



INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

HMP GUYS MARSH

**ANNUAL REPORT**

(Reporting Period)

1ST DECEMBER 2009

TO

30TH NOVEMBER 2010

## **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

1. The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated. The Board is specifically charged to:

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

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

## **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

2. The IMB of HMP Guys Marsh is committed to an inclusive approach to diversity which encompasses and promotes greater interaction and understanding between people of different backgrounds including race, religion, gender, nationality, sexuality, marital status, disability, age etc. The IMB recognises that a fully inclusive approach to diversity must also respond to differences that cut across social and cultural categories e.g. mental health and literacy. The Board encompasses this approach to diversity within its recruitment and Board Development practices in order to increase its range of skills and to enable the promotion of awareness amongst its members of the diverse needs and perspectives within HMP Guys Marsh.

3. All members of the IMB at HMP Guys Marsh will undertake their duties in a manner that is accessible to everyone within the establishment regardless of their background or social situation.

4. The Board will continue to monitor that the experiences and interaction between staff, prisoners and visitors is fair and without prejudice. Where this proves not to be the case, the Board will draw this to the attention of the appropriate authorities and individuals, including the Governor, Senior Management Team, Regional Offender Manager, Regional Custodial Services Manager and the Prisons Minister.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

5. HMP Guys Marsh is a Category C Adult Male Training Prison located 2 miles south west of Shaftesbury in Dorset. Its normal operational capacity stands at 578. Currently it houses Lifers; IPP prisoners; PPO's; MAPPA and FN prisoners. The main contractors for the provision of Education, Learning and Skills are, at present, Strode College, A4e and Tribal. Dorset Primary Care Trust provides healthcare. The prison benefits from the generous time commitment given by many other organisations both voluntary and statutory. There is an active and successful Friends of Guys Marsh. Some of these will be mentioned in the body of this report.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1. POLICY ISSUES**

1.1 The Board would welcome the Minister's assurance that he will be arguing strongly for a budget to carry out the necessary work that is required to reduce re-offending by maintaining, and indeed increasing, effective courses in the prisons in order to reduce the numbers of people returning to custody and therefore lifting the burden on the public purse.

1.2 The Board believes that much more needs to be undertaken by the prison service to look at measures to address the issue of prisoners re-offending and thereby being readmitted to prison.

1.3 The Board is becoming increasingly concerned about the relationship between the Prison Service and the Parole Board. The Board has received an increasing number of applications from prisoners who have sought help in meeting the demands of the Parole Board, whether this is to access a specific course or remedial programme, either within the establishment or at another prison, or to serve time in a Cat D prison under open conditions. It is through no fault of the prisoner that he cannot meet these demands by the time of his review date but rather a mismatch between Parole Board requirements and what the Prison service is actually able to deliver.

1.4 Delays and deferment of Parole Board hearings is a further cause of frustration for prisoners and staff. The Board hopes that it would be possible for the Minister to enter into dialogue with his counterpart at the Parole Board in order to seek a resolution to these problems.

1.5 As in its previous five Annual Reports the Board remains concerned about the number of people with mental health problems coming into the prison system [5.4]. It would like to know whether the Minister is going to enter into meaningful negotiations with the Department of Health [DoH] about this matter and comment whether alternative and more appropriate accommodation will be made available for those who fall within this category.

1.6 The Board urges that additional funding be made available for the necessary measures to combat the unacceptably high levels of drugs and alcohol within the establishment (see 2.2).

1.7 The income accrued to the Prison Service, as a result of the successful industries at Guys Marsh, does not directly benefit the Prison. However, when there is a loss of income [eg due to the economic slowdown] the Prison Service does not recognise this and it is the prison which carries the loss on its budgets. The Board sees this as inequitable and asks the Minister to investigate and comment.

### **2. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

2.1 The Board expresses concern about the arrangements made to cover staff absences and the detrimental effect which these have on the regime when they prove less than satisfactory. The Board gives the OCA-Transfer problem [10.2 & 13.1] as an example.

2.2 Once again, the Board is aware of and commends the work that has been done by various departments to try to reduce the supply of drugs and alcohol getting in to the prison, but must note that this is an ever present problem. The knock on effect on the life of the prison in terms of bullying and threatened or actual violence is easily identified and

the Board again makes comment about zone fencing, drug dogs and full use of the other facilities and measures which could be made available. Sufficient funding should be made available to further any necessary security measures which in turn would lead to a reduction in drugs and alcohol coming into the Prison.

2.3 Having, in previous Annual Reports, congratulated the prison on the work of the Prison Council the Board regrets that a continued lack of momentum has diminished its effectiveness as a voice for all prisoners at Guys Marsh.

2.4 The Board trusts that during the next reporting year the Council will receive active support and commitment from the Senior Management Team and regain its position as a democratic forum representing the concerns of all prisoners.

### **3. OTHER ISSUES**

3.1 The Board continues to express its gratitude and regard for the many outside Agencies that add so much to the quality of life at HMP Guys Marsh. A resettlement fair held in the gymnasium attracted over 70 organisations which represented a wide section of the sector and presented a valuable opportunity for the prisoners to explore the options available to them.

3.2 The Board again congratulates all those who have won awards over the past year including the three prisoners who won Koestler Trust awards.

3.3 The Board notes with concern the reduction in work opportunities for prisoners, and income loss to the prison, [see 1.7] both arising from the current economic climate and the reduction in orders and demand from outside contractors.

3.4 The Board is also concerned about the knock-on effect of this to other areas of prison life, for example the amount of purposeful activity available to the prisoners

3.5 Fontmell Wing, which accommodates the most enhanced prisoners, is still in urgent need of structural re-building [see 18.3].

3.6 Cambria Wing has been closed since the summer pending investigation into the reasons for its apparent subsidence. The Board looks forward to a long-term decision being made on its future.

3.7 The Board recognises that remedial work to address the issues identified in [3.5 and 3.6] will require not insignificant capital expenditure but feels that an under provision in the past and a lack of coordinated thinking lies at the root of the problems.

### **OVERALL JUDGEMENT**

The Board continues to view HMP Guys Marsh as a decent and humane environment in which to hold men during their period of imprisonment. There are a high number of good quality, well trained professional staff who seek to work constructively with those under their charge.

The Board acknowledges that the Governor and the Senior Management Team continue to be hindered by financial and political restraints in implementing improvements whether they are maintenance to the fabric of the prison, offering further courses to aid resettlement or the transport of prisoners around the prison estate.

The present round of budget reductions, resulting from the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, mean that the life of the prison is again facing significant uncertainties and changes and the Board has the expectation that there is a further period of disruption ahead for both staff and prisoners alike.

At the end of the reporting period the Board recognises that further change and uncertainties within the prison, staff and Senior Management Team are present and have been exacerbated due to the Governor having recently moved to HMP Holloway with a successor not yet in post.

#### **4. DIVERSITY**

4.1 The Diversity Race Equality Action Team (DREAT) holds regular monthly meetings, although there was no meeting in October. Despite this, a full report was issued in the usual manner. The Governor is always present and the meetings are led by the Diversity Manager. The lengthy and informative minutes are recorded and distributed. The IMB is always present and the "Professional Conduct Policy" and the "General Duties Statement" are repeated at each meeting. HMIP findings have caused a new DREAT action plan to be written which covers six additional strands of diversity for focus and monitoring as follows: disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion and belief, age, and transgender issues.

4.2 A Diversity Day was organised in November and a Diversity Leaflet has been written and will be distributed soon. Six Community Representatives have been appointed and it is hoped that they will create a community spirit on the wings. Staff training for DREAT aspects has been maintained throughout the year.

4.3 The BME population within the Prison has recently increased to 28.6% from 25.3% at the start of the year. Significant effort is devoted to allocating BME prisoners fairly around the Prison estate and the monitoring of this distribution in order to spread the additional load across staff teams. The number of FN prisoners has fluctuated through the year ending with 54 in November. Due to the higher numbers it has been a challenge to absorb them into the prison population, but regular meetings with them have been very successful and appear to be appreciated by them. FNs have been encouraged to apply for D categorisation, ROTL and HDC.

4.4 The Board regrets the fact that some FNs are still being held beyond their release date (sentence expired); UKBA paperwork is often delayed and a time limit for a response is often imposed and Immigration Surgeries do not always supply FNs with clear answers.

4.5 SMART figures are kept covering: adjudications, complaints, ROTL, segregation, accommodation, employment, HDC, re-cat and use of force. These are reported and discussed. The availability and use for the gym by BME prisoners has long posed problems for collecting figures. Different methods of monitoring its use have been tried and a successful, computerised system may have now been found.

4.6 Provision is made for the diversity of faiths represented throughout the prison. It is planned that a peace garden will be available for Buddhists to use. The Chaplaincy caters for Pagans in a similar manner to other religions. The Sunday church services are well attended and there are regular Friday Prayers for the Muslims. Throughout this year the temperature of the multi-faith room has been unsatisfactory, too hot in summer, too cold in winter.

## **5. HEALTHCARE**

5.1 Co-operation between the prison service and the NHS in delivering prison healthcare has improved over the past year. There seems to be a greater understanding of each other's role and this can only lead to better provision for the prisoners.

5.2 During the year the Board had some concerns in relation to the Diabetic prisoners with respect to their access to the diet recommended for them. The kitchen worked hard in trying to have a dialogue with the doctor and advisory dietician to resolve the issue.

5.3 The provision of escorts for outside hospital appointments has proved challenging for the Prison on occasions. That said it appears that to date no prisoner has been disadvantaged to the detriment of his health. However the Board remains concerned that, as both the Prison Service and the NHS will experience cuts in their budgets, this problem may become more acute.

5.4 The Board perceives that the treatment of mentally ill prisoners has improved as they have had regular access to trained mental health professionals. However the Board remains extremely concerned that severely mentally ill prisoners, such as those who have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act, are not always able to be moved quickly to appropriate secure hospital accommodation. This occurs because such accommodation is not always available in the required numbers. In these instances Mental Healthcare in prison does not and cannot equate to that available in the general community. The Board stresses the urgent need to divert people with severe mental health problems to appropriate mental health facilities at the earliest opportunity as they come into contact with the criminal justice system.

5.5 The Board comments that a noticeable failure in this period has been the close down of the Dental department for about three months. This caused a serious backlog of patients of up to 135 waiting for treatment. It has reopened, however the extra staff promised to clear the back log have not appeared and after three months the waiting list appears to be as long as ever.

## **6. LEARNING AND SKILLS**

6.1 The aim is to reduce reoffending by improving the individual's behaviour and employability through education, training, personal development and real work experience. Supporting this aim is the Key Performance Target of each prisoner achieving 24 hours purposeful activity each week. At HMP Guys Marsh the education, training and development components are being achieved through cooperation between the Prison and the contracted learning providers as follows;

6.1.1 Strode College provides language literacy and numeracy assessments and ESOL tuition. Strode also provide employability and vocational training across a range of skills from horticulture to hair cutting, brick laying to industrial cleaning and white collar skills such AS IT and business administration. Strode College also provides the Resource Based Learning Centre where prisoners can access self paced learning for qualifications and study.

6.1.2 The Board continues to applaud the arts, social and personal development courses offered by A4E. Of note are; becoming victim aware, the forgiveness project and parenting. There are frequently long waiting lists for these short courses which we see as having potential for a beneficial impact on offending behaviour in providing space for self-examination and emotional honesty.

6.1.3 A4E's contribution is centred on changing behaviour either directly through personal development courses addressing self esteem, assertiveness and violence or obliquely through such mediums as art and music. A4E also provides the Resource Based Learning Centre where prisoners can access self paced learning for qualifications and study.

6.1.4 Tribal provide a service that starts with interviewing all prisoners on arrival and with them developing an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) aimed at fitness for employment on release. This is reviewed periodically. The ILP is used by labour control to ensure the prisoner is allocated activities that achieve the sequence of targets in the plan.

6.2 Work experience is delivered across the prison in the kitchens, farms, gardens and cleaning; and in a set of dedicated workshops delivering contracted work to commercial companies such as light fittings for Dextra. The externally sourced industrial work is subject to the underlying economic conditions and in the last year demand has fluctuated significantly. In the short term this leads to reduced hours and reduced incentive pay opportunity for the prisoners who can earn up to a maximum of £35 per week. That said by the year end the employment figure was standing at 92%. One of the benefits of this situation of uncertain employment is that the prisoner behaviour in the workshops, their time keeping and productivity have noticeably improved as they realise that if they lose a job with incentive pay they may not be able to return to work on the same basis.

6.3 Outreach education is available for prisoners held in Tarrant (Care and Separation Unit) as in other locations. However the men in Tarrant have to take the initiative and ask for this and there are often delays between the request being made and prisoner needs being met.

6.4 The Board commends the Kitchens, Industrial Cleaning Unit, Farms and Gardens, Bricks, Plastering and Paints and Barber shop for their achievements in enabling prisoners to gain valuable and highly relevant qualifications and accreditation.

6.5 It is hoped the plan to accommodate Plastering, Paints and Decorating in the old kitchen is put in place shortly as their present facilities are too small. This will allow an increase in jobs available for prisoners in three areas which could provide them with worthwhile skills and training and afford some protection against the impact of demand fluctuation in the externally sourced industrial work.

6.6 The Gym is an activity that just over half the prison population voluntarily engage with and as such the emphasis needs to remain on the provision of fair and equal access for all. The Board recognises that the Gym and its staff make a significant contribution to the morale of HMP Guys Marsh. The Gym Team is understaffed due to the lack of a S.O. for activities and two of the five current staff having to be released for further training. They will not become available as qualified PEIs until successfully completing selection and training. Inevitably therefore the Gym programme will change and will be reduced for a significant part of 2011. The Gym has offered courses in First Aid at Work, Heart Start & Defibrillator training and through induction, teaches prisoners how to use the facilities including training weights safely

## **7. 1 SAFER CUSTODY**

The above title encompasses Violence Reduction, Anti-Bullying and Suicide and Self Harm and is rightly deemed one of the most important areas of work within HMP Guys Marsh. Each discipline has its respective team which meets once a month under the chairmanship of a Governor. The decision to put razor wire around the low roofs has been a success and has substantially reduced incidents at height.

## **7.2 VIOLENCE REDUCTION**

The Safer Custody team meets monthly. All incidents of assault, other reports of violence and relevant SIRs are reviewed. All reports coming to the attention of the team are subject to strict scrutiny to determine their accuracy.

## **7.3 ANTI-BULLYING**

Improvement in the general conditions within HMP Guys Marsh has led to more information coming forward on behaviour that can lead to bullying. This has enabled more pre-emptive action by prison staff with the aim to bring potential offenders and their associates to task for their inappropriate behaviour, before an assault is reported. Evidence of this is provided by improvement in the victims' logs. The aim must be to initiate a victim log for each assault, threat of assault, or other form of bullying. Whilst this has not yet been achieved this programme is moving forward positively. In addition all suspicious injuries to prisoners are reviewed by health professionals who in appropriate circumstances will share information with the prison security staff and Wing Officers.

## **7.4 SELF HARM AND SUICIDE**

7.4.1 Self harm and the possibility of suicide is an ever present risk in the prison population and this is recognised by all those involved. Great effort is focused on prisoner arrivals. Healthcare professionals will meet incoming prisoners, with those flagged as vulnerable receiving priority. The Vulnerable Prisoner Policy provides specific guidance on the management and safety of such prisoners. However, this is dependent on their documentation arriving with them [which is not always the case] as this provides the alert for prison staff. The Board acknowledges an improvement in reception and first night provision and note that a private interview is now given both in reception and on the first night unit. The Board trusts that this will be maintained

7.4.2 There are 8 prisoner volunteer Listeners, who have been trained by the Samaritans, who will standby for new arrivals should they be needed. There is a plan to redecorate the Listener suite which is in Mercia Wing; this is seen as important and necessary improvement to produce an environment more conducive to its purposes.

7.4.3 During 2010 to date there have been 30 incidents of self harm none of which have caused death. There were 40 incidents in 2009. The majority of injuries numbering 24 were caused by cuts. However there were a small number of self-harm incidents involving a ligature which could so easily result in death. The prison staff and all involved are not complacent in the light of these figures.

7.4.4 In this reporting period the number of ACCTs was reduced compared with those in 2008 / 2009. A contributory factor to this welcome reduction in identified need is the existence of a very helpful team of Listeners, trained by the Samaritans, who are called out on average twice a week. These prisoner volunteers are an important resource as they provide a unique service to other prisoners with problems. It is important that, as there is a constant turn-over of trained Listeners due to relocation and release, Guys Marsh has a continued commitment to training new Listeners and a programme in place to deliver this.

7.4.5 HMP Guys Marsh Prison has three Samaritan telephones.

## **8. CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT (TARRANT)**

8.1 The Board again commends the Prison Staff in Tarrant who continue to treat difficult and challenging prisoners with respect and professionalism.

8.2 The Board is pleased to note that the prisoners are now offered in-cell education at Review. However, It seems a pity that more useful ways of passing the day cannot be found for prisoners in Tarrant who seem to view their time there only as a waiting room before a transfer.

8.3 The Board regrets that the plan for their Personal Officer to have ongoing contact with prisoners whilst in the unit, to attend their Reviews, and to have a say in their future plans, has not materialised. This is seen as a missed opportunity.

## **9. RECEPTION**

9.1 In its Report last year, the Board reported concerns that the Cell Share Risk Assessment checks were not always being carried out by a Senior Officer, and often this was conducted very publicly. It is pleasing to note that this situation has now been resolved completely, and that a Senior Officer is now always present to take these interviews, which are carried out in a private office.

9.2 Despite very large amounts of parcels coming into the prison, Guys Marsh staff seem to be coping well with handling property. The Board has received numerous applications concerning property not arriving with prisoners on transfer from other establishments and has significant concerns as to the cost to the prison service for claims for compensation for lost property across the prison estate.

## **10. OCA - TRANSFERS**

10.1 A new Senior Officer in charge of OCA has meant the process of transfers now runs much more swiftly and smoothly.

10.2 However transport to carry out these moves remains a problem which is not under the control of Guys Marsh staff. The Board also notes with concern that if the Senior Officer is absent or on leave then prisoners applications to move to other establishments appear not to be reviewed and not progressed at all.

10.3 The Board would like to see arrangements in place which will enable cover for these periods of staff absence.

## **11. DRUG STRATEGY / SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

11.1 Substance misuse in HMP Guys Marsh continues to be of concern to the Board. The likely cuts in funding will only add to the pressure to provide comprehensive options for intervention. It is expected that funding for voluntary testing will end next year, which will mean the loss of an officer post.

11.2 Funding for CARATS and Alcohol programmes is also uncertain, it remains to be seen if alternatives will be put in place. Currently, the excellent proactive approach delivered by the various drug and alcohol interventions continues with the expected success.

11.3 All elements of testing mandatory and voluntary remain on target. The increased detection in the use of cannabis, which peaked in two months of this period, created an unfortunate statistic which marred the overall improvement that had been made by the end of the reporting period in achieving a positive MDT rate considerably below the target figure.

11.4 The IDTS wing on Saxon continues to be developed with 35 participants but there remains issues around Lifers, delivering the service on Segregation and making sure firmer action is taken to ensure as many as possible are resident on the Wing.

11.5 P-ASRO has been under pressure through lack of staff and the 2 new facilitators will be a welcome addition when they are able to take groups independently.

## **12. REDUCING RE-OFFENDING AND OFFENDER MANAGEMENT UNIT (OMU)**

12.1 The Board has noted that the Unit has benefitted from consistent leadership throughout the year and from the regular monthly meetings off the Reducing Re-Offending Senior Management Team. At these meetings progress is monitored, deficiencies analysed and used to inform future practice. This has resulted in increased numbers of applications for ROTL, HDC and Re-categorisation being addressed within the accepted times.

12.2 The Board regrets that a number of OASyS documents are received by Guys Marsh which are either out of date or not completed.

12.3 The OMU has been short staffed throughout the year due to the loss of one prison officer and to delays in refilling posts due to the time taken to achieve vetting. This has resulted in reduced delivery of the new Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) which is now well bedded in and much in demand. An appointment has now been made and the Board looks forward to increased delivery of this valued programme next year.

12.4 Offender Supervisors at present have an average caseload of 45 in scope prisoners, a reduction on that earlier in the year as a result of the closure of one residential unit. The Board is pleased to note the continuation of evening surgeries by Offender Supervisors.

12.5 Lifer and IPP prisoners acknowledge the work of the OMU in the management of their sentences and in preparations for Parole Board hearings but continue to regret the delays caused by the backlog of cases waiting to be heard and by the difficulties in transferring to the Cat. D estate or to prisons where they may complete courses recommended by the Parole Board. The Board shares these frustrations.

12.6 A number of specific appointments have been made and responsibilities allocated to address points raised in the inspection by HMCIP in January and to implement delivery of some new and improved initiatives across the 7 pathways of the resettlement programme.

12.7 As in previous years the Board recognises the achievements of the OMU in finding accommodation for men on release. Since April 2010 forty prisoner's bank accounts have been opened prior to release.

12.8 In recognition of the importance of the increased role of the voluntary sector in providing services for prisoners a Prison Effective Resettlement Coordinator (PERC) was appointed at the start of the reporting year, a post administered by North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Friends of Guys Marsh who obtained the funding for this post. The PERC works to put offenders in touch with organisations which can assist them in

addressing problems such as debt whilst in prison and finding work in the areas to which they will be released. It is hoped that with increased funding from the charities involved this post, currently part time, will become full time. Within the first 6 months of operating the PERC had been able to assist 100 of the 151 men who requested assistance. The Board recognises the effectiveness of this service and the enormous potential of this post in forging essential links with the world outside prison and commends the innovation.

12.9 The work of the PERC is supported by a Senior Officer, one of whose duties is to manage partnership between the prison and the many voluntary organisations offering help at Guys Marsh. The Board recognises the Prison's success in bringing together and coordinating 80 such organisations with the potential to provide services for prisoners.

12.10 The Board notes with pleasure that HMP Guys Marsh currently releases more men into employment, training and education than any other prison in the south west although it is recognised that this will be difficult to maintain in the current economic climate. It is regretted that no internet access exists for the use of prisoners, Job Centre Plus and other agencies working in partnership at HMP Guys Marsh.

12.11 The Board looks forward to the implementation of a pre-release course; formulation of which is now underway and due for completion in March 2011. This will replace the current pre-release interview.

12.12 Once again the Board notes that the average stay of 6 months makes the task of reducing reoffending and resettlement more difficult and is concerned that spending cuts announced in the CSR may impact on this essential work.

### **13. INDUCTION AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

13.1 The efficient and thorough weekly induction programme, delivered by two dedicated Officers, was reduced at the end of July to a daily programme, now run by one Officer on the Induction Wing. The Board regretted the curtailment of a programme which had proved to be of benefit to prisoners, particularly with regard to resettlement, but acknowledge that every effort has been made to deliver as full a programme as is possible within the prescribed limitations. Problems of staffing Induction when the dedicated Officer is absent do not appear to have been resolved.

13.2 A new, simplified IEP [Incentive and Earned Privileges] document, which incorporates the ISP [Individual Sentence Plan] is now in place. Delays in the document being signed off by the Governor resulted in its implementation not taking place until the beginning of October. It is, therefore, too early for the Board to assess fairly the impact it has had upon prisoners' behaviour. The new document has addressed comments and recommendations made in the HMIP report of January 2010. There are clear incentives to encourage and motivate prisoners to engage with the prison regime and clear guidelines as to how they can progress their status. The reasons for regression are clearly explained, with the emphasis on assessing behaviour reviewed over a period of time, as opposed to being regressed for individual acts of indiscipline.

13.3 Whilst acknowledging that there is now consistency across all Wings in identifying and allocating prisoners' Personal Officers, with a 'buddy' scheme in place to cover for staff absences, the Board notes there is still inconsistency in the quality of delivery of the monthly 1:1 interviews. These interviews allow Personal Officers to engage with prisoners in a way that should encourage and promote better behaviour. In order for this to be effective across all residential units it requires the commitment of each individual officer to

engage with prisoners in such a way that the reviews are, “meaningful and positive”. [HMIP Jan 2010}

13.4 The Board notes that there is good Personal Officer practice on a number of wings, led by proactive Senior Officers. It is to be hoped that the prison’s emphasis in the coming year will be on monitoring and progressing the scheme in order that it operates consistently throughout the prison.

13.5.1 The Prison Council has had an erratic history since January 2010. Frequency of meetings has been inconsistent and planned meetings have often had to be cancelled because of staff shortages or staff in charge being called away for other duties.

13.5.2 Although the Officer in charge has encouraged prisoners to bring proposals to meetings, this has happened infrequently as they neither see actions result from their proposals nor do they receive answers as to why their proposals are not feasible.

13.5.3 The Council has had the opportunity to ask, on behalf of the prisoners they represent, direct questions of specific members of staff, who have been invited to attend Council meetings e.g. The Head of Finance, the Head of Kitchens, Healthcare Manager, the attached Barnardos worker as well as a member from the Bournemouth Dialogue Team and the Anti Social behaviour Co-ordinator from Bournemouth.

13.5.4 In the light of the recent Human Rights directive concerning a prisoner’s possible right to vote the Board hopes that this particular initiative will, in future, receive more active support at Governor level so that prisoners have a sense that participating in a democratic process is indeed of some value.

## **14. FAMILY CONTACT AND VISITS**

14.1 Over the year the Board has witnessed the generally humane and friendly way in which all prison staff welcome people on visits to their relative in prison, some of whom come from as far away as Manchester. The tone has been set by 2 efficient Senior Officers and the warm and informative help offered by the Barnado’s worker when she is on duty. The Board appreciates the time voluntarily given by staff to run excellent family days.

14.2 The Board remains disappointed that an OSG has not been designated to be in the designated office area in the Visits Centre as initially planned when the latter was built. Although the tally system has improved the timing and flow of visitors, they still do not know when to move across to the main building, which leads to a crowd of people congregating in the entrance hall. An OSG with radio contact to others inside the prison could advise visitors when they need to move thus making the whole experience more satisfactory.

14.3 At various times through the reporting year, the Board has commented on the lack of security arrangements within the visits area. It acknowledges, however, the diligence of staff in detecting both potential and real problems particularly in respect of attempts to smuggle drugs into the establishment.

14.4 The Board remains convinced of the importance of prisoners maintaining family contact both for the prisoner himself, but perhaps even more crucially for any children who are involved in visiting their father. In light of proposed spending cuts it hoped that this important “pathway” will remain high on the Prison’s agenda.

## **15. LIBRARY**

15.1 The Library is well run and much used. It is an important resource in so many ways within the establishment run by an energetic and resourceful librarian. With the appointment of an assistant librarian the library is able to open on four evenings each week which is a great advantage, particularly for those prisoners at fulltime work.

15.2 The Board is pleased to note the continuation and healthy take up of the “Storybook Dads” scheme and for the contact it enables fathers to maintain with their children.

## **16. FARMS AND GARDENS**

16.1 The farms and gardens continue to be productive, both in providing fresh produce for the kitchen, and in the employment opportunities for the prisoners. The area is recovering from the disruption caused by the construction of the Energy Centre. The department continues its success with prisoners achieving level 2 NVQs. It is regretted that the additional training opportunity of entering a show garden at the Amateur Garden Show was not possible this year because of the lack of staff. A new member of staff has now been appointed but has not commenced employment due to the protracted recruitment and security clearance process. The Board regret the loss of training this represents which is beyond the control of HMP Guys Marsh.

16.2 The current condition of the grounds around the prison is a credit to the staff and prisoners involved. A five year plan for the further improvement of the grounds has been produced.

16.3 A plan had been developed to build a ‘state of the art’ glasshouse on the site of a barn in the farms area; however this has recently been changed. The new plan is for two smaller glasshouses to be built within the farms area and the barn will be retained to house the Bioplex recycling unit. This will allow better management of this unit in that it will be adjacent to the other recycling activities. The building currently housing the Bioplex recycling unit is intended to become a horticultural training facility. Recycling is increasing well at HMP Guys Marsh and it is intended for the establishment of a prisoner focus for recycling on each wing to further increase the amount and variety of materials recycled.

## **17. INDUSTRIES**

17.1 The activity levels in the industrial workshops have been much reduced by the general economic recession, with the major contractor Dextra cutting back severely its requirements for prison labour. As a result the Dextra workshops were working part time in June, the demand then increased only to fall back again in October. It is hoped that these unplanned variations in requirements are a short term factor. Prison staff have reacted and made other arrangements like additional gymnasium time to mitigate the effect of reduced work opportunity. However when industries are reduced this will inevitably mean more time in cells for prisoners.

17.2 Industries staff are actively engaged in the difficult task of finding alternative work opportunities. The work carried out for S and N has increased recently, but this is insignificant compared to Dextra at full demand, and is very seasonal. In addition to the detrimental effect this has on the prisoners it also results in reduced income for Guys Marsh which will pose further budget challenges and the possibility of a potential threat to some staff positions. The Board recommends that the Prison Service should take into account the effects of the recession when determining budgets for Category C Training Prisons.

17.3 The Board regrets that funding was not available for the required Performing Rights Society [PRS] fees / licence which resulted in the radios being turned off in the work areas.

## **18. ESTATES**

18.1 The major project, the Energy Centre continues towards the scheduled completion date of March 2011, with the installation of a new, large, and automated wood chip biomass boiler being fired up at the end of October 2010. A phased switch over to the new boiler is taking place which has presented some teething problems which are being addressed by the contractor. The burning of wood chips in the boiler will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the Prison. This project, featuring its cutting-edge 'Binder Boiler' received a commendation in the 'Best Renewable Energy Project' category at the South West Green Energy Awards 2010 (organised by ReGen SW).

18.2 The remedial work to Cambria, due to commence in March 2010, actually started late. The main reason for this was the delay in recruiting and then achieving security clearance for OSGs to escort the required contractors. The long-term future of the wing remains unclear and the work is now on hold.

18.3 The Board again notes with concern that the refurbishment of Fontmell is continuing in an Ad Hoc manner as the resources to complete the work in a reasonable time have not been made available. The Board considers the fabric of this wing to be of an unacceptable standard

18.4.1 The Port Regis Porta-Kabin has finally been made weather proof with the completion of the roof and outside walls, but is still not in use some two years after it was delivered to the site after being donated to the Prison.

18.4.2 This has been highlighted in the Board's previous two annual reports and progress since then has been painfully slow. Completion dates have regularly been missed due to this project possibly having low financial priority with the prison authorities. Whilst now being finished, it still remains empty and unused.

18.4.3 The effect of these avoidable delays falls on the prisoners in the loss of the training opportunities that would have been delivered by completing the project and through the continuing absence of an additional training facility.

18.5 The various initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of HMP Guys Marsh are now showing results, with the water consumption and carbon dioxide emissions of the prison well below the targets

18.6 For most of the year much of the grounds have been in the hands of contractors, who have disturbed many open areas in order to lay new pipe work supporting the Energy Centre. This and the fencing off of Cambria Wing ahead of refurbishment had a serious detrimental effect on how the prison presented itself. Despite this Gardens staff and employed prisoners soldiered on and did their very best to keep overall standards high. They are to be commended on their work in quite difficult circumstances. Now that the majority of the disturbance has finished it will give everyone a chance to complete upgrading the general appearance of the estate.

18.7 There is now considerably less litter across the prison estate than at the start of the year and staff should be commended for their continuing vigilance which is needed to maintain this standard.

## **19. CHAPLAINCY**

19.1 The Chaplaincy remains, both physically and spiritually, at the heart of HMP Guys Marsh. At the end of this reporting period 18 faiths were being catered for by the Chaplain and her multi faith staff and team of volunteers.

19.2 The Board acknowledges and congratulates them on the work they do in this area as well as the increasingly more demanding secular support that they offer to prisoners of all faiths and those of none. This is of particular note in relation to prisoners who are on an ACCT document.

19.3 The Chaplaincy building plays host to a wide variety of organisations vital to the life of the prison, among them the Official Prison Visitors, the Samaritans who train men to act as Listeners and Music Therapy groups. These, and others, the Board strongly feels add to the quality and decency of life in the prison.

## **20. KITCHEN**

20.1 The Board believes that the kitchens continue to provide a satisfactory service on a budget of £2.10 per day per prisoner. The Board also recognises that there is considerable pressure in having to cater for special diets on both medical and religious grounds.

20.2 The kitchens offer valuable employment and training opportunities including NVQ's and Food Hygiene certificates, which give prisoners an added chance of employment after release.

20.3 The Board has been concerned about the lack of options available in the purchasing of food locally and is in the process of putting together more information on the advantages of local purchase for the IMB National Council.

20.4 The Board congratulates the staff and prisoners who work in the kitchens for their valuable contribution day in and day out in an area that plays a vital and recognised role in the routine and morale of the prison.

## **21 PARTNERSHIPS**

21.1 More than forty organisations now contribute to the life of Guys Marsh and to its efforts to assist prisoners in living productive and crime-free lives on release.

21.2 The PERC plays a pivotal role in promoting prisoner access to the numerous and often complex statutory and charitable agencies available to assist them in rehabilitation. This role now ably supported by a senior officer and together they provide a central point for information and onward referral for prisoners and staff alike. Guys Marsh is very fortunate in having this role and the Board wishes to acknowledge the major contribution made by the voluntary Friends of Guys Marsh in securing funding for the PERC for the next three years.

21.3 The PERC is not only of enormous help to individual prisoners, he also supports staff in meeting their responsibilities for various pathways set by NOMS, for example those of family contact and diversity.

21.4 The Board records their thanks to the achievement of The Friends of Guys Marsh whose support the work of the prison and whose tireless efforts to secure funds have contributed to improvements in a range of facilities and activities for prisoners.

**22. IMB PRIORITIES for the REPORTING PERIOD**

**1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011;**

- 22.1 To continue to monitor the impact of drugs, alcohol and mobile telephones on prison life.
  
- 22.2 To monitor the progress of FN throughout the system.
  
- 22.3 To monitor the effect of proposed budget cuts on the prison Regime.

## BOARD STATISTICS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Recommended Complement of Board Members                                 | 19  |
| Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period            | 15  |
| Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period              | 17  |
| Number of new members joining within the reporting period               | 4   |
| Number of members leaving within reporting period                       | 2   |
| Total number of Board meetings during reporting period                  | 12  |
| Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period | 12  |
| Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings             | 85  |
| Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)           | 387 |
| Total number of applications received                                   | 369 |
| Total number of segregation reviews held                                | 167 |
| Total number of segregation reviews attended                            | 72  |

## **ACRONYMS:**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| AA     | Alcoholics Anonymous                                    |
| ACCT   | Assessment, Care in Custody Teamwork                    |
| BOSS   | Body Orifice Scanning                                   |
| CA     | Cocaine Anonymous                                       |
| CAB    | Citizen's Advice Bureau                                 |
| CARATS | Counselling, Advise, Referral, Assessment & Throughcare |
| DREAT  | Diversity and Race Equality Action Team                 |
| EDP    | Exeter Drug Project                                     |
| ESOL   | English for Speakers of Other Languages                 |
| ETS    | Enhanced Thinking Skills. Now TSP                       |
| FN     | Foreign National  |
| FOGM   | Friends of Guys Marsh                                   |
| HDC    | Home Detention Curfew                                   |
| HMCIP  | Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons                |
| IDTS   | Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy                      |
| IEP    | Incentives and Earned Privileges Policy                 |
| IPP    | Indeterminate Public Protection                         |
| IRC    | Immigration Removal Centre                              |
| ISP    | Individual Sentence Plan                                |
| KPT    | Key Performance Target                                  |
| L & S  | Learning and Skills                                     |
| MAPPA  | Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements             |
| MDT    | Mandatory Drug Testing                                  |
| MIAP   | Managing Information Across Partners                    |
| NA     | Narcotics Anonymous                                     |
| NFA    | No Fixed Abode  |
| NVQ    | National Vocational Qualification                       |
| OCA    | Observation, Classification and Allocation              |
| OI     | Own Interest  |
| OMU    | Offender Management Unit                                |
| P-ASRO | Prisoners Addressing Substance Related Offending        |
| PERC   | Prison Effective Resettlement Co-ordinator              |
| PPO    | Priority Prolific Offenders                             |
| ROTL   | Release on Temporary Licence                            |
| SO     | Senior Officer  |
| TSP    | Thinking Skills Programme                               |
| UKBA   | United Kingdom Border Agency                            |