist, doctor and psychologist if required. Healthcare provides a high level of care to the most vulnerable YPs whilst they are at Ashfield, and make strenuous efforts to find mental health beds for those for whom prison is inappropriate.

Portacabins have been erected on site to expand the provision of daycare and education for vulnerable YPs on the unit.

New staff appointments during the past year include an Optician, Substance Misuse Nurse, Dentist and an Occupational Therapist, and all Healthcare staff have updated their training in Intermediate Life Support. Ashfield commenced SystemOne Clinical system rollout in January.

Only one member of healthcare reported sick with suspected Swine Flu, those YPs deemed as high risk were inoculated but there were no reports of YPs being infected.

There has been a concerted effort to encourage all staff to take part in an ongoing initiative offering Hepatitis B vaccinations.

Healthcare scored 98% in its recent infection control audit which was the highest rating the department has achieved to date.

The annual inspection of the prison's PHPQIs (Prison Health Performance and Quality Indicators) took place this period, and after evidencing all the baselines, some new, Healthcare should remain 100% green for the second consecutive year.

Healthcare and the CAMHS team recently reviewed last year's services. Despite a significant reduction in the prison population over the past twelve months the number of cases open to Mental Health has increased. Healthcare again made a positive contribution to a World Mental Health Day event held in the prison.

Following the recent HMCIP inspection Healthcare was praised for consistently delivering a high level of healthcare provision.

5.4 Safer Custody

Stay Safe meetings are attended by representatives from all departments with staff continuing to work for the safety of Young People in custody. Concerns have been raised this year about the clothing worn by Young People who are on suicide watch following an incident in which a YP made a ligature out of his clothing to try to commit suicide. Staff prevented a death in custody by their quick action, but the incident highlighted the unsuitability of standard issue clothing being worn by young people of differing physiques and the difficulty of cutting a ligature made of the clothing with the standard issue knife. These two issues are currently being addressed.

The Board was concerned that this very vulnerable YP, who had attempted suicide twice the previous week while in Police custody, was sent to Ashfield in April 2010 rather than being sectioned from the community.

The Board has reported in previous Annual Reports its regret at the withdrawal of dedicated social workers and continues to feel that there remains a gap in essential services for looked after children.

5.5 The Brunel Unit (Segregation)

The Brunel Unit has been completely refurbished since last Autumn and a Therapeutic Room provided to accommodate Learning Support Assistants and Brunel staff. Adjudications are now held in a less hostile environment on the Houseblocks and the former adjudication room is used for reviews and teaching. The telephone has been relocated to the holding room giving YPs more privacy.

Unit staff continue to work in a disciplined and caring manner. Learning Support Assistants visit the unit to ensure that YPs continue with their education on a one to one basis.

A multi disciplinary review board meets twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays with an IMB member in attendance. YPs are given behaviour / achievement targets and by regular monitoring / feedback they have the opportunity wherever possible to reduce the length of time they spend segregated prior to being returned to the Houseblocks. In some instances a phased end to segregation is organised with YPs expected to attend main education classes during the day and association in the Houseblocks during the evening. This gives the YP an opportunity to show that he can behave whilst still being accommodated in the Brunel Unit.

In accordance with PSO 1700 the Segregation Monitoring & Review Group meets quarterly with an IMB member in attendance. The meeting considers statistical data, YPs segregated with open ACCT documents, use of control and restraint, YPs segregated continuously for

three months or more, transfer of segregated YPs from other establishments and staff training.

Our previous annual reports have highlighted continuing concern about the length of time YPs spend segregated awaiting Police interviews following serious assaults committed within the establishment. This, coupled with the Crown Prosecution Service's apparent reluctance to prosecute such cases, leaves the victims of assault feeling ill served by the judicial system.

6. OTHER AREAS

6.1 Accommodation

There has been a significant refurbishment and re-decoration of the prison, starting from the reception areas and carrying through to the Houseblocks, one of which has become a 'Lifer Unit' (see section 6.8). Of the remaining 7 wings, one is used for the induction of newly arrived YPs, one specialises in YPs who have substance misuse problems (see section 6.4) and one houses YPs who are under 16 or who are seen to be vulnerable. This specialisation has its merits in dealing with YPs' special needs but the consequently small number of 'general' wings can make it difficult for staff to separate YPs who have 'issues' with each other.

The Astroturf has been renewed and fixed weights machines have been fitted in the exercise yards.

In two previous reports attention has been drawn to the gutters which become blocked and overflow onto the tarmac causing erosion and the beginnings of a trip hazard. It is disappointing that this has to be mentioned again given the amount of refurbishment that has taken place in the prison.

Similarly the problems with litter in the car park continue.

6.2 Catering and Kitchens

Comments about the quality and quantity of the food continue to be positive, and it is encouraging to see YPs working cheerfully in the kitchens.

There is an excellent atmosphere in this area which is of great importance to the morale of YPs and staff.

6.3 Chapel and Other Faiths

After being in the unusual position of not having an Anglican representative within the team there is now a C of E minister attending 2 days a week. A community Imam has also joined the Chaplaincy team, giving 20 hrs per week to the establishment.

Much has been done to the area immediately outside the Chapel entrance which has made the area both welcoming and informative. Within the Chapel curtains have been put in place so that the Christian articles can be obscured from view whilst the room is used by other religions as is often the case in other establishments. Timetabling needs to be flexible since Muslim prayers can vary depending on the time of year.

The new Chaplain has taken over the role of Chair of the charity Prodigal Son Ministries and a new project manager has been appointed.

6.4 Drugs and Substance Misuse

There was a change in the way the Substance Misuse team operated in Ashfield as from the first of January 2010 where staff took on the dual role of PCO and Substance Misuse Worker. So far this is seen as being 80% successful with staff growing in confidence on a daily basis. Statistics are improving with increased contact hours and service delivery. More services are being offered including massage therapists, staff being trained in acupuncture, a Snoezelen room on Severn B, and a dedicated assessment officer, high risk officer and lifer worker. There is also a dedicated substance misuse nurse who works for CAMHS, spending three days at Ashfield and two at Eastwood Park.

Whilst external YOT workers had doubts about these changes in January they are becoming more and more impressed by the new service.

There was an annual target of one hundred and twenty compacts (VDT) and the actual total achieved was one hundred and eighty, with a high success rate. VDTs are not being restricted but there is obviously a cost implication. YPs are very proud to receive their certificates for success in this area.

6.5 Gymnasium and Physical Education

The OFSTED inspection in May commended this department for its outstanding progress.

During the last year, the gym has introduced two new courses: Gym Instructor Level 2 and Employability ASDAN Award Levels 1 & 2. The partnership with the 2nd Chance project has produced great bonuses, with at least fifteen successful resettlements and work placements resulting.

Meanwhile, full refurbishment of the gym is under way; the showers are being upgraded; new Astro turf is being laid and the flooring throughout is being replaced.

New developments include plans to introduce courses of a level more suitable to YPs who are less able in this sphere and to continue to train staff to even higher levels.

In summary, this is a very busy, innovative department which has had a very active 12 months. It has improved its facilities during this time, and has added to its already wide ranging curriculum. It continues to look ahead in a thoroughly positive manner.

6.6 Resettlement

During a two-day assessment in May by ENTO Ltd, the Information & Guidance (IAG) team demonstrated that it met the matrix quality standard for information and guidance services, and accreditation to the matrix standard was granted. The report describing this assessment makes encouraging reading, and the staff deserve congratulations.

Ashfield's support of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) is not only active, but crucial. Its emphasis is on Work Experience (WE), and gaining new, useful skills.

Placements are typically in catering, construction, and plumbing – areas which feature prominently in Ashfield's curriculum. In 2009, 50 YPs went on WE placements, ranging from 1 - 5 days per week. Of these 50, 43 have now been released: only 3 have reoffended within 6 weeks. This is a commendable statistic. It is also very pleasing to know that ex-YPs' progress is being charted at 3-, 6-, and 12-month intervals.

There is a range of coordinated strands under the broad banner of "Resettlement", and strong links with other providers (who generally, but not invariably, work within Ashfield) exist to cover this ground. These providers include 2nd Chance, St Giles' Trust, Motiv8, Education Unlimited, Prince's Trust, Connexions, YOT. PEOPLE, ALABAVE, KTS Training, City of Bristol College and the Halfway House. The impression gained is that the vast majority of these links are appropriate, active, and productive.

Within Ashfield, the concept of "resettlement" is fostered in the YPs through a firmly timetabled structure. This includes group IAG session with the YPs during Induction and six-weekly session thereafter, 1 : 1 available on request, advice on choice(s) of suitable vocational and educational courses and specific resettlement support for YPs approaching release including a range of supporting literature.

In very general terms, the areas covered can be described as those which will enable students to live independently, and not reoffend. The range of activities working towards these goals is wide: home skills; budgeting, Benefits, Banking; CV writing are a few examples. The whole is delivered in a coordinated fashion.

Although, of course, there are areas for further development (eg greater involvement of the main Ashfield library as a resource?; an even wider range of external vocational links?) the overall impression is that Resettlement is extremely well catered for, with the individual, personal needs of each YP being thoroughly paid attention to, and that the staff involved are highly motivated and committed to their work.

6.7 Transport

With the decrease in the number of YPs at Ashfield came a decrease in the number of late arrivals which was a welcome development for both staff and YPs. However, since the population has begun to increase and more YPs are coming from the London area, the number of late arrivals has increased with the inevitable negative effect on staff morale.

The Board will continue to monitor the situation very carefully.

The re-rolling of Huntercombe has resulted in greater numbers of YPs being held on remand in Ashfield who have to make repeated journeys to and from the London area (and even further afield) to attend court. This leads to early starts and late returns to Ashfield, placing a strain on both YPs and staff. The IMB would like to see greater use of video conferencing and the provision of alternative accommodation closer to the court while YPs are on trial.

6.8 Phoenix Unit

Following a lengthy consultation process between SERCO and the YJB, Severn C wing has been re-rolled as a specialised unit for Life and Indeterminate Sentenced Prisoners. As a National resource the Phoenix unit will accommodate a maximum of 24 young people from

England and Wales; with programmes and interventions designed around the needs of the individual, with an emphasis on drugs and alcohol as well as violence and anger management.

The Phoenix Unit is recognised by the YJB as being a separate and specialist unit to Ashfield; therefore it will have a dedicated YJB caseworker at placements and locking up figures will be submitted separately to the main site.

The YJB and home YOT are responsible for recommending the movements of YPs on and off the unit even if the YP is already in Ashfield. Consequently any disputes which occur have to be managed in house; YPs cannot be moved without going through placements first.

The YJB made a one off payment to refurbish the wing; as a consequence YPs benefit from single occupancy rooms with an enhanced specification of accommodation.

All unit staff have undergone relevant training in accordance with PSO 4700 in life awareness, report writing, working with YPs with sexually harmful behaviour, psychology awareness, child protection, diversity and conditioning.

All YPs have a dedicated personal officer who maintains contact with the YP's key workers and family. The officer has comprehensive understanding of the offence, and is involved in the sentence planning, offence analysis, risk management and the parole process.

While on the unit YPs attend mainstream education in an effort to 'normalise' the living conditions of young people that will serve lengthy sentences, many without the prospect of a release date.

There is weekly VDT testing and a dedicated substance misuse worker, based on the unit, who works very closely with all YPs.

The low roll on the unit has been designed to enable staff to build good relationships with the families, carers and YOT workers for these YPs in order to promote successful multi agency support towards gaining parole.

6.9 Visits

During the reporting period a total of 4,214 family visits and 3,690 legal visits were made. The significant decrease in these figures since last year reflects the changes in the prison population.

Both the Visits Bungalow (Reception) and Visits room for families and legal representatives are well furnished, bright and cheery places. Staff are helpful and courteous.

7. THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	13
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	5
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	75
Total number of visits to the prison	434
Total number of applications received	37
Total number of segregation reviews held	82
Total number of segregation reviews attended	82

During the reporting period four of our members resigned, one new member joined us but moved away from the area within the year and transferred to a new Board and one new member transferred to Ashfield from another Board, leaving our membership at 8.

We meet once a month as a Board (attended by the Director and Controller) and carry out our duties on a rota basis. Each week a member carries out a rota visit: four statutory areas – segregation, Residential Wings, Kitchen and Healthcare – are visited every week; other areas of the prison are visited on a regular basis. Our observations, in report form, are given to the Director for his comments.

A member of the IMB attends the twice weekly Review Boards to discuss the continued segregation of YPs. A member deals weekly with the IMB applications made by the YPs and speaks to them on the induction programme.

The Ashfield Chairman attends National meetings with other IMB Chairmen from contracted/SLA prisons and South West Regional IMB Chairmen's meetings. He also attends meetings organised by the National Council representative for juveniles with the

relevant IMB Chairmen, the Prison Service and the YJB, in order to cover all juvenile related issues. David Crawford was appointed Chairman in January 2009.

Local training

The Board Development Officer arranges local training, including the induction of new Board members and short training sessions before Board meetings, as well as ensuring that Board members are aware of the opportunities for attending staff training.

Board training slots allow the whole Board to keep up to date with the work of the prison. Sessions this year have covered resettlement, personal safety, the Phoenix Unit, changes in the Substance Misuse service, the PVE initiative and the YOT.

The Board is very grateful to members of Ashfield staff who have contributed to IMB training whether by delivering Board training slots, by welcoming us to staff training sessions, by making time to explain their role to individual Board members or by welcoming visiting IMB members from other prisons.

National training

During the last year two Board members attended a Continued Development course, two went to a workshop on Death in Custody, four visited the National Tactical Response training centre in Kidlington and two went to the IMB Annual Conference. Six members of the Board visited HMP/YOI Feltham, and we hosted visits to Ashfield from IMB members at Wetherby and Feltham, both of which prisons accommodate juveniles. These exchange visits provide a valuable insight into how other prisons treat the juvenile prison population and the opportunity to observe and learn from the ways in which other Boards monitor.

Prison staff induction

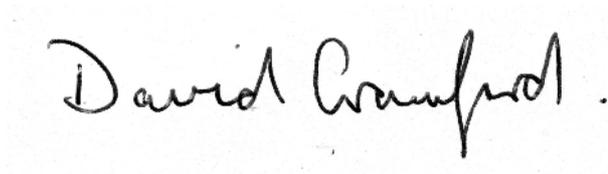
The IMB continues to have a slot on all custodial and non-custodial staff training courses to introduce the role of the IMB.

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	2009/10	2008/9	2007/08
A	Accommodation	0	5	6
B	Adjudications	1	0	2
C	Diversity related	1	4	5
D	Education/training/employment/IEP	2	1	8
E	Family/visits/resettlement/phone	2	3	11
F	Food/kitchen related	2	1	4
G	Health related	2	0	0

H	Property/canteen	5	7	12
I	Sentence related	0	2	2
J	Staff/prisoner related	17	25	17
K	Transfers	0	3	3
L	Miscellaneous	5	18	9
	Total number of applications	37	67	79

The smaller number of applications this year may reflect the falling roll, but as the volatility of the YPs now being held at Ashfield is perceived to be greater by staff, the small number of applications may also be indicative of the effective regime at Ashfield.



David Crawford
Chairman
Independent Monitoring Board
HMP / YOI Ashfield

8. APPENDIX A – GENERAL STATISTICS

Population	257 at 30/06/10	337 at 30/06/09	395 at 30/06/08	386 at 30/06/07
Average Population	258	349	383	380
Segregation Authorisations				
GOOD (Good Order or Discipline)	159	194	116	223
Own Interest/Own Protection	7	7	4	6
<i>Total</i>	166	201	120	229
Special cell use	0	0	1	2
No of YPs held in Medical Restraints	0	0	0	0
Use of Control and Restraint/Use of Force	310	494	485	450
Adjudications	1689	2436	3393	3486
Assaults	218	356	353	353
Self Harm	50	27	39	135
No of YPs involved	38	25	29	72
Request and Complaints				
Property	63	95	113	120
Allegations against Staff	96	165	212	275
Confidential Access	97	132		
Other	167	297	496	652
<i>Total</i>	423	689	821	1047

9. APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY OF PRISON RELATED ABBREVIATIONS

ACCT Assessment, Care in Custody & Teamwork (record for a prisoner currently considered to be at risk)

BIA The UK Borders Agency

CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

DTO Detention and Training Order

GOOD Good Order or Discipline – Segregation under rule 45/49 (historically GOAD)

HMCIP Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Prisons

OI/OR/OP Own Interests/Request/Protection – Segregation under Rule 45/49

IMB Independent Monitoring Board

IRC Immigration Removal Centre (new name for Detention Centres)

NHS National Health Service

PHPQI Prison Health Performance and Quality Indicator

PSO Prison Service Order – see <http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/listpsos>

REAT Race Equality Action Team

RIRF Racial Incident Report Form

ROTL Release on Temporary Licence - e.g. to work, town visits, home leave

SIR Security Information Report

SLA Service Level Agreement

SMS Substance Misuse Service

VDT Voluntary Drugs Testing

YJB Youth Justice Board

YOT Youth Offender Team

YP Young Person