



INDEPENDENT **M**ONITORING **B**OARD

HM Prison & YOI Styal

Annual Report 2010

(May 2009 to April 2010)

Section 1. Statutory Role of the Board

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 its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- (2) inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority, as it judges appropriate, any 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.

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Section 3. Description of Prison

HMP/YOI Styal is a closed female establishment. The site opened as a Women's Prison to house the women prisoners from Strangeways in 1962. From 1983 Young Offenders were admitted and from 1999 (following the closure of the Women's Remand Centre at Risley) unsentenced women were also accommodated at Styal.

Styal holds up to 460 female prisoners when fully operational, serving mainly short sentences and those awaiting trial. It also holds up to 20 stage one life sentence prisoners and more recently IPP prisoners.

- Women originating from the North West of England, approximately 80%.
- Approximately 80% of women have serious drug problems including significant addiction problems.
- Significant levels of mental health issues including above average levels of diagnosable illness, psychiatric history, emotional and behavioural problems along with very high levels of self-harm.
- Almost 40% of women will be in custody for the first time.
- The majority of women will have experienced some form of abuse in the past.
- Approximately 75% of all convicted prisoners will serve less than one year in custody.
- Approximately 50% of women will be a primary carer or a mother.
- Approximately 75% will have significant literacy or numeracy problems.
- Most women will have limited employment history with approximately 75% never having been employed on a full time basis.
- Many of the women will be of a relatively low risk of displaying violent or disruptive behaviour whilst in custody.

Section 4. Executive Summary

Area Manager has said that Styal is the best run prison in the North West and that Staff is “engaged”. A new Governor took over during the year and he has had a very positive impact on the overall feel to the prison in a very short time. During a very challenging period ahead the Board are confident the prison has a new leader with a very clear understanding of the needs of the vulnerable population at Styal, and the experience to bring about positive change to the prison as a whole.

The change to the Standard Core Day introduced during the last reporting year has not had a significant adverse impact on the purposeful activity for prisoners, mainly due to the efforts of management and staff to limit the effects.

The Board note that the use of Agency nurses has greatly reduced under the new Health Care Contract, as at times this arrangement had fallen far short of prison standards.

The use of “normal accommodation”, in particular on Waite Wing, has at times disadvantaged the women who have been segregated for Rule 45 (seldom used now)/Good Order or Discipline reasons, as well as causing confusion regarding paperwork which the IMB and other agencies within the prison need to be aware of, or sign. **(Ref 5.7 (b)(c))**

There is a lack of appropriate surgery accommodation for some of the medical professionals who work within the prison. The Board is hopeful that the Health Care Accommodation, currently at the building stage, will go some way to help the shortcomings. **(Ref 5.8 (d))**

The Board has concerns that women continue to be sent to Styal for 4 and 5 days at a time for minor offences, such as petty theft. Not only does this go against the spirit and recommendations of the Corston Report, it also facilitates the trafficking of drugs into the prison. If a woman has a “drug debt” she may be tempted to commit petty crimes in order to smuggle drugs into the prison to pay off the debt. As the Women’s Estate is quite small, women very often know that they will be sent to a particular prison and therefore can literally “deliver an order” for drugs within that prison **(Ref 6.4 (a)(b))**

Despite many assurances of improvement over recent years, the Board has to continue highlighting the very poor condition of many of the buildings in the Prison. In particular, the Gate area is considered not fit for purpose by the Board. Plans for redevelopment of the Gate area have been drawn up and the Board is concerned that lack of funding may again prevent this project from going ahead **(Ref 8.0)**

The Board is aware that currently 2 Foreign National prisoners who have finished their sentence are still held in custody in the Prison. One is awaiting her travel documents, and the other is appealing the judge’s decision **(Ref 5.9 (g))**

Research undertaken by the Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT shows that 75% of prisoners at Styal have significant literacy or numeracy problems and around 75% have never had a full time job. The average length of time spent by a prisoner at Styal is 6-8 weeks, with the consequent impact on family, housing, and job loss.

Recent research has shown that the average IQ of prisoners in Styal is 86, while a significant number (7%) have an IQ of less than 70, which indicates Learning Difficulties.

The Mother and Baby Unit continues to be an area of excellence within the prison. This has been recognised by the Butler Trust Award during the year, and also by Ofsted, whose report described the Unit as 'Outstanding'. (Ref 6.1(a))

Positive Changes

Staff at Styal is a highly motivated team of professionals. The Board acknowledges the high level of care they provide to the prisoners in their care. Prisoners' experiences in Styal can have a very positive effect on their rehabilitation outside of prison. The new Governor has brought a fresh perspective and positive ethos to the Prison in the short time that he has been in post.

The Board looks forward to a more efficient and progressive Health Care provision under the new PCT appointed in April 2009. We have already seen some signs of a more proactive involvement in the Mental Health issues, of which Styal prisoners suffer a disproportionate amount (Ref 5.8).

The introduction of a Prison Radio Station "Styalistic Radio" which broadcasts for 3 hours a week has had a positive effect on prison life, and is an excellent way to disseminate information among prisoners. The Radio Station is being run by Education staff with the help of a broadcaster from BBC Radio Manchester. Prisoners are encouraged to become involved in the Radio Station and to complete NVQ courses in Broadcasting. One prisoner has already achieved NVQ Level 2 in Community Radio and has been invited to work on a Local News Radio on release. The Board is planning to have one member interviewed for the station in order to heighten awareness of the Board and its work among prisoners.

Staff and prisoners at the station have produced two excellent CDs which are distributed to all prisoners on FNC to explain prison life and aid induction (Ref 5.2(a))

Issues for the Prison Service

The Board continues to be concerned that, despite the recent considerable improvements under new Health Care provisions, the level of provision of Mental Health services for the particularly vulnerable population in Styal still leaves room for improvement. Keller Unit, for example, which houses 9 prisoners, or 2% of the total Prison population, takes up a highly disproportionate amount of the both the Board's and Prison Management's time and concern.

The Board have concerns that future Core Day changes may lead to deterioration in the activities and association time available to prisoners, as prisoners are likely to spend more time locked up.

The Board also has concerns about the continuing deterioration of the buildings in Styal. Having been assured that some remedial work is planned, the Board believes that much needs to be done to bring the living and office accommodation, in particular the Gate area, to an acceptable level. (Ref 6.7(a))

Issues for the Minister

The Board continues to raise concerns with Ministers regarding the imprisonment of prisoners with serious mental health problems. Provision of beds in more appropriate accommodation continues to be of paramount importance. Prison staff, whilst providing high levels of care, are not trained to provide proper psychiatric care to these highly vulnerable and extremely volatile

prisoners. It is hoped the ongoing Keller Review recommendations will comprehensively address this urgent issue. **(Ref. 5.5(c))**

Short sentencing, particularly for minor offences is an increasing worry for the Board. Apart from the obvious cost and resettlement issues, and disruption of family life for the women, this 'revolving door' approach to sentencing affords excellent opportunities for drug traffickers to use these vulnerable women as 'mules' **(Ref 6.5(f) & 6.4(a).)**

The Board continues to have concerns regarding the separation of Young Offenders in Styal. There exists currently separate accommodation for 28 YOs, but the Prison has upwards of 75 in the prison at any one time. Many of the YOs are accommodated with Adult prisoners, with all the problems that can arise from inappropriate interaction with serious offenders and drug users.

The Board has raised these issues previously but feels the situation has not changed sufficiently to take the issues off the agenda.

Section 5. Highly Monitored Areas with in the Prison

5.1 Reception

(a) The installation of a new washing machine, along with other appropriate dish washing facilities means that this Unit is a clean and pleasant environment for newly arrived prisoners. The Staff in this Unit are particularly sympathetic and caring and orderlies, who can empathise with new prisoners prove, invaluable in helping newly arrived women to settle and understand prison life.

(b) Since the re-introduction of Volumetric Control the property issues have considerably reduced for this Unit. The storage of prisoners' property and the amount allowed for each prisoner seems to now be more standardised, causing less issues for women on transfer to other prisons.

(c) The Board, having had concerns in previous years, appreciates that late Prisoner transfers/arrivals from Court are less of an issue than heretofore.

5.2 First Night Centre

(a) This continues to be a well run Unit with major advantages for women coming into the prison for the first time. There is a well organised Induction system and Staff are very caring towards the women. Among the facilities available to new prisoners are "stand alone" computers which deliver the induction programme via CDs. The Board hopes to upload information regarding the IMB onto these CDs in the near future.

(b) Much like the Keller Unit, this facility is often used as a "holding area" for women for whom there is no suitable accommodation in the main estate. Examples of such women are prisoners housed here for their own protection, prisoners with significant health problems, wheelchair users, and occasionally suspected drug mules.

(c) The Board is very hopeful that the upcoming "Keller Review", which has been commissioned on foot of the Coroner's recommendation, following a recent inquest into a Death in Custody, will address the lack of appropriate accommodation for these women. Their presence undoubtedly has a negative impact on the efficient running of Keller and First Night Centre.

(d) Another significant concern for the Board is the possibility that, due to efficiency savings in the future, the Induction programme may be reduced to one day rather than the current two day course. Staff on the Unit is of the opinion that many prisoners, especially those on de-tox would not be well enough to absorb all the relevant information within one day. The Board is aware of this and continues to ensure that all Induction Packs have details of the work of the Board and how prisoners can access Board members. Notices are continually updated in the high traffic areas of the prison highlighting these details.

5.3 Waite Wing

(a) Styal is a prison of two halves. The Board considers the accommodation on the Wing, particularly the cells, to be inferior to that of the houses. The majority of prisoners on Waite Wing are recidivists who bring the effects of their chaotic lifestyles into the prison environment. It is of these women the new Governor spoke when he said, on arrival at Styal in June 2009, that

despite 35 years in the service he had never come across so many “complex, fragile and damaged cases”.

(b) These women struggle to respect and maintain their surroundings, often throwing rubbish through windows. However, Staff continues to push the respect and decency agenda by encouraging the women to keep their cells and the communal areas clean, and also by the installation of hanging baskets around the outside of the building and in the association area. In the last few months the cleanliness on Waite Wing and its surroundings have been considerably improved and a new Cleaning Team is being introduced.

(c) There have been high numbers of Young Offenders housed in Waite Wing within the reporting year. This has had several negative effects on the Regime, not least the increase in illicit drug use on the Wing, which is an ongoing problem. The Board is aware that many women, who are suitable to live in the main estate attempt to remain on the Wing, as despite the best efforts of Staff and Security illicit drugs are more readily available on the Wing.

(d) Staff under the New Management System has taken a very pro-active approach in dealing with difficult and fractious prisoners, very often YOs. Anti-social behaviour is consistently challenged. The IEP and TAB system are widely used and most women who refuse to comply with the regime, particularly those on Loss of Association, eventually respond.

(e) Staff on the Wing has been under a lot of pressure this year but continue, in the main, to treat the prisoners with respect and decency despite extreme provocation at times.

5.4 Willow House (Y.O.s)

(a) This 28 bed Unit is regularly full and one of the major challenges for Staff has been the reluctance of young women to fully take part in the prison activities regime. The recently implemented Young Offenders Programme has encouraged “non-working” prisoners to develop an allotment garden which includes vegetables, herbs and flowers. In addition to this, the House itself is now surrounded by rock gardens, flower pots and a willow structure, which greatly enhance its appearance. This is part of the Greener on the outside Prisons (GOOP) project and Staff is to be highly commended for work in this area which helps to keep “idle hands busy” and has given prisoners a sense of achievement and pride in their environment.

(b) However, there have also been serious bullying issues periodically throughout the year, including sexual bullying, although Staff dealt with this swiftly, and the women involved were relocated to other establishments immediately.

(c) Staff has now begun to introduce cookery training and other activities including discussion/debate groups with the young women, and these have proved very popular. The Reflex Group now attends Willow House one morning per week and also holds discussion groups to try to help these young women achieve their potential.

5.5. Keller Unit

(Formerly Care, Support and Reintegration Unit)

(a) Keller continues to care for the most difficult, demanding and sometimes violent women in the prison and within the Women’s Estate as a whole. The Unit is almost entirely a place of safety and care for women with sever psychiatric or personality disorders. Given the very

vulnerable nature of the women the prison has to work with, and the subsequent level of self-harm experienced here and at other female prisons, there continues to be the risk of further self-inflicted deaths.

(b) The Director of Offender Management commissioned a strategic and operational review of Keller. The Lead of Regional Mental Health is heading up this review and the Board has been given the opportunity to make representations to the Review team. The Report has not completed its work at this time.

(c) Mental Health referrals are taken up slowly by the medical professionals, with important appointments often cancelled or delayed. Moving prisoners on to a psychiatric hospital or more suitable long-term care continues to be a lengthy and frustrating process, which leads to the blocking of accommodation on the Unit and women not receiving the therapeutic treatment they require. These movements are often completed within the last days of the prisoner's sentence, and have in the past involved an enormous amount of management time and effort as the urgency to accommodate these women becomes more acute. Most of these women are on ACCT documents and are responsible for the disturbingly high rate of self-harm within the prison.

(d) Constant Watches on the Unit continue to cause considerable strain, both financially and from the point of view of Staff time. They are very disruptive to the smooth running of the unit, and often encourage copycat behaviour from other prisoners who look for similar attention. There are often two or more watches ongoing at any time.

5.6. Deaths in Custody

(a) There were 2 deaths in custody during this year, both of which appear to be from natural causes.

(b) There is no Coroner Inquest outstanding. Board members have attended two inquests relating to previous DIC's during the year. The Board acknowledges the commitment and care shown by Management and staff to both the deceased and their families before and after the unfortunate deaths. The Board is very aware of the pressure staff is under during such tragic events, and the consequent proceedings.

(c) It is mainly due to the immense efforts of staff throughout the year that many self harm incidents do not go tragically wrong (**Ref 5.7(a)**).

5.7 Safer Prisons/Custody

(a) Monthly Self Harm Incidents in Styal have been considerably reduced from a high in August 2009 of 193 to a low of 30 in February 2010. The figure stands at 60 at time of reporting and the Board attributes this reduction to the excellent intervention by Staff with vulnerable women. Vulnerable women on Waite Wing are encouraged to attend Calm Centre where they can interact with other women and Staff. In this safe environment women can have hair and beauty treatments, make use of Arts and Crafts facilities or sit alone in the Sensory Room when feeling stressed or likely to self harm.

(b) Self Harm statistics are very much dependant on the specific women in Styal at any one time. For example of the 193 incidents of Self Harm in August 2009, 123 were represented the actions of only 5 women, whereas the other 70 incidents were spread out among 34 other

prisoners. Although thankfully rare, the Prison has had to introduce a Code Black emergency, which demands a 3 minute response from staff to an imminent death situation.

(c) Staff Training, especially that of ACCT Case Managers, has been ongoing throughout the year, although P-Nomis Training did impact on this slightly. Training has also been targeted towards Admissions Healthcare Staff, as this is where most of the ACCT documents were being opened. This training has resulted in a significant reduction in open ACCTs at the prison, as Healthcare Staff become more confident in this area.

(d) Styal does not have a Segregation Unit, and although the number of open ACCT documents has reduced significantly throughout the reporting year (from a high of 74 in July 2009 to 30 at time of reporting (June 2010), it is not unusual to have one or two women on Constant Watch, and several more on high hourly observations within the prison. Despite this, these women are actively encouraged to partake in as much of the prison regime as possible, often attending Education, the Library or the Calm Centre where appropriate.

(e) During weekly Keller Reviews in particular the most vulnerable and mentally ill women, who often attend these Reviews, are given weekly targets within their capabilities, and these targets, along with encouragement by Staff and medical interventions, have a very positive effect on the women who are able to avail of them.

(f) Rule 45/GOoD is rarely used in Styal, as the IEP System, Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (TAB) Local Action Management Plan (LAMP) have proved to be very efficient in dealing with difficult prisoners. This is reflected in the consistent reduction of Violent Incidents in the prison which has gone from a high of 59 in March 2009 to a low of 18 in the same month the following year.

(g) The number of Listeners in the prison has dropped steadily throughout the year, from 16 in June 2009 to 5 at the end of the reporting year. However recruitment is ongoing and, although these 5 Listeners are busy, they are coping. The Samaritans have plans to open a Charity Shop within the prison in the near future.

(h) The Safer Custody Audit on managing risk, was completed in March 2010, and resulted in Styal receiving a "Green" marking, which indicates that risk in this area is well managed.

5. 8 Healthcare & Mental Health

It is pleasing to report that this year has been one of transition and considerable progress in the implementation of the new Healthcare Contract with Cheshire East Community Health. The improvement in the Healthcare services in general, and the Inreach and Primary Mental Health Services in particular, has been remarkable. This has been achieved by the two senior Healthcare managers, the teamwork of the staff and the cooperation of the Prison Management. However, there remain some difficult areas still to be resolved.

(a) In Reach Mental Health

The team from Greater Manchester West (GMW) Mental Health Trust are now fully staffed and integrated into the prison. Their work in the Keller unit in particular has been highlighted by Governor Williams as "a good example of collaborative working". The team have now moved to a larger, more appropriate office and are just awaiting the arrival of a quantum computer.

(b) Primary Mental Health Services

It was highlighted in the rule 43 from the Coroner's Court in February 2010, that there is a need for mental health services on the Keller unit 7 days a week. Mental health nursing cover will begin 7 days a week on Keller starting from September. Already in place is a registered mental health nurse within the prison 7 days a week.

We are awaiting the results of a complete review of the working of the Keller Unit which we expect to include health services.

(c) Access to GP clinics

The access to a GP appointment remains a matter for concern. One aspect being looked at to maximise the number of appointments is by reducing the number that failed to attend. The prison and healthcare managers are working together to undertake this.

It is worth repeating our Report from 2008/2009 which shows that this has been a matter of concern to the Board since 2007.

"Wasted Resources [DNAs]

The waste of resources due to prisoners not attending appointments [DNAs] continues to be of major concern. An IMB report dated 23 July 2007 demonstrated that DNAs resulted in a 25 to 35% waste of resources. This is a prison management issue as well and needs to be tackled jointly with Healthcare Management [Inspection Recommendation 9.81]. The production of meaningful monitoring statistics is an essential part of any solution."

(d) Healthcare Accommodation

The previous concerns regarding accommodation highlighted in last year's report have been addressed by the purchase and recent delivery of a New Modular Building. The fitting out and provision of health related equipment will be complete in about 5 weeks. Complete refurbishment of the Dental suite will follow.

(e) Medicines Management

There are still some concerns about the management of medicines distribution and their supervision whilst being distributed. This has been the subject of Healthcare Management attention and we continue to monitor the situation.

5.9 Diversity

(a) Styal houses an average 40 to 46 Foreign Nationals. At the start of this reporting year, the highest numbers were Chinese but recently Nigerians have been in the majority. Styal houses Foreign Nationals from many countries, for example the March figures showed 18 different countries. The women are spread throughout the prison but any non English speaking prisoner will be housed with someone with whom she can converse wherever possible.

(b) Translations are expensive and printed translations are useless if the prisoner concerned is illiterate. Some of the Eastern European women come from travelling families.

(c) Foreign National Forums are well attended and women are able to voice concerns within a group with similar problems. These women would like more free phone calls as they rarely have visitors but many other prisoners do not have visitors and this would be very expensive on an already overstretched budget. Ethnic clothing catalogues are available in the Diversity Centre

and in the Drop-in- Centre There are also similar Forums for Disability, Black and Minority Ethnic and for more mature women. These play a positive role because in small groups with women of similar problems, they can air their views in a positive way which could be intimidating in larger groups.

(d) Styal has very beneficial contacts with outside agencies i.e. The local African and Caribbean Society, the Wai Yin Women's Association, and the Asian women who support Asian prisoners and supply the Eid lunch at the end of Ramadan. Others help with the Chinese New Year and Black History week. The UK Border Agency holds a monthly surgery within the prison which enables direct interviews with all foreign nationals. Also in attendance at these surgeries is the Refugee Advisory Service which offers free legal representation.

(e) Engaging with these groups gives women an opportunity to access a wider range of services and support, and allows them to appreciate other cultures.

(f) Prisoner representatives at REAT meetings have had fewer concerns of late, likely to be due to the success of the Forums. Due to the nature of Styal (as a Local Prison) it is difficult to keep continuity of representatives. Representatives are constantly changing. RIRF (Racial Incident Referral Forms) are dealt with efficiently and women are well aware of this system.

5.10 Learning and Skills

(a) Reducing Reoffending

The prison regime has been working hard to reduce reoffending though a wide range of interventions underpinned by a developing strategy which has at its core the aim of giving the women the chances and choices they need to stop them reoffending. The strategy brings together the priorities associated with areas such as learning, health, abuse, resettlement and many more. This is not a repackaging of long standing areas of activity rather it focuses on processes which could be described as new responses to the challenges of reducing re-offending. What is different is the coherence of the strategy in bringing together a number of important priorities and crucially engaging the people involved collectively with interventions and this includes prisoners themselves.

(b) Education and Training

Manchester College, whom the prison service contracts for the provision of education at Styal, has undergone both a restructuring and a review of efficiency across all its services nationally. The college, in common with other providers, has been under pressure from the Skills Funding Council to reduce costs. Staffing levels and conditions of service have been, and will continue to be, the focus for savings. The impact of these events has yet to be felt at Styal.

The actual delivery of service of education to prisoners through the range of programmes on offer in 2009/2010 has been value for money. The evidence gathering to determine value is no longer simply on prisoner take up but additionally on a calculation associated with prisoner learner hours spent on the programmes provided. Effective targeting of new courses as part of the reducing re-offending agenda has been successful. The experience of the provision of the Life Skills course best exemplifies this point in that it maximised prisoner hours and prisoner evaluation is positive to the extent that it serves to lengthen the waiting list for participation.

In negotiating a new service delivery contract with Manchester College later this year the prison management may seek to include new learning programmes targeting women prisoners presenting with learning difficulty and cognitive impairments.

The reducing re-offending agenda through its new heart pod lead has expanded the PE provision in the prison. The facilities include a small but well equipped gymnasium, used for a variety of team games and fitness-related activities, a stage area, which houses cardio vascular and resistance machines and a selection of free weights, and a sports field, used for a variety of activities (weather permitting). There is a comprehensive PE programme offering an impressive range of activities focussed on the women's needs. PE is offered during the core day, at weekends and four evenings per week.

(c) Library

The staff team continue to be exercised by ongoing challenges related to opening hours, the use of the Library facility and the serving Waite wing. The winter months particularly limited the access time for prisoners to make good use of the facility. Additionally when they do access the library they do so more often to access something other than the books. In itself this has been a good news story but the borrowing facility is underused. The management of the staff team are addressing these challenges and indicate they will resolve the library access for those prisoners on Waite.

In the Spring of 2010 the prison received a Prison Library Specification from the Ministry which sets the purpose and function of prison libraries and its contribution to the reducing re-offending agenda. The specification has significant implications for the management of the library and has particular relevance for Cheshire East Libraries as the service provider. In due course It may well be that the Specification becomes a main driver in resolving the issues of opening hours and access to the prisoners on both Waite and Keller.

Section 6 Other Monitored Areas of the Prison

6.1 Mother and Baby Unit

(a) This Unit is run by Action for Children (formerly Action for Children) and has a very pleasant, safe and caring atmosphere. All 9 rooms in the unit now have showers. There is some pressure on rooms as Newhall has reduced their capacity to 3 mothers (previously 9). The recent Ofsted Report classed the unit as " Outstanding". This classification is only achieved by 9% of units. The Unit also gained the Butler Award last year. Great use is made of the Family Unit in the cabin outside the house. This is greatly appreciated by those mothers receiving a family visit.

(b) The nursery has links with local centres and community groups, and the babies are taken to stay and play sessions and toddler groups outside the prison. Much attention is given to teaching the mothers to care for the changing needs of their babies and individual support packages are prepared to help rehabilitate mothers and babies back into their local communities when they leave Styal.

6.2 Catering and Kitchens

(a) Throughout the year some of the kitchen Staff have volunteered to take NVQs so that they, in turn, can teach the Orderlies on a Petal course in Catering. Those prisoners are then able to achieve Accreditation in that subject. At time of reporting all the kitchen hardware, cookers, refrigerators etc. are in working order. During the reporting year a sum of £30,000 was provided to replace food trolleys in the prison.

(b) A survey with regard to prisoner's menu preferences has been completed and the menus have changed accordingly where it has been possible within availability and cost.

(c) In line with Diversity, prisoners who, because of ethnicity, are used to a different diet to that already provided by the prison, have been invited to demonstrate how these dishes are prepared. Some of these dishes have been chosen and introduced occasionally onto the main menu. Formal meetings of the Staff and Orderlies take place every month and a formal meeting of Staff every 3 months. The IMB are invited to attend both meetings

6.4 Drug Strategy

(a) The Board is aware of periodic increases in drug trafficking/taking particularly within Waite Wing throughout the year. It appears some women, in order to pay off debts to drug dealers, are deliberately committing crimes, for which they know they are likely to receive a custodial sentence. They then arrive in Styal with a "pre-ordered" consignment of drugs on their person. These drugs are intended for distribution to specific prisoners who will have arranged payment for these drugs in advance. The challenges to Staff in this area are significant, and often Staff are left with no choice but to house these women on the Keller Unit, which the Board sees as a misuse of this Unit, and which also significantly disrupts the lives of the vulnerable women on Keller.

(b) Prison performance data show a decrease in positive drug tests throughout the reporting year, down from 5.2% in 2008/2009 to 2.2% on 2009/2010. There is some evidence to show that heroin features quite highly among the drugs used in the prison. There is an increase in the number of women identified with Hepatitis C, for which there is help available in the prison.

(c) The installation of new office accommodation (prefabricated) within Healthcare for IDTS, which is soon to be operational, represents an opportunity to co-ordinate the Drug Regimes under one Manager.

(d) Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous both attend the prison and run courses for the prisoners. An Alcohol Rehabilitation Programme is about to be rolled out in Styal as a Pilot Scheme over the next 12 months. Funding has been granted by the Rehabilitation Support Group. The Board welcomes this move as Alcohol problems, particularly binge drinking among Young Offenders before they come to prison, appear to be on the increase.

(e) A pilot scheme has been implemented to educate mothers, who continue to use illicit drugs, and are returning to care for their children, on completion of their sentence. A Family Worker will support these women in the community. Whilst the numbers attending are small at present it is hoped that these classes will increase in popularity in the future.

6.5 Visits

(a) Both the Visitors' Centre and Visits Hall provide areas and equipment for visiting children. The area in the Visitors' Centre is small and the space shared for other functions (primarily for items brought in for prisoners to be 'bagged up'), but this is a result of the size of the Visitors' Centre, which is not large enough to cope with the average number of visitors received.

(b) There is still a major issue over the admittance process for visitors – the visitors lodge and gatehouse facilities are not adequate to deal with a sudden influx of visitors. This has consequences for staff and prisoners. For example, it is difficult to isolate and search people, long delays lead to bad tempers, and visitors have no real shelter in bad weather. The hoped for redesign of the gatehouse and visitors lodge is under threat from reduced budgets.

(c) The children's area in the visits hall is well demarcated and equipped with toys, drawing/craft materials and video games for older children. The area is normally staffed during main visitors' hours but this service is supplied by volunteers and the organization cannot guarantee 100% cover. In order to encourage children to spend more time with the person they are visiting than in the play area, the workers have prepared packs to keep them amused at the tables.

(d) The Enhanced area in visits with soft seating for 'low risk' prisoners and for use during visits by babies is functioning well. There were a series of initial 'snags' with visits booking when Prison-NOMIS was introduced but these appear to have settled down.

(e) A project in collaboration with the National Children's Bureau (NCB) 'Locked into Play' has been introduced this year.

(f) The prison reinstated childrens' visits in conjunction with NCB in August, and a similar visit over the Christmas period. As expected these proved immensely popular and the hope is to hold them more frequently in future.

(g) The Portacabin adjacent to the M&B unit has also been renovated so that additional family visits can take place there.

(h) Visiting Solicitors throughout the year have commented that Styal is "one of the better institutes to visit" within the prison system and Staff and Management are to be complimented on this.

6.6 Resettlement

(a) Good progress is being made to build partnerships with statutory organizations and third sector agencies that provide help and services to women in prison and through the gate. For

example, a housing officer from Manchester Council is permanently located in the 'Drop In' centre and deals with housing issues for the Greater Manchester area as well as acting as a liaison and expert resource for all housing issues. The team have developed a 'housing' course that orderlies will be able to take giving them a useful qualification on release. They have also adapted units from the course to provide shorter training on being a 'good tenant' that all prisoners will be able to take and which should help them access better housing on release.

(b) Two interesting initiatives this year have been:

(i) work with National Westminster Bank to provide all prisoners with a current account upon release with a debit card and training whilst in prison on use of bank accounts and financial management generally;

(ii) A event run by HMRC to talk to women about various tax issues including the impact of working tax benefits and what to do to become self employed

(c) The team had an Employment Support Officer (ESO) working with them to find employers who are willing to offer positions to women on release, which was a fixed term appointment managed by Area team. Although this two year project was due to end in March 2010, funds were found to make this a permanent post. The ESO has successfully created a network of employers offering potential employment opportunities but the team often struggles to find women with the right skills or attitude to put forward for these opportunities. The ESO also provides support to women if they do go into employment on release with follow up visits.

(d) Lack of skills and a poor attitude towards work are the two major problems for the Resettlement Team. Encouraging a positive attitude towards work versus benefits is hampered by the rules of the benefit system, so proposed changes by the new government are awaited with interest. Those who are keen to work are not helped by the fact that enhanced services for jobseekers are only available after 6 months of unemployment. Imprisonment does not count as unemployment, so for prisoners this 6 month period only commences on their release date.

(e) During the year the Resettlement Team have been collaborating with other prison services (notably Education and Regimes) to provide a more joined-up and targeted service.

(f) The Board's concern in this area is the lack of a holistic, person-centred approach to providing an integrated package of help to the majority of women in Styal, i.e. those sentenced to less than one year.

6.7 Security/Public Protection

(a) Safer Cells

£75,000 was received to provide 2 safer cells and refurbish some others. This work has been done but not signed off as several ligature points have been recorded. One prisoner managed to more or less demolish one of these cells by smashing the camera, smashing the observation

panel and unpicking the anti-pick plaster around the electrical socket and ripping it from the wall. Provision of TV in these cells is currently under discussion..

(b) Drugs

There has been a general increase in drugs coming into the prison internally concealed. This is thought to be due to recent restrictions due to volumetric control. A protocol is in place for the Boss chair and it is now in use. This will detect drugs if wrapped in foil. Courts have been made aware that frequent offenders convicted of petty crime are seeking short sentences so that they can bring drugs into prison. However it must be borne in mind that the occurrence of drugs in Styal is very low compared to other local prisons with MDTs usually zero.

(c) Money Laundering

It has become apparent that large amounts of money are coming into the prison especially for Foreign Nationals. This money is then issued on release in the form of a 'clean' cheque. It is suspected that this is money laundering and a close watch is being maintained.

(d) Phones

The Boss chair is used to detect mobile phones and there are detectors in use around prison which will alert staff if a mobile phone is in use. These measures have a deterrent effect in themselves and indeed a mobile phone was given up before the prisoner sat in the Boss chair.

(e) Cell fires

Cell fires have shown a downward trend in the reporting year.

6.7 Prison Buildings & Gardens

(a) The Board have repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with the general dilapidation of the fabric of the prison, not least the Gate area, which is not fit for purpose. This situation has remained unchanged for a number of years, and despite existing plans the Board lacks assurance that a material change is expected in the near future.

(b) The appointment of a Horticultural Tutor to the Education Department, along with the hard work of the prisoners and Works Department has resulted in an Award Winning "Gardens Outside of Prisons" (GOOP) project. The transformation of the garden areas is highly commendable and the Board recognises the justifiable pride of prisoners and staff as a result.

It is hoped that future lack of funding will not curtail this innovative work.

Section 7. The Work of the Board

7.1 Activity

Recommended complement of Board Members	17
Numbers of Board members at the start of the reporting period	14
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	16
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	4
Number of new members leaving within the reporting period	2
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during period	11
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	72
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	397
Total number of Keller reviews	52
Total number of Keller reviews attended	50

7.2 Prisoner's Applications to the Board by Location:

Visits to Locations within Styal Prison	2008/09	2009/10
Keller Unit	88	74
Waite Wing	89	68
First night	61	53
Kitchens/ serving areas	47	27
Governor's Corridor	38	12
Healthcare	33	30
Reception	24	16
Calm Centre	24	16
Security	20	12
Education	18	17
Willow YO	16	21
Visits	14	11
Houses	N/A	38
Gaskell, Comms, Social Life Skills		0

7.3 Prisoners Applications to the Board by Type

Code	Subject	2009/2010
A	Accommodation	16
B	Adjudication	0
C	Diversity	8
D	Education/Employment	16
E	Family/Visits	19
F	Food/Kitchens	4
G	Health	34
H	Property	23
I	Sentence	18
J	Staff/Prisoners	9
K	Transfers	5
L	Miscellaneous	27
M	Prisoners money	13
	Totals	192