



IMB ANNUAL REPORT

HMP & YOI BRINSFORD

JULY 2012 - JUNE 2013

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1. Statutory Role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 and Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and RTC to be monitored by an Independent Monitoring 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.
4. To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have the right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and prisoner's records.

2. The Board

Recommended complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board Members	10
Number of Board Members at end of the reporting period	9
Number of members resigning within the reporting period	1
Total number of Board Meetings held during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the prison, including Board Meetings	401
Total number of applications received during the reporting period	107
Total number of Segregation reviews held	99
Total number of Segregation reviews attended	97

Board Meetings are held on a monthly basis, and are attended in part by the Governing Governor, or his deputy, who provides the Board with a written report and responds to any issues of concern in addition to issues arising out of the members Rota reports.

The Board at present is considered under-strength. Discussions have been taking place with a view to recruiting new members, and steps are underway to expedite this, particularly in view of the introduction of the 15 year tenure rule which comes into effect in 2013 with the loss of a very much valued members.

3. THE ESTABLISHMENT

HMP & YOI Brinsford is situated north of Wolverhampton, and is a closed Young Offenders Institution holding sentenced young Adults (Aged 18-21+10/12) years and remands. The prisoners are housed within 5 two-storey residential blocks.

Operational Capacity - 577

OTHER FACILITIES

Health Care

Kitchen

Chapel/Multi-Faith building

Education, classroom and workshop facilities, staffed by Milton Keynes College

Library, staffed by Staffordshire County Council

Well equipped gym and outside sports facility, including an all weather sports pitch.

OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Probation

NCS

NACRO

HAILO

Trailblazers

De Paul Trust

CARATS

Samaritans

Drugs & Alcohol Support

4. ISSUES REQUIRING A RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTER

1. HMP Brinsford YOI houses 577 Young Adults (18-21^{+10/12} years). The prisoner population is mixed, coming direct from courts on remand, awaiting trial, convicted, awaiting sentence, and sentenced, foreign nationals, and prisoners with both short and longer sentences and prisoners awaiting deportation. In recent times, the Court catchment areas has enlarged significantly. Brinsford can expect up to 160 new receptions each month, this and deteriorating facilities, and poor architecture creates difficult management issues which are in need of further consideration particularly in relation to the staffing requirements of this potentially complex group of prisoners.

2. With Boards finding it increasingly difficult and time consuming to recruit suitable new members. We find it unacceptable that we are being forced under the 15 year rule to lose one of our most knowledgeable and committed member who received an MBE for her work in the prison and Magistracy. This member as with our other more experienced members are invaluable in training new members, providing knowledge and guidance to existing members and as a resource to historical matters which have bearing upon the management and provision of service.

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HMP & YOI Brinsford is situated north of Wolverhampton and has an operational capacity of 577 Young Adults.

1. Despite the anticipated changes arising out of "Fair and Sustainable, the Governor and his Deputies have made every effort to keep staff fully informed and consulted at all levels, ensuring staff are aware of future changes within the Prison and the employment issues arising from the financial decisions levied upon the prison establishment.

In April 2013, 72 officers applied for VED's. This represented one third of prison officers, outstripping the allocations available. However, these were dealt with sympathetically, despite the inevitable high level of uncertainty, lowering of moral, and discontent amongst staff. Notwithstanding this, and the difficult circumstances arising out of the financial restrictions, prison staff have continued to work hard and professionally with the prisoners, ensuring that the regime continues as efficiently as possible whilst maintaining respect and dignity towards prisoners throughout.

Regrettably, the sickness level and reduction of morale within Brinsford has been a major issue for the Board. The numbers of officers with long term sickness, or light duties was a significant cause of staffing shortfalls prior to F & S. The Governor and his staff have dealt with these difficulties rigorously but sympathetically, but it remains an ongoing issue and exacerbates an already difficult shortfall of staff to maintain a safe and equitable service.

2. HMP Brinsford is classified as Standard. This situation is sustained by "Fair and Sustainable" and as in previous Annual reports the Board members feel this classification fails to recognise the complexity of the prison population who, because of age, immaturity and often lack of self discipline demonstrated by the YA's, require more supervision than might be necessary in an adult population.

The architecture, buildings, and the inherent management difficulties and straitened staffing levels add to the complexity. An example of management of this is "free flow" which takes place 4 times a day and is a particularly labour intensive process to manage.

The Architecture of Brinsford includes long, bent corridors which 'dog leg' left and right along their length (some 150 mtrs.) This interferes with the sight line of officers. Therefore, to manage this process efficiently and effectively ensuring that disruption, potential gang related or bullying issues, and simple misbehaviour does not occur, during the process of free flow, there needs to be up to 23 officers and OSG's staffing the corridors and supervising the YO's moving from one area to another.

The Board is concerned that failure to recognise the uniqueness of the prison population and the architecture and design of the prison is not fully taken into account when considering the staffing levels required to maintain a safe environment.

3. During the reporting period, there has been concerns about the breakdown in communication between the Board and HMP Brinsford, and the failure of Managers and Communications personnel to notify Board members of serious incidents such as 'in cell' fires, attempted suicides, and exercises of interest to the Board. When brought to the attention of the Governor, steps were taken to rectify this situation but it remains an ongoing issue with failure to notify the IMB after the event to enable members to visit the YA.

During the reporting period there have been 48 prisoner initiated fires. In all instances the Prison Staff responded with great efficiency bringing the situation under control very quickly, until the Fire Service took charge of the situation.

In relation to 'in cell' fires, the YA's causing the fires failed to recognise or consider their action to be dangerous, either to themselves, cell mates, or staff. A move toward bringing these offences to the attention of the Police might change YA behaviour in this area.

4. With the introduction of "Fair and Sustainable the Board were notified without adequate consultation that the Board office was to be relocated. More importantly the Board were also notified that they could no longer expect to have a dedicated clerk, with the result that there is a lack of continuity and a potential loss of confidentiality, and ownership of the Boards filing etc.

Whilst members are only able to use a computer for limited periods during the week, it is felt this would have been a useful adjunct to the Boards work. However, the computer was removed because of cost pressures.

The Boards' Meeting dates and times were changed to accommodate the Governors diary and his increasing busy schedule. Regrettably, the Governor has been unable to attend 4 meetings because of conflicting management issues and failed on one occasion to provide an alternative deputy to act on his behalf.

5. Education has been an ongoing concern for the Board. The move away from Manchester College (TMC) to Milton Keynes College (MKC) took place in 2012. From the outset, MKC has had significant difficulties in meeting their contractual obligations in providing the education and vocational programmes required. This is due to an inability to retain and recruit tutors. The difficulty arose from the loss of teaching and vocational staff to a newly opened private prison (HMP Oakwood) and thereafter other recruitment difficulties.

At the time of reporting, the attendance in Education is in the region 60/65% of available places. Every effort is being made by MKC and the Prison staff to improve the current situation, with the anticipation that the College will have the capacity to accommodate the needs of prisoners. However, this will be reliant upon recruitment, and the Prisons ability to provide a robust Allocations programme and encourage reluctant YA to attend the courses available to them.

Many YA consider that there is no incentive to attend education because of the lack of vocational courses which will benefit them in the short-term within prison and post release. Some YA who have failed to achieve basic literacy and numeracy skills as youngsters, and are reliant upon the limited availability of Toe by Toe, with the result that many YA will undertake no meaningful occupation or activity whilst in Brinsford, and will not be any greater prepared for their future lives following release.

6. Despite this there have been successes. A YA completed his NVQ I, II, and III, and was successful in obtaining a placement at the Jamie Oliver Academy 15 on his release.

7. A well respected and dedicated Officer was recently awarded an MBE for his unstinting commitment to reducing gang involvement within the prison.

8. The numbers of Muslim YA's in comparison to Christians and other faiths has steadily increased over time requiring a strategic review on how accommodation within the Chapel could be revised to meet everyone's religious observations.

Prison Managers worked to provide appropriate facilities for all denominations with the result that structural work was undertaken to develop Multi-faith Centre within the Chapel itself. The Chaplaincy are to be congratulated on their support and hard work during these changes and the outcome is an increased uptake in the facilities has increased and much appreciated by the YA's.

6. APPLICATION ANALYSIS

APPLICATIONS	JULY 2007 JUNE 2008	JULY 2008 JUNE 2009	JULY 2009 JUNE 2010	JUNE 2010 JULY 20011	JULY 2011 JUNE 2012	JULY 2012 JUNE 2013
ASSOCIATION	-	-	-	4	-	
CANTEEN FOOD	-	16	9	8	9	13
CELL CONDITIONS	1	2	1	6	-	1
COMPLAINTS - STAFF	2	1	6	10	16	2
DISCIPLINARY CONCERNS	1	4	8	12	5	14
EDUCATION & LIBRARY	3	13	9	8	-	1
HAIRCUTS	-	-	-	-	-	-
IEP	1	2	1	4	4	-
LACK OF GYM	1	7	1	4	1	1
MISCELLANEOUS	18	26	65	58	19	16
MISSING MAIL & PROPERTY	15	27	20	19	14	17
PERSONAL HEALTH	6	5	7	6	1	6
RACE/RELIGION PROBLEMS	-	2	-	1	-	1
RELOCATION REQUESTS	-	11	2	5	2	4
RECEPTION	-	-	-	-	-	-
TELEPHONE	2	1	3	7	2	2
TRANSFERS OUT	6	8	9	16	8	5
UNFAIR TREATMENT	6	-	7	3	3	8
VISITS & VISITORS	2	10	15	9	-	6
EMPLOYMENT ISSUES	2	2	1	9	3	8
SENTENCE RELATED HDC ETC.						2
TOTAL	66	137	164	189	87	107
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS					4	3

Applications are made by either placing requests in any one of the eight application boxes, which are situated throughout the establishment, or verbally when prisoners see a member of the board.

7. REGIMES AND RESIDENCES

Brinsford operational capacity is 577 Young Adults (18>21+10 months) years of age.

7.1 There are 5 House blocks each consisting of single and double cells. The Segregation Unit is in a separate Wing.

Residences 1 - 4 are over 22 years of age, tired, and in urgent need of refurbishment. Particularly Residential blocks 2 & 3 which have suffered historical fire damage and broken plastic window panels. Whilst safety issues have been addressed, the 'stop start' repairs can only continue when money is available to the Prison for these purposes. Routine maintenance has to compete with conflicting interests.

The lack of toilet privacy in double cells is a concern. There are no solid privacy screens for double occupancy cells. The toilet is only a few inches from the beds/bunks. The Board would maintain that common decency demands that this situation is not acceptable. Some time ago consideration was given to separating the living and sanitary conditions within double cells, but due to lack of funds this refurbishment of double cells has not progressed.

7.2 Because of the inevitable outcome of Fair & Sustainable, the cancellation of Library Officer continues to be a concern due to the detailing which is compounded by high sickness levels. The outcome is the reduction in library access to YA's.

7.3 Residential 5 houses enhanced YA's. The criteria for Res. 5 status is high and comprises of single cells each with an integral shower and toilet. The YA justifies relocation to this House Block with good behaviour, respect and courteous interaction with the Prison staff and others. Alongside this compact are added privileges which include Gym and daily associations. However, it is becoming increasingly evident that with the changes introduced by F & S restrictions on some of these activities are becoming increasingly limited because of staff relocation due to staffing shortfalls in other areas of the prison.

7.4 The Board is pleased to see that ROTL and Red Bands are well established and working well, and increased in number in recent times. YA's on ROTL are working in Charity Shops in a nearby town, at Jewsons where one YA obtained an apprenticeship post release, and placements with Garden Land. There were 11 young adults on ROTL in October 2012.

7.5 Brinsford staged their own Olympics which was highly successful and enjoyed by all residencies and staff. The atmosphere of genuine competitiveness was refreshing with no gang related incidents occurring.

7.6 Muslim Prisoners who took part in Ramadan collected £762 for their chosen charity UMRA a Charity for famine relief in villages in Northern India - this is considered to be most commendable.

7.7 Mobile phone detectors were introduced and detected 420 hits in one weekend. The Board is pleased to hear that mobile phone finds are referred to the Police where charges are laid under the Prison Act.

7.8 Staff sickness has been a major concern to the Board. F & S followed by Benchmarking with VED's will create uncertainty, low moral, discontentment and a lack of ownership.

7.9 Cell searching is wing staff responsibility and there is concern that this would not be undertaken thoroughly due to competing pressures.

8. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Partnership NHS Trust continues to provide healthcare services at Brinsford.

8.1 General Practitioner services are provided on a contract basis and includes an out of hours service. Dentists, opticians, psychiatrists and psychologists are also provided. Trust Nurse led clinics are provided in areas such as sexual health, behavioral therapy, and drug rehabilitation.

Every young adult is seen by a nurse on arrival at Brinsford and this is followed up with a more rigorous assessment of needs the following day.

8.2 Outpatient facilities are good since they were significantly upgraded by a grant from the Kings Fund in 2011. However, because of staffing shortfalls there has been a problem during the year because there is no specified prison staff allocation to in-patient Healthcare. This has meant that the patients have been late for appointments because of a lack of escort. This matter is being addressed and it is anticipated that the situation will improve. Those waiting for appointments are well supervised and the administration of the process appears efficient.

8.3 The inpatients department continues to be very busy. Most inpatients are there for clinical reasons including both physical illness, but largely mental health issues. There are however a significant number that are there for non-clinical reasons, such as personality disorders which result in behavioral and anger management and safety issues where YA's are too vulnerable to remain on the main Residential Wings.

8.4 There are concerns that inpatients do not have their entitlement to exercise on occasions. This is again related to a shortage of staff to unlock dangerous or vulnerable young adults. There is a dispute between health care providers and the Prison about the provision of discipline staff which has yet to be resolved. The patients that require a three person unlock seem to be most affected.

A Constant Watch regime is in place for patients deemed to be in need due to their deteriorating mental health and the potential for significant self harm. The process has worked well even though it remains expensive of prison staff time. This is usually a Prison Officer, but funding of this facility continues to be a management issue since the Prison staff feel this should be funded by the Health Care provider, whilst the latter refuse to accept this.

8.5 The healthcare unit is always kept clean by the prison orderlies and maintenance appears satisfactory. Whilst the Outpatient department was refurbished and upgraded at significant expense by the Kings Fund in 2011, some areas within the 'in patient areas' are in need of refurbishment.

8.6 The Board has had considerable concern about the apparent delays in transferring very vulnerable or severely mentally ill prisoners to establishments which are best suited to their needs.

The difficulty often seems to be the time it takes to refer a patient and if necessary arrange transfer to another institution for treatment. This results in prisoners being at Brinsford longer than they need be whilst they are awaiting assessment.

8.7 Healthcare at Brinsford is well run by a dedicated team of staff. In recent months the number of staff allocated to out patient care has increased to the detriment of in patient care which has reduced, with the result that whilst there is always one qualified nurse on duty within the in patient area, this can often result in the department being overstretched at night if an incident occurs on the Wings.

8.8 A member of the Healthcare team attends GOOD reviews and provides good background information about the prisoner if appropriate.

9 LEARNING AND SKILLS

Education has been an ongoing concern for the Board.

9.1 Following retendering, the contract with the Manchester College (MC) was awarded to The Milton Keynes College (MKC) who appeared to be progressive in their teaching programmes and future developments.

9.2 However, MKC have experienced significant problems in retention of academic and vocational tutors, and this has posed difficulty in maintaining the course programmes set out in the contract.

Shortly after taking up the contract MKC lost a significant number of teachers to a nearby private prison (HMP Oakwood,) which opened in October 2012. Thereafter, MKC has had ongoing issue of long term sickness. Failure to recruit specific vocational tutors to catering, plastering and carpentry which in turn has resulted in frequent cancellation of classes, or no vocational courses taking place. The lack of recruitment is believed to be due to the lack of suitable candidates, and the reluctance for candidates to work in the challenging environment of a YOI.

9.4 The contract that Milton Keynes College have with HMP Brinsford identifies 293 places for standard educational and vocational places, with a further 23 places for learners who are undertaking distance learning and Open University courses.

9.5 The shortfall of qualified staff within the Education department has resulted in MKC being unable to satisfy their contractual obligation of 80% attendance. During the reporting period between 65/68% of places were satisfied.

9.6 Many YA's refuse to attend their allocated courses. The reason for this is the nature of the courses available and the lack of work placements within Brinsford. There are only 100 paid jobs available. Many of the YA's will only attend education if it results in work which will generate an income or if it will give them opportunities for work following release. Without these incentives, many YA's refuse to comply and, therefore will simply remain on the Wings.

9.7 Many YA consider that they should not be required to undertake literacy and numeracy, but be given opportunities for vocational training in areas of brick laying, basic mechanics, painting and decorating, horticulture, industrial cleaning and catering. Never the less numeracy and literacy could be incorporated into the learning process.

All areas within the education department is well placed to provide a large range of vocational courses, but because of the lack of relevant tutors the well equipped workshops currently available at Brinsford lie empty and idle.

The only way to prevent refusals is to implement the robust IEP system Brinsford has, and/or move the emphasis away from 'education' and towards 'training'.

9.8 Toe by Toe (TBT) - For those YA's who do wish to improve their literacy skills there is (TBT) a reading programme run by the Shannon Trust which continues to be delivered via an unofficial arrangements with MKC.

Regrettably, MKC is finding it increasingly difficult to provide for this service. Notwithstanding this, the service continues and has been significantly successful for some 40 prisoners, 15 of whom have been retained as mentors and have proven themselves to be invaluable.

9.9 Access to the library has been brought to the attention of the Independent Monitoring Board fairly frequently by both staff and the young adults, and has been raised as a long-term issue. The previously designated Officer to carry out this duty have been relocated, with the result that YA have difficulty in accessing reading materials.

However, a newly retired officer, recognising the need to maintain access to the 'Storybook Dads' programme, an extremely popular facility, has volunteered his time to support this programme. Notwithstanding this the library facilities at Brinsford are underused, yet again causing disengagement and a lack of motivation from the young adults.

9.10 The Governor has been working alongside Education staff in an attempt to resolve allocation issues and that these and other management problems can be resolved.

10. SAFER PRISONS

This Unit still incorporates Safety and Suicide Prevention.

10.1 Meetings are held monthly and when possible are attended by a representative from the Listeners Group who liaise with Samaritans to identify and resolve fundamental issues.

10.2 Multi-disciplinary attendance at reviews and post closure reviews are all being completed within time scale.

10.3 There is concern that listeners are not being used as often as they are requested or required. This is due to an issue of unlocking and escorting the Listener to the YA. This causes a security issue. Listeners used to be available on the Wings and this area of shortfall needs to be addressed.

10.4 The prison complies with the requirements of Suicide Preventions and the implementation of ACCT Documents and incident of self harm.

10.5 There continues to be improvements in the monitoring of the ACCT documentation during the reporting period and in the contents as ongoing training has made officer aware of the importance of this documentation and the safe observation and support of vulnerable prisoners.

10.6 Listeners working closely with the Samaritans, and working to a specified Rota can be called upon at any time during the 24 hour period to offer support and help any prisoner. This support and commitment by the Listeners' is appreciated by prisoners and prison staff alike.

10.7 The Board continues to be impressed by the caring and dedicated attitude of all the staff involved in this area despite the increasing difficulties they have to manage the service due to shortage of staff following the 'Fair and Sustainable' programme of management and manpower changes.

11. SEGREGATION UNIT (IAU)

11.1 The Segregation Unit provides a clean and safe environment for offenders under punishment held under rule 45/49

11.2. There are 16 standard segregation cells, and 2 Special accommodation cells (quiet rooms) only 11 of the cells are equipped with in cell electrics. The living conditions are reasonable and efforts are made to maintain them to an acceptable standard. However, because of the difficulties experienced with prisoners housed in this area, cells are frequently abused and damaged by prisoners, with the result that the cells are both tired and worn, and in constant need of minor repairs to make them habitable.

The facilities overall provide a safe and secure environment for YA's. In cell TVs are not made available to YA's held in the IAU other than in exceptional circumstances.

11.3 The duty Board member attends the IAU and will meet with all YA allocated to the unit within the previous 72 hours.

11.4 Good Order and Disciplinary Reviews (GOODs) are carried out twice weekly and chaired by a Governor. Reviews are always attended by the IMB member on rota.

Where appropriate the Officers give the Board member the opportunity to review previous documentation, and the opportunity to express their views with the relevant attending Governor.

The Board is impressed with the openness, fairness and sufficient depth in which the Reviews are conducted and the means by which the attending Governor seeks to gain compliance and interaction with the YA during frank and open discussions.

The Board however are concerned with the lack of continuity of Officers with specialist experience of this area.

Healthcare staff attend the Reviews. However, Education no longer allocate staff to attend these meetings because of a funding shortfall, although Education support staff attend the IAU to supervise education, or give the YA's assistance in obtaining books and reading material and other activities to keep them occupied.

11.5 Adjudications continue to increase in numbers during the reporting period and are carried out daily where applicable. An outside Judge visits at least 4 weekly. Unfortunately, the penalty applied by the Judge are specifically 'added days' which to all intents and purposes have little effect on the YA, whereas, the penalties applied by Governors is based upon loss of privileges which the YAs see as having a more punitive effect.

11.6 All offences of violence towards other YA's or prison officers are considered to be very serious and are referred to the Judge.

11.7 There continues to be a number of incidents requiring active intervention by Prison staff to resolve. However, Prison staff would prefer to deal with challenging incidents by use of de-escalation techniques but have no hesitation if the need arises to employ 'use of force'.

11.8 Reintegration of prisoners to normal locations continues to be proactive. However, in a small number of cases the Board will note and monitor YA's who spend protracted periods of time in IAU. In rare cases this can be up to 6 weeks in the Unit which gives cause for concern to both the Officers and the Board as there is concern that this will inevitably impact on the morale and general health of the offender. Despite concerted efforts by Prison staff, there are some YA's who refuse to leave the IAU, citing safer custody issues, or in order to move to another establishment. Alternatively, some YA's simply prefer the structured, supportive regime they enjoy on IAU but in all these situations, although difficult, are dealt with sensitivity but firmness and eventual imposition of penalties.

11.9 When it becomes evident that a YA needs to be moved to another establishment, the decision is based upon the YA safety and not as a result of repetitive bad behaviour. In all instances the Prison does all it can to ensure that in these instances the process is dealt with sensitively but firmly.

11.10 Whilst the unit is profiled to be staffed by a dedicated team of officers, this is not always possible, particularly since the cutback of SO grade. However, the Officers continue to be respectful and caring towards even the most difficult of their charges.

11.11 The Segregation Unit has two outside exercise areas, although only one area is used. Regrettably, because of cutbacks in staff, opportunities for exercise and association is limited.

12. DIVERSITY AND RACE EQUALITY

Equality and Inclusion

12.1 All issues relating to equality and inclusion are regarded as the direct responsibility of all staff in the prison, however, there is a designated uniform officer assisted by a member of non uniform staff who leads in this area. There are planned regular monthly meetings and during these the designated officer should be able to oversee all aspects of:

- diversity
- disabilities
- sexuality and gender issues
- race/religion equality issues
- and foreign national prisoners

12.2 The meetings should be attended by prisoner representatives (5), the Governor or their representative, staff from the various prison units, the religious team and IMB.

12.3 The Board have concerns that these meetings are not taking place as frequently as planned. The meetings were re-scheduled recently to take place every two months but it appears that due to staff shortages (possibly exacerbated by sickness and resignations) and the movement of the non uniform clerk even this has not led to meetings taking place. As a result there appears to be limited time for the designated officer to complete their role.

12.4 In the past meetings were always well organized and informative. Often there were visitors from other agencies who were able to give advice and information which was linked to other officers giving training and updates to the central team for dissemination further to others.

The Board believes that all staff behave professionally and there is no direct evidence of racial disharmony.

12.5 The Board does feel there is need for a full time, dedicated officer to provide clear pathways to improve communication with regard to equality, undertake investigations, to identify and deal with problem issues for individuals and groups and to ensure that all prisoners feel that they are treated with recognized respect with their varying needs addressed.

The designated officer would also be able to:

- Identify prisoners in all protected groups as part of the admission procedures
- Monitor the data gained through SMART and DIRFS
- Analyze complaints to identify areas of concern.

White British 304 (54.48%)	White Irish 5 (0.89%)	Any other background 6 (1.07%)	
Mixed white & Black Caribbean 40 (7.16%)	Mixed White & black African 2 (0.35%)	Mixed white & Asian 3 (0.53%)	Any other mixed 6 (1.07%)
Asian Indian 19 (3.40%)	Asian Pakistani 44 (7.8%)	Asian Bangladeshi 7 (1.25%)	Any other Asian 15 (2.68%)
Black Caribbean 54 (9.67%)	Black African 15 (2.68%)	Asian 2 (0.35%)	Any other background 5 (0.89%)
Chinese 2 (0.35%)	Any other ethnic Group 4 (0.71%)	Not stated 25 (4.98%)	

13. SECURITY AND DRUGS

This is one of the most important of departments of the prison, where not only the officers working within the department but all personnel working elsewhere in the prison must be committed.

13.1 During the reporting period this department has experienced a considerable number of staff changes and has also operated with a reduced number of administration staff.

13.2 Mobile Phones and Drugs are a continual problem, although towards the end of the reporting period there were less packages being thrown over the fence. The other main point of entry must be visits, where there has been lack of use of the CCTV due to technical issues and with no designated staff available to operate the equipment due to reduced staffing levels.

13.3 Cell Searching, which is carried out by wing staff, has been a problem, and at times has been more focused on meeting targets. Towards the end of the reporting period this has improved resulting in the target being met. Intelligence based searches taking place at unexpected times, assisted where possible by the dog teams, has resulted in a number of mobile phone and drug finds.

13.4 Cell Fires are an area of considerable concern. It is felt that with the age group at Brinsford (18-21 years of age) the YA's do not appreciate the risk involved when starting fires, not only to themselves, other prisoners, but also to the officers, who do an excellent job in dealing with these situations arise by their prompt action and the saving of lives. During the reporting period there have been a total of 48 fires, the majority of which required the attendance of the fire service.

It is of interest to note that cases are now being referred to the police in the hope of legal action being taken in an effort to deter other prisoners from resorting to the same behavior.

13.5 Following the introduction of the biometric key recognition system, a tracker system for radios has now been introduced

13.6 Volumetric control with prisoners having an excess amount of canteen has been a long term concern of the Board and hampers searching of cells. This is now being robustly addressed and a protocol introduced revising the volumetric control policy.

13.7 SIRs. have again increased dramatically during the reporting period, which is encouraging. The principals of dynamic security are in place and good prisoner - officer relationships help to promote this. Officers are now more confident in reporting minor issues which can be part of a larger picture.

13.8 CCTV coverage has now been extended to the Chapel and most of the Education areas. This has been a considerable asset in adjudications.

13.9 Fire Safety training for all officers was completed during the reporting period. With the age group at Brinsford they do not appreciate the high risk involved to themselves and others by starting fires which happen on a regular bases, with up to 4 a month, requiring the fire service being regularly called out. The Board were heartened to learn that an offense of arson within the prison was viewed very seriously by Crown Court, with the judge imposing a sentence of 11 years.

13.10 Mobile Phones are a constant concern, with packages, in various disguises constantly being thrown over the perimeter fence as one form of entry. It has been known for these packages to contain up to 4 mobile phones with chargers etc.

13.11 Serious Incident exercises have taken place with lessons to be learnt each time. The Board has expressed concern at each exercise in the failure to be called to enable members to train and practice their roll. This failure was brought to the attention of management after the first exercise, but was repeated at the subsequent exercise, although 4 Board Members were on standby within the establishment. This is disappointing as our profile within the prison is good.

14. RESETTLEMENT

Staff reductions in all areas of the gaol have resulted in less input into the progress towards successful resettlement of inmates. This has affected the use of ROTL but there is more positive use of Red Bands.

Courses available for those who should be able to acquire a skill such as bricklaying or plastering are frequently not available due to the difficulty in recruiting suitable staff. Good facilities are standing idle while inmates sit behind their doors watching television. Those who are able to access these courses prove to be capable and enthusiastic.

Education has similar problems with suitable staff. Many classes have been cancelled due to lack of teaching staff. Inmates find themselves unable to progress from one course to the next level.

The use of offending behaviour programmes is patchy and the Board would like to see more positive intervention to address e.g. bullying.

Agencies involved in helping inmates to make a successful transition when they leave Brinsford are

NACRO
CAB
Trailblazers.

The Probation Service in the community is stretched and can offer only limited support to those released from prison. It is essential that as much as possible is achieved while offenders are within Brinsford.

15. VISITS AND VISITS CENTRE

Visitors arriving at Brinsford are processed efficiently by the staff in the visits centre, all work as volunteers for HAILO. The visitors centre is falling into disrepair and is looking rundown and in need of refurbishment, with replacement furniture.

15.1 CCTV is present in the visitors centre, but it is confined to the area immediately in front of the reception. In view of the possible security issues, the Board feels the CCTV facility should be extended to show all the seating areas.

The Visits reception is at times understaffed, frequently only having 2 officers on duty to process and search visitors. This slows down the process and there is concern that checks are not undertaken fully. Because of the potential delay this in turn delays the start of the visits time. The Officers in the Visitors Hall try to accommodate this by allowing the visit to run the full two hours but this inevitably results in a delay in returning the prisoners to the wings.

15.2 Following processing, the visitors are called to main building in small groups. At times there is only 1 Officer on duty to accompany visitors from Reception to the Visitors Hall.

If a drug detection dog is available, there is often a shortfall in female officers resulting in women and children not being able to undertake further searches.

The Visitors Hall can accommodate approximately 55 prisoners with their families, and operates five days per week with a visit lasting up to two hours. There is a facility for 4 closed visits.

Refreshments are available from a well used snack bar, but there continues to be no crèche facilities due to inadequate accommodation within the visits hall. There needs to be significant alterations to provide this service, however, refurbishing plans have been on hold for a considerable period of time and are the result of budgetary cutbacks.

15.3 The failure to supervise the children can of itself create issues of security, with parents having to supervise their children at the visiting table and where children mingle amongst other prisoners and their families.

The snack bar is well used and much appreciated.

Whilst there are CCTV facilities within the Visitors Hall, they are not staffed. The CCTV is facilitated by a constant loop process whilst visiting takes place but they are not reviewed on a daily basis and will only be referred to if it is thought a breach of security has occurred

16. KITCHEN

Brinsford has been working on a budget of £1.98 per prisoner per day. This figure is below the benchmark of £2.10.

16.1 Working within this budget the staff continue to investigate ways in which they can provide a nourishing diet for healthy, growing young men, some of whom because of their age have not reached full physical maturity.

Within this budget, the staff provide a wide variation of foods which meet the needs of all with specific dietary requirements, whether this is due to health, ethnic or religious diversity.

16.2 Prisoners working the kitchen work alongside and are supervised by civilian staff. The prisoners were previously being trained for NVQ at Levels I and II qualifications this however has been suspended due to the absence of a qualified Tutor within Education.

16.3 This is very regrettable since a recently released YA benefited from the support and encouragement given him whilst he was training for his NVQ Levels I and II and whilst in Brinsford. He was successful in applying for and gaining a place at the Jamie Oliver Academy 15. It is hoped that there can be a reappointment of NVQ Catering Tutor in the near future to support other candidates and enable them to gaining suitable employment following their release.

16.4 There is continued concern about the deteriorating equipment which due to its age and the shortfall in replacement budgets are susceptible to failure. Much of the equipment ie ovens, fans, catering fryers are at the end of their productive life and inevitably will breakdown rendering the catering department unable to provide food for the YA's as efficiently. Much effort has been made by Catering staff to sustain the service but without rigorous planned maintenance and replacement of equipment in the near future the outcome will be a breakdown in service. This will be the second year in which applications for funding have been made for replacement of equipment. To date no successful outcome has been achieved.

17. FARMS AND GARDENS

17.1 This is a very robust and productive environment in which a number of the prisoners not only find work but have a good training with a supportive network within a department intended to provide them with work experience following their release from Brinsford.

17.2 Apart from the horticultural and agricultural involvement, there is a developing process of waste management. This area of work experience is becoming increasingly significant in providing prisoners with another area upon which they can develop skills which will improve their future prospects for employment following release. It is hoped that a recognised NVQ I, II, & III qualifications will be introduced in the near future if funding and a suitably qualified vocational tutor can be recruited.

17.3 At the time of reporting, there has been discussions with an outside organisation to develop the current recycling facility at Brinsford. Whilst these negotiations are at early stage, it is hopeful that there will be a development of this service in the near future.

18. PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Brinsford has comprehensive facilities within both the prison buildings and the outside area. There is a multi-functional Hall, 2 Weight and CV Training rooms and an outside area consisting of grass and Astro turf pitches. During the reporting period the Astro Turf has been greatly improved. Much of the groundwork has been undertaken by the prisoners under the supervision of the Grounds Staff.

Staffing levels have remained unchanged, however, there has been ongoing S.M.T changes. The use of the Gym and Pitches has dropped significantly because PEO staff are being used on the Wings because of the frequent shortfall in Wing Staff available to bring the prisoners down for exercise sessions.

Rugby and Football is still played within a local league.

Health and Safety plus First Aid courses are being run, but far more education could be done if the funds were made available.

During the reporting period, there has been provision of new kit, however, there is still an ongoing problem related to Laundry which is undertaken at Drake Hall.

In August the prison ran a 3 day Olympic Style event including Olympic sports previously not undertaken within the sports area. These were very popular and enjoyed by participants and observers.

Despite all the changes that have happened within the prison service and will continue to take place, the staff remain conscientious in the delivery of a high standard of service and continue to have a positive and supportive attitude.