



HMYOI DEERBOLT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

1 OCTOBER 2010 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

HMYOI Deerbolt
Bowes Road
Barnard Castle
Co. Durham
DL12 9BG

C O N T E N T S

1. Description of HMYOI Deerbolt
2. Executive Summary
3. Important Issues in 2010/11
4. Learning and Skills and Resettlement
5. Healthcare
6. Safer Custody
7. Diversity
8. Segregation and Discipline
9. Facilities
 - (a) Accommodation
 - (b) Kitchen
 - (c) Gymnasium
 - (d) Gardens
10. Community Relations
11. The Work of the Board
 - (a) Board's Training Programme
 - (b) Board's Monitoring Routine
12. Statistical Appendices

1. Description of HMYOI Deerbolt

A maximum of 513 sentenced male offenders serving up to six years, and aged 18-21 are accommodated at HMYOI Deerbolt, Barnard Castle in County Durham. The purpose-built establishment includes an administration centre, nine residential wings with exercise yards, industrial workshops and education classrooms, a gymnasium and chapel and a separate RRU (HIT) building. There are extensive areas of grass, and cultivated plots of flowers and vegetables, making the whole area most attractive.

Prisoners are received from a wide catchment area: from Hull to the southeast of Deerbolt stretching northeast through Durham and Northumberland, and across the country to Liverpool and Manchester in the northwest.

2. Executive Summary

The Board is able to report a successful year in spite of the continued financial restrictions imposed on the prison estate as a whole. **We attribute this to the highly professional and largely unchanged management of the establishment by the SMT under the leadership of Governor Mrs. Jenny Mooney.**

As stated in previous reports, the Board once again emphasise the overall steadiness of the establishment and the quiet progress maintained by prison staff through the reporting year. This, in spite of the pressure of economic cutbacks and the general expectation that there will be no improvement in staffing or resources in the short term.

In view of this successful management the Board would like to bring the following observations to the attention of the Ministry of Justice:

3. Important Issues in 2010/11

3.1 Little, or no, recruitment of staff and Officers, and no replacement for those on long-term sickness, presents continual pressure on management to man the establishment. This, coupled with the maximum jail sentence of inmates having been increased from four years to six years, thereby taking in young offenders who by their very nature, age and immaturity are more likely to be

spontaneously violent and who have committed more serious and violent crimes, has perhaps contributed to –

3.2 An increase in premeditated and spontaneous assaults on staff and other prisoners during the reporting period.

3.3 The Board congratulate the Governors, Officers, staff, and many more, who worked so hard in preparing the prison for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons inspection in June, with its' generally very commendable outcome. The Board were disappointed to note certain criticisms relating to the Segregation Unit. The Board attend this unit *very* regularly, and know that it works extremely hard continuously dealing with difficult prisoners who have to be relocated there. (See item 8.3)

4. Learning and Skills and Resettlement

Learning and Skills

4.1 It has taken some time for Deerbolt to adapt to the working practices of Manchester College introduced in 2009. New staff have generally taken on their roles with keen enthusiasm but the loss of preparation time has caused dismay amongst staff whose expectations are different.

4.2 In particular, the Adult Literacy class, which is dependent on volunteers, is constricted by the lack of opportunity to interview new recruits. This class supports the completely illiterate and Foreign National Prisoners: the Board consider it would be a signal loss to Deerbolt if it did not continue to run. (See also item 10.1)

4.3 Despite the stringent needs of budget management, Deerbolt continues to provide both basic schooling and skills-based courses. The Board gladly acknowledge much good practice in the Education Department.

4.4 However, the Board also note that in terms of value in a Training Prison, a certificated Fork Lift Truck qualification (now axed on economic grounds) earned over ten weeks is surely potentially of greater value to a young offender than one week of Customer Service training (newly available).

4.5 In addition, the Dry Stone Walling course has been stopped on economic grounds. But, considering the number of dry stone walls in northern England, such practical skill has high value.

4.6 The refurbished Laundry has finally (after many vicissitudes) come on-stream providing valuable employment in Deerbolt. It is an impressive working environment which replicates conditions in a professional business. Sadly the projected Print Shop which was to share the accommodation has yet to open.

4.7 The Library continues to be a beacon of meaningful activity. This was demonstrated especially in Equal Opportunities Week where each Wing made a contribution alongside individual workshops. Some of these were fine by any standards: original and thought-provoking.

The Board acknowledge that the aim of Deerbolt to deliver progressive learning with accredited courses and interventions is being realised; however we note that reduced economic circumstances are greatly affecting higher value education in the establishment.

4.8 Deerbolt staff work hard at implementing policy to make resettlement a meaningful experience for the lads preparing to leave the establishment. Measurement of success should, in the Board's opinion, take into account individual case histories that really do set out to build on initiatives begun in the establishment.

4.9 The FOR Programme has been running successfully at Deerbolt for some time. Apparently NOMS bought the programme some time ago from a Canadian, Dr. David Brooks, an Occupational Psychologist and, since it is designed for the final three months of sentence it fits YOIs because the prisoners are all licensed for release. However, the Board have discovered that it is under review presumably on grounds of cost. If it does survive it may be that Deerbolt could use their expertise and lead a peripatetic team in local marketplaces in the north?

4.10 The Job Club with its extension on F Wing and The Virtual Campus which has a CV builder are important assets in Resettlement. The Board are impressed at the quality of work achieved here.

The Board commend the consistent quality of work achieved in Resettlement at Deerbolt.

5. Healthcare

5.1 It has been an unsettled year because of uncertainty about redundancies with the transfer of care from the NHS to Care UK on 1st April. However there were staff shortages when the changeover was made, so no job losses, and no noticeable impact on healthcare delivery within the prison.

5.2 Excellent GP cover is provided by the local, Barnard Castle practice.

5.3 Telemedicine Equipment is installed and will come in to use immediately after this reporting period.

5.4 The Segregation Unit is well covered by Healthcare and all Reviews and any incidents are always attended by Healthcare staff.

5.5 Mental health is now well covered in Deerbolt and the Board have been impressed with the way in which several difficult lads have been helped.

5.6 'Ashley Done Room'. This is a large, homely, lounge area with comfortable seating and pleasant lighting, which is used for work with the mental health team and for instances where lads may need special counselling. It is named after a lad who died in Deerbolt from natural causes last year and the opening in April was attended by his family. This is an excellent facility. (See also item 10.13).

5.7 Vaccination programmes have been run for staff and inmates for hepatitis and flu.

5.8 Dental care is now subcontracted to Weymouth Prison Dental Services and waiting lists have been cut from 19 weeks at the beginning of the year to six weeks.

5.9 Night cover is soon to be withdrawn from Deerbolt so between 8 pm and 7 am there will be no nurse on duty. There has been much consultation over this, and prison officers have been given First Aid training to cover emergencies. Agreements have been made with Durham and Holme House to provide "in patient" care. This is of some concern to the Board and we will be monitoring the situation carefully.

6. Safer Custody

6.1 A total of 167 ACCT's were opened during the year. This is an increase of 31 on last year's total.

6.2 The listener programme continues to work well with several outstanding listeners doing a very useful task. They have also made a very useful contribution to the Safer Custody monthly meetings.

6.3 The role of the Safer Custody co-ordinator and administration staff has been reduced due to numerous other Details put on staff. This has inevitably put pressure on Safer Custody to fulfil a very important role.

This is of concern to the Board

6.4 The Board is pleased to report a reduction of incidents within wing showers. All credit to good staff procedures and awareness over the last year.

These figures, although encouraging, are still too high and do not detract from the urgent need for a complete refurbishment of all wing showers at Deerbolt.

6.5 Training of staff continues when time and availability permit. There is a need for improvement in this area.

6.6 The Safer Custody team meet monthly with the majority of departments well represented. However there is a poor attendance of wing staff, a very important link to this group. Changes in prisoner behaviour and attitudes with this age group in recent years do require close monitoring.

6.7 Safer Custody has a high profile at Deerbolt. The team and all staff must be fully supported to ensure that the welfare of all prisoners is maintained to a high standard.

Issues of concern to the Board.

- 1. Refurbishments of showers.**
- 2. A review of the roles of the Safer Custody co-ordinator and administration staff.**
- 3. The important role of Wing representatives attendance at Safer Custody meetings.**

7. Diversity and Equality

7.1 Meetings are usually chaired by the Governor or her Deputy, thus emphasising their importance.

7.2 The Chaplaincy team has continued to be both active and highly effective within Deerbolt, under a full-time Co-ordinating Chaplain, who is well supported by part-time Chaplains of the C of E, Muslim and RC faiths, while prisoners of the other religions have the availability of sessional chaplains.

7.3 Additional support is provided by Reflex, the Gideon Society and Prisoners' Alpha, whilst other organisations offer to write letters to prisoners who are not in receipt of regular mail

7.4 All new admissions, and also all prisoners held in the Segregation Unit, have direct personal contact with a member of the Chaplaincy team.

7.5 The Chaplaincy team also organises the Official Prison Visitor (OPV) Scheme, although there is currently only one OPV approved for Deerbolt. It is therefore strongly recommended that there should be a local recruitment campaign to enable a team of OPVs to be available.

7.6 All staff and prisoners are regularly reminded of the legal requirements of the recent Equality Act. Strong efforts are made to encourage the identity of specific groups and to support diversity in all its forms. Recent examples are the recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day, the introduction of a Gypsy/Traveller Week, and the provision of special catering for the Ramadan fasting regime. A recent request has resulted in the marking of an arrow pointing to Mecca in all residential Wings. Foreign Nationals are now provided with a free 5-minute phone call to relatives, a facility which has been used by 8 of the 15 such prisoners

7.7 Special attention is paid by staff to the needs of prisoners who have disabilities. The Board were impressed with the management of the behaviour of a prisoner who has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and whose behaviour had been unpredictable and very challenging.

7.8 Prisoners are encouraged to be actively involved in supporting each other, and nine have been trained on the "Challenge it! Change it!" course. Each Wing has its own prisoner Diversity Champion who

receives preparation for his involvement in the DEMA meetings, while others are trained by the Samaritans to provide the service of "Listener" to prisoners who may seek their support. A recent initiative has been introduced involving a small team of established and stable prisoners who live and work as "Insiders" within the Induction Wing, who have been able to successfully influence the attitudes and behaviours of new prisoners.

7.9 Special mention must be made of the highly successful Diversity Week which was held in May. (For details see item 10.11).

8. Segregation and Discipline

8.1 The Segregation facility is a single storey building and has the capacity to house 18 prisoners, although only 13 cells are furnished, plus two Special Accommodation cell for disruptive prisoners.

8.2 Staffing of the Unit comprises.

One (1) Duty Governor, one (1) Senior Officer and eight (8) Duty Officers.

8.3 The Board feels that these are particularly good officers on this unit, who do a stressful job in difficult circumstances with a caring and understanding attitude. The Board recognizes the diligent and patient work undertaken to ensure that difficult prisoners are treated fairly and humanely whilst they have been removed from their normal regime.

8.4 Board members monitor this unit on every Rota Visit and are informed of any "special cell" use by telephone, with follow up reports of the disruptive prisoner's behaviour.

8.5 Although every effort is made to keep the entire accommodation clean and tidy, the unit is in constant use and requires some re-decoration to bring it up to the level of the normal Wing environment.

8.6 Rule 49 Reviews run on time and the IMB attend nearly every session, which are correctly documented.

8.7 The number of prisoner adjudications is commendably low. During the year under review there were on average 42 Governor Adjudications held each week. IMB Members sit in on these Governor adjudications on a regular basis. They are conducted in an atmosphere of unrushed courtesy, allowing ample time for the prisoner to present his evidence.

8.8 On a number of occasions, prisoners held on serious charges, who have been referred to the police for investigation, have been detained in the unit for periods longer than would seem necessary solely due to the inability of the police to conduct investigations promptly.

8.9 The Board is satisfied that the tariffs that are awarded at adjudications are correctly applied and recorded.

8.10 The Independent Adjudicator (a Judge) attends the establishment on a monthly basis and has presided over an average of seven (7) cases each month. Again Members attend as many of these hearings as possible and would praise the efforts of the Judge to be fair and understanding.

9. Facilities

Kitchens

9.1 The kitchen continues to provide good and varied meals for the prisoners. With rising food costs it has been a challenge to keep to budget. They are now able to use produce from the HIT/MATRIX and gardens have planted an ornamental vegetable garden near the kitchen. Tomatoes and peppers are also grown in the green house. This has been much appreciated.

9.2 Prisoners working in the kitchens are generally enthusiastic and encouraged by being able to obtain NVQ levels 1 & 11 in the training kitchen.

9.3 NVQ students provided an “up-market” afternoon tea for the Heads of local Businesses, and an excellent lunch was provided for the local branch of the Visually Impaired.

9.4 Staff are trying to get outside agencies to visit this area and the fishmonger from Morrison’s gave an excellent demonstration. It really captured the imagination of these prisoners.

9.5 Kitchen equipment has generally improved, with a new £10k annual budget to replace worn out equipment and so over time, many items can be replaced.

9.6 ‘The Bistro’ (housed in the training kitchen) now provides food for staff. This is a slow process as Officers are reluctant to use this service

and do miss the Staff Canteen. Some staff will not eat food prepared by prisoners.

Accommodation

9.7 This has slightly improved since last year. A number of Wings have enhanced prisoners as painters; this has proved very successful and is a great initiative for prisoners.

9.8 Showers are still a problem area. Wings D & E only have 4 showers for 66 prisoners. Some of these showers are in a very poor condition. The notice of showers being “Hot Spots” and loss of privilege for fighting and bullying in the showers, seems to have had some effect.

9.9 Exercise yards are up and running but there seems to be a lack of purpose other than prisoners being outside.

9.10 There is still concern regarding posters in cells – some of them are too explicit and in many cases the quantity far exceeds the regulation amount – the same standards should be held on all Wings.

9.11 General corridors and stair wells were fairly clean, but staff offices on the wings are rather neglected.

Gym

9.12 Rather a difficult year as it has been known for many months that staff numbers were to be reduced and a new regime introduced.

9.13 It is regrettable that some activities have been lost such as the football team and other activities.

9.14 The Duke of Edinburgh Awards continue but only when staff are available.

9.15 There is a continued problem with equipment breaking down. Staff feel this is due to poor quality and out of date equipment and have suggested the possibility of leasing equipment.

9.16 Gym showers are not in good condition and there are always one or two showers out of order and a number of broken and loose tiles. Observation mirrors have been installed in the changing rooms and that has reduced some fighting.

Gardens

9.17 The gardens inside the prison are extremely well cared for. Prisoners work well on these projects and are able to gain NVQ level 1 and 11, Maintenance, City & Guild Proficiency test.

9.18 This year three prisoners used these qualifications to obtain jobs as Park Ranger, Landscape Gardener and work with the Forestry Commission. This was a very good year for this department.

10. Community Relations

10.1 Local residents help out with the basic reading and writing in the Education Department. Currently 19 Volunteers attend on a regular basis. Many residents are offering services, however the Volunteer Vetting Process is restricted due to lack of available time. (See also item 4.2)

10.2 The annual 'Aviation Day' continues to be held in the grounds outside the prison. Organised by retired Prison Officers, it includes a 'Fly Past' and is attended by local dignitaries and the general public. The Prison does not fund this event.

10.3 A prisoner has been on R.O.T.L at the Bowes Museum and a second lad has been working in a Charity Shop in Kirby Stephen. Security and staffing issues continue to make it difficult for larger numbers of prisoners to be allowed to work in the local community

10.4 10 Prisoners were involved in the production of a Volunteers magazine.

10.5 At Christmas the kitchen staff organised a Christmas Cake Competition which was judged by local business people. The cakes were then donated to local Care Homes.

10.6 Performing Arts involved local war veterans and senior citizens in the production of a play about the war.

10.7 As part of the Prince of Wales's 'Seeing is Believing' programme, prisoners produced a buffet for local business leaders when they visited the prison to identify how they could tackle social issues.

10.8 The 'Seeing is Believing' project (which is unique to Deerbolt) is in its final stages of development and the first cohort of prisoners will commence their 14 week programme in January 2012. If they successfully complete the Programme they will be given certificates which guarantee them an interview with one or more of the partner businesses in the scheme.

10.9 The 'Reap and Sow' project set up with the co-operation of 'Acumen Social Enterprise' involves the prisoners cultivating small herbs for sale to the public. The wooden containers for these herbs, along with terracotta garden decorations and cinnamon smelling birds will also be produced by prisoners and sold to the community

10.10 The 'Virtual Campus' is now 'live' in the prison enabling prisoners to complete CV's and job applications before they leave Deerbolt. Once released, the system enables prisoners to log onto the 'Virtual Campus' and retrieve relevant data produced in the prison which will hopefully enable them to obtain work

10.11 During Diversity week in May 20 the following activities took place:

- A visually impaired group visited the prison and were entertained to lunch at the Castle View Bistro by the N.V.Q level 1 catering group
- The Imams wife demonstrated the preparation and cooking of Egyptian food.
- A Pagan Chaplain raised awareness about different religions including paganism
- Halal food was produced in a cookery workshop
- The Performing Arts Studio enacted a play highlighting the issues of Disability Discrimination and also hosted a performance by the local group Jordan Brownfield.
- GW Theatre Company visited the Establishment to stage the play 'One Extreme to the other'. This was attended by staff and prisoners and covered the topic of religious, political and racial extremism.
- Henry Olonga, the former Zimbabwean international cricketer, visited Deerbolt to give an inspirational talk about his cricket career, his life in Zimbabwe and his religion.
- 15 families took part in the latest Family Day which was held in the Visits Hall. Prisoners and visitors were supplied with refreshments by the Training Kitchen and children's activities were carried out by NEPACS staff.
- Bert Draycott and Benny Graham performed for the prisoners. Their songs are primarily based on mining, ship building and industrial life in the North East. 79 year old Bert is the Worlds Champion Spoon Player.

- Isla St Clair and Patrick King visited Deerbolt to present ‘Eyes Front’, a combination of live performance and film about the effect of music in wartime.

10.12 During the year the Prison was visited by the High Sheriffs of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Yorkshire.

10.13 Ashley Done’s family visited Deerbolt in April and a cheque for £2300 was donated to the British Heart Foundation. (Mr Done died in Deerbolt from natural causes – see also item 5.6).

10.14 This year prisoners have produced bird boxes and hedgehog homes for local schools. A park bench made by the prisoners was donated to Teesdale School. A Santa Sleigh was made by the prisoners to encourage donations for local charities.

10.15 A football tournament was held in the gym and the kitchen held a bake sale, the proceeds of which went to Butterwick Children’s Hospice.

11. The Work of the Board

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. David Yeadon and Vice Chairman Mrs. Annabel Dobson the Board have been a successful team of between eight and eleven members. A recruitment drive brought in four new members, and there are presently two prospective members.

The work of the Board at Deerbolt is made considerably more efficient by the support of our clerk, Mr. Anthony Coatsworth, and we gladly acknowledge his efficiency and help.

(a) The Board’s Monitoring Function

Weekly Rota visits are carried out and reports made at each monthly meeting in the presence of the Governor. We also receive written reports from the Governor responding to issues we have raised. The Governor shares general information with us and we are free to ask any questions we wish. Board members have free access to all members of staff. Applications are discussed so that experience can be shared. Members may choose to attend various function meetings. The most important is the Safer Custody meeting which deals with the welfare of prisoners but a high priority is also accorded to the Prisoners’ Consultative Committee (which meets monthly with prisoner representatives from each wing) as this keeps us in touch with issues the prisoners themselves think important.

(b) The Board's Training Programme

The Board Development Officer, Mrs. Josephine Carroll has provided good support with speakers and reminders of in-house training at Deerbolt. She also organised a highly successful visit to HMP Frankland.

As in the previous three years the Board held a morning workshop where each member presented individual contributions to this report. The Board Chair wishes to thank his team for their unfailing support during the year.

Statistical Appendices 2010/2011

	2009/10	2010/11
Recommended Board Complement	14	14
Number of Board Members at start of year	12	8
Number of Board members at end of year	8	9
Number of new members joining during year	0	4
Number of members leaving within the year	4	3
Number of attendances to the prison other than Board Meetings	280	336
Number of visits to the prison including all meetings	362	431
Total number of applications	109	92
Total number of Rule 49 Reviews held		151
Total number of Rule 49 Reviews attended.	32	129

Signed.....David Yeadon - Chair
31st December 2011