



HMP CAMPHILL
CLOSURE REPORT
2013

Annual Report on Camphill, including Closure

THE ATTACHED REPORT COMPRISES TWO PARTS. THE FIRST SECTION WAS WRITTEN IN JANUARY 2013 PRIOR TO THE CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE SECOND REFERS TO THE ACTUAL CLOSURE OF CAMPHILL

Report on the final Year of Camphill, being one of three sites comprising HMP Isle of Wight.

Risk Management Meetings

Held on each site every month to bring together information on prisoners who are subject to MAPPA monitoring from new receptions through risks identified during custody and approaching release. Probation department lead with the Public Protection Unit and Offender Management liaising with community Probation Services, Police and Social Services. With consideration given to where these prisoners will be living on release.

The meetings are highly professional and demonstrate considerable care and attention to detail.

From 2013 it is planned to have one meeting a month to cover all 3 sites.

Resettlement

Most work on Resettlement is done at the Camp Hill department as there are a greater number of prisoners released from that site. The officers work with other areas of the prison to reduce reoffending and promote rehabilitation covering the **Resettlement 7 Pathways**

Accommodation: Education: Training & Employment: Mental & Physical Health: Drugs & Alcohol: Finance, Benefit & Debt: Childcare & Families of Offenders: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour.

Changes and initiatives in 2012:

Employment

ROTL - There has been considerable work done to identify employment opportunities within the local community for Camp Hill prisoners on day release. By the end of the a year number of establishments had agreed to take on a prisoner and a position at UKSA (United Kingdom Sailing Academy) was filled. Progress was slow – this is a new initiative on the Isle of Wight - some prisoners were turned down by security and one was transferred to a Cat D establishment before he could take up the post.

SERCO – Since the end of September a SERCO representative has been working in Resettlement delivering Job Deal. A "through-the-gate" service Job Deal continues to support offenders after they have been released from custody. Prisoners education and employment needs are identified and on release locally or to the London area they are helped into work and mentored. Mentoring in Hampshire is by City Limits.

Finance and Debt Advice

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) were in all sites at the beginning of the year offering advice on financial matters, benefit issues and debt problems. They also delivered the

Unlock Course (finance) in Parkhurst and Albany. Funding for CAB was lost by September but the prison covered this till the end of 2012.
Unlock course is delivered by the Peer Support workers (prisoners) in Camp Hill.

Family

The highly successful Story Book Dads has continued in Camp Hill over the year with the stories recorded in the Resettlement department and organised by the OSG. 60 Christmas stories were recorded. Story Book Dad videos are being investigated. Posters detailing what Resettlement has to offer are now displayed in the wings and Visits Centres helping to keep prisoners and families informed.

**Concerns – From April 2013 the number of Officers working in Resettlement is to be reduced which means that a number of initiatives will not continue.
Uncertainty over delivering courses on financial planning without CAB.**

Commend – The introduction of SERCO Job Deal in Camp Hill as part of the government's strategy for rehabilitation of offenders and crime reduction.

Closure

From before the time of the amalgamation of Parkhurst, Albany and Camphill, all associated with the prisons were expecting change after amalgamation. Two new Governors in 4 years, each with a different style of achieving externally imposed aims and targets, caused stakeholders to feel insecure and unsettled. One collaboratively “shared the vision” the other worked in a more autocratic style.

There was an impression that, post amalgamation, the “new” HMP Isle of Wight might become a prison specialising in Sex Offenders. It was felt that this would fill a national need and help secure its future. There was also a suspicion that Albany, in view of the condition of some areas, might be closed. It came as a complete surprise to most that Camphill was selected for closure.

The governor was informed early one morning. Staff were discovering the news as friends at home heard of it on the news and telephoned into the prison. The Governor, in post for only one week, instantly called meetings to give more detail to concerned employees. Unfortunately he was not able to give much more than was already in the public domain, apart from the Camphill site would be vacated within 3 months.

Impact on staff

Librarians and education staff employed in Camphill were made redundant. Other staff were made aware that any cuts in numbers would be across all sites and not just Camphill. Some employees who had “seen this coming” and had sought posts in Parkhurst and Albany, were somewhat taken aback. During the consultation period on redeployment/redundancy/VEDs etc morale was low across all three sites. Would those that wanted to remain employed still have jobs? Would those wishing to transfer to other prisons be able to? Would those seeking early retirement/redundancy be offered this at an acceptable figure? None of the answers were readily available. It was only in May that firm offers were finally completed. Management tried to

reassure staff that it might be possible to find the necessary reduction in numbers without recourse to compulsory redundancy. However, as IMB members attended the prison, low morale, at all grades was prevalent. Officers felt that decisions were being made, of which they were unaware, and outside of their control. This was in spite of frequent updates on progress from Senior Management.

A “Head of Closure Planning” was appointed. The Governor in charge of the site, including its closure and decommissioning, led a dedicated team in managing the removal of prisoners and clearance of wings and offices. The latter met daily with his team and had an open and collaborative approach to the difficult task. His methods ensured that all members of his team felt informed, valued and involved.

Deadlines were met and the “march-out” and handing over the site to the MoJ took place on 19th April 2013

204 posts were lost.

23.5 Full-time staff transferred to other establishments.

No staff took early retirement.

No forced redundancies.

As at August 5th 2013 no outstanding VEDs applications

Affect on Prisoners.

Some prisoners saw this as a way of receiving long-sought- after transfers back to the Mainland. Others were fearful of being re-located as they had become accustomed to staff and routines at Camphill. They felt secure there, and did not want to move. As wings were closed, on a well planned programme, remaining prisoners were relocated within Camphill. This caused some problems as prisoners who needed to be kept apart might suddenly be sharing a wing. The team managing the contraction spent much time at the daily meeting looking at, and trying to meet, the needs of individual prisoners. This was achieved successfully. The aim was to transfer prisoners to their home areas.

There was also the risk of prisoners calling in debts from others before being separated. This risk was also well managed. As a result of the sensitive way in which these issues were dealt with, no prisoner was forcibly removed from a wing nor from the prison

Reception staff were reinforced and established systems to cope with the increased, urgent demands as 20 or so prisoners a day, left Camphill.

The last prisoner left Camphill at 0900 on 8 March. A local discharge, he was escorted through the gate by the leader of the closure team and the SO from Reception. The prisoner requested the privilege of being the one to finally ‘turn the Light out’.

A Few Facts and Figures

Transferred 467 prisoners to 15 different Establishments, in 40 days

In almost all cases, prisoners were transferred to an Establishment in their home area.

Shredded 14.436 Tonnes of paper/documents (figure provided by Security Shred-it).

The recycling of 14.436 Tonnes of paper saved 90 trees. (Figures from Security Shred-it).

Almost 4000 files have been methodically worked on, verified, logged, boxed and transported.

Sorted and verified every sheet through all the records of offenders released from Camp Hill; they dated from 2006 to present. This numbered over 2,800 records.

Each offender was checked via IIS and C-NOMIS.

The removal of all records transported for storage filled a large articulated lorry.

Over 600 Security/Programme files that had been re-filed were sent onto new establishments.

Stripped and cleaned every wing and every building, Chapel and Workshop of several 1000 items and either re-distributed, refurbished, or stored them.