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INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

HMP AND YOI LOW NEWTON

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH 2010 – 28 FEBRUARY 2011

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STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

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 :

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF PRISON

Low Newton opened in 1965 as a Remand Centre with four Wings holding young men up to 21 years of age, and a discrete Wing for women of all ages on remand and sentenced.

The Prison was re-roled as a women's Prison in 1998, when it was refurbished, and now consists of 8 residential wings, together with general prisoner use areas, e.g. Healthcare Centre.

CNA (cells in use at end of reporting period)	-	259
Operational Capacity	-	282

These figures are lower than last year due to wings being temporarily closed during the year while heating upgrade work is undertaken. At the time of writing D wing is closed. The Board is pleased to report that work is ahead of schedule.

The majority of cells are single-occupancy, with a small number of double-occupancy cells to cater for "at risk" women, i.e. women assessed as unsuitable for single cell accommodation.

Low Newton holds women of all ages from 18 years, on remand and sentenced; short sentences to life sentences, and also restricted status (high security) women.

Adult prisoners and young offenders are integrated. The mix is no more than 30% of YO's on each Wing, and all relevant risk assessments are carried out before it is decided on which Wing a YO should be located.

Facilities include :

Learning and Skills Centre : (See also pp.11-12 Learning and Skills) - an excellent facility providing a wide range of full-time and part-time education courses and employment and training programmes. The Centre Manager is also responsible for –

The Learning Shop - “drop-in” computer-driven learning, staffed by a charitable organisation (New Bridge), and used by women in their own time, including evenings and weekends, for computer-based learning, e.g. languages. The facility is also used during weekdays by women on education courses, employment and training programmes, or direct learning courses; sometimes vulnerable women feel more secure there than in large groups in the Learning and Skills department. The Learning Shop is a very popular educational facility.

Pitstop - initial educational needs and training assessments for all women; also vocational and creative industries courses.

A team of 4 prisoners work here making up weekly beverages packs. Up to 3 women are employed machining cloth bags for Barnardos. Greetings card are manufactured to a very high standard and are available for purchase by prisoners and staff.

The contract for the Learning and Skills service is with City College Manchester.

Library - service provided by Durham County Council.

Healthcare Service - commissioned by the North East Offending Health Commission (Durham PCT) and provided by the Darlington Community Health Service. This service will be provided with effect from 1st April, 2011 by Care UK. (See also pp. 6-7, Healthcare and Mental Health).

Chaplaincy - Diocese of Durham, and Diocese of Newcastle and Hexham. An Imam visits regularly. The Chaplaincy takes care of the pastoral and emotional needs of prisoners.

Gymnasium - programmes available for key work skills. Part of Learning and Skills.

Housing Advice - office run by risk-assessed prisoners trained and in contact with outside housing agencies, supported and supervised by prison staff.

Visits Room - modern, spacious and pleasant. Mother/child visits take place every Friday.

Visitors' Centre - situated immediately outside the Prison – run by NEPACS (North East Prisoners After Care Service) staff and volunteers.

Outside Agencies and Voluntary Support Services include :

New Bridge (Learning Shop)

NEPACS (North-East Prisoners After Care Service) – register visitors on arrival and provide assistance and advice to visitors, and provide volunteers for Visits canteen and creche.

Citizens' Advice Bureau

Samaritans (train approved prisoners as Listeners)

MIND (engage with Healthcare day services – counselling (e.g. bereavement, sexual abuse, physical abuse)

CARATS (work with prison DIPS team on drugs intervention programmes)

NACRO

Open Gate (Community Chaplaincy – mentoring)

Youth for Christ

JobCentre Plus

Job Club

Parentline Plus (work in Visitors Centre)

After Adoption (work on the repercussions of adoption and liaison).

Clearspring – provide accommodation for women eligible for bail who cannot return to their own address, or women eligible for HDC but who cannot provide a suitable address.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(a) **Issue for the Minister**

As in previous years, the Board must draw the Minister's attention to the continued high proportion of prisoners who suffer varying degrees, often severe, of mental illness. This Board questions whether prison is the correct place for these women and whether special measures are taken to support them when they are released.

Mental health assessments and provision of an appropriate placement in a secure hospital continues to conform to the timeframe set by the Ministry of Justice, but the Board believes still earlier interventions are necessary, e.g. direction of prisoners from courts to establishments specialising in mental health care for reports. (See also pp.6-7, Healthcare and Mental Health).

Is this issue of more direct assessment under review, please?

Are any special measures taken to support mentally ill women on release?

Issues for the Prison Service

(1) As mentioned in the Board's last Report, members are aware that a number of women would appreciate the opportunity to address their alcohol abuse before release. The Board reported at that time that no programmes were available to assist prisoners with alcohol abuse problems, but that it was the Board's understanding that potential programmes were being assessed. The Board also suggested that in addition to appropriate programmes, links with Alcoholics Anonymous might be useful in reducing offending and helping women achieve a more productive lifestyle on release. It is disappointing that the Board is still being told that programmes are being assessed and links with AA established. (See also p.14, Resettlement).

The Board asks again whether the Prison Service has access to any support programmes which might hasten the addressing of the high level of alcohol abuse by prisoners.

(2) In its last Report the Board recommended that prisoners should receive a regular statement of moneys earned, personal moneys received and moneys spent, with detailed lists of their purchases, and that such statements should be in form of a comprehensive statement like a Bank statement. As well as keeping prisoners well-informed, this might well help prepare women in dealing with their financial affairs on release into the outside world.

The Board repeats this recommendation. In the meantime, at Low Newton prisoners may have statements on request, and every effort is made to deal with such requests on the day they are received.

(c) Other matters and general overview

The Board is confident that prisoners at Low Newton are held in a stable and safe environment. Throughout the reporting year there has been a good atmosphere within the establishment at any time a member has visited. The prison is clean and fresh and staff/prisoner relations are good. The Board receives on average 3/4 applications per week; usually issues which are resolved without difficulty.

The Board considers Low Newton an impressive establishment where prisoners are treated with fairness and decency, and the Governor and his managers do everything within their resources to meet demands and challenges arising from working with women prisoners.

Sadly, there was a death in custody in November 2010. The date of the Inquest is awaited.

Incidents which could have become serious were identified sufficiently early for the risk to be managed. Self-harm incidents were high, as in previous years, and credit must be given to prison and healthcare staff who on many occasions acted to prevent potential self-harm situations.

The Board was very pleased to note that Officer Annette Fairbairn won the national Prison Officer of the Year Award (Decency).

The Board sees many excellent examples of staff commitment. Board members have a good and mutually respectful working relationship with staff, see numerous examples of staff working and communicating well with prisoners, and it is interesting to note how keen members of staff are to discuss their areas of work with members and also with visitors to the Prison, e.g. members of other Boards.

The ethos of Low Newton is to prepare women offenders, through offender management, healthcare and education, for life and work outside prison, and in all areas the Governor and his staff work in multidisciplinary teams to achieve these aims.

Staff training hours exceeded approved standards during the year.

Staff sickness has stayed within the KPI target during the reporting year.

The Core Day imposed some time ago has settled down, but the Board is aware that closing prisoner work and education areas on Friday afternoons reduces prisoners' purposeful activity hours.

Work on upgrading heating throughout the prison started in autumn 2009 and continues; and is ahead of schedule. The work results in a reduced prison population and an area less to be covered by staff, and the Board has noted on rota visits that in these circumstances the prison is more settled and quieter than usual.

HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

With effect from 1st April 2011 healthcare will be provided by Care UK instead of the local Darlington Community Health Service. The Board hopes the existing excellent health standards will continue with little disruption, and members will monitor healthcare, as always, during rota visits. At the time of reporting the Board is aware that current staff in healthcare are feeling unsettled, having transferred from the Prison Service to the NHS comparatively recently and finding themselves in the same situation again.

At the time of reporting, health provision includes a female GP. Prisoners requesting a first appointment visit nurse-led clinics, e.g. nurse prescribing, triage, where the nurse judges urgency and either prescribes or refers the patient to a GP or an appropriate clinic. The majority of nurses are qualified to prescribe.

The colposcopy clinic is of great benefit to prisoners, reducing the number of visits to outside hospitals - a procedure which many women find unsettling. A consultant and nurses from a local NHS hospital visit the clinic to deliver treatments, assisted by Low Newton's nursing staff.

Many women have continued to take advantage of the contraceptive clinic which opened just over a year ago offering advice and implants on site, in preparation for release from custody.

Visiting professionals from the PCT and the Acute Trust include GPs., physiotherapist, optician, dentist, midwife, chiropodist, visiting hospital specialists, psychologists, psychiatrists, community psychiatric nurses. Mental health counsellors visit from MIND to provide bereavement, sexual and physical abuse counselling. Learning disability workers visit to assess prisoners. Specialist nurses visit to work with women with Hepatitis C; also nurses specialising in diabetes. Clinics include Well Woman, health promotion, vaccination, GUM, prenatal, acupuncture, group therapy and relaxation therapy.

Drugs detoxification – a very large number of prisoners arrive at Low Newton with mental health problems, very often serious and usually drugs or alcohol related. There is accommodation for 22 prisoners on E Wing (a discrete wing) where group work, drugs counselling, etc., are available.

Except in emergencies, prisoners make written application for medical attention, or they may contact PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) by free phone. They may also raise any queries, e.g. check times of medical and dental appointments through PALS.

The majority of women received at Low Newton have mental health problems – it is a huge issue, as is self-harm. It is not unusual for women to have to be kept under constant or frequent watch for periods for their own safety.

The Healthcare Manager and his staff cope admirably for long periods with the many seriously mentally ill, and often volatile, women who pass through their care. As mentioned in previous years, the Board believes these women should not be in prison but should be sent for assessment directly by the courts to hospitals specialising in mental health care.

DANGEROUS AND SEVERE PERSONALITY DISORDERS (DSPD) (known as The Primrose Unit)

The project (the Primrose Unit) is a joint initiative between the Prison Service, the Department of Health and the Home Office. Its purpose is to deliver more effective interventions to dangerous women to reduce risk to themselves and others. The programme offers skills for life, including “life minus violence” programme, therapy to

address unsolved psychological trauma, and behaviour therapy to treat personality disorders and self-harming behaviour.

There are spaces for 12 women, who live on F Wing and associate with other prisoners on the wing but attend therapy and programmes on the Unit (a pod attached to F Wing) during work and education hours and on some evenings.

The programme is available to the whole of the female prison estate. To be eligible for the programme prisoners must have at least four years of their sentence remaining. Women who meet the criteria transfer to Low Newton for a 3-6 months assessment period. A woman assessed as suitable is set a programme individually tailored to meet her needs. The 12 places available are always filled, and there is a long waiting list.

SAFER CUSTODY

The Head of Security and Safety takes the chair at meetings of the Safer Prisons and Violence Reduction Committees. Prisoner Listeners and Insiders attend part of the meetings to give their reports which are then fully discussed. The group produce Action Plans which they work through and update at monthly meetings.

ACCTs. On average, 26 ACCT files per month have been opened during the reporting year; a lower average than last year (33) but it must be remembered that because of the ongoing heating upgrade work the population has been lower than normal. While on rota visits Board members check a random selection of ACCT files to be sure they are up to date.

Self-harm incidents are invariably high, averaging 34 incidents per month during the reporting year. There are usually women who account for more than one incident in a month.

Listeners - Risk-assessed prisoners are recruited for work as Listeners – at the time of reporting the scheme has temporarily ceased while recruits are identified and trained to bring the team up to a working strength. Listeners are involved in the induction programme for new prisoners, informing women of Listener availability (24 hrs per day when sufficient Listeners are in place) and also encouraging women to apply to train as Listeners. Insiders and Listeners attend and report to the prison's Safer Custody meetings.

Drugs

Drugs remain a problem, and are often the cause of assault by prisoner on prisoner. Drug test statistics are provided to the Board on a monthly basis. Over the past two or three months misuse of prescribed drugs has been noticed and staff have been issued with instructions on how to carry out checks on suspected offenders.

In recent months, voluntary drug testing has ceased as a financial saving to the prison.

Anti-Bullying programme – There are 3 stages – Stage 1 Monitoring; Stage 2 (hard evidence available and woman placed on basic regime for 14 days minimum); Stage 3 Exit stage.

Support for victims of bullying -

A Victim Support Plan is opened which ensures that the personal officer is aware, location reviewed, whether an ACCT file should be opened, cell share risk assessment if appropriate, whether psychology referral required, etc. The support plan is reviewed within 7 days of being opened and at all stages consideration is given to the risk of self-harm or suicide.

Personal Officer Scheme. A revised scheme has been introduced which will ensure that a prisoner can be in no doubt about who is her personal officer and which member of staff will be available to her if her personal officer is not on duty.

Death in custody. There has been one death in custody during the reporting year. The Inquest date is awaited.

It should be noted that on many occasions staff have had to remove ligatures or give/seek emergency treatment for serious self-harm incidents.

DIVERSITY

The prison service has a positive duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote Equality of Opportunity and good relations between people of different racial group, religion, age group, ability and sexual persuasion. This it does by reviewing its policies, by education and investigating complaints raised by prisoners and taking action against any member of staff, prisoner or visitor who uses insulting language or behaviour.

Policy is driven by monthly meetings of the Diversity and Race Equality Action Team (DREAT) attended by section heads at Low Newton and chaired by a Governor. The meeting, attended also by prisoner representatives, serves to review prison policies and actions which are relevant to minority groups including Foreign Nationals.

Monitoring of Black, Minority, Ethnic

In the North East, the percentage of the population which falls into this group is relatively low compared to other parts of the country. The percentage in the prison population at Low Newton is in the 5% range. The low number of staff in this group (one manager, one prison officer, one OSG and one cleaner (who works with prisoners on the industrial

floor cleaning team) reflects the low proportion in the local population and difficulties in recruiting. (A further female minority ethnic officer will take up her duties at Low Newton early in May). Data on adjudications, complaints, prisoner releases, prisoner status, segregation and use of force is collected and reviewed by the meeting. Any statistically significant deviation from the proportion of prisoners from the BME category compared to the whole population is highlighted and explained where necessary.

Foreign Nationals

A Foreign National is defined as a person who is not a British Citizen and includes people from other countries in the European Economic Area, migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees and immigration detainees. The proportion at Low Newton has fallen over the past 12 months (currently less than 2%) due to national policy to locate them elsewhere in the prison estate.

Typical of their specific needs:

Language barriers needing more opportunities to develop English skills.

Cultural barriers

Food e.g. Afro-Caribbean, Halal

Maintaining family links

Legal advice on immigration procedures

Local policies are in place to meet the needs of Foreign Nationals when at Low Newton who, on occasions, have complimented staff and fellow prisoners on the efforts made on their behalf, e.g. the use of Big Word telephone translation service.

The closure of HMP Morton Hall means that Foreign Nationals are no longer held together but are distributed across the estate, which will result in an increase in numbers held at Low Newton.

Other issues

The prison has an ongoing programme to encourage tolerance and enjoyment of cultural diversity and tolerance. This includes International food evenings and poster displays on such issues as bullying and the Holocaust and the visit to the prison by Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson.

In addition to their confidential healthcare assessment, all prisoners are invited on arrival to make staff aware of any specific needs they have (e.g. hearing, sight, mobility) so that any specific measures are put in place. The prison is turning its attention to wider issues of diversity by, for example introducing prisoner buddies for the disabled and the needs of those in the 50 plus age range.

The prison is to be commended on the progress made in recent years to address the many diversity issues and in particular for achieving a 100% level of training under the 'Challenge it Change it' programme for addressing attitudes of its staff.

CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT AND DISCIPLINE

Care and Separation Unit

There are three cells in the CSU, an Adjudications Room, and an interview room. Staff in the Unit are very good at building up a rapport with prisoners and encouraging them to improve their behaviour. Comparatively few women are placed on Good Order or Discipline, rarely for more than 14 days, and more often up to 7 days. Occasionally, a woman known to have or suspected of possessing drugs (e.g. on return from court) may be there longer.

A Board member is informed of any move to the Unit and, if possible, visits the prisoner before observing the 72 hr. GOOD review. Review panels are conducted by a governor, attended by the appropriate members of staff, the necessary information is to hand, and prisoners attend and are encouraged to make their representations. Reviews subsequent to the 72 hr. review are aligned to take place on Wednesday afternoons when a Board member can be available to observe, i.e. the Board member who will have taken part in the prisoner's induction programme earlier in the afternoon.

Discipline

During the reporting year adjudications averaged 55 per month (average prison population over the year 240). No particular trends have been identified by the Board.

Prisoners awarded cellular confinement at adjudication are listed on a board in the CSU, but are usually located on landing cells – where possible on the landing and in the cell where they normally live. Visiting IMB members check the board and then visit anyone on cc.

Board members occasionally observe adjudications while making rota visits.

LEARNING AND SKILLS

All prisoners at Low Newton are given the opportunity to improve and develop their skills to improve their life opportunities.

Following a tendering process Manchester College won the contract to provide the learning and skills services replacing the previous incumbent Newcastle College in August 2009.

Manchester College retained the services of the existing staff but within a short period of time six decided to leave the role. Manchester College also undertook a structural reorganisation, which is now bedding in successfully.

Most staff are now employed on an hourly contract basis being paid only for the hours that they are actually delivering tuition.

Upon arrival the women go through an initial period of assessment and appraisal to establish what programmes would best suit them. Those women with poor literacy and numeric skills are offered plans to improve these skills and research has shown that improvement in these basic skills reduces the likelihood of reoffending upon discharge.

Manchester College delivers mostly vocational based courses designed to improve employability upon discharge, courses include hairdressing, call centre duties, beauty. The courses on offer are regularly reviewed and it is intended to introduce vocational cooking, creative industries and business in the future.

Suitable prisoners can be given the opportunity to complete the British Industrial Cleaning Sciences course (BICS) and are found around the prison using their skills to clean the establishment.

The prison gardens provide horticultural training for women, some of the produce being used in the prison kitchen.

Formal educational qualifications such as GCSE and Degree courses are supported by "Women in Prison" rather than Manchester College.

The College take advantage of prisoners who have particular skills by using them to support the learners by providing one to one support and relating experiential stories.

The Employer Engagement Unit actively supports women in securing opportunities by building relationships with businesses and preparing women for employment by ensuring they have the appropriate qualifications, such as the food hygiene certificate, and preparing them for interview and work situations.

All the staff spoken to by Board members have been very enthusiastic about the work that they do and employ success stories from previous prisoners to inspire the current class members.

REGIME (Other areas)

Reception

The area is always clean and tidy with dedicated prisoner cleaners in attendance. Complaints to the Board regarding transfer of property have continued at a reduced rate compared with two years ago, but the Board believes there must be a surer way of eliminating property transfer difficulties. Prisoners sometimes say they feel they are not given time to check property lists before signing them as correct.

Prisoners are interviewed on reception by health care staff in part so that healthcare issues being dealt with outside can be addressed in prison without unnecessary delay.

Induction

As predicted in our last Report, the prisoner induction programme has been encapsulated into one day rather than a week. New prisoners are taken to Pitstop on the morning of induction day where they are interviewed by the various disciplines throughout the prison. During the afternoon they receive talks from DREAT, healthcare, and the IMB. Suitable prisoners are trained as Insiders for the purpose of befriending new prisoners and helping them settle in, but at the time of writing no Insiders are in post.

Prisoners then spend an induction period (1 week) on the Bridge project (Learning and Skills) to identify education needs and choices. The project is aimed at assisting prisoners become employable on release, but it also teaches them skills that will assist in their family lives on release.

Resettlement

Resettlement is a core function of the Prison Service, directly related to the Prison Service's objective "To reduce crime by providing constructive regimes which address offending behaviour, improve educational and work skills and promote law-abiding behaviour in custody and after release". It has come into sharp focus with the new Government's policy to reduce the numbers of prisoners nationally.

Low Newton is actively engaged with civic, corporate and faith alliances to provide support when they are released.

Key resettlement components which research has shown reduce reoffending are identified as nine pathways:

Accommodation

Employment, enterprise, learning and skills

Health care

Drugs and Alcohol

Financial management

Children and Families

Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour

Domestic Violence

Prostitution

These nine pathways form a key component of Low Newton's Reducing Re-offending Strategy and Action Plan which sets targets for each three month period of the year. Each of the pathways is led by the appropriate head of department in the prison who is responsible for the key links within the prison and to external agencies.

It is encouraging to hear of links with industries which are willing to employ prisoners during and after their sentences and to hear of inspirational speakers who are willing to share their experience of overcoming obstacles in their lives to succeed in their chosen careers.

Although there is an established programme for helping prisoners with their drug dependency, only recently has alcohol come into sharp focus. 40% of female sentenced prisoners admit to hazardous drinking i.e. at a level that could cause physical or mental harm. Surveys of new prisoners at Low Newton confirm this level of problem and programmes are currently being assessed for introduction to tackle this issue. This is in addition to the re-establishment of links with AA. We welcome this initiative and would like to see more progress in this area which would tackle one of the causes of reoffending soon after release.

The resettlement initiatives are broad and ambitious with the laudable aims of reducing reoffending. We would like to see more measurement of the effectiveness of the various programmes by the monitoring of re-offending (or otherwise) both locally and at a national level.

Catering/Kitchen

Weekly menus are issued to prisoners who make their choices from four alternatives for the following week. Although the catering budget is low, prisoners are offered meals which are nutritious and of good variety. Meals are planned and prepared to accord with religious and cultural, and medical dietary requirements, and in accordance with food and hygiene regulations. Healthy eating options are available and seem to be particularly popular, including the daily vegan option.

Surveys are taken to assess prisoners' views on food and menus, and menus are adapted to include popular preferences where possible. Prisoners also have the opportunity of raising issues at the monthly Prisoners' Council meetings.

The ever- popular "theme nights" have continued to take place, based on foods of different countries and cultures.

During the reporting year improvements were made to the kitchen. The suspended ceiling was replaced, lighting upgraded and flooring renewed. While work was in progress (during the night) staff and prisoners working in the area managed to maintain a very high standard of cleanliness. Members of the Board note that the kitchen and dining hall are always extremely clean and tidy.

NVQ courses are undertaken by prisoners working in the kitchen, with a good success rate.

IMB members frequently sample food and talk to prisoners taking meals. The Board received very few complaints about food during the reporting year. A comments book is available at the servery in which prisoners are encouraged to provide feedback.

Canteen

Canteen is supplied by the private firm, DHL, and the Board has received no prisoner complaints about the service.

Prisoners' telephone facilities

There is a telephone on every landing. Calls can be made between 7.30 and 8.00 a.m., 11.30a.m.-1.30 p.m., and from 4.30-7.00 p.m. Time is not restricted unless there is a queue for the telephone, in which case staff ensure that prisoners share the time available.

THE WORK OF THE IMB

The Board at HMP and YOI Low Newton is below strength, with 7 members against a possible complement of 10. The Board manages well with 7 members and would wish no more than 8, because members feel that to make a rota visit to the prison at intervals in excess of eight weeks would prevent them keeping up to date with prison life and changes.

During the reporting year one member frequently observed REAT/DREAT meetings. The Board receives the Minutes of all prison meetings for the purpose of keeping up to date, raising any queries or concerns, and if appropriate would urge progress with Action Plans.

A Board member visits the Prison on a weekly rota basis. The rota member deals with applications (Requests/complaints) received via the IMB Clerk, deals with applications "on the hoof", and also attends any 72 hr. GOOD reviews. Members also visit the Prison on Wednesday afternoons on a rota basis to take part in the prisoners' Induction programme. Any further GOOD reviews after the initial 72 hr. review are aligned to take place on Wednesday afternoons so that the Induction rota member can observe. On every weekly rota visit the visiting member calls on any prisoners in the Care and Separation Unit, and also any prisoners on cellular confinement on normal location.

The Governor attends the Board's monthly meetings to present his report and respond to Board queries, and on the occasions he finds it impossible to be present he is represented by his Deputy Governor.

As part of its training plan, the Board frequently invites a member of staff from one of the various disciplines within the establishment to attend prior to the monthly Board meeting to discuss his/her area of work. This has proved an effective means of keeping up to date and learning of change.

IMB Statistics

Recommended Board Complement	10
Number of members at beginning of reporting period	7
Number of members at end of reporting period	7
Number of new members within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving during the reporting period	0
Total number of Board meetings	11
Average number of attendances at Board meetings	6
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board Meetings	5
Number of visits to the Prison (including Board meetings)	111
*Number of applications (Requests/Complaints) received	67

*Breakdown of applications –

Drug Testing	0
Transfer	3
Food	3
Visits/Phone Calls	2
Prisoner Moneys	8
Healthcare	7
Resettlement	0
Property	8
Employment	3
Security	3
Diversity	0
Legal	1
Bullying	12
Miscellaneous	17 **

** The miscellaneous applications were general, e.g. adjudication outcomes, custody queries, transfer to other wings.

MR. D. BRAND
CHAIRMAN,
On behalf of HMP and YOI LOW NEWTON INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

Glossary of Prison-related Abbreviations

ACCT	Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork
BEM	British Ethnic Minority
CARATS	Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice, Throughcare Services
Cc	Cellular confinement
CSU	Care and Separation Unit
DSPD	Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorders
DREAT	Diversity and Race Equality Action Team
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
ETS	Enhanced Thinking Skills
IDTS	Integrated Drug Treatment System
ISPP	Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection
FOR	Focus on Resettlement
FN	Foreign National
GOOD	Good Order or Discipline
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
NACRO	National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders
PASRO	Prisoners Addressing Substance Related Offending
PCT	Primary Care Trust
RRO	Race Relations Officer