



Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Wolds  
Everthorpe  
Brough  
East Yorkshire  
HU15 2JZ

**HMP WOLDS**

**INDEPENDENT MONITORING  
BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2009 - 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2010**

## **SECTION 1**

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### **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

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

The Board is specifically charged to:

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 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.

## **SECTION 2**

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### **CONTENTS**

Section 1	Statutory Role of the IMB	1
Section 2	Contents	2
Section 3	Description of Prison	3
	3.1 Description of Prison	3
	3.2 Voluntary and Community Providers	3
Section 4	Executive Summary	5
Section 5	Specific Areas of Interest	6
	5.1 Care and Separation Unit	6
	5.2 Learning and Skills	6
	5.3 Healthcare	7
Section 6	Other Areas of Special Interest	9
	6.1 Catering	9
	6.2 Employment	9
	6.3 Lifers	10
	6.4 Grounds	10
	6.5 Security	11
Section 7	The Work of the IMB	12

## SECTION 3

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

**3.1** HMP Wolds is a Category C prison (originally built as a Remand Centre) for adult males. It is a contracted prison managed by G4S.

It is situated between the villages of North and South Cave adjacent to HMP Everthorpe some 16 miles west of Hull. The nearest railway station is Brough which is served by trains travelling between Hull and Leeds, Sheffield, York, Manchester and London Kings Cross. There is a local bus route from Brough which passes the prison entrance with an hourly service. It is also situated close to junction 38 of the M62 Motorway.

HMP Wolds is a training prison with certified normal accommodation of 320 but is operating with a daily lock-up of approximately 380. The operational capacity is 395.

The prison is relatively modern in a rural setting, the grounds and building are kept in good order.

The main accommodation consists of three blocks divided into two storey units and one smaller unit opened to accommodate the increased population.

There are Healthcare, Care and Segregation, Learning and Skills, Library, Chapel (multi denomination), Sports Hall, Workshops and Catering facilities.

Training workshops consists of Railtrack, Summit Media, Multi Purpose Workshop Area and several portakabins supporting Story Book Dads, Braille, Bookbinding and associated Skills and Electrics. A lot of effort has been put into attracting new work for the former Vulcan Windows work area.

There has not been any major structural change to the prison.

### **3.2** VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

There are over twenty voluntary organisations that have input to the prison. Included are:-

Humbercare	An enabling service committed to the development of high quality projects for prisoners.
Shelter	Providing services to assist homeless and badly housed people.
Life Links	Supports provision of services to prisoners and ex prisoners.
Alcohol Counselling and Awareness	Confidential one to one counselling.
NACRO	A national and regional resettlement service.

Hull and East Yorkshire Mind	Information about mental health issues, where to find support and understand rights.
CLINKS	Prison community links, provide services to prisoners and ex prisoners and their families.
The Firebird Trust	Provides kit. Project using traditional percussion instruments.
HERIB	Support and assistance in all areas concerned with blind and partially sighted.
The Inside Out Trust Books	Involvement in Braille set-up, large print.
The Samaritans	Visit prison to train prisoners to be Listeners.

## SECTION 4

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The prison was placed at Level 2 during the year. Management aim to prepare and appeal against this decision and papers are being prepared.

Areas of concern to the Board fall into both national and local categories. The attention of the Minister is drawn to:-

- (a) the continued excess population in prisons above the level for which they were planned. This ongoing problem can lead to friction amongst the prisoners and place extra responsibilities on staff;
  - (b) although there has been some improvement in the timing of Parole Board Hearings they are still behind the scheduled dates;
  - (c) prisoners transferring between establishments find that courses are over subscribed and they are unable to fully comply with their plan;
  - (d) it is anticipated that due to Board members not wishing to renew their appointment at the year end the board will be operating with reduced numbers from 01 January 2011. This problem was anticipated and a recruitment exercise was completed earlier in the year. Recommendations were made of suitable candidates but appointments were severely delayed, partly due to the General Election, which resulted in one candidate withdrawing and another threatening to do so. This does not reflect well on the recruitment system;
  - (e) drugs and mobile phones (sim cards) are an ongoing problem. Some solution should be sought to help reduce this problem within the prison system.
- 
- (f) the accommodation is good and generally well maintained but there is a problem in dealing with mould around the shower units;
  - (g) the Wolds is a training prison but is handicapped by lack of training space and facilities. A sustained effort has been made by management to attract work to the prison. Prisoners employed on cleaning duties have a lot of spare time after completing their duties;
  - (h) a new roster and amendment introduced during the year did not resolve staff shortages resulting at times in loss of activities. A new roster is due to be introduced later in the year.

## **SECTION 5**

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### **AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

#### **5.1 Care and Separation Unit**

This Unit consists of 15 cells plus a special cell. It is staffed by a core team of specially appointed officers, who undertake their duties with firmness, understanding and endless patience. Prisoners were required to wear a red tracksuit as part of the punishment regime and as an added deterrent to spending time on the Unit. However, this policy was reversed when GSL was taken over by G4S and prisoners now wear their own clothes.

The Unit is always clean, although the occupants keep individual cells in a variable state of tidiness and cleanliness. All prisoners are offered a daily shower and exercise in one of the two adjacent and rather soulless yards. Some prisoners keep themselves occupied but many spend their days asleep. Recently all prisoners have been offered in-cell employment so that they can maintain their income. However, as this is normally some type of education, the take up is not great.

IMB members attend the majority of Rule 45 Boards, which are conducted in a timely and professional manner. Some prisoners are spending too long in the Unit, either because transfers are difficult to organise or because the prisoner refuses to return to normal location. This appears to be a weakness in the system as no further sanctions are available. Whilst lack of association and in cell TV and boredom should be the main deterrents to a spell in the CSU, it is apparent that, for some prisoners, the Unit is a haven from their problems on the Units and, for others, it provides the opportunity to be absolutely idle.

#### **5.2 Learning and Skills**

Education plays a major role at HMP Wolds as it employs the greatest number of prisoners.

Basic Literacy and Numeracy Levels 1 & 2 continue to be necessary and every encouragement is given to the prisoners to complete these courses satisfactorily by the availability of the broad range of topics offered by the Department. In other basic courses in-house certificates are awarded for the successful completion of the work.

Classroom attendance is maintained at a steady 90-91%.

This reporting year ended with HMP Wolds having 24 Open University students and 12 other prisoners engaged in various distance learning courses.

Staff have attended a variety of courses and seminars throughout the year including 'top-up' training with family links in order to be able to present Nurturing Parent Programme. This links in with the work on Parenting and Families which is already well established.

Parenting classes continue to be popular with courses running back to back to enable sufficient families to be eligible for the planned summer family days. There has also been a relationship course when 8 prisoners and their partners took part in 'Time for Families'.

The OFSTED inspection at the beginning of 2010 deemed education as 'Good'.

The Bloxx Technology for secure internet provision has been installed and awaits connection to a telephone line. This is expected imminently when the system will be on trial before general release.

The electrical course is running on a regular basis.

### **5.3 Healthcare**

#### Strategic Direction

Despite a positive start last year, the Prison Healthcare Partnership has yet to impact on the strategic direction of healthcare in the prison. A single Healthcare Delivery Plan, with clear priorities and timescales, is promised for September 2010. This should address the areas for improvement/development highlighted in the internal Health Needs Assessment, the Operational Assessment of Healthcare undertaken by the Controllers Team and the Prison Healthcare Partnership Quality Indicators.

#### Clinical Leadership

Healthcare at HMP Wolds is contracted out to Primecare Healthcare Ltd. The Healthcare Manager left at the end of May and the new one took up post at the end of June. There have been ongoing recruitment issues within the nursing establishment throughout the year. Although all vacancies are now filled, the new Healthcare Manager will be developing a business case to increase the establishment, so the key targets and standards can then be met and the essential services maintained during periods of annual leave and staff sickness.

There have been occasions when there has been no medical cover, resulting in the cancellation of clinics. The Board has been concerned at the number of wasted GP appointments due to prisoners failing to attend. This has been as high as 47% in a month. The Dental Service is well regarded by the prisoners, even though the waiting list has been up to eight weeks.

#### Care of sick prisoners

There have been a couple of occasions when prisoners, who require more nursing/medical care than could be provided at HMP Wolds, were refused timely transfer to a prison with 24 hour Healthcare. Until the Clinical Transfer Policy, which is under development, has been agreed, this situation could re-occur.

The Board has highlighted a gap in care provided to prisoners, who because of temporary incapacity, need help with their essential needs e.g. rehabilitation support following a stroke, personal hygiene following physical injuries, maintaining cleanliness and order in cell. Whilst recognising that this falls outside the roles of Healthcare staff and PCO's, other prisons do have carer roles undertaken by prisoners.

#### IDTS

This has been introduced smoothly. Additional investment has been available to extend the service in the second year. There are mixed views amongst staff and Board members as to whether this service should/will be sustained in the light of the governments need to cutback.

#### Mental Health Pathway

A review is underway, which will clarify which mental health issues Primecare team addresses and which are referred to and dealt with by the Mental Health In-reach Team. If there is capacity available, then it would be good to see resources redirected into more drug and alcohol rehabilitation programmes in the prison.

### Learning Disability Screening

To date, there has not been a screening mechanism to identify routinely prisoners with Learning Disabilities. However, a screening tool will be introduced shortly, which will form part of the induction healthcare assessment. The results should help the prison to better meet prisoners' special education and workplace needs. For those with more severe limitations, a secondary referral for specialist Learning Disability support can be made.

## **SECTION 6**

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### **OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST**

#### **6.1 Catering**

Catering at the Wolds is supplied by Aramark who also cater at Ryehill and at Altcourse prisons. Aramark supply a manager, training manager, kitchen manager and six chefs. They work on a two days on two days off basis and receive good support from their head office. During the year the manager was changed and the present manager started the Wolds on 01<sup>st</sup> September 2009. He has quickly formed a good relationship with SMT, kitchen staff and prisoners. He is very involved with hands on working and training. He welcomes comments and suggestions and meets monthly with prisoner representatives. He has made a variety of experimental changes to menus and provision procurement. Nutritional values are fully assessed and taken into consideration in menu planning.

£2-27 per day per prisoner is allowed for food. The menus are repeated every four weeks and offer good variety. There is a choice of four dishes at lunch and evening meal, always with a healthy option. (This will rise to five shortly). Breakfast consists of cereals and bread, margarine and jam. This will shortly be delivered as breakfast packs. SMT and IMB sample the food regularly and are generally satisfied with quantity and quality which is usually well cooked and presented. As with all mass catering arrangements there are complaints which are always investigated; apologies and changes are made when necessary. Much of the food is bought in and heated appropriately but plans have been made to prepare and cook much more on site. This will help to facilitate the training programme and enable the kitchen to offer more jobs. NVQ's level 1 & 2 are offered and advanced training for a few prisoners to train as trainers. All workers have thorough training in Health and Safety, Fire Safety, Food and Personal Hygiene and safe use of machinery and tools prior to starting work in the kitchen. Any flouting of the rules results in instant dismissal.

Special diets are supplied to support religious and health needs and careful records kept of individuals' needs. There are two Muslim cooks. Halal tools are colour coded and kept separate from the others as is Halal and vegetarian food.

Four trainees work in staff facilities where the quality of food and training is high. All kitchen staff must be drug free and observe correct procedures. They may not eat anything without permission. Generally staff, prisoners and management get on well and enjoy their work.

Portion control can sometimes raise problems and mistakes are occasionally made with delivery of each mans meal. This can happen for a variety of reasons but is usually rectified quickly by the combined efforts of unit and kitchen staff. Machinery is well maintained and repairs done promptly. (There are delays where spare parts or replacements are required). The standard of hygiene is good and food is correctly stored and used within 'best before' dates. The kitchen is visited at least once per week by a Board member.

#### **6.2 Employment**

Adequate and meaningful employment remains a challenge at the Wolds and a concern of the Board. Prisoners transferring from other establishments are often critical of the range of employment available. Whilst education is the backstop

'employer' for those unable to get other jobs in the prison, it is not a welcome option for many. Those employed as cleaners do not have an adequate workload with many fulfilling their duties in one and a half hours.

Summit Media continues to offer excellent job experience in IT skills to around 20 prisoners and career opportunities post release.

The grounds and kitchen are popular areas to work, with both areas offering NVQ,s and, in the kitchen the additional opportunity for suitable prisoners to become NVQ assessors.

The main workshop area has worked hard to attract new contracts and at any time there will be several work streams underway. Although these provide variety, they only provide jobs for around 20 prisoners. Most of the contracted work from outside is assembly work and packing which has enabled a number of prisoners to achieve a NVQ in Performing Manufacturing Operations.

### **6.3 Lifers**

On average there are 90 lifers and 60 IPP prisoners in the prison. Family days are very successful but there are concerns about the pre-requisite of attending a parenting course. A new incentive has been introduced where dads prepare a family meal. This is very popular but obviously places and pre course training are limited. Lifers' allotments are also successful and a lot of hard work is put into the upkeep of them. IMB arranged for some external judges to select the best allotment and the Board present a trophy to the winner.

Difficulties are encountered:-

- in the continuing single cell problem;
- town visits cancelled due to the lack of staff;
- parole hearings are running about 9 months late (we understand that this is a national problem due to the lack of judges). This is putting pressure on prisoners who work hard to meet all the requirements;
- prisoners waiting for a CALM course find that they are often unable to meet the requirements of their plan.

### **6.4 Grounds**

Throughout the year the grounds have been maintained in a good condition. Credit is due to the staff involved and the enthusiasm of the prisoners involved. An attractive and colourful display has been the result.

The vast majority of the plants are grown "in house" from seed or cuttings from existing plants. The greenhouses are always fully utilized and have proved a very useful part of the overall scheme. There is a noticeable extending knowledge amongst the prisoners working in the grounds.

The ongoing work associated with the allocation of allotments to the lifer prisoners has added greater interest in the horticultural element of learning. The wide variety of assorted vegetables and fruits, picking and transfer to the kitchen provides a sense of ownership.

A competition was introduced for the best allotment which contributed to an increase scale of produce, not only in variety, but also of a quality the judges found highly commendable.

It is hoped that the overall work in the gardens and grounds will result in recognition and the award of NVQ accreditation.

A chicken coop has been built and stocked. Eggs are now produced and passed on for use in the kitchen.

## **6.5 SECURITY**

Drugs getting into the prison are still the main cause for concern.

Funding has been agreed, but not received yet, to fit metal cages on the unit windows, particularly E to be followed by F and D. This will prevent items thrown over the wall being retrieved by offenders from their cells. It is hoped that this work will be completed soon as outside patrols have stopped due to pressure on funding.

There are now two drug dogs with one handler. Training has now been completed so this should bring about a tightening of drugs being brought in through visits, though one PCO cannot work seven days a week.

A very small percentage of drugs are sent in through the post but the amounts involved are also small.

MDT figures are currently high but the Security team are confident that sealing off the drug supply through cell windows will dramatically reduce the amount of drugs in the Wolds

## **SECTION 7**

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### **THE WORK OF THE IMB**

During the year there have been ten active members of the Board, three female and seven male. This falls below the establishment and may be further exacerbated after the triennial review when up to five of the present members have indicated that they may not wish to be reappointed. (Two are definite in their decision). A recruitment exercise was completed during April 2010 when four candidates were recommended as suitable applicants. However, partly due to the General Election, no appointments have been made. As all new members require a period of training the Board may have an acute membership problem in January 2011 and urgent action is required to avoid this situation.

There is a formal meeting once a month during the year which is also attended by the Controller and Director.

Duties of Board members are rostered but attendance outside these weeks is also carried out. During the first week of rostered duty prisoner applications, both written and oral, are dealt with and attendance is made during adjudication hearings. In the succeeding week the same Board member also attends Rule 45 reviews.

The age range of the Board is from 40 to 70+.

Members are also allocated various areas of special interest to monitor and report on during the year.

An annual Team Performance Review has been completed.

Training courses are attended as required and informative talks are presented at monthly meetings.

Board members also attend various committee meetings within the prison, usually appropriate to their areas of special interest.

The members of the IMB at HMP Wolds seek to maintain a fair and independent presence in the prison.

HMP Wolds is a contracted prison to G4S.

## **BOARD STATISTICS**

Recommended Compliment of Board Members	16
Number of Board Members at start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board Members at end of reporting period	10
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	---
Number of Board members leaving within the reporting period	---
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at the Board meetings during the reporting period	8
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	334
Total number of applications received	61

## **BOARD STATISTICS**

Code	Subject	Number
A	Accommodation	--
B	Adjudications	2
C	Diversity related	1
D	Education/Employment/Training	3
E	Family/Visits	4
F	Food/Kitchen related	3
G	Health related	11
H	Property	7
I	Sentence related	10
J	Staff/Prisoner related	1
K	Transfers	3
L	Miscellaneous	16
	Total number of applications	<u>61</u>