



**The Independent Monitoring
Board**

HMP DARTMOOR

ANNUAL REPORT

2011

1 OCTOBER 2010 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

CONTENTS	Page
Section 1. Statutory Role of the IMB Diversity Statement	3
Section 2. Description of the prison	4
Section 3: Executive Summary	
3.1 Issues for the Minister	5
3.2 Issues for the Prison Service (NOMS)	5
3.3 Issues for the Governor	6
3.4 Overall Judgement	8
3.5 ADDENDUM	9
Section 4: Areas that must be reported on	
4.1 Equality and Diversity	9
4.2 Healthcare	13
4.3 Learning and Skills	16
4.4 Safer Custody	19
4.5 Separation Care and Control Unit	20
Section 5: Reports on Other Areas	
5.1 OMU	22
5.2 Reducing re-offending	23
5.3 Preparation for release	24
5.4 Inductions	26
5.5 Visits	26
5.6 Partnership Working	27
5.7 Gymnasium	28
5.8 Catering	28
5.9 Prisoners' Council	29
5.10 Chaplaincy Team	29
5.11 Security	29
5.12 Transport	30
Section 6. Work of the Board	
Report on work of the Board	31
IMB Statistics	32
Analysis of Applications	33

SECTION 1: STATUTORY ROLE of the IMB

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:

- 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.

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.

Equality and Diversity Statement

Dartmoor IMB will not discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone with protected characteristics in recruitment, in the treatment of members, and in the way we monitor the treatment of people in custody. Protected characteristics are disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race including ethnic or national origin and nationality, religion or belief, age marriage and civil partnership, sex and sexual orientation.

We aim to value diversity by respecting people from different backgrounds, and by recognising that their different experiences, skills and requirements enhance the Board's ability to monitor fairness and interaction between prisoners, detainees, staff and visitors.

SECTION 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON & FACILITIES

HMP Dartmoor is a Category C Training prison for adult male prisoners. It is situated in Princetown on the western edge of Dartmoor National Park, eight miles from Tavistock, and sixteen from Plymouth City and the nearest railway station.

The prison building is leased from the Duchy and the Prison Service is responsible for the upkeep of the buildings. This arrangement inevitably adds to the high unit costs of prisoner placements in this establishment.

Following the closure of B Wing for major repairs, the operational capacity of the prison for the current year has been 514. The Certified Normal Operational Capacity is 634, and plans are being implemented to increase the population now work has been completed.

Five of the seven wings are in current use. However F and G wings, the vulnerable prisoner unit (VPU), is in need of urgent roof repairs, but so far the request for funding has been turned down. The Resettlement Unit (RSU) offers a quality environment and particularly successful at achieving the aims of a Cat C training prison.

The Separation Care and Control Unit (SCCU) is in good condition and can hold eight prisoners. It is located in a separate building which also houses the main health suite, offender manager offices and other support services.

Education classrooms and workshops are scattered around the prison in a variety of old buildings and portacabins. There are access problems for those prisoners with mobility problems. The Gym is well-equipped and well-used, but regrettably funds for outside sports facilities continue to be turned down by NOMS. The garden work force continues to work hard to maintain prison gardens, and improve the external environment of the prison.

Food is prepared in a well-equipped kitchen and served on the wings. Prisoners eat their meals in their cells. Few cells have screens by the WC and concerns about replacements for broken WC seats, and lack of curtains in shared cells are ongoing.

The Chapel is the centre for many group activities across the establishment. The Multi-Faith Centre has separate accommodation and is well used.

The Family Visitors' Centre is located outside the prison walls and offers refreshment, advice and support. The Visits Room within the prison has good play equipment for younger children.

Asbestos has been found in the Laundry, the old Boiler House and several roof voids. Removal is underway.

SECTION 3: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 Policy matters on which a reply is sought from the Minister

- There has been no increase in resources to enable Indeterminate Public Protection Prisoners (IPP) and prisoners with life sentences to achieve their sentence plans and prepare for release. (5.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.4)
- There is a need for ongoing investment in maintenance and repair of the buildings at HMP Dartmoor (2, 4.1)
- The recommendations of the Bradley Report should be implemented in order to meet the needs of prisoners with mental health needs or learning disabilities. (4.2.2)
- The effects on Voluntary Organisations of recession, cuts to prison budgets and fewer local or central government grants, are impacting on their ability to work in partnership with the prison to reduce re-offending. (4.12, 5.3.3)
- Cuts to the budget of the IMB at Dartmoor will impact on the extent and effectiveness of our monitoring.

3.2 Operational matters requiring a response from The National Offender Management Service

- The frequent changes of Governing Governor over the last four years have failed to provide stability, direction and a role for the prison.
- There are unacceptable delays for those prisoners who have been granted release by the Parole Board, to obtain places in the open estate. (5.1.4.)
- It appears difficult for prisoners to transfer to another establishment in order to take courses prescribed in their sentence plan. (5.1.4)
- There does not appear to be a proper, transparent and coordinated system to manage movement of difficult prisoners who have spent long periods in segregation. (4.5)
- There is now no recognised provision of one-to-one interventions or other counselling for prisoners and this does not appear to be included in the Contract set by the Commissioning Primary Care Trust". (4.2.2)
- There is a shortfall in provision for support and treatment for prisoners with alcohol addiction. (5.3.2)
- There are continuing concerns about the safe management of IDTS. (4.2.3, 5.11)
- There are continuing concerns about the contract specification for Learning and Skills and how providers are held to account. (4.3.1)
- It does not appear that money saved by closure of health care beds has been invested to support staff managing prisoners with health care needs on the wings. (4.2.3)
- There does not appear to be a NOMS strategy for future management of social care for prisoners. (4.2.2)

3.3 Issues for the Governor

- As raised last year, there are continuing problems with inconsistent attendance at multi-disciplinary meetings and poor sharing of information.
- The Offender Management Unit continues to work under pressure from staffing shortages.
- Too many prisoners who are IPP, or on life sentences, are over their tariff.
- There now appears to be no access to counselling and other one to one interventions.
- There is a continuing need for accurate data on numbers of prisoners accessing full or /part time work and other programmes/activities.
- There appears to be a need for clearer planning to meet the learning and skills' needs of prisoners
- There appears to be no plan to replace the housing advice services that have been provided by the St Giles Trust who gave notice three months ago.
- There is a need for more work places for prisoners

The Board is concerned that:

- HMP Dartmoor has had three Governing Governors this reporting year and is disappointed that, as a result, there has been a lack of consistent leadership.
- The introduction of the Specification Benchmarking Costings (SBC) exercise has brought changes to the staff profile that appear to have a negative impact on the rehabilitation regime and this will effect the quality of life of prisoners.
- The Personal Officer scheme no longer exists.
- Violent incidents, the use of control and restraint, instances of self harm and the number of prisoners on ACCTS (Assessment Care in Custody and Teamwork) have increased significantly since April 2011, following a period of improvement.
- The identification of prisoners with learning disabilities or difficulties, their support and education has remained under- developed.
- There are continuing staffing shortages in Health Care, resulting in heavy reliance on agency staff, particularly in the delivery of Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), and additional safety issues in IDTS.

- There has been a failure to replace staff delivering bereavement counselling and other one-to-one work with prisoners.
- Prisoners granted releases by their parole board have had to wait long periods for a place in the open estate.
- Much of the work to address access problems identified by the Independent Disability Assessment is still to be carried out.
- The majority of education classrooms and workshops for prisoners on VPU are not accessible to those with mobility problems. Adapted sessions are available in the gym but there is no internal access for those in wheelchairs.
- Outside voluntary agencies, Fata He, St Giles Trust and PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) in particular have reduced or withdrawn their services due to funding problems.
- Some important multi-disciplinary meetings have not been attended consistently by key staff (uniformed, managerial or contracted staff). This has hampered the sharing of critical information and good communication.
- The issue of staff escorting prisoners from the Wings to the Library at weekends needs to be resolved
- The IMB was not able to fulfil its proper role when refused access to the scene of two serious incidents (neither of which were hostage situations).
- Despite frequent requests, the IMB has not received a copy of the current Business Plan, and considers that HMP Dartmoor lacks a clear purpose and vision for the future.
- Poor communication with the Governing Governor in post from April to September failed to provide adequate answers to many of the Board's questions and, despite repeated requests, we were not given a copy of the Business Plan.
- We only learned of the Governing Governor's departure in September from rumours among the staff.

The Board is pleased to record:

- The nationally recognised work of the Social Inclusion Officer in establishing, in partnership with other agencies, the Diversity Centre for older prisoners and those with disabilities.
- The skills of many staff in managing challenging prisoners and those with mental health issues, special needs and those who self harm.
- Consistently excellent professional standards by the C and R Teams during planned removals
- The courage shown by Officers on the Wings when facing hostile and volatile situations and their skills in de-escalation.
- The emphasis on increasing prisoners' attendance at work and education.
- The care provided by staff on the Wings, together with Health Care and other professional agencies, for those prisoners who are terminally ill or seriously disabled.
- Those prisoners who provide services to other prisoners especially Listeners, Buddies and other mentors.
- Excellent team work by the Foreign National Officer and the Chaplaincy in arranging work and accommodation for a prisoner deported to South Africa.
- The staff who kept the prison running in very bad weather for the second winter in succession
- The improvements in Health Care in managing waiting lists, provision of regular clinics and better attendance at hospital appointments.
- The continuing success of the Story Book Dads project.
- The considerable work of the Chaplaincy Multidisciplinary Team to support prisoners, families and staff despite being without a co-ordinating Chaplain in post for five months

3.4 Overall Judgment

At the start of the reporting year, despite a continuing IT investigation involving a number of staff, the IMB observed an emphasis on improving operational practice as originally identified by HMCIP. The IMB considered HMP Dartmoor to be a safe prison, with low levels of violence and indiscipline, drugs, and incidents of self-harm.

However in early summer there was an increase in violent incidents and indiscipline, damage to property and higher use of the Separation, Care and Control Unit. There was also an increase in self-harm, prisoners on ACCTS, and reports of bullying and intimidation.

While staff have demonstrated commitment to continual improvement, the changes in senior Governor grades in the last six months of the year, together with the implementation of the SBC re-profiling of staff, have impacted on the prison regime. The Board is concerned at the amount of time prisoners have been locked in their cells in recent weeks.

Whilst the IMB welcomes the recent emphasis on greater work and education, the challenges of an anticipated increased prisoner population, with greater numbers of vulnerable prisoners, will impact on current resources. More work places are already needed and it is essential that these provide work experience that will help prisoners gain employment on release. The IMB will continue to monitor the effects of such changes in the next reporting year and observe whether offenders continue to be held in safe custody, how many of them achieve their sentence plans and whether prisoners are prepared appropriately for release.

3.4 ADDENDUM

In the last two weeks of September an acting Governor was appointed who acted swiftly to implement plans to re-open B Wing. This will result in a substantial increase in the number of prisoners at HMP Dartmoor. The Board was pleased to hear that the Personal Officer Scheme is to be reintroduced and aspects of the new regime altered to reduce some of the extra time prisoners have been locked in their cells. HMP Dartmoor is facing a period of considerable change which staff now appear to embrace with some enthusiasm.

SECTION 4

4.1 EQUALITY and DIVERSITY

The Diversity Race & Equality Action Team (DREAT) meetings have been held bi-monthly and chaired by the Governor, but following the implementation in April 2011 of the Equality Act 2010, this meeting is now known as the Equality Action Team meeting. (EAT)

This meeting should have representation or reports from all principal areas in the prison, including prisoners' representation. However, attendance varies, and the IMB considers that this hinders the development of an holistic and co-operative approach to the management of diversity.

The EAT recently prepared an Action Plan which is being implemented, but work has yet to be completed on Equality Impact Assessments.

Challenge It / Change It training for staff has been offered regularly with on average good attendance by Senior Officers and Officers, contrasting with a much lower attendance from Health staff.

At the end of August 2011, a restructuring of the EAT team and Safer Custody brought these two work areas closer together under one overall manager. However, the IMB has raised concerns about the work load of the new Custody Care Manager.

4.1.2 Race

The work of the Race Equality Officer and the Foreign Nationals Officer has contributed to an increased understanding of race issues amongst staff. There has been an improving trend in ROTL (Release On Temporary Licence) for more Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) prisoners.

The IMB note the withdrawal, due to financial reasons, of the voluntary organisation Fata He which worked with BME prisoners. This organisation also helped promote better understanding of the needs of BME prisoners within the prison. As a result, there is now no external auditing of the Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRFS). To date, no progress has been made to arrange an alternative initiative.

4.1.3 Diversity Forums

These forums for the Wings meet quarterly and provide the opportunity for prisoners to raise with Wing reps issues of concern direct with management. The last full Diversity Forum was held in October 2010 and, following a presentation by RSU, there was an increase in applications by BME prisoners to this unit.

4.1.4 Foreign Nationals

HMP Dartmoor was identified as a prison for FNs in 2009. The prison invested considerable time and energy in gaining information and expertise in this area. This policy was changed in 2011 and HMP Dartmoor will now only hold those FN prisoners who are considered unsuitable for HMP The Verne.

There has been a regular meeting with UK Border Agency staff every three weeks, but it is not known if this will continue and how well the remaining FN prisoners who remain at HMP Dartmoor will be served by specialist agencies. The IMB will continue to monitor this aspect carefully. Cuts to Legal Aid have impacted on the number of solicitors willing to see FN prisoners.

Big Word translation services have been used 57 times between January and August 2010. It is available in Reception, Health Care and on the Wings. The IMB use the national IMB information induction leaflet in 11 languages, but

note that this is not available in Vietnamese and Polish and have brought this to the attention of the IMB National Council.

The Lead Officer for FNs and colleagues in the Diversity team have worked hard to support FN prisoners and to provide as good a service as possible under the changing circumstances. With a falling number of FN prisoners, it is a concern that some may experience difficulties with language, thus compounding their isolation and frustration at being placed so far South West, at arm's length from UK Border Agency Staff and Embassy contact.

One FN prisoner, well over his sentence date, was recently served deportation papers and returned to South Africa. Staff at HMP Dartmoor worked well to manage this difficult situation sensitively; in particular, it must be noted that the Chaplaincy team played a substantial role in offering support and assistance.

4.1.5 Religion and Belief

The newly-appointed full-time team leader for the Chaplaincy team is a welcome addition to the multi-faith Chaplaincy team, who work hard across all sectors of the prison to respond to the varying needs of prisoners.

Arrangements for Ramadan ran well this year, but no prisoner was cleared by Security to work in the Kitchen over this period on the preparation of food, a concern raised by Muslim prisoners at the EAT meeting.

The IMB is aware that Faith Awareness training is not always well attended and steps into the Multi-Faith room present an obstacle for those with mobility problems.

4.1.6 Sexual Orientation and Gender

This is the least developed strand of Equality in the prison. The SIO distributes information about Gay and Lesbians in Prison Service (GALIPS) and outside agencies for lesbian, gay and trans-gender (LGBT) prisoners, or staff, but there is no prisoner representation at the EAT meetings.

4.1.7 Older Prisoners

The number of prisoners over fifty years of age is the fastest growing in the prison estate.

4.1.8 The Diversity Centre

The development and organisation of this centre with its own day accommodation offering occupation and activities for prisoners over 50, is an example of best practice at HMP Dartmoor. The centre has developed in partnership with two voluntary sector organisations, Age UK, and RECOOP, who promote the Resettlement and Care of Older ex Offenders and Prisoners, supported by the drive and enthusiasm of the prisons Social Inclusion Officer (SIO).

This centre has a policy of full integration, so that prisoners from both the main prison and the VPU attend activities and education programmes together. The IMB would like to see this approach extended to other areas within the prison in order to promote the quality agenda.

In partnership with the Red Cross, a facility is planned to provide a wheelchair maintenance workshop for prisoners who cannot engage in mainstream work and who would otherwise, under the revised Wing regime implemented as part of SBC in August 2011, be spending increased time in their cells.

Adapted Gym sessions have been introduced for older prisoners, but access to the Gym for those with mobility problems remains a real challenge.

The Social Inclusion Officer has successfully developed many examples of good practice over the last few years which must place HMP Dartmoor at the fore-front of developments for this prisoner group.

4.1.9 Prisoners with Disabilities

Individual risk assessments and information on disability have improved greatly, with Wing staff demonstrating a better understanding of the needs of those with special needs. The SIO has worked hard to promote the idea that those with disabilities can and should take part fully in prison life.

The buildings do not encourage independence and the anticipated change of use of Wings at HMP Dartmoor, due to commence September 2011, will continue to be monitored closely by the IMB to ensure those with disabilities can participate fully in the prison regime.

The buddy system works well on the Wings by offering one-to-one support. an electric wheelchair and one that climbs steps.

The IMB is pleased to report that the previous problems of assisting prisoners using wheelchairs, is no longer an issue, as HMP Dartmoor has an electric wheelchair that can climb steps, together with wheelchair access in places.

Training on mental health issues is now offered, and although the IMB has seen an improvement in discussion on mental health issues in GOOD reviews, knowledge and awareness of prisoners who may have a learning difficulty remains a concern of the IMB.

4.2 HEALTHCARE & MENTAL HEALTH

4.2.1. Health

During this current year, the IMB has continued to observe at the Devon Prison Health Partnership Board (DPHPB). This Board has progressed in its understanding of the complexity of the health needs of prisoners; commissioners are questioning issues concerning clinical governance, audit, and the quality of the services provided. Regular reports on serious incidents and health care complaints are now agenda items, the latter averaging 20 complaints per month for HMP Dartmoor, primarily relating to medication.

Whilst consideration is now being given to the future integrated commissioning of both primary and secondary care, including related substance misuse services post 2013, the IMB at HMP Dartmoor continues to monitor closely the quality and responsiveness of health care to those prisoners in the VPU, the main prison and in SCCU, and the safety of the IDTS program, together with the health needs of Foreign Nationals.

Analysis of the weekly IMB rota reports for the Governor confirms that health care and issues associated with its provision, including staffing shortages and concerns about IDTS, are high concerns to the IMB.

The IMB noted the apparent lack of regular GP Friday cover at HMP Dartmoor during a specific week in June 2011.

Currently, the dental waiting period is 5 weeks. Further work is needed to bring the dental suite up to required clinical standards, but the PCT has this in hand. Interruptions to the Podiatry services have resulted in prisoners with problems having to wait, often in pain, for attention.

Prisoners are, however, attending out-patient appointments; clinics take place within the prison on a regular basis, dental sessions have a triage process in place, and the needs of terminally-ill prisoners are better managed on a multi-disciplinary partnership with community palliative care and social care professionals.

Pressure is still evident on the health care team which is heavily dependent on agency staff. There is also continuing uncertainty about staff arrangements for IDTS, and an increasing need to update skills to adapt to the national System One IT management information system, and the Primary Care Trust's (PCT) incident reporting system.

The anticipated inspection from the Care Quality Commission has not yet taken place but work progresses this autumn on the local health needs assessment to inform the PCT's commissioning exercise.

The demands on Healthcare to participate within the various initiatives under the Offender Management umbrella within the prison as a whole continues to

compromise Healthcare. Sadly, Healthcare's valued input is often minimal or missing in Safeguarding, Security, Safer Custody, Reducing Reoffending, ACCT reviews or Risk Management forums. In particular, data sharing remains less than satisfactory but this is critical for progressing sentence plans and preparation of the prisoner for a successful release.

Whilst a nurse lead for learning disabilities has been identified within the Cluster prisons, the post-holder has been able to offer only limited support to HMP Dartmoor. The regular identification and assessment of this group of prisoners remains a concern of the IMB.

The provision and availability of paracetamol has been reviewed. Prisoners can now purchase limited supplies of paracetamol from canteen. There has been concern that prescribed medication is changing hands amongst prisoners on the VPU where there is also concern about bullying. These issues are known to management and security which are endeavouring to address this.

The IMB continues to watch closely the planned reduction in health cells at HMP Exeter, serving the Cluster prisons. Initially, these stood at 24 in 2006; fell to 15 in 2010 and then 6 in 2011. The money saved from the reduction in health cells does not appear to have found its way into additional resources to support the health needs of prisoners at HMP Dartmoor

4.2.2 Mental Health

Prisoners with mental health needs can now be assessed by the weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting (MDT) and the presence of a weekly visiting Consultant Psychiatrist. This has led to a greatly improved provision, but the promised investment in talking therapies, activities' programmes and work to maintain the mental wellbeing of vulnerable prisoners, continues to be lacking.

The IMB has raised frequent concerns about the absence of counselling services, in particular bereavement counselling, and it notes with regret that these valuable services seem to be totally lacking within present resources.

Some investment in prison staff training on mental health awareness has taken place, but the imminent changes to prison staff detailing through the SBC exercise, and the anticipated associated changes to staff profiling and reduction in staffing on the Wings, may well mitigate against staff, as first point of contact, identifying prisoners who are at risk, or who need to access formal mental health support.

The IMB has raised, on several occasions, concern about the case load of a recently retired case worker, not part of the healthcare establishment, but who was qualified and offered individual work with some of the most vulnerable prisoners at Dartmoor. These include those who have been abused as opposed to abusers, or those who failed to engage with the prison

regime. Since this team member's retirement earlier this year, this caseload has remained unallocated. This fact confirms the IMB's continuing concern that little exists for these most vulnerable prisoners who suffer the absence of enduring mental health diagnosis.

Another related concern is a prisoner on the VPU who suffers a brain injury following past illness. His general level of functioning has been monitored by psychological services and OMU, but despite recommendations that his needs would be better met by a placement in a specialist hospital, he continues to be held in custody at HMP Dartmoor. In the absence of formal advocacy, it is difficult to see how this prisoner with poor cognitive functioning will succeed in moving to more appropriate care.

Many of the recommendations of the Bradley report have yet to be actioned, but are on the agenda for the DPHPB.

4.2.3 Integrated Drug Treatment System

There have been approximately 45 prisoners on this programme. The IMB has continued to prioritise monitoring of IDTS and has had cause throughout the last 12 months to raise concerns surrounding security, safety of staff, safety of prisoners and the adequacy of this provision.

Accountability and continual changes in staffing arrangements have befallen this service. The fact that NHS Devon, as the commissioning PCT, appointed an independent review of this service in June 2011 to report to the DPHPB by October 2011, acknowledges the concerns shared by the IMB.

The lack of dedicated staff leadership, the absence of a discrete staff team, and changes experienced throughout the year in GP cover, are some of the challenges this programme has experienced. Frequent failure to provide prisoners with the necessary psychosocial support whether it be through the inadequacies presented by co-working alongside Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice or Throughcare relating to drugs (CARATs) staff has been a continuing concern.

The staff delivering IDTS are dependent on co-operation and assistance from Officers in maintaining order and safety in the waiting room, and in the movement of prisoners from Wings to work etc. Concern has been raised at a recent Drug Strategy meeting that the anticipated changes to the staff profiling following SBC will jeopardise this vital support. The IMB continues to monitor this area.

4.3 LEARNING & SKILLS

4.3.1 Education Provision

There are currently three providers delivering education at HMP Dartmoor. *Tribal*, which assesses prisoners and offers careers information, advice and guidance, *Action for Employment (A4E)* offering courses in work and career skills, creative skills and skills for life, and *Strode College* delivering educational courses and running some of the workshops. The IMB has noticed (and been told) that there is now a better relationship between the Head of Learning and Skills (HOLS) and the providers.

The restoration of the Head of Learning and Skills (HOLS) to the Senior Management Team (SMT) in April was welcomed by HOLs and the three providers, as the management of L&S requires a fully co-operative working ethos across the prison. A recent move to raise the profile of education and work has begun to improve attendance, and crucially, the recognition of the importance of prisoners engaging in worthwhile activities.

There have been changes to the Gym timetable so that prisoners in education and work do not attend the Gym during the core day.

However, there are a number of factors which make management of L&S difficult:

- Information gathered by the providers is not entered on P-Nomis.
- The three providers collect and present data in different formats.
- Few of the provider staff attend prison training to enable them to understand the prison.
- Communication between providers and other areas of the prison is variable.
- Unless the officers on the wings co-operate and communicate, the movement of prisoners to the different areas can be difficult.
- There is pressure on finding classroom space **when** prisoners cannot mix.
- There are different perceptions from HOLs and the providers about the quality of their communication and management styles.
- HOLs and Strode College appear to have different expectations about the numbers of learners that can ideally be taught in some the classes.
- The QIG meeting is not attended regularly by Residential, Security or OMU, and reports are not submitted.

Prisoners have expressed appreciation of the support they are given and the progress they make and show real pride with qualifications gained. Others speak of frustrations in accessing courses and disappointment when workshops are closed or terminated.

Work is progressing to introduce the Virtual Campus to HMP Dartmoor, a national partnership initiative, which will enable prisoners to view relevant training courses and apply directly for jobs within the community. Due to the

location of this project, those with mobility problems may have problems using this resource.

4.3.2 Prisoners with Learning Disabilities

In the first half of this year, *Tribal* recorded a significant increase in the number of prisoners with dyslexia.

The IMB has expressed concern that, due to the cost, the Skills Finding Agency does not provide funding for the provision of 1:1 teaching for this group of learners. This contrasts to the description in *The Offender Learning Journey* of what is desirable for this group of prisoners.

The *Toe by Toe* peer mentoring reading scheme continues to be run successfully in HMP Dartmoor. It is overseen by an officer with particular enthusiasm and commitment. Dedicated time has however, not been included in the new staff profiling. When the officer concerned was working elsewhere on detached duties, the number of mentors fell as there was no recruitment to replace those leaving HMP Dartmoor.

4.3.3. Kitchen and Laundry

Both these areas offer NVQ training. Assessment for the NVQ in laundry is provided in house and works well. However the external assessor for the catering NVQ, provided by N'ergy has not always been able to keep appointments which is frustrating for those working towards their qualification

4.3.4. Workshops

Prisoners have opportunities to attend a variety of courses in construction, including bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and painting. There are also other opportunities in Prison ICT Academy (PICTA) recycling and industrial cleaning. Work is also available in the Textiles workshop, and the Braille Unit. Many of the work shops run accredited courses and qualifications gained can help the individual obtain work on leaving prison.

The instructors for these courses come from either the prison or Strode College. Problems can arise when instructors are off sick or on leave as there is minimal cover from Strode with only one retired instructor providing cover for absence, often resulting in prisoners being returned to the wing when the workshop is closed.

Over the years, the IMB has raised concerns that HMP Dartmoor does not have sufficient employment to enable all who want to work to do so. One problem is that in some workshops a larger number of prisoners are sent than can be fully occupied for the time that they are there. This means that they do not have a realistic experience of the workplace and may learn poor workplace habits. Another is that prisoners arrive within a few weeks of their release date and move on and off courses quickly.

Prisoners complain of the inequality of the jobs being shared between the Main prison and VPU. The problem of prisoners from the Main not being allowed to mix with the VPU means that there can be insufficient applicants from the VPU to fill a course. There are also complaints that prisoners are cherry picked to go on these courses; however, it is difficult for the IMB to obtain evidence of this.

Twenty work places will shortly be lost when the canteen supplier's contract relocates. At present this offers work placement to prisoners from the VPU. It is unclear what the alternative provision will be, but discussions are taking place to further develop the Horticulture programme in partnership with the Eden project, and to acquire additional poly tunnels to support the proposed initiative.

Story Book Dads continues to provide an important service not only enabling fathers to keep in touch with their children and families, but also providing work placements for prisoners who acquire a range of technical skills that can assist with employment on release.

4.3.5 Land based courses

This year saw the handing back to the Duchy of the remaining farm land. The machinery-based courses held in and around the farm buildings have been delivered by Bicton College but there is doubt, due to the financial situation, as to whether these courses will continue. Any loss will impact on the RSU who place prisoners on ROTL on the current courses.

4.3.6 The Library

Devon Libraries provide the library service within the prison. Book stock is well-chosen and relevant to the male population. In addition, there are CDs, large print books, talking books, foreign language books, box files of mandatory information, reference books and newspapers. The library is well-organised and provides a welcoming environment. Two prisoners working in the library have gained a relevant NVQ. Disabled access is good.

Prisoner attendance at weekends remains low. The issue of staff escorting prisoners from the wings to the library needs to be resolved, as currently some prisoners never get the opportunity to visit the library.

4.3.7 Museum

The museum is located in former prison farm buildings across the road from the main prison. It houses interesting displays recording the prison's history and development, and provides information about life in the prison today. The information video, in particular, gives the public a valuable insight into the work of the prison and what life is like for the prisoners.

The museum is welcoming, well-presented and well-run. It provides a work opportunity for one prisoner who relates with visitors on a daily basis. Income is generated from admission fees and from the sale of goods made in

the prison workshops. After the difficult winter weather, this income picked up from Easter onwards with a steady increase in visitor numbers that continued strongly throughout the summer months.

4.4 SAFER CUSTODY

The Safer Custody meeting takes place monthly and has been observed by the IMB, the agenda addresses issues of concern across the different departments in the prison that impact on prisoner safety. Attendance by key stakeholders has improved but information is not always fully shared.

There has been a changing picture emerging during the current reporting year regarding the overall safety of prisoners, although the IMB considers that HMP Dartmoor is still a safe category C prison. There have been improvements in the management of anti-social behaviour to reduce bullying on the wings, the number of prisoners on basic is rarely above single figures, and there has been a reduction in the quantity of drugs circulating, and greater accountability in following the ACCT processes.

The Safer Custody Manager has introduced improved anti-social behaviour procedures and tightened up the ACCT documentation checks. One example of good team work was that the Safer Custody Manager conducted a review of serious incidents of self harm in the first eight months of this reporting year, together with the Senior Mental Health nurse and Head of Security, to see what could be learnt and what needed to be changed.

In October to December, reports to the Safer Custody meeting had shown a continued reduction in the use of force. Batons had not been drawn at HMP Dartmoor for four years, the Command Suite had not been opened, only one serious incident reported and Control and Restraint had been used on 50 occasions in 2010.

However, in early summer 2011 the prison faced several episodes of violence and indiscipline, and a consequent increase of occupancy in SCCU. Control and Constraint had been used on 71 occasions, batons had been drawn, the command suite had been opened twice and there had been two barricades and one incident where a prisoner had climbed into the internal roof space.

The IMB has been impressed by the professional execution of planned removals of prisoners by the Control and Restraint teams observed both as it happened by IMB observers, or in a review of video footage, although the latter has limitations. The IMB would also like to commend the bravery and skill of officers who faced and frequently de-escalated potentially violent situations.

The increase in violence and indiscipline has coincided with an increase in self-harming and the number of prisoners on ACCTS. The quality of reporting

and recording on ACCT documents has improved, but some times reviews have been hurried and poorly attended. The lack of availability and the number of staff trained as ACCT assessors are issues that the IMB continues to monitor. Whilst the IMB has noticed an improvement in ACCT documentation accompanying the prisoners around the establishment, it is concerned about the recent practice of prisoners transferring into HMP Dartmoor from other prisons whilst on an open ACCT.

The IMB would wish to commend the speedy professional response earlier this year on A wing by evening officers, who prevented a serious suicide attempt by a FN prisoner who was not on an open ACCT. Had it not been for the quick and prompt actions of these officers, it is highly likely that the attempt would have succeeded.

Listeners are a key resource within the prison but numbers of trained listeners fluctuate with discharges. The Samaritans help line is available on the wings and is used.

The IMB attended the long awaited-inquest held earlier this year into the death of a prisoner who died on D wing in 2006. The Governor had at the time of writing this report, still has not received the Coroner's written recommendations. The remaining outstanding Inquest is due to open in November 2011.

4.5 SEPARATION CARE AND CONTROL UNIT

The SCCU continues to be a well-run unit where the Officers have developed effective skills managing difficult and often complex prisoners in a consistent, calm and fair way. It is still occasionally necessary to draft in relief staff from the Wings to cover shifts, but communication between the unit and the IMB has improved, the IMB normally being informed of all transfers into SCCU.

The IMB has attended approximately 85% of the Good Order or Discipline (GOOD) board reviews to date in the current reporting year. However, this may not be maintained in light of cuts to the IMB's operational budget.

Officers have worked hard with two IPP prisoners who repeatedly self-harmed and who remained on the unit for periods of longer than three months. Two further prisoners who had extended stays in SCCU were transferred out, only to find themselves back in HMP Dartmoor SCCU within the week, hence again exceeding a stay in SCCU of three months. These prisoners refused to return to the main wings due to their own perceived risk to themselves, but their history and behaviour was such that other prisons both in and outside of the area would not accept them.

The IMB is concerned that the movement of such prisoners appears reliant on Governors calling in favours from colleagues to achieve a move, in the absence of a central, transparent, audited process centrally managed.

Cells have been smashed up and flooded on more than one occasion since April 2011 and rendered uninhabitable. As a result of this damage a few prisoners were held on Good Order and Discipline in cells on the main Wings. The IMB noted that GOOD reviews and paperwork for these prisoners did not happen as smoothly as it would in SCCU, as Wing staff were not familiar with segregation processes. Those reviews that took place on wings were conducted with frequent interruptions. One prisoner was not been reviewed at 72 hours, and a GOOD review and ACCT review were not conducted together for another prisoner held on the main. The IMB was not always notified that the prisoner had been placed on GOOD.

Two GOOD reviews were conducted during this period without a member of Healthcare present, although it must be acknowledged that attendance by a qualified nurse from the Healthcare team at GOOD reviews conducted in SCCU has, on the whole, been much improved.

Prisoners held in the unit have been well supported by the Consultant Psychiatrist serving the Cluster prisons during this reporting period. This support has contributed to clear management strategies for the most challenging prisoners with mental health needs.

Governors allocated to oversee GOOD reviews and strategic management plans for individual problematic prisoners mostly conduct the process effectively. However, on occasions there has been inconsistency between different Governors chairing boards, and between different duty Governors. This can make the work of officers in the unit more problematic.

The gated cell in SCCU has been used as a constant watch cell for two prisoners this year. Whilst this is not ideal it does provide privacy not available in the only other gated cell in on one of the main wings.

Prisoners held in SCCU still have access to exercise and can attend gym sessions, and receive in cell education via a peripatetic teacher. In April 2011 the policy in SCCU regarding access to TV and radio was changed in an effort to make SCCU a less desirable location, with greater emphasis on the role of order and discipline. The IMB will monitor that this does not have a negative impact on any prisoner held in SCCU who is also on an ACCT.

For the first six months of this year, the SCCU was rarely full and there were two occasions when there were no prisoners in the unit. Since the middle of May 2011 however, the unit has been full at least part of every week.

4.5.1 Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme (IEPs)

The IEP scheme appears to be working much more effectively on the Wings this year. There are still some problems with its use by contracted staff in Learning and Skills. HMP Dartmoor has a large proportion of prisoners at enhanced level but this year's review of those prisoners found that most were meeting the required criteria.

In order to reinforce the drive to get prisoners to work or education a new 'extraordinary' warning has been introduced. Any prisoner refusing to go to his allocated place of work is automatically reduced to basic. While welcoming this emphasis on the importance of work, the IMB will monitor closely that prisoners who have legitimate reasons for refusing to attend are not penalised unfairly.

4.5.2. Adjudications

The number of adjudications held this year is 491, only eight of which have been overturned on appeal. This figure includes those held by the Independent Adjudicator. Extra days added to prisoners' sentences remain low. The newly established SMARG group has now included the monitoring of adjudications as part of their agenda.

SECTION 5: REPORTS ON OTHER AREAS

5.1 OFFENDER MANAGEMENT UNIT

5.1.1. The IMB is well aware of the considerable pressure on staff who works in this unit. High sickness levels and case loads make for challenging working conditions, yet these staff undertake most valuable work, interfacing with professionals and agencies both within and outside the prison. This impacts greatly on the sentence plans of prisoners and the success of discharge arrangements. There has been improved communication with both psychology and the SIO, but links with L&S remain undeveloped.

5.1.2 Prisoners serving Life Sentences

At the time of writing, there are 25 prisoners serving life sentences at HMP Dartmoor, mostly enhanced prisoners. Lifers' reps are now identified on all wings but plans to locate all lifers into one unit have not as yet been approved. The directive from the Deputy Director of Custody that non co-operative lifer prisoners should be moved across the prison estate may be limited by the recent increase in the total prisoner population.

There is as yet no confirmation from the Governor that the recently completed Forgiveness Programme for lifers, run over 3 days with a half day follow up, will be repeated. Feed-back from prisoners on this course was positive.

5.1.3. IPP Prisoners

At the time of writing there are 41 prisoners on Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPP) at HMP Dartmoor. Recent national developments have seen a reduction in indeterminate sentencing.

5.1.4 Parole Prisoners

There continues to be movement of prisoners within their six months parole window which causes considerable anxiety to prisoners, and more work for OMU staff in preparing dossiers for prisoners not known to the team at HMP Dartmoor. Staff have also raised concerns about the quality and ownership of some parole reports.

During the year, there have been as many as fifteen prisoners at a time waiting transfer to the cat D estate following successful parole hearings. The longest wait has been seven months. Prisoners are demoralised by these delays and the IMB shares their concerns.

The IMB has recently attended one parole hearing as observer. It was clear from the time invested in preparation for this hearing, that the gathering of informed reports from all who work with prisoners and the preparation of the prisoner himself for the hearing, are dependent on good communication and time. The outcome of the hearing itself can have profound consequences on a prisoner's life.

Some prisoners are transferred to HMP Dartmoor believing they will be able to complete specific courses to help achieve their sentence plan, only to discover that the course they require is not available at Dartmoor.

The IMB is concerned that there appears to be a lack of a clear criteria for transfer to HMP Dartmoor, which links to the lack of vision and identified role for the prison mentioned earlier.

5.2. REDUCING REOFFENDING

5.2.1. Safeguarding, and Risk Management Meetings

These meetings continue to take place monthly and the IMB have been attending as observer bi-monthly. The chairing & minute-taking has improved but attendance by different disciplines from the prison continues to fluctuate. Once again understanding and ownership of the multi-disciplinary need to share information is at times less than satisfactory.

Maintaining access to their children is a key issue for prisoners, one which needs sensitive management, given the complexity of convictions and family relationships. Every effort is made to ensure good communication between external agencies, and the management team at HMP Dartmoor have worked

hard to improve understanding of child protection issues and policy within the establishment.

The number of prisoners subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) discussed at the risk management meeting continues to be high. Information sharing remains the pivotal issue. Work is progressing slowly on using the Violence & Sex Offenders Register (VISOR), the police tracking system for high risk prisoners, and training continues for those staff needing to access the information held on this system.

5.2.2. Interventions

It is a concern to the IMB that The Head of Interventions (HOI) left HMP Dartmoor in the summer of 2011 and so far there has been no replacement. This critical post was pivotal in supporting the multi disciplinary approach to prisoner management across the different-service initiatives within the prison, and engaging with the OMU.

Psychology currently runs two programmes, the A-Z, a motivational programme, and the Thinking Skills programme (TSP), both courses are on target for training numbers for the year. The Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage it (CALM) programme is no longer delivered in the prison, which is a great loss. The department also provide psychological services to OMU, offering structured programmes to individual prisoners and writing psychological reports required by Parole Boards. However, these are felt not to receive the recognition they deserve.

5.3 PREPARATION FOR RELEASE

5.3.1 The Resettlement Unit

This Unit provides selected prisoners who choose to apply and have been successful in gaining a place, to prepare in earnest for resettlement and release. The facilities and regime on RSU are respected and are tightly enforced to ensure that all those given the opportunity to join this unit maximise the opportunities offered to them.

Some prisoners progress to open working conditions in the community or undertake land-based activities locally and are subject to ROTL daily. Staff work hard to increase these work placements but are challenged by the current financial/economic climate and the relatively isolated nature of the prison with few large employers situated in the immediate vicinity.

The question does need to be asked that if HMP Dartmoor is designated a Category C training prison, should not all the prisoners be given the same opportunities that the RSU offers to but a few?

5.3.2. Drug and Alcohol Programs

When it is readily evident that many prisoners have problems with alcohol, the limited provision of funding for a part-time alcohol worker makes little sense to the IMB, and is a serious cause for concern.

The CARATS and Prisons Addiction & Service Reducing Offending (P-ASRO) programs are located on the second and third floor of the wings, creating access problems for any prisoner with mobility problems.

Both CARATS and P-ASRO run busy programmes and both play an important role delivering individual, group work and preparation for release. HMP Dartmoor is the first Category C prison to offer VPU prisoners 2 CARATS courses a year, and through the use of a buddy/mentor have successfully delivered a course to a prisoner with learning disabilities. The holistic approach by the CARATS team towards prisoners is most commendable.

Whilst the nursing establishment for IDTS includes a band 6 post, intended to enhance co operation and co-working with CARATS to meet the psycho social needs of IDTS prisoners, there has been little evidence that this has actually happened during the reporting year.

National proposals to tender for a combined and integrated drug and alcohol services have caused anxiety amongst staff. Discussions by the commissioners on the needs assessment currently taking place, coupled with the desire to create a comprehensive and integrated service with mental health, gives the IMB confidence that these services will continue to grow in strength in the future.

5.3.3 Discharge Boards

These weekly boards attended by Jobcentre Plus, St Giles Trust and OMU representatives meet with prisoners approximately 4-6 weeks before release to offer assistance with accommodation, work and benefits. Whilst there are some prisoners who may not need help, others clearly have nowhere to go on release and may never have worked or have a poor grasp of how to cope with these critical issues.

The IMB has shared with the Governor their concern that St Giles Trust has given notice that they will not be renewing their contract after 11 November 2011. At 30 September there was no indication how providing accommodation advice and assistance to prisoners will be delivered. It is welcome news that Jobcentre Plus, however, have increased their sessions at the prison.

No matter what support and advice is available to prisoners whilst in custody, there remain a few prisoners who have for whatever reason, have not engaged with the regime during their sentence, have remained on basic and have failed to co-operate, leading to a much likelier possibility of reoffending.

5.4. INDUCTIONS

Changes to the induction arrangements at HMP Dartmoor came into effect during the summer of 2011 following the re-profiling of staff as part of the SBC exercise.

The IMB has heard of fewer prisoners saying they had been threatened with a move to HMP Dartmoor by their previous prison, and there have also been more positive remarks about the prison, especially from those on licence recall and those transferring from other prisons in the cluster.

The loss of dedicated landings for induction, the abandonment of the personal officer scheme, and the scattering of new prisoners throughout the residential units will inevitably lead to a less personal approach. Whilst HMP Dartmoor is not a remand prison, the IMB is conscious that the new arrangements could well increase prisoner anxiety on arrival at HMP Dartmoor, its distance from the major conurbations and the concomitant fear of further isolation being other prime concerns of transferring prisoners who are not locally domiciled.

The IMB will continue to monitor induction closely, realising the importance of good, integrated communication for the new arrangements to work satisfactorily.

5.5 VISITS

In the earlier part of the year the IMB witnessed considerable dissatisfaction amongst prisoners and their families in the way visiting orders were being managed. Concerns about visits are frequently raised in the IMB weekly rota reports. In the latter months of this reporting year, the situation improved with the introduction of PNOMIS which enables visiting orders to be completed electronically by wing staff.

Visitors are reporting an improved response to telephone calls, but still some visitor queries remain unanswered by the Governor in the visitors' comments book. It is encouraging to report that the majority of visitors' comments are a mixture of positive comments on staff, especially the Choices Consultancy Service (CHOICES) volunteer staff, and only a small number over the last few weeks about delays with visiting orders.

However, more recently following changes within the administration of visits, complaints have been received from staff and prisoners about delays and inefficiency within visits administration have once again been expressed, including more than one possibly serious incident when personal family details were sent to the wrong families' address.

From 23 August 2011 and as a result of the SBC re-profiling exercise, domestic visiting hours will be reduced with visitors only allowed two, two hourly sessions every two weeks. These sessions will take place between Wednesdays and Sundays. It is too early to report on the effects this will have on prisoners and their visitors, but the IMB will monitor this closely.

CHOICES continue to provide excellent and valued refreshment services for prisoners and visitors, and in addition provide assistance to all disabled visitors. Wheelchair access is available.

The Prisoner Advice and Care Trust (PACT) lost funding during this year and as a result there is only one family visit arranged per month. There can be as many as 38 applicants in any one month for the 15 places available. The 3-year lottery-funded pilot project *Play in Prisons* run by PACT ended this year. It was well supported by the staff in the gym and by Choices, and was considered a great success. The letters of appreciation and the evident pleasure shown by all who were involved reinforced the need for this programme to be centrally funded if it is to run in the future

The Governor has yet to make a decision on exchanging the visitors orders, for telephone calls for FN prisoners. The IMB questions whether this contravenes the Equality Act 2010. It is concerned that when this issue is finally addressed, management acknowledge the need to recognise the different international time zones when FN prisoners can access phones on the wings.

Work is taking place to identify those prisoners who do not have visits. At present, it is known that approximately a tenth of prisoners have regular visits but it is not clear how many *never* have visits, or which prisoners have no one who will visit them. There appears to be little information shared between the prison and the valuable work of the Official Prison Visitors as to who they see or the problems that are raised if indeed any are raised at all.

It is been recognised that public transport to the prison is poor, making visiting, especially for the elderly or mothers with young children, difficult. Various suggestions have been discussed regarding the funding of additional transport but no progress has been made.

5.6 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

HMP Dartmoor has been fortunate in having not only a large number of contracted providers delivering different services; it also enjoys active partnerships with a range of voluntary sector providers that greatly enhances the facilities available to prisoners.

The Physical Education Senior Officer(PESO) has the responsibility for developing these partnerships within the prison. The staff team from the gym held a very successful partnership day in October 2010 that not only

gave providers an update on developments both nationally and locally in the prison, but provided the voluntary agencies with the opportunity of learning about the roles the different organisations play within the establishment.

The Veterans in Prison Association (VPI), The Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Families Association (SSAFA) both provide support to prisoners, and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) offer regular sessions.

The Diversity Centre, initially instigated three years ago with help and funding from Age Concern and the PCT as an older prisoner initiative, has grown in strength and the current programmes and activities are an example of true partnership working between prison-based resources and outside agencies.

It is, however, a serious concern of the IMB that in the current economic climate some voluntary sector providers may find themselves compromised financially and have to review the contribution they make to the different activities within HMP Dartmoor. Sadly there is evidence that this has already begun to happen during the first 6 months of this reporting year.

5.7 GYMNASIUM

The Gym at HMP Dartmoor is a well-run and popular part of the prison for both prisoners and staff. Instructors set clear boundaries and command discipline and respect from all prisoners who attend. Gym attendance has been used as an incentive at work and education and to encourage prisoners to co-operate with the prison regime.

Gym staff work flexibly to ensure facilities are accessible to all groups of prisoners. The IMB would like to record that gym staff team worked hard to ensure facilities were open to prisoners throughout the inclement winter weather and this was much appreciated.

The courses the Gym staff run are well attended and there is now an opportunity for paediatric first aid to be taught within the Action4Employment (A4E) Parenting Skills course.

The bid for astro-turf has once again failed with the result that the only outside activity that can be offered is circuit training.

5.8 CATERING

All staff posts and prisoner placements were full at the time of writing this report. The NVQ course for prisoners now running is an important opportunity for prisoners to undertake training in a key area that could lead to

employment on release. Prison staff are also offered the opportunity to complete the Food Hygiene Course.

Prisoner Wing Food reps meet with kitchen staff on a regular to discuss menu choices and any issues concerning serveries, and a regular Dartmoor Catering Survey is carried out. Every effort is made to meet the diverse and varied needs of prisoners, and it is a credit to the kitchen team that prisoners are fed on a current budget of £2 per head per day.

The IMB is not often approached with complaints about the food provided although there have been some recent issues raised about the portion and quality of meat. Wing food comments books are monitored regularly.

The menu sheet for prisoners to pre-select their food is subtitled with symbols to assist those with poor reading skills or limited English language skills.

5.9 PRISONER COUNCIL

The Prisoner Council has grown in strength since its initial inception. Prisoners assume impressive responsibility for running this forum, and the council is attended by a lead officer who addresses issues raised on the agenda or forwards items for the attention of the management team.

Prisoner representatives attend from the wings, including an English speaking representative from the FN group. The council has helped improve communication by raising issues ranging from canteen provision to health issues, and rates of pay. In September 2011, the council was involved in consultation about the movement of prisoners and the change of use of the wings.

5.10 CHAPLAINCY TEAM

The Chaplaincy team continues to make a major contribution in offering support to prisoners and staff. This covers personal, family and spiritual matters and at least one member of the team is on duty every day. The team is to be congratulated for the way in which it responded to the extra demands made upon it following the departure of the Anglican Co-ordinating Chaplain in January 2011 until a new appointment was made from July 2011. The Roman Catholic Chaplain continues to be a sessional post rather than a full prison post.

5.11 SECURITY

The IMB congratulates the Security Department on its recent successful audit. The IMB is pleased to note the low level of drugs found through

mandatory and voluntary testing in this reporting year and sees it as further evidence of the good work of the Security Team. However, illegal brewing of alcohol is understood to have increased, perhaps in response to the lower availability of other substances.

Security's main concern about access to drugs and associated intimidation and bullying centres on the dispensing of medication and IDTS.

Passive drugs dogs are still used in the prison but the IMB understands that this is currently once more under review. The IMB are informed that on average two positive drug indications are recorded each week.

5.12 TRANSPORT

The IMB are aware that Geo Amey PECS took over the contract for prisoner transport from 1 September 2011. It is too soon to comment on how well this is working, but the IMB will be liaising with the local lay observer to monitor transport in the coming year.

The IMB is aware that the space on the vans for the transport of prisoners' possessions is greatly reduced and that the monitoring of those prisoners on ACCTs can no longer be done via CT in each 'cell'.

SECTION 6: WORK OF THE BOARD

Membership:

- Seven new members joined the Board, two resigned
- Two longstanding members retired
- One member remains on long term sick leave
- One member took a four month sabbatical
- Two of the new Board members have completed their probationary year and the remaining new members have attended the Foundation Course, and are following the induction programme.

Communication:

All Board members now use the Criminal Justice Secure e-mail

Training:

Five members observed Control and Restraint training at Kidlington, Visits were made to HMP Bristol and HMP Bullingdon. Sessions on monitoring SCCU and attending GOOD boards, ACCT awareness, the role of the Dog Handler, Healthcare, Work of the Police Intelligence Officer and Reducing Re-offending

APTR: held in February.

Inquest: Four Board members observed an Inquest held in February.

Minister's Visit: The Chair met with the Minister on his visit to HMP Dartmoor

Night Rota visits have taken place

Devon Prison Health Partnership Board: the IMB's Vice Chair of the Board has observed the Devon Prison Health Partnership Board on behalf of the three IMBs in Devon.

Reductions in the IMB budget at HMP Dartmoor have affected the way that the IMB fulfils its monitoring role and could impact on future effectiveness.

Clerical assistance: a new Clerk has been available to the Board. Although she is a part-time employee, the arrangements are working well at the moment.

IMB STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	16
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12 One on long term sick leave
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	7
Number of members leaving within reporting period	6
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	8
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	529
Total number of applications received	184
Total number of segregation reviews attended	291

ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS

There has been a drop in the number of applications to the Board this year. Only fifty eight of which were received in the first six months which appears to reflect the overall stability of the prison at that time.

Applications about issues with staff is the highest category this year at twenty one, whereas applications about health care issues have halved since our last report.

Subject	2010/2011	2009/2010	2008/2009
Accommodation	12	12	7
Adjudications	8	5	5
Diversity related	1	2	2
Education/employment/training	12	30	29
Family/visits	15	27	42
Food/kitchen related	2	8	1
Health related	15	38	20
Property	17	34	43
Sentence related	21	21	24
Staff/ prisoner related	28	32	25
Transfers	10	21	22
Miscellaneous	14	26	34
TOTAL	184	256	254