



HMP Sudbury

Annual Report

June 2009 – May 2010

*Compiled and submitted by the full Board,
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Section 1

Statutory Role of the IMB:-

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre (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.

This Board known as the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) is specifically charged to:

- 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.
- Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- 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.

In enabling the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner, every part of the prison and to the prisons records, with the exception of individual's medical records unless specifically granted in writing by each individual.

Here at HMP Sudbury the IMB is of the opinion that as a Cat 'D' prison, resettlement underpins the work of each prisoner. It is therefore considered of major importance that the establishment has good links in place to assist prisoners resettle into their community on release. Hence the importance that, with the assistance of the personal officer scheme, prisoners are encouraged to increase their community links.

The IMB endeavours to closely monitor this area of a prisoner's life.

Section 2

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Section 3

Description of HMP Sudbury :-

HMP Sudbury was originally built as a US Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during 2nd. World War. It was converted to a prison during 1948 and is situated in a rural landscape of some 43 acres on the Derbyshire and Staffordshire border just off the A50 to the west of Derby.

At present it is a designated category 'D' male establishment for sentenced prisoners with a present operational capacity of 581. Less than 10 of the present occupants are classed as foreign nationals and some 14% have a life sentence. The establishment caters for those who are in the latter stages of their sentence by specialising in the prisoner's rehabilitation and resettlement in preparation for their release into the community, and to reduce the likelihood of their re-offending. As part of this process some 25% work within the community on a daily basis as part of their rehabilitation and resettlement programme.

Most of the original single story accommodation is still in use but has been converted and refurbished and in some instances replaced to provide single and double rooms. In addition, during 2003/4 a Modular Temporary Unit (MTU), containing 40 single rooms on two floors was installed.

Section 4

Executive Summary:-

This report has been compiled by the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Sudbury and covers the period between 1st June 2009 and 31st May 2010.

During the year the Board has reported on several occasions matters that have concerned the overall welfare of prisoners and the level of overall cleanliness within the establishment. In bringing these matters to the Minister's attention the Board wishes to acknowledge that the Governor and his Deputy are currently involved in improving each of the following areas:-

- **Respect of prisoners:** There have been a number of occasions when Board members have witnessed uniformed staff addressing prisoners in a disrespectful manner and in the schoolboy mentality of fifty years ago. Staff have been instructed to refer to each prisoner by their first name or 'Mr'. The Board will continue to monitor the situation. The general attitude of prison officers toward prisoners varies from being one of great respect to one of an unhelpful attitude. It is therefore not surprising that the Board receives comments, from time to time, of a negative nature from prisoners about the level of respect shown towards them.
- **Performance:** The Governor and his Deputy are taking positive action to increase the performance and reduce the sickness levels of staff through the weekly performance meeting. It is expected that should have a positive impact on minimising any reduction in activities and work available to prisoners through government financial restraints. The Board welcomes this positive approach.
- **Cleanliness:** The standard of general cleanliness throughout the establishment and especially the residential areas is not regarded as good. This matter is actively being addressed and the Board is expecting to see an immediate improvement.
- **Personal Officer Scheme:** The Board has been aware for some time and reported on a number of occasions that prisoners either do not know who their Personal Officer is or that the scheme is working efficiently. Sudbury, as an open prison environment has some 25% of its prisoner population working within the community. Whilst this does create contact problems between a prisoner and his Personal Officer, nevertheless, it is the opinion of the Board that the prison management has a responsibility to ensure the scheme works in order to provide a prisoner with a realistic opportunity for him to address their problems. This is not always evident and something that the Governor and his Deputy need to actively address.
- **Catering:-** We are aware of the large amount of food waste that is generated after each meal and that after consultation with the Prisoners Council food portions are being adjusted in order to improve this level of waste. The Board will monitor the situation during its contact with prisoners to ensure the portion levels are regarded by the prisoners as adequate

- **Farm Area:-** In terms of providing suitable resettlement employment it is not now considered that the farm offers best value of the prison recourses in terms of both finance and use of prison personnel. The prison is currently conducting a valuation exercise to establish whether more purposeful use of this recourse may be made to reflect current employment opportunities.
- **Senior Management Team (SMT):-** The IMB and the SMT are agreed that a more frequent dialogue between them would greatly enhance the overall day to day running of the establishment.
- **The IMB:-** Having completed its Annual Team Performance Review (ATPR) immediately after this reporting period is able to report that it has identified a number of areas in which it is actively improving its efficiency and approach to some areas of its monitoring role.

Questions to the Minister:-

None

Questions to the Prison Service:-

None

Section 5

5.1. Diversity:-

The Governor chairs a bi-monthly diversity group with staff from the key areas of prison life in attendance along with prisoner representatives and members of the race equality council. Ethnicity, along with other statistics covering religion, disability and age are monitored.

During the year a Sudbury Induction, Diversity and Decency (SIDD) support group has been set up which includes six experienced and trained prisoners under the guidance of the Prison Diversity Senior Officer. This group provides prisoners with a 'drop in' arrangement to discuss relevant issues and problems.

It is not unusual for the Gypsy and Traveller section of the community to set up camp outside the entrance to the prison and exhibitions are held to explain the different aspects of their lifestyle.

Whilst the prisoner population at HMP Sudbury is not static the approximate population profile is:-

35%	Under 30 years of age.
68%	21 to 40 years of age
12%	Over the age of 50 years. (6% Over age of 55 years.)
14%	Serving a life sentence.
98.5%	British Nationals
1.50%	Foreign Nationals
69%	British, Irish and Other White
3.50%	Mixed
12%	Asian or Asian British.
15%	Black or Black British
under 1%	Chinese or other Ethnic Group
5%	Staff from Black and Minority Ethnic Background
25%	IMB Members from Black and Minority Ethnic Background
27%	No Religion.
52%	Christian Denominations.
13%	Muslim
8%	Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Other.

- **Racist Incidents**

Such incidents are rare at Sudbury and would be monitored through the various groups and incident reporting system.

- **Disability**

Those with mobility problems do not encounter many difficulties in getting around the site with most of the accommodation at ground level with ramps providing good access where required. A designated wing accommodated the more seriously disabled with specifically adapted toilet and washing facilities. It is unclear that information relating to the hard of hearing, visual and speech impairment, learning difficulties, mobility impairments and mental conditions are collated to ensure the management fully provides for the requirements men.

5.2. Learning & Skills:-

The current Head of Learning & Skills has been in post for 3 ½ years and is responsible for the internal and external provision of academic and vocational training opportunities within the prison. Lincoln College is the main external provider of educational and vocational training classes and also the delivery of qualifications in most of the workshops, gym, catering and library. Library services are provided by Derbyshire County Council and Derby College deliver British Institute of Cleaning Services (BICS) NVQ level 1 .

Throughout the year, members have reported positively on activities and attitudes to observed classes and workshop activities. Lulls in workshop activity have been observed and are most frequently due to staff shortages. There were some difficulties with staffing at the beginning of the year, due to a number of factors including the long-term sickness of their manager. However, under the terms of the contract with Lincoln College, cover was provided and delivery of courses was not affected.

The Head of Department gave a presentation to the IMB Board in April 2010 in which the “Learner Journey” for a prisoner from induction to release was described. Prisoners are given a prospectus of available activities on induction and have an assessment interview with CIAS (Careers Information and Advice Service) at an early stage, which is followed up in interim and exit reviews. If a Prisoner does not have an existing score for literacy and numeracy on arrival at Sudbury they will be tested to assess their needs. Provision is made for prisoners with special learning needs.

Generally there is not an issue with waiting lists for courses. The exception to this are some of the vocational courses such as Bricks where the workshop capacity is for 12 men with a course duration of 26 weeks and NVQ Level 1 BICS Cleaning Services where a group of trainees need to complete their qualification before another group can start.

Observation of the usage of the library, its facilities and learning activities offered have often been described as excellent in members' reports and this view was supported by the HMIP Inspectors. They also highlighted need for better liaison between Learning and Skills and Resettlement Departments, and improvements in progression to qualifications and experience beyond the basic level.

Funding is a constant and important issue for the continued provision of learning and skills opportunities and was identified as such in the position paper presented to the Board by the Head of Department in April. Additional areas for future work were identified as: building links with employers; developing a curriculum that enhances learners to develop their skills and knowledge; and extending the links with external providers to offer A further position paper will shortly be submitted to the Senior Management team outlining a review of the whole establishment with the specific aim of creating a closer link between training offered and potential resettlement opportunities.

Members have reported positively on prisoners' experience in various workshops and the opportunity to obtain qualifications. Under use of workshop facilities is often due to staff shortages, including part-time/temporary staffing. However, special mention is made in reports of the financial contribution made by the metalwork shop and recycling section.

5.3. Healthcare:-

Healthcare is commissioned from Derbyshire County Primary Care PCT (PCT) and prison staff. At present a tendering process is currently underway for the service. This process seems to be quite a protracted process which is delaying the Healthcare provision from being provided and staffed through the NHS which was the intention for all public sector prisons by the prison service some years ago.

In moving to this model it would ensure a current health needs assessment was in evidence, which would more likely enable a health management structure to actively monitor areas requiring attention and therefore meeting the needs of the transient population.

Whilst the Board considers the Healthcare needs of the prisoners are met it is considered that by moving to a more structured PCT model as used some other prisons, would enable the healthcare provision to be enhanced.

It is the Board's intention to closely monitor the tendering of this service to ensure it is completed in a pro-active manner by the prison management.

5.4. Safer Custody

The Board expects that those held in an Open Prison environment and therefore being prepared for their release and resettlement to be gaining confidence in themselves as people and be treated with respect from all charged with their care and safety. Whilst it is recognised that the attitude of most officers is excellent it is

disappointing to report that a significant number of prisoners do not feel as safe as one would wish. It is also felt important that prisoners should be taught and expected to have respect for each other as part of their preparation for release.

The Board feels that with the re- introduction of the Listener Scheme, coupled with an improvement to staff training in the areas relating to safer custody that a greater respect for others would be evident and reduce self-harm and bullying.

Comments from some prisoners regarding low-level bullying in the food line with a low level staff presence at this critical time is being monitored by the Board in order to gain specific evidence with a view to discussing the matter with the senior management.

5.5. Segregation Unit.

This is a very small unit of some 4 cells and is mainly used for both the discharging and transfer of prisoners back to 'closed conditions', although prisoners whose cells are being searched are also held on the Unit. Furthermore, one cell is used for holding prisoners awaiting adjudication and one for strip-searching.

Although there is no access to an exercise yard or PIN phone facilities, the Board recognises that the standard of accommodation and the facilities required for CSU and Segregation Units according to Prison Service Order 1700 is difficult to provide within an open prison environment such as Sudbury. It is noted by the Board that improvements could and should be improved to the accommodation in order that those held, even for a short time, are housed in more suitable conditions.

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

The single storey accommodation provides both single and double rooms and is generally well maintained and in good order with good natural light and with most cells being kept clean.

However, the double accommodation does not provide adequate individual storage space for personal items.

Sudbury does not provide the longer term prisoner with the facility to launder their own clothes and there is no laundry facility provided within any of the wing accommodation. Whilst showers are freely available some are communal and therefore, in the Board's opinion, do not provide the necessary privacy that many would consider essential.

Board members who have experience of other prisons comment on the fact that some prisoners do not appear to care that there is often dropped litter and that some of the corridors are not cleaned to a good standard. Many other prisons demonstrate a higher level of cleanliness.

6.2. Adjudications

The Board monitors a large proportion of the adjudications which are all conducted by Governor Grades. It is observed that they are conducted in a professional manner with the correct procedures being followed as per the Prison Discipline Manual. During the proceedings it is observed that there is a respect shown to prisoners and that during the proceedings everything is conducted in a manner that the individual prisoner understands. Offences considered to be of a more serious nature are adjourned to be heard by an Independent Adjudicator (Visiting Judge) who, on hearing the evidence and finding the case proven may award 'added days' to the sentence.

6.3. Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy team play an active role within the establishment with the chapel being open for 12 hours each day from 8am. There are also two multi-faith rooms with washing facilities for the Muslims. The Board consider that the religious needs of all prisoners are well catered for with a range of ministers being available throughout the week for all major faiths. It is pleasing that the Board can report that links are in existence with many community based faiths. This is considered an important factor especially for a prisoner's resettlement.

The Board would like to see an improvement in the number of prisoners seen by the chaplaincy during the first few days of their arrival at Sudbury.

6.4. Foreign Nationals

Some 1% of those residing in Sudbury are classed as foreign national.

6.5. Induction.

Whilst it is understandable that those coming into open conditions have been through the prison system and understand the general ethos and routine of prison life it is not an acceptable reason for failing to ensure prisoners fully understand the routine and procedures of HMP Sudbury at the earliest opportunity. Some prisoners are unoccupied for over a week and the induction programme does not ensure prisoners commence their induction on their first working day after arrival. The Board considers that a greater flexibility on behalf of the prison to ensure on arrival prisoners commenced their induction process would demonstrate a greater level of care to many individuals.

6.6. Life sentenced prisoners

14% of the current population are classed as serving a life sentence

6.7 Kitchens

It is always considered that catering is vital not only to the welfare of prisoners but also considerably contributes to the operational management of the establishment. Sudbury is no exception in providing meals with a range of cultural and dietary requirements. With the advent of a new temporary manager has come a more consistent and open style of staff management along with efficiencies throughout the kitchen. It is also pleasing to report that the excessive amount of food waste has also been greatly reduced by more efficient server control coupled with a rigorous enforcement of food choices. This improvement places the prison in a favourable position for its 2010/11 challenge of waste management through Anaerobic Food Management.

Further improvements include the making of homemade foodstuffs in a bid to further reduce the cost of providing meals at £1.74 per day.

Section 7

7.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board:-

The complement of the Board is currently 8 members (4 members below our recommended complement of 12). These figures reflect the two longstanding members who decided to 'retire' from the Board two weeks after this reporting period.

- One of the three members joining the Board this year has dual membership status with Sudbury and another establishment and has some thirteen years' IMB experience having served on two other prison IMB's.
- The two other new members who joined during the year are beginning to familiarise themselves with the work of the Board. At the time of writing this report it is encouraging to report that they have both made swift progress from 'new' to 'established' Board Members and are keen to play a active role within the team. Their self motivation is a welcome asset to the Board's activities.

The Board completed its Annual Team Performance Review (ATPR) immediately after this reporting period. This process enabled it to evaluate current procedures and systems used to monitor the establishment to ensure they reflect the current management structure and policies. Although members attend a number of prison committees and groups it is expected one of the outcomes of the ATPR is that a dedicated IMB representative will be designated to monitor certain key areas of prison life.

It is also expected that by assigning two members each week to be designated Duty Members to cover the Rota Visit, Prisoner Applications and any calls outs including the Segregation Unit, that a greater cohesive approach will emerge to the everyday monitoring of the establishment.

Board procedures are being revised to ensure they reflect the latest IMB good practise and are available to each member in a quick reference format. Board documentation and filing is also under review to ensure the work of the Board reflects the monitoring processes required.

By completing the ATPR the Board is confident that its procedures and methods of working will fully reflect a greater number of best practice methodologies available to IMB's in order to fulfil a pro-active monitoring role on behalf of the Minister.

The Board enjoys an open working relationship with both the Governing Governor and the Senior Management team.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge the dedicated and continued hard work of our Clerk which is much appreciated.

7.2. Board Statistics:-

Recommended Complement of Board Members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	10
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3
Number of members leaving within reporting period	2
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	137 Recorded Visits
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	Not Officially Recorded (250 +)
Total number of applications received	19
Total number of segregation reviews held	Not Available
Total number of segregation reviews attended	Not Available

7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

Code	Subject	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
A	Accommodation	2	0	2
B	Adjudications	0	0	0
C	Diversity related	0	0	0
D	Education/employment/training	2	0	0
E	Family/visits	1	1	0
F	Food/kitchen related	2	0	0
G	Health related	0	1	0
H	Property	2	0	0
I	Sentence related	1	3	5
J	Staff/Prisoner Related	0	1	0
K	Transfers	3	3	5
L	Miscellaneous *	6	9	7
	Total number of applications	19	18	19

* *Miscellaneous includes: - Home Detention Curfew, Home Visits, Prison Rules & External Probation Departments.*