



HMP Ashwell

THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD OF HMP ASHWELL ANNUAL REPORT

1st July 2009 – 30th June 2010

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SECTION 3

(1) DESCRIPTION OF PRISON

HMP Ashwell was founded in 1957 as an Open Prison on the site of an army camp. In 1987 it became a Category "C" Prison and is situated a mile outside Oakham in Rutland.

There are 212 prisoners of which 50 are lifers (as at 30/6/10).

There were four basic wings, A, B, C, D which provided the prisoners with sleeping accommodation, and recesses on each landing which had toilet and showering facilities.

The situation changed on the 11th April 2009 due to a serious disturbance in which the 420 prisoners from these wings were transferred out to 26 other prisons within the estate. The wings remain empty awaiting a decision from Government on their outcome.

All four wings were provided with additional dining pods, which came into use in June 2007.

There now remains, E Wing, F Wing and G Wing which have en-suite facilities in each room, they also have their own dining area.

The Induction Wing (E Wing) is running smoothly due to the professional dedication of the officers and staff. It was built to hold sixty four prisoners but now holds eighty four due to an extra twenty prisoners who are doubling up, as does F Wing which holds fifty ten of which are doubling up.

Healthcare is a single storey building providing up to date facilities such as a Dentist, The Psychology Department, Eye testing and Podiatry. A new extension has been built which provides excellent and safer facilities for the dispensing of drugs, and additional rooms for staff and managers. The excellent nursing staff is provided by the Nottinghamshire Community Health. The Reception Area for the prison is a purpose built facility which contains four cells and one holding room and forms the other half of the building.

The Care and Separation Unit is a single storey unit the main part having twelve cells and two exercise areas for the prisoners, a single shower cubicle, one holding room, an office, a rest room for officers which provides chairs and also facilities for making tea and coffee, also including a large room which is used for Adjudications and Reviews.

Kitchen. The modern kitchen which opened in December 2007 can cater for approx eight hundred prisoners.

Situated around the prison are numerous individual buildings some staffed by City College Milton Keynes.

- (1) Education, is providing excellent (I.T) skills to the prisoners. A single storey unit comprising, classrooms and rest room.(City College Provision) CCP
- (2) The Paints CIT. consisting of two floors, with individual rooms, where the prisoners gain skills on painting, Decorating, and wallpaper hanging. This excellent area is at present without an Instructor and is therefore closed. (CCP)
- (3) Injection Moulding (Shop 2) Will re-open in (August 2010) extensive repairs have been carried out on the machinery and it will manufacture plastic spoons, . (HMPS Provision)
- (4) Assembly (8 Shop), This area manufactures plastic signs of all different shapes and sizes, The manager has been well supported by the management and is turning out excellent work. (HMPS Provision)
- (5) Newgate Furniture (4 Shop) & (5 Shop) Newgate Stores are situated in a two storey block and is an excellent work facility for prisoners, who do their best with the machinery that they have to use.
- (6) Textiles (3 Shop). A single storey shop providing machine work for prisoners. (HMPS Provision)
- (7) Gardens. A single storey greenhouse providing plants for the prison garden area's. (HMPS/CCP)

Externally there is a Visitors Centre, which provides comfort for the families visiting their relatives it also provides tea/coffee and something to eat. When not in use for the visitors it acts as a training centre for the prison.

Visitors Centre Committee. This committee is largely made up of volunteers who enable the visitors centre to function as well as it does. A recent survey conducted with visitors to the establishment provided very positive feedback which is most encouraging. The centre has undergone something of a transformation this year with new seating and tables and also the children's corner has benefited from some colourful artwork provided by a member of the prison staff. The centre continues to benefit from being funded by Children in Need. This funding is provided on a three year term, paid in annual amounts. There is concern about producing the next claim due later this year with the uncertainty of the future of HMP Ashwell, as this may impact on the amount awarded. However, the feeling is positive that the claim will be successful again and this will enable replacement of worn out toys, and purchase of craft supplies. There have been very successful Fathers days this year, and the atmosphere was buoyant and pleasant with good attendance of visitors and children who were entertained by a member of staff who produced animals made from balloons, and play leaders encouraging budding artists. Donations have been used to purchase a giant Connect4, a brick trolley among many other things.

Christmas and Easter continue to be very popular with the children and families, although it noted that the number of children using the facilities has dropped during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the dedicated volunteers and Margaret Webb for their hard work and diligence in keeping this Visitors Centre to a high standard for which HMP Ashwell should be grateful.

The prison is also supported by Voluntary Action Rutland, Victim Support and the Samaritans who train the Listeners, these agencies provide excellent advice to those who need it.

SECTION 4

(1) Offender Management (OM)/ Lifers

2009-2010 has been an eventful year for the Offender Management Department at HMP Ashwell. After spending a period of time in temporary Office space the team moved back into its refurbished and rebuilt building in October 2009. This provided a designated working area for the team and made the day to day working environment much more pleasant.

Throughout the year the number of prisoners that fall within the scope of Offender Management Phase 2 and 3 has been consistent and each of these prisoners is allocated an Offender Supervisor upon arrival at Ashwell. The department has seen staffing changes throughout the year that have been a mixture of staff finding other employment opportunities and staffing levels being revisited to support the reduced Ashwell population. The seconded Probation team has been reduced during this time and three members of the seconded team have been displaced back to the community.

The number of Lifers being transferred to Ashwell has remained high throughout the year and despite the disturbance the Indeterminate Prisoner Population has remained high. The number of IPP equates to 46 bringing Ashwell back up to the pre-incident capacity of 60, although another new PSO has been published stating that prisons cannot have caps unless agreed by the RCM. A new PSO was introduced during the year for all prisoners including IPP first pre-tariff reviews and does not apply to IPP prisoners who are post tariff, those who are having a second review or those who have started the parole process before 01.02.10.

All lifers have an Offender Supervisor allocated to them on arrival at Ashwell and OASys assessments are reviewed. Lifer Days are now subject to an application system to ensure they are beneficial to those who take part in them including IPP prisoners. The format of these days works well with the morning being comprised of various agencies, followed by lunch which all participants share including OMU Staff. There was clarification during the year relating to escorted absences, which many prisoners assumed was a right and not a privilege and has to be included in their sentence plan.

The number of Indeterminate prisoners equates to 50 bringing Ashwell back up to the pre-incident cap of 60, although another PSO has been published stating prisons cannot have caps unless agreed by the RCM.

A new PSO was introduced during the year for all prisoners including IPP first pre-tariff reviews and does not apply to IPP prisoners who are post tariff, those who are having a second review or those who have started the parole process before 01.02.10.

Psychology staff is now being required to work at Whatton Prison for part of the week, this means that some work at Ashwell is not being completed within the timeframes that are desirable.

The Resettlement staff within the Offender Management department has continued to work towards securing accommodation for those released along with monitoring the employment, education and training provisions that prisoners are discharged into. This has seen external agencies come into Ashwell to support this delivery and Leicester Money Advice and Lincolnshire Action Trust visit the prison regularly.

Obviously the disturbance at Ashwell in April 2009 affected the Offender Management Department and resulted in a significant amount of work being completed to support those transferred and to ensure that they were in a position to be able to continue to address their sentence plan.

(1) Reception

Reception has mobile racking installed which will allow 30% more room than at present, this was taken up when the new E Wing with 64 prisoners opened in 2008. It has also undergone refurbishment making it more suitable for a C Category Prison. On the administration side an OSG assist's as and when required.

(2) Establishment Audits

During the period Ten Initial audits were carried out averaging 87% for all, those were; Accounting & Supervision, Communication & Surveillance, Keys, Locks & Gates, Tools, Equipment & Property, Categorisation & Assessment, Escorts & Bed-Watches, Reception, Incentives & Earned Privileges, Use of Force, Complaints and Prisoner Communications.

(3) Drug Treatment and Interventions

Introduction:

The Drug Strategy at HMP Ashwell has three main aims:

- Reduce the Supply of illegal substances
- Reduce the Demand for illegal substances
- Reduce the Harm from illegal substances

In order to achieve those aims the local Drug Strategy Document lays down the key component elements which must be delivered.

The Key component elements are:

- Intelligence
- Searching

Drug Detection Dogs
Visits
Adjudications
Drug Testing - Mandatory
Drug Testing - Compact Based
Incentives and Earned Privileges
Accommodation Fabric Checks
Drug Treatment Services – CARATS
Drug Treatment – Psychosocial
Drug Treatment – Clinical
Safer Custody
Through care and Community links

The following report will provide a brief snapshot on where the Prison are with each of those elements

Intelligence:

Intelligence at HMP Ashwell is very good. Information received is processed by a dedicated intelligence team and this resource proves invaluable in identifying any drug use trends so the local strategy committee can take steps to address any issues that emerge. Drug use trends are an ever changing problem and this finger on pulse that the Intelligence team provides really does allow them to keep pace.

Searching:

Random wing based Searching targets are hit and this is useful but the greater success at finding unauthorised articles has been evidenced to come from intelligence led searches. The searching conducted by the security department now is all intelligence led. This is felt by the Drug Strategy committee to be a step in the right direction.

Drug Detection Dogs:

The success of drug detection dogs is a difficult resource to measure. The deterrent factor is not easily counted and with the ever changing trends in drug use, Dogs like drug tests, cannot always detect the drugs that are being misused. They are never the less in my opinion a valuable resource which when used in the right areas can have massive impacts on drug smuggling. The Supply reduction guide published by DSU clearly indicates the benefits. Not having drug detection dogs for a period of time has proved a challenge as they are used with skill and precision during visits and wing checks, however a new dog handler who should be in post by late July. In the meantime they are loaning resources from the region where intelligence indicates it is appropriate.

Visits:

Visits are managed very effectively and protocols and procedures are in place to monitor those who may be bringing drugs into the establishment. Visits are thought to be one of the primary routes for illicit drugs to enter HMP Ashwell. However as procedural security at HMP Ashwell has improved the drug use trend has seen a switch to the misuse of prescribed medication and visit based trafficking activity has reduced dramatically.

Adjudications:

The Prison have sought clarification on outcomes and findings of prisoners referred to the independent adjudicator for positive tests for codeine. This has been tackled by some close working with policy group to attain legal advice. This advice has subsequently been presented to adjudicators for their consideration.

All adjudications that have a drug related theme are brought to the attention of the drug strategy committee who continue to monitor all adjudications to ensure that as an establishment they are aware of any emerging trends.

Drug Testing – Mandatory:

The drug testing has regular mandatory tests along with compact based incentives and earned privileges for voluntary testing. Staffing cover has meant that MDT's could not be as random as hoped but the situation is monitored and positive results well below targets. Wings are searched and there is full involvement from Psychology, Healthcare and Safer Custody departments and adverse behaviour linked to drug use continues to be addressed.

Drug Testing – CBDT:

Compact Based Drug testing is being delivered in accordance with guidance and positive test rates are very low. The drug strategy committee continues to monitor the frequency and effectiveness of CBDT.

Incentives and Earned Privileges:

An IEP policy is in place at HMP Ashwell and it is one of their main tools for tackling poor behaviour. The Drug Strategy committee continue to monitor how it is being used to tackle behaviours that have a link to drug use. The IEP in accordance with policy is linked to compact based drug testing and Healthcare treatment compacts.

Accommodation Fabric Checks:

These are conducted daily and given the low level of finds they are deterring prisoners from hiding things in their close proximity. Intelligence indicates illicit drug use is low at this time and the drug Strategy committee believes that daily fabric checks continue to disrupt its supply and subsequently its use.

Drug Treatment Services – CARATS:

CARAT Drug Services have seen a significant reduction in staffing and a fluid managerial structure over the past 12 months. This has been due to the fact that restructuring has had to take place to map resources to identified need. The current staffing is appropriate to the drug need identified but they still lack adequate provision for those with solely alcohol related issues. Locally developed proposals have been submitted to region in an attempt to secure additional funding. However region are currently carrying out a review to assess resources provision for the future that ensures all prisons in the region not just Ashwell have a designated alcohol worker resource.

The uncertainty over the future of Ashwell has led some highly skilled CARAT workers to leave or seek alternative employment. This skills loss, as felt across the

rest of the prison continues to be a concern, however the dedication and commitment of the team continues to mitigate the impact.

Drug Treatment – Psychosocial:

The Integrated Drug Treatment System continues to attract negative attention as some of the prisoners receiving treatment have ingrained behavioural issues that the Prison through IDTS are trying to address. Change is never immediate and they continue to run IDTS awareness training to staff to emphasise the importance of psychosocial interventions and give them a wider understanding of the treatment and how they are integral in supporting the client on the path to recovery. They are seeing some case by case success stories and where IDTS clients are receiving combined clinical and psychosocial interventions they are making some tremendous progress towards recovery. Unfortunately the successes are being overshadowed by individuals who have not yet started to understand the impact of their drug taking behaviour on themselves and others.

Those individuals continue to present problems to the establishment, but through the weekly order and control meeting and the subsequent weekly clinical case review they are now much better placed to take steps to tackle this behaviour. They continue to provide all the psychosocial packages to all CARATS clients and are also improving continuity of care with the community and evidencing through care success.

Unfortunately but appropriately, following a needs analysis, The Prisons Addressing Substance Related Offending programme has now been withdrawn from HMP Ashwell.

Drug Treatment – Clinical:

Some truly fabulous work has been done over the past 6 months to improve the working between the Healthcare and CARATs. The staffing numbers in healthcare can at times be restrictive in allowing truly effective joint working but the new healthcare provider has made some good progression in a short time to address deficits. The Drug Strategy Committee continues to monitor the emerging trend towards the misuse of prescribed medication. One concern at this time is the inconsistency of prescribing practices amongst some healthcare professionals. The establishment is working in partnership with commissioners and providers to agree a regional prescribing formulary and protocols for variation from that formulary that can provide the assurances needed at every level. Given that the main drugs reported to be misused in the establishment at this time are Gabapentin (a prescribed drug) and Tramadol (a prescribed drug) protocols for formulary and risk assessments for in possession medication and safe storage and control are a critical element of the overall strategy. As stated the new healthcare provider manager is already working on this in collaboration with the PCTS and senior managers from establishments within region. They expect to see positive outcomes shortly.

Safer Custody:

Bullying and drug debt continue to be a theme that arises regularly in incidents reported although it should be noted that the frequency of such incidents is not significant. The systems to identify and monitor victims and perpetrators are in place including the recent new BOSS chair which has proved useful and has made some additional detections and is mobile enough to be used in Reception, Wings and visits

if required. Recently the PCT has commissioned a mental health in reach team that can support the drug strategy team in addressing some of the indentified needs of this population that is often present with dual diagnosis. While drug dealing remains profitable it will continue to happen and given that approximately 70% of the population could be potential customers the demand is there to be supplied.

The Safer custody team remain a valuable member of the Drug Strategy Committee and the input they provide helps us gauge the volume of drug related violence and bullying within the establishment. They also work with individuals identified as bullies to challenge and improve their negative behaviour.

Through care and Community links:

The resettlement team work closely with CARATS to ensure all that can be done is being done to address employment and accommodation on release. Unfortunately the appropriate accommodation is not always available and so it remains one of the major challenges faced by workers dealing with drug using clients. The Drugs Interventions Teams are working well with CARATS services to assist us and there have been significant successes to ensure that we minimise the probability that prisoners are discharged without accommodation. The Drug Strategy Committee continues to monitor this issue to ensure the links with DIP teams and resettlement teams remain strong.

Conclusion:

The Drug Strategy is closely monitored and the local strategy covers everything they should be doing to address drug use. They still lack alcohol treatment provision for a clearly identified need and areas in the strategy continue to strive for improvements. The understanding by staff of the importance of interventions, benefits to the individual and to the society to which they are being released is perhaps an area that requires some additional focus. At the current moment in time there is evidence of a lack of appreciation about what is done and why we need to do it. The Board has been impressed by the depth of care, professionalism and monitoring from within the Drugs Strategy meetings from all delegates involved, along with the meetings which were found to be very useful and interesting from the Boards point of view as so much of what we get involved in links up to this whole wider area.

SECTION 5

(a) DREAT

Racist Incident Report Form's (RIRF's)

During the period from July 2009 until the end of June 2010 a total of 59 racist incident report forms were submitted. Of these investigations a total of 28 were deemed to be racist. 19 of these resulted from members of staff reporting prisoner's racist behaviour. Several of these were results of phone and letter monitoring highlighting good work within the security department.

RIRF's have continued to be independently quality assured by Leicester University Criminology Department who have reported back favourably as to the quality and thoroughness of investigation. The three principles involved are; eliminating unlawful racial discrimination, promoting race equality and promoting good relations between people of different racial groups.

Monitoring of all investigations takes place including how happy the complainant is with the quality and outcome of the investigation. The figures are collated on a quarterly basis and included in the Race Relations quarterly and annual report. The figures currently show high levels of satisfaction amongst staff and prisoners into how Racist incidents are investigated.

Older Prisoners

During the past 12 months the Diversity department have started to work closely with older prisoners. This group is classified as anyone aged 55+. There are quarterly meetings where every older prisoner is given the opportunity to raise any concerns. These meetings are also attended by Leicestershire and Rutland Age Concern. They are also available via application forms to assist older prisoners with issues whilst in custody and after release.

Foreign National Prisoner's

During the previous 12 months HMP Ashwell stopped accepting Foreign National prisoners (although three remain at Ashwell), as they were sent to designated establishments specialising in Foreign National prisoners within our region. Procedures and protocols are still in place should we have to accept any Foreign National prisoner in the future.

Gypsy and Traveller

The Diversity department have now made contact with the Multi Agency Traveller Unit based in Leicester. They are an organisation who specialise in assisting the gypsy and travellers community and will be able to offer specialist advice on how best to support and advise this group of prisoners. A designated Gypsy and Traveller prisoner representative has also been identified and they will be a point of contact for Gypsy and Traveller prisoners.

Events

Black history month was celebrated in October with displays in the Library. During the course of the year the catering department have begun to provide a world food day each month. This has resulted in cuisine being provided representing numerous countries around the world. A similar scheme was organised during the World Cup with food from the participating nations being produced. In April the Diversity Department in conjunction with the Resettlement department held a Diversity event. This was attended by approximately 90 prisoners and involved numerous external agencies attending the event. These included The Princes Trust, Drug support groups, financial advice organisations and Employment specialists. This came about after prisoner Diversity representatives asked for an event which not only celebrated Diversity but had a practical element which could assist them in the future.

Audit

An internal audit was carried out on Race Relations (prisoners) by Audit and corporate assurance in September 2009. This resulted in a final mark of

Green/Amber. An action plan was implemented to ensure any concerns were addressed.

Diversity Training

The prison service have introduced a Diversity training package called Challenge it, Change it. Every member of staff is to complete the training within 3 years. As of July 2010, 88% of staff will have completed the training. There are currently 5 members of staff trained to deliver the course.

All prisoner Diversity representatives have also received the Challenge it, Change it and RIRF guidance to assist them in their duties.

All the Diverse religious denominations are catered for and encouraged, likewise differing religious Celebrations and diet. Every month the menu includes the differing ethnic tastes. However a recent survey sent to all prisoners asking them to indicate which food they would like on the menu was disappointingly only completed by a very low percentage. As it was felt by the DREAT Prisoner Representatives that they needed to have something to make them more easily identified by other prisoners. Blue T Shirts with an appropriate logo have been purchased for them. It is the Board's opinion that HMP Ashwell does indeed have a very high standard regarding Diversity and Race Equality and should feel proud of their achievements.

(b) Safer Custody

The ACCT procedures work well. Each month a detailed graph of ACCT documents in graphic form is presented to and discussed with the SCC. This lists prisoners on whom ACCTs have been opened, together with individual Care plans which have been put together, with the cooperation of Healthcare, Psychology, CARATS and other appropriate departments. Case reviews are held regularly and attended by an IMB member whenever possible, particularly when an ACCT document is being closed, names of prisoners on ACCTs are readily available to IMB members. At Safer Custody meetings trends are noted eg, on which Wings most ACCT's occur, and monthly increases or decreases in documents opened.

Anti-Bullying Intervention Plans are also presented each month and discussed as necessary.

From time to time Governors comment on the quality of the reports generally finding them to be good. Individual members of Staff are commended on their work, when appropriate.

Representatives from the Listeners scheme have not attended the meetings this year. Attendance numbers at Monthly meetings vary. Eighteen to twenty Departments eg Heads of Residence, Psychology, Drug Strategy, Healthcare, Head of Learning and Skills, Diversity manager, Health and Safety, Chaplaincy and IMB are represented.

The Chaplaincy Team consists of Mr Abdul Mulla full time Chaplain and Muslim Chaplain, the vacant post of Full- time Chaplain, and Church of England Chaplain will be taken up on the 6th September 2010 by Ms Roz Lane, there is also part time

coverage for the Catholic Chaplaincy and also coverage for Jehovah's Witness Minister, part time Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh Chaplains.

Detailed minutes are taken, Action points are highlighted, inevitably, in some cases becoming "Ongoing", However follow-through is seriously undertaken and results reported ie the introduction of "Grab bags" for visiting families, and setting up ACCT training for all new Staff.

The Prison operates successful Safer Custody strategies. The Insiders scheme has been set up, providing a useful layer of contact and help midway between prisoners and Officers.

Personal Officers exercise much patience and understanding in the care of the prisoners who have been allocated to them. They also deal very helpfully with the IMB enquiries about individual prisoners.

The prison does not have a First Night Centre, but First night files show appropriate care and attention. As already indicated, victims of bullying are supported by Personal Officers, Listeners and Insiders in the Care and Separation Unit.

In the Care and Separation Unit where prisoners can, if necessary be held for their own protection the staff are always vigilant and attentive to those located there. They will give IMB members up-dates on individual prisoners at any time.

Perpetrators are apprehended, challenged and dealt with accordingly. Adjudications are held and CCTV footage used when possible, to pinpoint the perpetrators.

A death in custody occurred in September 2009. The inquest concluded that death was due to natural causes. The situation was handled very satisfactorily with notification of the next of kin, and support given to Staff and prisoners involved. The family contacted the prison, expressing thanks for the support and assistance they had received.

During the period there have been 27 ACCT (self harm) documents opened, 93 anti-bullying documents opened = 49 Perpetrator and 44 Victims and 14 cases in which C&R (control& restraint) have needed to be used.

(c) Healthcare/ Psychology

Leicester, County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (LCRPCT) commission the Healthcare provision at HMP Ashwell. In October 2009 Nottinghamshire Community Health (NCH) replaced HMP as the provider for primary care services. The existing healthcare team subsequently TUPE'd over to NCH ensuring continuity of care for patients.

NCH, already having HMP Whatton in their portfolio also took over provider services at HMP Stocken. This has resulted in a broad range of expertise and experience across sites to draw on.

There has been significant improvement in the Prison Health Performance indicators and this remains high on the agenda at the Bi-monthly Healthcare Development Group meeting which involves the Prison, Providers and Commissioners.

The Prison Partnership Board meeting continues to meet quarterly as does the Drugs and Therapeutics meeting which was re-established at the beginning of 2010 following the change-over of pharmacy provider from Lloyds to Glen Parva.

Mental Health Services have also changed provider to Northampton Mental Health Trust resulting in a transformation in services from a 'secondary' care model to both primary and secondary care. Two full time mental health practitioners deliver this service with an extensive support network in place.

IDTS continues to be delivered with a robust support service which includes integrated working between healthcare, CARATs and the wider prison. This is soon to be delivered from the new dispensary site on E wing which has been developed to reduce the volume of patients attending healthcare at any one time. This dispensing site will also be used as a consultation room for primary care and mental health consultations for those unable to attend healthcare.

A comprehensive range of Nurse Led and Specialist services continue to be delivered with little or no waiting lists. Access and waiting times are managed well and within community timeframes. A new telephone triage line has been introduced supported by the Governor which allows prisoners to phone healthcare direct to make an appointment or seek advice. This is a free service to prisoners and has been well received.

Chronic Disease management has been the focus for development in 2010 and has seen the introduction and further development of Long Term Condition clinics such as Diabetes, Asthma, Over 55's etc.

Psychology

In July 2009, the Head of Psychology went on maternity leave for 9 months. The department was managed by the Deputy Governor. On return from maternity leave in July 2010, the Head of Psychology was given a new role and is now the Head of Interventions, managing both Psychology and Drug Services.

With regards to accredited offending behaviour programmes, they have continued to successfully run the Enhanced Thinking Skills (ETS) programme, and introduced the new Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) replacing ETS. They have consistently met their KPT for this intervention. The audit scores for ETS/ TSP demonstrate that the quality of the interventions they run are extremely high. The department has also continued to deliver the Cognitive Self Change Programme (CSCP) Block 5 for those individuals who transfer to them that have completed CSCP Blocks 1-4 already.

Resources within the team continued to be focussed on risk assessment of offenders, offender management and offender rehabilitation with the focus being on reducing the risk of re-offending, with priority of resources being focussed on those that demonstrate the highest risk of re-offending and highest need for intervention in order to reduce risk. They currently work with mainly indeterminate sentenced prisoners completing a variety of work such as parole board reports, consultation on cases, risk assessments, 1-2-1 interventions, personality assessments, intelligence assessments, and suitability assessments for interventions e.g. CALM, CSCP, DPSD.

They have been involved in research in the prison, staff training and consultation with attendance and membership on many committees within the establishment.

This year has been dominated with a strain on resources within the region. Therefore, the Psychology department have been heavily supporting the region with staff doing risk assessments for HMP Whatton, delivering TSP at HMP Gartree and HMP Stocken, completing assessments at HMP Nottingham and conducting research on behalf of region also. This is being managed closely by the Head of Unit to ensure that the needs of HMP Ashwell are met and the professional development opportunities for Ashwell staff are the equivalent to colleagues of their grade at other establishments.

In terms of staffing, due to the uncertainty of HMP Ashwell and the posts at HMP Ashwell becoming more region based, some members of the team have been looking elsewhere for jobs. However the staff remains the same as last years report.

Reducing Re-Offending

This committee has undergone some changes during the current year, and is now chaired by the Governing Governor and is now held bi-monthly. The aim is still to provide a clearly defined programme for the prisoners within HMP Ashwell.

Managers within the establishment have responsibility for delivering on designated pathways which are; Accommodation and Support, Education, Training and Employment, Health, Alcohol and Drugs, Finance, Benefit and Debt, Children and Families of Offenders and Attitudes Thinking Behaviour.

Changes have been suggested to the way the action plan for this committee is documented, enabling a more streamlined and meaningful document to be produced. Work is being undertaken to provide accommodation and outside support when a prisoner is released, which is hoped will encourage prisoners re-offending.

It is envisaged that having an outside working party would incentivise prisoners working towards a Cat D Voluntary sector links continue to be strengthened and SLA's are in place with all. Within Healthcare, work is being undertaken to provide a dispensary within E Wing and also to provide a dedicated phone line for booking appointments with a Doctor.

A money manager is now attending the prison regularly and this seems to be working well despite low take-up. A lot of progress has been made with promoting Fathers Inside course, providing a children's corner and Story Book Dads among many others.

Hopefully a rewards and recognition scheme will soon be launched for prisoners, although without any financial rewards. A new study room has been provided within E Wing for prisoners, and a new Victim Awareness course has been trialled and was very successful.

Resettlement

The ETA is part of the Reducing Re-Offending team within the establishment. It is responsible for Employment, Training and Allocation.

Upon entering HMP Ashwell prisoners will start the journey. This journey will involve a number of 'routes' and each prisoner will follow the 'route' best suited to their individual needs.

The ETA is a central hub, 'A junction where all routes, on all journeys meet'. The overriding aim is to ensure all resources and opportunities offered by HMP Ashwell are invested in prisoners, helping them to achieve successful re-integration back into society upon release from custody.

All prisoners, on their journey through HMP Ashwell will require some form of intervention, for example Vocational Training, Accommodation and Support, Education, Training and Employment, Offending Behaviour programmes or medical/clinical support.

The role of the ETA is to gather information on all prisoners. That information is used to help identify which route a prisoner needs to take towards rehabilitation and reducing risk.

The department has a responsibility to ensure all work and intervention opportunities are used to their full potential, thus meeting prisoner's needs. The ETA will ensure that the 'Removal (SACKED) from work procedures' will be adhered to. Information is gathered during the induction and OASys procedures.

Information on lifers is provided by the lifer Manager. A 'passport system' will also be used to ensure the Resettlement dept. know housing, debt and employment issues. OASys targets, educational needs and other assessments are used to find out a prisoners intervention and training needs. A clear plan of a prisoner's custody time at HMP Ashwell, to join up all needs and interventions and to help reduce risk of re-offending will be compiled.

Prisoners will be allocated or placed onto a waiting list that is held by ETA for their required needs, taking into consideration Prison Service priorities. The lists will be fair and open to appeal. Prisoners will be allocated to a suitable wing and work area in line with their needs (however initial allocation to work may be to fill shortfalls in that work area).

During induction the ETA board will issue prisoners with the 'journey file'. This will include work allocation and targets.

ETA REVIEW

On completion of interventions and training the department will assess the outcomes and those who rise above others on input and achievement will be nominated for recognition.

The recognition of their achievement or non compliance will be shared to other departments to be used during the risk assessments for HDC, RECAT, PAROLE etc.

Learning & Skills

HMP Ashwell offers a range of employment and training opportunities within the establishment aimed at providing the following:

- Purposeful activity whilst in prison.
- Basic Skills training (linked with education)
- Opportunity to gain NVQ level 1 and level 2.
- Establishing self-responsibility and the work ethic with prisoners.

- Developing skills and qualifications that will aid prisoners in gaining employment on release.

The Employment, Learning and Skills team at HMP Ashwell comprises managers and their teams from HMP Ashwell, Oakham Library Services, and The Manchester College.

The QIG (Quality Improvement Group) brings together all the Learning & skills areas from across the prison.

The EDP for employment, learning and skills is underpinned by the three main aims for Learning and Skills at the prison:

1. To improve access and entitlement to Learning and Skills activities
2. To provide opportunities for accreditation and success in Learning and Skills activities
3. To improve the quality as well as the quantity of Learning and Skills opportunities

Self-assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the EDP during 2006 took account of the East Midlands Regional Action Plan and in particular, to raise staff awareness and engagement, placed a particular focus on the eight aims of Strategic Pathway 2.

The Overarching principle for HMP Ashwell is 'to improve the education, skills and employability of offenders'.

Current Learning and Skills Provision with accreditation outcomes includes the following:

(Listed as they appear in The Common Inspection Framework)

Employability

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • OCR Award in Business Enterprise (Level 2) | (Preparing for self-employment- TMC) |
| • Introduction to Catering | (CCM) no longer on T/T |
| • NVQ Levels 1/ 2 Catering | (HMP) |
| • Bricklaying | (MKC) |
| • Horticulture | (MKC) |
| • ICT (Entry Level to Level 2) | (MKC) |
| • ICT Web design | (MKC) |
| • Business Studies | (MKC) |
| • Self Study Group | (MKC) |
| • Food Hygiene | (HMP) |
| • Health and Safety | (MKC) |
| • NVQ Sport and Recreation Level 1/ 2 | (C&G) (HMP) |
| • BWLA - British Weight Lifting Association | (HMP) |
| • CSLA - Community Sports Leaders Award | (HMP) |
| • YMCA - Assisting a Circuit Training Instructor Level 1 | (HMP) |
| • YMCA - Exercise and Fitness Knowledge Level 1 | (HMP) |
| • PMO (Performing Manufacturing Operations) | NVQ units in HMP industries |

Literacy, Numeracy and Language

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Literacy | (MKC)
(Entry Level 1 to Level 2) |
|------------|-------------------------------------|

- Numeracy (Entry Level 1 to Level 2)
- Embedded Skills for Life
- Skills for Life Outreach

Personal and Social Development

- Art (MKC)
- Open and Distance Learning (Prison)
- Improving Assertiveness and Decision Making (TMC)
- Personal Development (MKC)
- Alcohol Awareness (MKC)
- Fathers Inside (MKC)
- Wider Key Skills (MKC) (Problem Solving,
Working with Others and Improving your Own Performance)

Skills for Life/Key Skills

There is a Skills for Life Strategy a part time Employability/Key Skills coordinator based in the education department. This role encompasses developing 'The Whole Organization Approach to Skills for Life.'

Ashwell is also a pilot centre for Functional Skills. Functional Skills will replace Skills for Life and Key Skills in 2010.

Basic / Key Skills

There is a basic skills co-coordinator based in the education department. At the moment the main provision of basic skills assessment and training takes place in education.

Vocational Training.

There is a part time VT Manager who oversees the provision of VT courses in the OLASS contract.

The following vocational training courses are available at Ashwell:-

Physical Education: CSLA (Community Sports Leaders Award)
HSLA (Higher Sports Leaders Award)
BAWLA (British Weightlifters Association Award)
Heart start (Basic First Aid)
Heart start Instructors

CIT Bricks: C & G Basic Bricklaying Skills Level 1 & 2
Intermediate Construction Award

Industries: C&G Performing Manufacturing Operations Level 1

Other employment opportunities:
Recycling Unit
Clothing exchange stores
Kitchen (NVQ level 1 & 2)
Cleaners / Orderlies

A major strategic plan for the coming year is the implementation of qualifications in additional areas.

The education department at Ashwell is run by Milton Keynes College and operates for fifty weeks a year providing a responsive and flexible curriculum that aims to meet the specific needs of individual learners. This is achieved by assigning each prisoner with a personal tutor who helps him to build a timetable appropriate to his needs. The tutor supports the prisoner and monitors him throughout his time in the department.

All prisoners arriving at Ashwell are offered an educational assessment and are interviewed to determine their educational needs. The assessment and interview informs the sentence planning board.

Skills for Life

If prisoners are identified on induction as having Skills for Life needs at Entry Level, it is recommended that they attend classes. There are 8 discrete Skills for Life classes on the timetable. Classes are streamed according to level of ability in Literacy and Numeracy. There are 40 sessions each week. One of the classes provides language classes for ESOL learners.

Additionally teachers support learners by offering Embedded Skills for Life in VT courses in both in scope and out of scope courses. There are also a number of sessions a week when 'Outreach' is provided to individuals on a one to one basis. This is aimed at those who have a very distinct barrier to learning and who can only cope with this specialized approach for short periods of time.

Half-time Courses

Prisoners can join a variety of half-time courses. Some learners attend 2 different courses and attend Education on a full-time basis. These courses include Introduction to Hospitality and Catering (no longer), Skills for Life, (put in) Business Studies, ICT, Personal and Social Development and Open Learning.

Part time options (with the exception of Art, there are no longer any Options)

Prisoners are allowed time out of their employment to take part in Education and PE as part of an "Options" scheme. Students can undertake Cookery, IT, Art, Food Hygiene, CIEH Health and Safety, COSHH and Manual Handling and Open Learning as part of the Options Programme.

Links with the community

Ashwell is a registered "Open University" centre and consistently there are prisoners pursuing graduate and postgraduate courses. The Library is open during the evening & weekends for open learning & distance learning students to access.

The Education Department runs a number of Personal and Social Development courses including a well-established and recognised Parenting Course, "Fathers Inside".

Links within the establishment

The education department enjoys a close working relationship with other employment areas within Ashwell who assist the department in identifying prisoners with educational needs and providing them with the opportunity to attend education on a part time basis.

There are good links with the Resettlement Department to ensure those identified as needing to attend education in the community are, wherever possible, able to do so.

The CIAS Team assesses a prisoners needs on Induction and disseminate documentation to all areas that will manage the prisoner's sentence.

In addition the voluntary agencies working at Ashwell provide referrals to, and take referrals from, the education department to ensure that prisoners training and employment needs are met in conjunction with their educational needs.

The education department is clearly an important part of the regime at Ashwell. Education not only addresses educational needs but also improves self-esteem and enhances prisoners' employability, unfortunately during the period of this report we have not been able to arrange regular meetings with the Education Team, but it is hoped this situation will improve and in that we will better placed to understand the challenges they face.

(e) Care and Separation Unit – MDT

The CSU team, including Governors, Officers and Healthcare deserve praise in their professionalism, in what is a highly sensitive area, which demands, expertise, courage and care when dealing with prisoners. They also go out of their way to help members of the board in any matter we raise, and we in turn always respect any order we receive from them, in carrying out their duties.

The Prison is committed in upholding PSO 1700 in its management of prisoners who are segregated in the CSU by treating them with humanity and respect. The recent self audit was 88% and the actions required have all been implemented and the CSU is now fully compliant.

The Mandatory Drug Testing area is situated within the confines of the Segregation Unit.

A very competent officer who goes out of his way to answer any questions put to him from the Board Members. The area has a testing room and four holding rooms. The monthly positive average for MDT and VDT during the period of this report was; 1/88 1.1%. There were 241 tests carried out = 1.6% positive.

(f) Prisoners Council and Security Meetings

This monthly meeting is held on the last Thursday of the month, and is chaired by PO Sellman (Deputy Head of Residential)
It is well attended by all relevant HMP Ashwell departments (incl. Finance, Healthcare, OMU, Catering, Diversity, Custody, Employment & Skills, and Psychology), and by prisoner representatives from E, F & G Wings.

All complaints, issues and queries raised by the prisoners (irrespective of their triviality) are addressed by the Chairman, and dealt with both considerately and assertively – as the occasion demands.

The minutes and "Action Points" from previous meetings are distributed, promptly, to all attendees.

As an independent monitor at these meetings, I do feel that they are instrumental towards creating good communications throughout the Establishment. It is also evident that there is a significant amount of mutual respect between the prisoners and HMP Staff at these meetings.

Since last year's report, the **Prisoners' Canteen** still continues to be a major point of discontent with the prisoners. Messrs. DHL persist in "short delivering", prolong the crediting of prisoners' accounts on "non-delivered" items, whilst packing products inadequately, which results in prisoners receiving damaged goods.

Discussions are on-going with Messrs. DHL, who recognise that they have management issues, and hopefully, these problems will be resolved in the near future.

As mentioned in last year's report, these Canteen problems are creating a considerable amount of discontent, which must have an effect on morale within the Establishment

These issues do not just relate to HMP Ashwell. A meeting recently took place at HMP Stocken with representatives from both other regional HMP Establishments, and Messrs. DHL, to discuss these issues.

Another point of discontent had been the food, which whilst showing a great improvement since last year's Incident, had attracted prisoner complaints over recent months. The Catering dept. has redesigned, and implemented a new "Food Comment" sheet on the Wing Servery's, which should provide more constructive criticism from the prisoners, thus enabling the Kitchen to react more positively towards resolving any elements of dissatisfaction.

This monthly meeting is chaired by Gov. Bannister.

It is well attended by all relevant HMP Ashwell departments including Security, Intelligence, residential, Operations, Substance Interventions, Healthcare, OMU, Maintenance, Employment & Skills, and Psychology, and the Deputy Governor

The minutes and "Action Points" from previous meetings are distributed, promptly, to all attendees.

These meetings are conducted robustly, with a set Agenda, whereby each department will give a brief, but thorough, summary of the last month's events, and statistics, which relate to the Security of HMP Ashwell.

All aspects of security are discussed, which include: -

- Security/unsupervised prisoners, or attempted escapes
- Disorder & Control including information re. formation of gangs on the wings, and issues re. cell-sharing.
- Illicit Drugs – including trafficking, and trading of prescribed medications.
- Drug Strategy

- Extremism/ Radicalisation
- Unauthorised articles- mobiles
- Fermenting Liquids/Alcohol
- Weapons
- Violence & Safer Custody – bullying or assaults
- Public Protection Issues
- Intelligence Assessment & Objectives
- Maintenance/Contractor report

The next Security Audit is expected in early 2011. There has been a recent self audit in Prisoners' Communications audit, which achieved a score of 88%. An action plan has been implemented to rectify non-compliances.

An extremely efficient and effective Committee.

(h) Reward and Recognition Meeting.

This Committee forms an integral part of the drive to motivate, reward and recognise those staff that clearly demonstrate that they have exceeded their responsibilities in excess of their normal "job requirements".

Nominations are invited from all members of staff, the IMB and indeed prisoners at HMP Ashwell.

The committee meets monthly to evaluate each nomination, whilst deciding as to whether the nominated person/team have performed their duties "above and beyond" the role of the normal job specification, in which case, they will award either a cash reward, or letter of acknowledgement, depending upon the merits of the nomination.

There has been a decline in attendance at the meetings and the Chairman of the group has also identified the need to "enliven or re-launch" the Reward & Recognition system with the desire to see more people recognising its worth and getting involved.

Reward & Recognition is an important tool in the management and motivation of staff and the attention it is receiving confirms its importance to the staff at the Prison.

(i) Residential

Overview

It has been an incredibly busy six months for Residential with the Security Audit to prepare for and then the announced HMIP inspection last week. Residential staff accepted these tasks with their normal gusto and enthusiasm, confident they could use them to showcase not only their own abilities but HMP Ashwell as a whole.

Overall the staff delivered, although some further work was highlighted during the HMIP inspection on staff/prisoner engagement. This had already been highlighted by

Governor Lee who, along with Scott Davidson, is formulating Pro-Social Awareness training for all staff and, eventually, prisoners.

Improvement in deliver within Residential Function

Generally, significant improvements have been delivered within the Residential Function in a relatively short period of time. Although there is still a lot of work to be done it is encouraging that the majority of Residential Managers and staff are responding to the initiatives and recognise and understand the need for the changes to be implemented.

The construction of the new second dispensary on E wing will also greatly improve the way in which prisoners are issued non-possession medication. This will have a two fold benefit to the jail by drastically reducing the time prisoners use to wait in Healthcare they improve their commitment to them under the Decency Agenda, as well as increasing their recorded purposeful activity hours for the establishment.

Personal Officer Scheme

- **Improvement in quality of written work** – Personal Officer Reports were always a source of concern at Ashwell for many years. Initially, it only required a single monthly entry, often of poor quality. This has been addressed over the past year, with Officers now required to make at least two quality entries per month. A full audit of all entries in June highlighted a continued lack of staff understanding and commitment to the scheme, with over half the entries not being of the required standard. Senior Officers now drive this forward through 100% Quality Assurance checks every month, with the Deputy Head of Residential conducting a further 10% check on entries.
- **Engaging more with decency agenda** – It has always been paramount that the residential function conforms fully to the Decency Agenda. Staff are positively encouraged by Management to interact with prisoners as role models, using either the prisoners preferred name, or prefixing their surname with 'Mr' when speaking to them.

This is mandatory in all written material and when using the wing Tannoy systems. Regular Management checks ensure these standards are maintained with anyone in breach of these requirements challenged immediately.

Prisoners are encouraged to keep their cells/rooms clean and tidy and, through daily AFCs, any inappropriate material displayed will be challenged and removed accordingly.

- **Contributing to Sentence planning Process** – Staff, through a joint initiative with the OMU department, are now completing Sentence Planning reports and are encouraged to attend the actual Sentence Planning Boards where detailing allows. This initiative is still in its early stages, and although initial uptake was poor, the scheme will improve as it becomes embedded.

Improvement in general cleanliness

Although the 'Wing of the Month' competition was withdrawn at the beginning of the year, the wings have not only managed to maintain their high levels of cleanliness but have further improved in this area. This was highlighted by the recent Regional Custody Managers visit, when Mr Cross stated he had never seen the Residential Function look cleaner. Management routinely check the cleanliness of the units to ensure this is maintained.

Improvement in delivery of core security work

- **Accounting for prisoners** – all staff are now fully aware of the importance of prisoner accountability and the correct manner in how to conduct a roll check. This improvement has been best highlighted by the high scores in the recent Security Audit. Training continues so that staff do not become lax in this area.
- **Cell searching** – This is currently organised by Security, with Residential staff being instructed on which cells to search on a weekly basis. Searching, again, produced a good result for Residential staff in the recent Security Audit. This entire process is currently being reviewed due to the new specifications being introduced later this year.
- **Fabric checks** – AFCs are conducted on a daily basis to ensure accommodation is secure, fabric of the cells has not been tampered with or damaged and that inappropriate material is not displayed. Any breaches are dealt with under the IEP scheme in the first instance unless severity of the offence dictates otherwise.

IEP System

IEP was originally audited in January of this year. Even though it was being used correctly at wing level, it received a very poor 63% due to insufficient management checks being recorded and it not being discussed at SMT or DREAT meetings. All of these points were immediately rectified, and IEP received a GREEN marking (100% compliant) in the re-audit in June. The system is robustly managed by the Residential SOs, with the Deputy Head of Residential Quality Assuring 100% of IEP reviews, due to the current low numbers per month.

Disability Liaison Officer Role

This position was filled by Officer Wallace, who went on detached duty for several months. On his return, he decided to resign from it. SO Bull arranged for Ria Lawton to take over the role after her training, which includes some training from our Area Disability Lead at HMP Ranby.

As part of the DLO duties a database is maintained which highlights any prisoners with a disability, including what the disability involves. The DLO is also involved in ensuring that PEEP's are completed by the Residential SO.

The DLO also attends meetings at Area level, usually chaired by Paul Singh. These meetings are used to find out what good practise is used through the region and try and use it at Ashwell.

During the next 12 months SO Bull has identified areas within Disability which need improving, and an action plan has been devised and is on the establishments CAP. This will involve the new DLO interviewing every prisoner during their induction week giving them the opportunity to disclose any disabilities. We will also ensure they are aware of the Diversity department band and we will also attend induction.

Vulnerable Prisoners and ACCT Assessors

HMP Ashwell is a very safe and secure prison, and will not tolerate any form of harassment or victimisation. They have a well run anti-bullying system in place that tries to support the victim while challenging the perpetrator. At present they have no-one currently on an open plan.

They currently have two open ACCTs, one on normal location and one in the CSU. These are managed to a good standard, with the individuals being well supported by a multi-disciplinary group as required. Ashwell has a good record in the management of ACCTs borne out by the high score they received during the Safer Custody Audit earlier this year.

Future projects

Residential has many exciting ongoing projects, delayed unfortunately by funding and the works departments other current commitments. These include;

- **G wing staff kitchen** – Currently to a standard that it can be used, but requiring some further work before it can be considered finished.
- **G wing prisoner kitchenette** – A future project that will allow prisoners on G wing to have personal use of a microwave, toaster and breville to further the growing community feel that the prison has encouraged on this unit since creating the quiet area and revamping the association room.
- **F wing staff kitchen** – A Schedule B has been submitted to create a proper usable staff kitchen and rest room on F wing, but this project will not be started until the G wing projects has been completed
- **E wing staff kitchen** – A Schedule B has been submitted to construct a wall and doorway across part of the main office on the wing to create a separate kitchen and staff rest room. This project will not be started until the G wing project has been completed.

In Conclusion

Residence has made significant progress in several areas but recognise there is room for further improvement. Improving prisoner confidence in staff by ensuring positive staff/prisoner interactions will be a main focus in the coming months. The pro social modelling training package that is currently being devised is a real indication that the function continues to recognise and address functional priorities.

SECTION 6

- (a) Adjudications
- (b) Catering & Kitchens
- (c) Induction

There were a total of 285 adjudications in the reporting period, and the board attended as many as it could with the members we have.

The Segregation Reviews and Adjudications are held in the morning period. This has helped the board attend a great deal more. The adjudications themselves are handled in a court like manner, and in our opinion the governors abide to the rules of the adjudication, but are never the less very fair in their treatment of the accused.

Since our last report we have taken on the suggestions made and now check the adjudication documents on a regular basis for which the prison are grateful.

We also now attend a quarterly meeting on adjudications and have found it most helpful in understanding what is a sometimes complicated matter.

The Regional Manager Custodial Services overturned four adjudications from two hundred and eighty five proved charges during the period July 2009- June 2010

(b) Kitchen

The past twelve months have been an unsettling time within the Catering department due to various changes on Management and the departure of three members of staff. Although the changes of personnel and the allocated daily budget of £1.89 per prisoner place have proved challenging the team have continued to produce high quality food to prisoners and staff and achieve their NVQ targets. There focus has continued on ensuring prisoners who work within the kitchen are given incentive schemes, improved training, prisoner of the month awards, job rotation and greater concentration of qualifications.

The kitchen is operating within its allocated 10/11 budget whilst continuing to maintain a low stock holding.

A breakdown of the figures are listed below.

- Allocated daily budget 1.89 per prisoner place per day.
- Allocated weekly Spend: £ 2800
- Allocated average monthly spend: £11,200
- Allocated annual budget: £134,400
- Current position: £4000.00 over spend. This is due to change in CNA from 204 to 214 with no additional funding
- Average stock holding £8K

Other key points from the past twelve month's are;

Due to budgetary restraints the kitchen has moved back to gastronomes and away from foiling, this has proved successful and has reduced their food wastage by a further 1%.

The team continue to produce, where possible, many items in-house with all meals, where practical, produced on the day of service.

Paul Birbeck has become the substantive Grade 1 Caterer with Les Howe being appointed Grade 2 Caterer, This recruitment provides the kitchen with a strong management structure that ensures the kitchen are able to meet all their targets and deliver good food to prisoners.

Due to staffing there will be some changes to the Visits mess facility. The process involves visitors changing money for tallies in the Visits Centre and then subsequently exchanging those tallies for food items in the visits rooms. The facility will be run by two orderlies and not by members of staff.

(c) Induction

Induction of the new prisoners takes one week, where they are introduced to the ways of the prison regime. As a board we complete our induction of the prisoners on a weekly basis. Ashwell has made outstanding progress during this period. The programme has been re-written and the Induction PowerPoint Installed and now have dedicated highly motivated staff

The induction team now act as personal officers for the first week, dealing with issues and problems, including legal problems. They have moved to a situation where the self audit was a score of 100%.

SECTION 7

Contents

(a) Board Statistics

Recommended complement of board members	=12
Board members at start of reporting period	= 7
Board members at end of reporting period	= 9
New members joining in reporting period	= 2
Members leaving during reporting period	= 0
Attend at meetings other than board meetings	= 98
Number of visits to prison	= 300
Number of applications received	= 69
Number of CSU reviews held	= 123
Number of CSU reviews attended	= 95

		2008/9	2009/10
Code A	Accommodation	(3)	(4)
Code B	Adjudication	(1)	(2)
Code C	Diversity Related	(2)	(1)
Code D	Educ,Empl,Trng	(3)	(2)
Code E	Family/Visits	(4)	(2)
Code F	Food/Kitchen Related	(5)	(3)
Code G	Health Related	(11)	(2)
Code H	Property	(19)	(8)
Code I	Sentence Related	(9)	(6)
Code J	Staff/Det/Prsn	(14)	(4)
Code K	Transfers	(12)	(8)
Code L	Miscellaneous	(16)	(27)
Total Number of Apps		(99)	(69)

Population

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
210	210	210	210	209	210	209	209	210	209	210	212

Receptions

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
28	24	22	24	15	25	21	22	30	21	33	35

Releases

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
6	6	9	8	10	9	5	4	5	9	10	8

Resettlement Leave

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1	6	3	0	1	3	1	0	1	2	5	3

Compassionate Leave

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Home Detention Curfew

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	1

Home Detention Curfew Failure

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Job Interviews

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hospital Appointments

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
20	20	21	19	25	24	15	24	38	18	18	20

Court Productions

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	4	5	2	3

Resettlement Leave Failures

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Absconders

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Escapees

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Transfers

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
23	17	18	18	3	12	11	17	14	12	19	20

Lifers

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
39	39	39	39	39	39	50	50	50	50	50	50

Rule 45 O/R

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
5	3	4	3	0	2	5	1	3	4	4	3

Rule 45 Good

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
4	8	4	2	5	3	6	4	2	4	4	3

Cellular confinement

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	6	2

TRAINING

The training programme has progressed since July 2009. The two new members routinely attended on rota visits with experienced board members.

The Board Development Officer has ensured the 1-7 key competencies which Board members will be evaluated on has been achieved for the first new member during the first six month's of his probationary period. The other new member has not completed his first six month's probationary period and is therefore still attending segregation review boards and adjudications, also visiting segregated prisoners and completing the documentation. Most areas of the establishment are familiar to the first new member who has now been given the keys and is on the Rota Visits list, the second new member is coming up to his six monthly probationary interview and is regularly

going round the prison with experienced members. It is anticipated they will be attending a new members training course in September 2010.

The board has had several speakers at our regular board meetings, and have covered interesting subjects such as; probation, serious incidents, security, reception procedures, audits and impact assessments.

Some members have also attended PNOMIS Training, First on the Scene Course and a serious incident table top exercise.

SECTION 8

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have been Chairman since the 1st January 2007 and this is my fourth Annual Report. Helen Bush is the Vice Chairman and Roger Parker is the Board Development Officer, a further five members, Nancy Brand, Paula Woolnough, Susan Williams are experienced members, with Paul Mills and Robert Norton who are in their probation period, but will soon be able to go in on their own, this will take some of the pressure off the other members, and I thank them all for their help in compiling this report.

It is now fifteen month's since the disturbance at HMP Ashwell and the Prison are still awaiting a decision on its future, there has been tentative enquiries from the UK Border Agency/ Immigration Removal Centre and recently from the Young Offenders Estate, but at the time of writing this report, nothing positive has arisen. I do feel for the stability of the Prison and the Staff within, a decision should be forthcoming from the Minister responsible for the Prison Estate.

Due to the prison having only 214 prisoners and with the arrival of a new Governing Governor Dave Harding, the prison has had to undergo many changes which has included Officers and staff being deployed to other prisons on detached duty along with security being stepped up to include prisoners being escorted around the prison estate. The remaining officers are far more effectively deployed and placed to manage prisoners issues, complaints etc. Additionally greater emphasis is placed on a constructive and effective regime with a real drive on getting prisoners to activities, work, interventions etc, whilst explaining to prisoners the need for them and benefit to them in attending those activities promptly and regularly.

There has also been a focus on setting out the actions that will or can be taken against prisoners who choose not to comply with the regime. Initially this was a very testing and demanding time for all. However, things soon settled and allowed Ashwell to focus on effective delivery of quality activities for prisoners be it vocational training, education, interventions, Healthcare needs etc. This was done whilst providing a safe, secure and constructive environment for staff and prisoners to interact within.

The Offender Management Unit building and several workshops which were badly damaged during the Disturbance in April 2009 have now been fully refurbished.

I attend Monthly Meeting's with the number one Governor Dave Harding who arrived in October 2009, and also invited to attend the Monthly SMT Meetings, this I feel makes for a better relationship between the Board and the Prison.

It is well documented that the establishment endured a serious disturbance in the early part of the reporting period with a consequence that for eleven months of that

period it operated at 33% of its normal operating capacity. Prisoners were displaced to other establishments and staff commenced extended periods of detached duty. With regards to the transitional period after the disturbance I extend my admiration for Ian Thomas and his team in the way they responded to the challenges of managing the establishment through this very difficult period. The establishment was back operating an almost full regime within two weeks whilst the post incident workload created a large amount of non routine work that had to be co-ordinated and completed in a timely and professional manner, the work carried out immediately after the disturbance set the foundation on which a very successful year has been built. The theme over the latter part of the reporting period has been based on celebrating successes whilst striving for continuous improvements. Confidence has been a major factor with individuals (staff and prisoners) maintaining their own self confidence and the confidence in HMP Ashwell. I appreciate that staff are apprehensive about the future of HMP Ashwell and they would welcome clarity, however I also appreciate that during this period they have risen to the challenges presented to them, in providing a safe and decent place to live and work and embedded routine systems and procedures that should strengthen the positive perceptions of those who monitor and support the prison.

The Governor also attends our Monthly Board meeting and if unable to do so arranges for the Deputy Governor Glyn Griffiths to attend.

During the year four interviews were held for prospective IMB members, three were recommended for approval with two joining the Board during the year. The other has been recommended for appointment, but to the date of this report and advised by a member of the IMB Secretariat, the documents cannot be forwarded until the Minister's box re-opens.

I would also like to thank the two clerks that have served the board over the last year for all their hard work.

.....
Peter Biggs
Chairman IMB
HMP Ashwell

26th September 2010