



Annual Report

1st November 2009
-31st October 2010

Annual Report to the Secretary of State

By

The Independent Monitoring Board for Durham Prison

1st November 2009 to 31st October 2010

1. Introduction

This report, prepared by the Independent Monitoring Board for Durham Prison (HMP Durham), is presented to the Secretary of State.

The report has been prepared in line with the "Annual Report Template and Guidance" published by the IMB National Council in January 2007. This encourages Boards to include reference to the attitude of prisoners gleaned from the prison service survey tool "Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MPQL)", last completed in HMP Durham during the week of 14-18 September, 2009.

The Board applauds the fact that the managers of the prison canvass the views of prisoners through other means; for example, the prisoners' consultative committee and focus groups as well as routine daily contact on an individual basis. It acknowledges the assistance of many officers as well as the management staff in the preparation of this report.

2. The Role of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB)

The IMB is appointed from the local community by the Secretary of State and 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 in preparation for their release
2. Inform, promptly, the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority, as judged appropriate, of any concerns
3. Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed upon it and what impact these have on those in custody.

Board members have right of access to every prisoner, to every part of the prison and to the prison's records.

The IMB seeks to monitor fairness and respect for people in custody.

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4. Description of Durham Prison (HMP Durham)

HMP Durham is a Category B, large Victorian local prison for male prisoners. The prison holds sentenced, convicted and remand males over 21 mainly from Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyneside. On 21 October, 2010 there were 72 Young Offenders in the establishment. A better alignment of Durham Court's catchment area means the prison is holding more prisoners closer to their homes.

As a local prison HMP Durham's role is to assess all prisoners, to accommodate those prisoners serving short sentences and those on remand, and to introduce prisoners serving longer sentences to their journey through the prison system.

HMP Durham acts as a Feeder Prison to HMP Acklington.

91% of prisoners come from the catchment area referred to earlier. In the order of 9% of the convicted prisoners at HMP Durham come from outside of this area.

Prison capacity is measured by two figures, namely the Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) and the Operational Capacity.

The CNA figure records the ideal maximum population of the prison if there was no overcrowding. In October 2010 the CNA for HMP Durham stood at 606.

The Operational Capacity relates to that population which could be accommodated without risk of disruption through overcrowding. For Durham, the Operational Capacity stood at 1012 in October 2010.

The average overall population during the reporting period was 943.

As is no doubt the case with many prisons across the country, HMP Durham is overcrowded. The average number of prisoners living two to a cell designed for one prisoner only was 659 : 65% of the operational capacity of 1012 (April to August 2010) – an improvement on the previous year. The figures for the previous two years were 708 in 2009 and 685 in 2008. It is intended that for comparative purposes this figure will be repeated in next year's Annual Report as the Board is still concerned that overcrowding will compromise the work of HMP Durham.

It is appreciated that the overall national high prison population has led to significantly higher turn-over rates in individual establishments. The Board at Durham has noted higher numbers of prisoners transferred to the prison than in previous years. The number of prisoners discharged from Durham during the reporting period is shown below:

Prisoners discharged from HMP Durham: 1 November 2009 to 31 October 2010

| | Number discharged |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Nov.09-Oct.10 | 1245 |

High occupancy and high turnover have the potential to:

- Diminish the quality of life for prisoners
- Compromise rehabilitative training and education programmes thus reducing the ability to reduce re-offending rates
- Increase risk to the safety and wellbeing of prisoners and staff.

The prison's budget in 2010/11 was £21,674,432 (a reduction of £647,615 on the previous year). During the year the prison has been expected to contribute to national NOMS savings targets and this has been done through the centrally imposed changes to the prisoners' daily routine (the Core Day). It is known that, for the next few years, the prison will receive the same budget – or perhaps less - meaning that any staff and non staff inflation will need to be funded through savings. The IMB will continue to carefully monitor this as it recognises a real risk that the conditions in which prisoners live could be severely affected by such cutbacks.

Throughout the period of this report HMP Durham retains its level 3 status in the Prison Service's performance ranking. This indicates that the prison is still "meeting the majority of its targets, experiencing no significant problems in doing so and delivering a reasonable and decent regime."

Given the range of constraints upon the prison the IMB congratulates the Governor and all his staff on retaining the Level 3 status.

The prison contains seven wings, a Separation and Care Unit and a Healthcare Centre. All cells have integrated sanitation and in-cell power.

HMP Durham is run by the HM Prison service. In addition, the following organisations and voluntary groups provide the following services:

Organisation

Outline of services provided

| | |
|---|---|
| Darlington Primary Care Trust | Primary Care Medical Services – GP services, community nursing, specialist nursing including Diabetes, Epilepsy, Health Promotion and Respiratory, Dental, Optical, Chiropody, Physiotherapy and Genito Urinary Medicine services |
| Durham County Council | Provision of Library Services |
| County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust | Visiting specialist services covering General, Orthopaedic, Vascular and ENT surgery and Chest medicine. |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust | Community Psychiatric Nursing, General and Forensic Psychiatry |
| Learn Direct | Educational activity |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | Forensic Psychiatry |
| Sunderland MIND | Bereavement Counselling |
| Time for Families | Relationship skills, financial management and parenting |
| Samaritans | Attend suicide prevention meetings and offering regular training to Listeners |
| Parent line Plus | Provide a family learning course on F-wing |
| Newcastle Futures | Employment, training and partner events designed to support the re-employment of ex-offenders |
| NEPACS | Visits, education, training and family ties – attendance at quarterly resettlement meetings, involvement in the planning process |
| Lifeline | Providing CARATS service – tailored drug and alcohol interventions, coordination of any other aspects of prisoners' needs such as Housing, Family Support, Education, Employment, Mental Health intervention etc. |
| Islamic Diversity Centre | Race Equality Action Team (REAT), advice on matters involving Muslim prisoners – also provide training. |
| EMTEP | Providing similar support to that given by the Islamic Diversity Centre |
| Manchester College | Provision of teaching services in Education – including the workshops. |

5. Executive Summary

This report highlights the following issues upon which the Board would request a response from the Secretary of State:

- Ways must continue to be found to reduce overcrowding in HMP Durham and the high turnover of prisoners through the prison (section 4). The NOMS Monthly Bulletin, October 2010 ranks Durham as the tenth most overcrowded prison in England and Wales.
- Members are still very much concerned about the probable impact of the continuing need to find financial savings (section 4). The Board notes the changes that have taken place to the Core Day. Whilst staff and prisoners have coped well with these initial changes the Board will continue to monitor this trend as further economies are sought.
- The Board is pleased to note improvements in the provision and refurbishment of the Health Centre (section 8) but remains of the view that the health centre needs to be replaced. It is noted that there has been a request for funding to fully refurbish the Health Care Centre in 2011/2012 and a proposal has been put forward to replace the healthcare centre with a new one at a later date.

The Board thanks the Prison Service for their response to the following issues which were highlighted in last year's report:

- *Increasing difficulty still experienced by prisoners receiving their personal property when transferring between prisons.* Where a prisoner arrives at Durham without all of his property, the property will be transported to Branston from where the prisoner can apply for its return and issue, subject to volumetric control.
- *Provision of learning and skills development opportunities for prisoners already more highly educated and skilled, either academically or vocationally.* The number of prisoners who require Above Level 2 learning opportunities remains small, due to low average skills of arriving prisoners and short average length of stay (reducing qualifications and guided learning time). Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) and Careers Information and Advice Service (CIAS) are working closely with In-Biz on an enterprise/self-employment programme for higher-skilled prisoners. 'Virtual Campus' has been introduced to open up further higher-level learning opportunities for prisoners.
- *The difficulties faced by prisoners required to pay for damaged or lost library books.* Joining the prison Library requires prisoners to sign a compact acknowledging that the cost of lost or damaged books in their care will be recovered from their financial accounts. This is the same as in the community. Where losses or damages are discovered, the library officer with the prisoner will agree a recovery plan for the cost of the replacement. This plan will be in place for a minimum of one week and a maximum of four weeks, taking into account the prisoner's financial position and length of sentence.
- *The delay experienced by some prisoners in obtaining security clearance before taking up internal employment opportunities.* A full review of the way in which security clearances are being managed is being undertaken with a view to refining the process even further.

The Board wishes to commend HMP Durham for the following excellent features:

- Level 3 status in the NOMS ranking system (section 4)
- HMCIP statement that HMP Durham is statistically safer than other local prisons

Board members visit the prison on an ad hoc basis. The figures in section 12 note that 412 visits occurred in the reporting year. This represents approximately 8 visits per week.

The Board feels it has a good knowledge of HMP Durham and that it is well placed to make the following overall judgement. Given all the constraints of overcrowding, high prisoner turn over, financial pressure and old buildings, the prison does well to provide a humane and secure environment for those committed to it. The Board again wishes to congratulate the Acting Governor and his staff for all their hard work.

The Board still remains concerned that all of this could easily be disrupted by future requirements to make savings in the prison's already limited budget.

6. Diversity

HMP Durham has a smaller BME population than many local prisons. This reflects the ethnic mix of the communities served in the prison's catchment area. Classes in 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' are provided.

As at 31 October, 2010 BME prisoners amounted to 40 out of a total prison intake of 919. This represents 4.35% of the overall population.

HMP Durham works in partnership with the Ethnic Minority Training and Education Project (EMTEP), which provides advice on ethnic minority issues; for instance, the provision of appropriate library materials.

The prison supports, and is a member of, the Black Ethnic Minority Community Organisation Network (BECON); a regional network designed to develop relationships between the prison and the local community.

Statistics on prisoners attending education, employment and gymnasium are disaggregated ethnically and concerns are investigated.

The prison provides a wide range of dietary requirements which cater for the ethnic, cultural and religious needs of prisoners.

During the year, Board members were provided with Diversity training offered to staff. This offered a comprehensive insight into diversity and equality issues.

The Race Equality Action Team (REAT)

The Governor and staff at HMP Durham are committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between people of different racial groups.

The REAT team meets monthly. It is chaired by the Deputy Governor to measure and manage race equality inside the prison. A quarterly report is produced to chart progress against the agreed Race Equality Action Plan.

Each month the REAT receives reports on racist incidents and the Systematic Monitoring and Analysis of Race Equality Template. On a quarterly basis the Team discusses the results of a questionnaire for prisoners on issues of diversity. The REAT regularly updates its Race Equality Action Plan to take account of any issues noted.

Foreign Nationals

A Foreign Nationals and Prisoner Diversity Team encourages prisoners to air their views and complaints. Concerns can also be expressed through focus groups organised by the Head of Residence.

Issues concerning foreign nationals are discussed on a monthly basis – these include immigration, deportation and general diversity issues such as disability, age and gender as they affect foreign nationals. These are reported to the REAT and incorporated in the Action Plan as necessary.

The prison has translation and interpretation services in place for prisoners whose first language is not English. There are also provisions to make prison policy statements available in alternative formats.

Classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages are provided.

Chaplaincy

The Imam plays a full part in the Chaplaincy team. He undertakes, on a rota basis, visits to all prisoners regardless of faith. Prisoners are helped to become aware of different perspectives. He provides regular ongoing training and assistance on issues relating to Islamic culture.

The Prison in General

The Board appreciates the high standard and quality of food served by the kitchen, particularly the introduction of home-made bread rolls on to the menu. Thank you to all the staff.

Prison retail (canteen) is a crucial and integral part of the prison's operation. It provides prisoners with the opportunity to obtain extra products to supplement their daily provisions. The amount of money a prisoner can spend is determined by the type of establishment and the privileges that they have earned in respect of their behaviour. DHL provides a weekly canteen offering a wide range of products; including food items, confectionery, tobacco and stationery. Overall, prices offer reasonable value and

complaints about the service provided are few, although some individual items may be more expensive than equivalent products available from external retailers.

In particular, The DHL staff who operate canteen in the prison are noteworthy. Their caring attitude and level of customer care have always been very good and prisoners are treated as valued and respected customers.

A new Listening Suite is located on 'E' Wing.

'E' Wing is a first night centre where prisoners generally stay for four to seven days. Induction is started in Reception where all prisoners are seen by a nurse doctor and psychiatric nurse. If this is their first time in prison or they are vulnerable, they are seen by one of the two 'meet and greet' prisoners.

Despite its prohibition, IMB members did find glass items across the establishment, which could be accessed by prisoners. This was a concern but the Board is now satisfied that this matter has now been resolved. Careful monitoring will continue to take place.

The following policies have been reviewed and approved: a) Health and Safety
b) Fire c) Disability and Older Persons d) Smoking

The National Lifetime Achievement Winner 2010: Prison Officer of the Year was awarded to one of the officers in Safer Custody – for 'his superb work as a frontline officer who leads by example with unfailing loyalty and professionalism.' The IMB congratulate him. The award was well-deserved.

7. Learning and Skills

Overview of learning and education

Access to learning and skills is based in classroom facilities with full and part-time education where academic subjects including literacy, numeracy, ICT and arts and crafts are taught. There are also eleven vocational areas available to prisoners – the majority of which are in work-based learning environments. The prison has extensively expanded work-based learning opportunities to meet the regional skills shortages and to ensure that provision is demand-led. Courses provide good learning opportunities - as well as dealing with the particular needs of people in prisons. The "Story Book Dad" course helps learners with IT and communication skills, whilst enabling them to maintain links with their children, which is important to the wellbeing of prisoners and their families. Father and Child visits take place every other Thursday. They also offer better employment opportunities on release.

On arrival the skills and aptitudes of prisoners are assessed through the Gateway Course. This is aimed at establishing their learning needs and which learning and skills activities offer the best support and improved life chances on release.

Statistics

In terms of the quality of provision, the prison is achieving well in the area of learning and skills. For example, the prison's success rate is 86% (an improvement of 1% over last year) which compares favourably against the adult national benchmark of 83%. Retention rates also compare favourably at 95% (up 2%) which is 5% above the national figure.

The average classroom attendance for the reporting period is approximately 78%.

The annual target per prisoner per week in purposeful regime activity is 16.3 hours. In the year 1 November, 2009 to 31 October, 2010 HMP Durham achieved over 17.0 hours.

Courses in learning and skills should be running to at least 80% capacity. HMP Durham is achieving 85% - 90%. Prisoners are fast-tracked into low risk areas – immediate on receipt of application forms. Those prisoners applying for medium/high risk areas are placed within one week maximum of application.

The prison has received an additional 3000 hours from the Learning Skills Council, which have been utilised. A proposal has been made for an additional 5050 hours to develop Contact Centre Knowledge (NVQ based).

Accommodation issues

Both staff and prisoners continue to comment on the standard of accommodation in the learning and skills area. Providing adequate and suitable heating in the classrooms is still difficult and they do become cold. Accommodation improvements to this part of the building would make for a much better learning environment.

Relationships

Relationships between prisoners, teaching staff and officers working in this area remain good. Staff have a clear understanding of the difficulties people have in prison and how they impact on their ability to learn. Courses are well structured to meet prisoners' needs and there is a good success rate in academic achievements.

Staff, prison officers and teachers in the learning and skills area are always helpful to the Board. Prison officers have the opportunity to train in coaching and mentoring. This enables staff to provide additional support to prisoners; for example, they will provide employability support to prisoners in the last three months of their sentence.

Prisoners' Consultative Meetings, which are always well-attended, are chaired by a Residential Governor. Issues of concern are discussed and dealt with by senior management.

Library

Library facilities are satisfactory. There is a wide range of publications, as well as literature in alternative languages and other formats. This helps to meet the diverse

needs of the prison's population. The library offers activities for prisoners that provide academic learning in a recreational setting. For example, the weekly film club that library staff run gives prisoners the opportunity to watch a film of their choice followed by challenging and stimulating debate on the issues presented by the film. This facility has been warmly received by all those who have participated.

The Board agrees that prisoners should pay for loss of or damage to books when they are responsible. The recovery plan, agreed by the library and the prisoner, is a fair and responsible way of dealing with this problem.

Workshops

Workshops appear to be well managed and the range of courses and qualifications available are tailored to meet the needs of the prison population and also the local job market. Prisoners are assessed at Gateway and may study for NVQ qualifications (usually NVQ levels 1 and 2 or equivalent), dependent upon their needs.

Prisoners working in waste management are able to work towards the NVQ level 1 in Waste Management.

All vocational opportunities are NVQ accredited. They are transferable and recorded.

Acknowledgements

There are sound systems in place for transferring information about prisoners' learning and skills between establishments in the region. The MIAP tool, now operational, has been introduced by the LSC at a national level to eliminate the problem of sharing information across prisons.

Managing the learning and skills needs of prisoners who are already highly skilled, either academically or vocationally, is more challenging. Providing appropriate courses or skill development opportunities can be a problem for a minority of prisoners. The Board appreciates that HMP Durham is a local prison with a short length of stay for some prisoners.

Congratulations to a staff member from Learning and Skills who became the 2010 Learn Direct Regional and National Award Winner for 'Learner Support'.

Learning Skills Officers have gained Level 3 in 'Information, Advice and Guidance'.

The P.E. Department provides short courses in Health, personalised health plans at the fitness clinic and a new YMCA 'Certificate in Exercise and Fitness Instructing' (Level 1) course.

Improvements in 2010

The prisoners' pay structure has been reviewed. This has brought about greater parity. Prisoners are more likely to engage in activities that would pay the most as opposed to activities that may have afforded them the best opportunities for improving their skills. Improvements to pay parity go some way to alleviating this situation.

The introduction of 'Virtual Campus', in the Learning Centre, has been beneficial in offering further higher-level learning opportunities for prisoners. Ten of the forty computers available in the Centre are for 'Virtual Campus' use.

The Board is pleased with the development of the Employer Engagement Unit which works with external partners to offer training for prisoners, leading to employment opportunities for prisoners upon their release. The work with an international hotel chain is particularly successful for having seven participants currently in the Academy with two permanent appointments already in place. A recognised Waste Management Company provides training opportunities in the waste disposal industry. These are both outstanding examples of how the establishment, learning providers and local industries are working together to ensure prisoners have better life chances and realistic career opportunities on release.

8. Healthcare and Mental Health

The overall objective in the provision of prisoner health and mental health services is to achieve equivalence with the same services enjoyed by the community outside of prison. Given the higher prevalence of ill health in the general prison population - especially as it relates to deprivation and higher-than-average levels of mental ill-health and drug and alcohol abuse - this can prove a demanding order.

Family contact can reduce the feelings of isolation and stress, particularly in the early days of imprisonment.

The Board recognises the importance the prison places on addressing alcohol abuse, with new initiatives and extra funding, which seem to be working well in tackling this serious problem. General feedback from prisoners was excellent (there were 17 positive and genuine responses).

On arrival at HMP Durham all prisoners are clinically assessed for both their general and mental health status. They then have access to a comprehensive range of primary care and secondary care general and mental health services as experienced by the community outside (and as listed in section 4). Regular minor illness clinics are held regularly. There are some occasions when medical assessments at reception can be delayed because health staff are confronted with abnormally high numbers of prisoners coming into HMP Durham. It is important to manage these delays efficiently and quickly.

Tele-health : the IT link to hospitals is almost up and running and plans to be fully operational by the end of 2010.

A one-year project to develop and implement standards for cancer palliative and end of life care across the HMP Durham cluster commenced in September, 2010 (section 9).

In October 2010 the average waiting time for a routine Doctor's appointment was two weeks and moving even closer to the community model. However, if a prisoner required immediate medical attention, this could be provided by the first response nurse. A Wing Nurse was also available at the treatment hatch on each Wing three times a day and should it be felt by nursing staff that a prisoner required an urgent appointment, this would be arranged within 48 hours. Three Nurses are available each night for IDTS, Emergencies and In-Patients.

A number of prisoners do not attend their appointments without good reason.

Prisoners often ask to see the Doctor when they should be making an appointment to see someone else in Healthcare; for example, the Optician.

Prisoners referred to specialist services in neighbouring hospitals received treatment within target times as per the local general population.

At HMP Durham all newly arrived prisoners identified as having mental health problems are referred to the mental health team who triage their case and refer them to the most appropriate clinician – Psychiatrist, GP or CPN. Also, attempts are made to check against the Care Programme Approach (CPA) records of the relevant mental health trust. If the prisoner is registered, staff at HMP Durham make contact to ensure continuity of care.

At the last count, on 26 October, 2010, there were 135 prisoners on the mental health case load (approximately 15% of the prison's population). The number of referrals in October, 2010 was 193.

Substance misuse, drugs and alcohol misuse, psychology, drugs testing, Detox and CARATS all seem to be working satisfactorily, being well organised and controlled. Staff are motivated and demonstrate a good level of understanding and requirements.

With effect from 16 August, 2010, clients with sentences longer than six months had their current methodone prescribing reviewed and were expected to work with Clinical and CARAT teams toward being drug free/abstinent.

The Health Centre is bringing in procedures to reduce the number of escorts and bed-watchers.

Rewiring has resulted in all cells now having electric sockets and a lift for the disabled has been installed on the first floor to provide better access to shower facilities. Other issues of general maintenance and redecoration are still being achieved.

Much of the work in Healthcare has been contracted out to tender. This contract finishes on 31 March, 2011.

There have been some difficulties with recruitment through security issues but this matter is now being resolved.

The Board believes the health care centre building still presents some challenges for staff in the delivery of modern and up-to-date primary care & in patient care. In the main this is due to the pressures on both consulting room and waiting room space and access/disabled facilities on, and to, the first floor.

The Board remains of the opinion that the building is not totally suitable for the provision of modern healthcare. The Board strongly supports, and is hopeful that, the proposal for a new health centre to be accepted in the foreseeable future.

9. Safer Custody

Suicide prevention and self-harm reduction

The number of open ACCT documents has been low for some time. ACCTS are checked every week by a Board member on a rota visit. ACCT documentation continues to improve in quality, detail and observation and the prison is performing well, as evidenced by high audit markings. Suicide Prevention meetings are well attended, with Board members often present.

Deaths in Custody and Inquests

Three deaths have occurred in the prison during the last twelve months, all natural causes. Dates are still pending for the inquests. There is some evidence that death by natural causes will increase, due particularly to the presence of more elderly prisoners within the establishment (section 8). There is general agreement that there is great value in participating in the Veterans in Custody Peer Support Group.

The Board recognises the professional and sympathetic way in which all staff conduct their duties and notes that all Death in Custody action plans are complied with and up-to-date.

Violence Reduction (VR)

A new VR strategy has been implemented with favourable results. All instances of violence are captured by CCTV on all wings and investigated by the Safer Custody Team, with support plans being raised for both victim and perpetrator. At any time, if there are prisoners suspected of bullying or proven to be bullies, they are subject to one of the three “stages” in the anti-bullying protocol. HM Prison Inspectors recognise that anti-bullying systems are in place.

Self-Harm Incidents (2005 – 2010)

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| Jan | 34 | 25 | 20 | 12 | 18 | 20 |
| Feb | 33 | 32 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| Mar | 23 | 28 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 13 |
| Apr | 37 | 11 | 15 | 17 | 24 | 15 |
| May | 23 | 18 | 10 | 18 | 20 | 21 |
| Jun | 27 | 17 | 18 | 22 | 19 | 28 |
| Jul | 25 | 25 | 24 | 19 | 18 | 13 |
| Aug | 57 | 19 | 26 | 16 | 18 | 16 |
| Sep | 21 | 21 | 29 | 21 | 18 | 25 |
| Oct | 19 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 22 | 38 |
| Nov | 26 | 30 | 13 | 12 | 15 | |
| Dec | 24 | 31 | 12 | 11 | 31 | |
| TOTAL | 349 | 271 | 213 | 196 | 236 | |

In the period of this report – 1 November 2009 to 31 October 2010 – there were 252 incidents as opposed to 213 in the same period the previous year.

ACCTs Opened

The number of ACCTs opened during the period of this report is 378 compared with 418 during the previous twelve months. The last three years have shown a downward trend. For comparative purposes it is necessary to present the following:

| YEAR | ACCTs Opened |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 2003 - 2004 | 547 |
| 2004 – 2005 | 361 |
| 2005 – 2006 | 305 |
| 2006 – 2007 | 436 |
| 2007 – 2008 | 428 |
| 2008 – 2009 | 418 |
| 2009 – 2010 | 378 |

10. Separation and Care Unit

The Segregation Unit, having had a big staff change during the reporting year, is well-managed by friendly staff, who relate appropriately and fairly with prisoners in their care, carrying out their duties diligently and professionally.

The IMB is kept informed of reviews and adjudications carried out. Reviews are properly conducted with due consideration to designated rules and procedures. Documentation is also being completed and prisoners do have the opportunity to make representations.

The SACU is kept spotlessly clean.

Despite being assaulted by prisoners on many occasions, staff still continue to give an excellent standard of care. Time is well spent creating a good rapport with the prisoners, resulting in improved respect and behaviour. Staff are cheerful and always make the IMB welcome.

The Board does again still have a concern that prisoners are kept in the unit for long periods, due to the fact that there seem to be no suitable places within the system to accommodate them.

HMP Durham IMB would again like to thank the staff in the SACU for the hard and dedicated work they have put in during this reporting year.

The number of GOoD Boards and Adjudications during the reporting period of 1 November, 2009 to 31 October, 2010 is shown below:-

| | GOoD Boards | Adjudications (Heard) |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| November, 2009 | 23 | 163 |
| December, 2009 | 25 | 148 |
| January, 2010 | 22 | 168 |
| February, 2010 | 20 | 133 |
| March, 2010 | 36 | 185 |
| April, 2010 | 31 | 178 |
| May, 2010 | 14 | 132 |
| June, 2010 | 23 | 145 |
| July, 2010 | 51 | 187 |
| August, 2010 | 27 | 96 |
| September, 2010 | 26 | 205 |
| October, 2010 | 48 | 174 |
| Total | 346 | 1914 |

12. The Work of the Board

BOARD STATISTICS:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Recommended Complement of Board Members | 18 |
| Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period | 13 |
| Number of new members joining within the reporting period | 0 |
| Number of members leaving during the reporting period | 1 |
| Total number of Board Meetings held in the reporting period | 11 |
| Average number of attendances at Board meetings during the reporting period | 7 |
| Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings | 12 |
| Total number of visits to the prison | 412 |

One member left but no new members joined the Board during 2009-2010.

All statutory training has been completed.

The Board took part in training sessions on Security Awareness, Diversity, Change It, Challenge It and a Manager from Security was a recent guest speaker.

During the reporting year, the following number of Applications (classified by subject matter) were dealt with by Board members.

| Subject Matter | Sub Categories | Number 2008 | Number 2009 | Number 2010 |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Accommodation | Cell quality | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | Wing/cell allocation | 15 | 17 | 5 |
| Adjudications and segregation | Adjudications – internal | Nil | Nil | 1 |
| | Adjudications – external | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Rule 45/49 segregation | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Diversity | Racial issues referred to prison staff | Nil | 1 | 1 |
| | Racial issues not referred to staff | Nil | 1 | 1 |
| | Other Diversity issues e.g. disability | 11 | 4 | 3 |
| E/T/E and regimes | Education/employment | 39 | 49 | 23 |
| | IEP | 1 | Nil | 1 |
| Family/visits | Visits | 54 | 27 | 57 |
| | Resettlement issues | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| | Mail/Pin phones | 26 | 25 | 21 |
| Food/Kitchen | Food/Kitchen issues | 3 | 11 | 1 |
| Health related | Health issues | 26 | 76 | 35 |
| Property | Property related to previous prison | 27 | 26 | 17 |
| | Property related to current prison | 10 | 37 | 30 |
| | Canteen/Argos Facilities | 5 | 17 | 7 |
| Sentence related | Basic sentence (inc. remand time) | 28 | 33 | 23 |
| | HDC | 3 | 13 | 16 |
| | Immigration/deportation | 5 | 7 | Nil |
| | Categorisation | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Police days | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | ROTL | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | Parole Board | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Staff/Prisoner related | Apps about staff | 19 | 14 | 18 |
| | Apps about prisoners | Nil | 3 | Nil |
| | Apps from staff | 1 | 1 | Nil |
| Transfers | Transfers | 52 | 48 | 29 |
| Miscellaneous | Miscellaneous | 84 | 98 | 86 |
| TOTAL | Including "on the hoof " applications | 430 | 515 | 386 |

There was a 25% decrease in the number of applications received, when compared with the previous year.

Comparing this year's classification with the previous year, there have been welcome and encouraging decreases in applications relating to Accommodation (wing/cell allocation) (140%), Education/Employment (110%), Health Issues (104%), and Transfers (60%) - with one significant increase in applications relating to Visits (110%).

HMP Durham IMB continues to appreciate the effective feedback on issues and concerns provided by the Senior Management Team and supports the Acting Governor and his staff in driving the establishment forward.

Chair's Comments

It has been a busy year and members have worked well. Running the Board on a reduced number has not been easy with three members being on long-term sick (although one is now back) and one resignation. We are still waiting for two new members to be appointed.

I should like to thank the Board for their support and dedicated work during the year.

The Governor and his staff have been both helpful and courteous to the Board during this reporting year.

Mrs Audrey Nicholls (IMB Chair)

31 October,2010

13. Glossary of terms used in this report

| | |
|-------|--|
| ACCT | Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork – replacement for F2052SH |
| CARAT | Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Through care Scheme – drug and alcohol |
| CIAS | Careers Information and Advice Service |
| HMP | Her Majesty's Prison |
| IEP | Incentives and Earned Privileges – prisoners can be on Basic, Standard or Enhanced |
| IMB | Independent Monitoring Board |
| ISPP | Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection |
| KPT | Key Performance Targets |
| LSC | Learning Skills Council |
| MPQL | Measuring Prisoners' Quality of Life |
| NOMS | National Offenders' Management Services – a combination of the |

| | |
|---------|--|
| | Prison and Probation Services |
| NEPACS | North East Prisoners Aftercare Society |
| OLASS | Offender Learning and Skills Service |
| P-MOMIS | Prisoner – National Offender Management Information Services |
| SACU | Segregation and Care Unit |
| VR | Violence Reduction |