



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

1 OCTOBER 2012 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

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

## Section 1

### Statutory Role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is especially charged to:

1. Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of their programmes preparing them for release.
2. Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, and concern it has.
3. **Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.**

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 prisoner's records.

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**Section 3**

**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 Reducing Reoffending Unit (RRU) (formerly High Intensity Training (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 predominantly Hull to the southeast of Deerbolt stretching northeast through Durham and Northumberland, and across the country to Liverpool and Manchester in the northwest, although it is not unusual for sentenced prisoners to be transferred from prisons in other parts of England and Wales.

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### **Section 4**

#### **Executive Summary**

Prison life continues in the capable hands of Governor Gabrielle Lee. The year has seen continued, and considerable, improvements and repairs to the fabric and appearance of the establishment inside and out. The Board accepts that cell damage by inmates puts a regular strain on the resources of the Works Department – despite this, the effort of getting repairs and refurbishment done does often seem long, slow, and tied up in bureaucracy.

From last years' 'Fair and Sustainable', we now move on to 'Benchmarking' – what effect do these ever-changing policies have on staff morale? Very mixed, from resigned acceptance from some of the longer-serving staff, to simply accepting that this is how it always is from newer members of staff. Almost without exception, however, staff acts in a very caring and professional manner, and the Board commend them wholeheartedly for that.

Last years' worry over reducing population leading to possible closure of the prison has evaporated, and for the last few months of the reporting period the prison has been operating at almost full capacity – regularly over 500 prisoners housed in a prison with a maximum capacity of 513.

The return of population to near maximum levels put a strain on staffing levels, but the announcement of the closure of nearby Northallerton Prison – a disaster for the town of Northallerton itself – will no doubt be a godsend for Deerbolt, with the transfer of a number of officers and administration staff a strong possibility early in next years' reporting period.

Once again, the Board commend Governor Gabrielle Lee and all of the prison staff, for leading the prison with enthusiasm and professionalism through ever changing and challenging times.

## **Equality and Inclusion**

1. The Diversity and Equality Management Team (DEMT) has continued to meet regularly, chaired by the Governor and to oversee all aspects of this area.

2 The pressure on staffing which has been a major concern at Deerbolt over this time, especially during the summer months of 2013, has put strains upon the prison and its staff as they seek to maintain and monitor policies for equality and diversity. In spite of this and of successive changes (noted in our last Annual Report) in the allocation of responsibility for the respective strands in this area, the Board believes that effective policies have just been maintained. The Board intends to keep a close watch on this, as further staffing changes come into effect as a result of the 'Benchmarking' process.

3. After a period in abeyance, owing to handovers of staff responsibility, the system of 'Diversity Champions' recruited for each wing has been restored, though high turnover of prisoners make it difficult to maintain. Prisoners are also represented at the Team meetings and are encouraged to take a vocal part.

4. A significant back-log in the due processing of Diversity Incident Report Form (DIRF) documents, resulting from the staffing issues already alluded to, has now been dealt with.

5. **The abandonment of 'Challenge it, Change it' face-to-face training in favour of training delivered electronically causes the board serious concern.** In our view, the nature of training in this area requires engagement with attitudinal and inter-personal qualities which cannot be adequately perceived or addressed without direct personal/group encounter. We see a danger that the endeavour to insure that all staff understand and implement good practice in this area may be significantly impaired by this change.

6. Some decisions of the Team regarding physical improvements to the prison site, e.g. for increased disability parking space, have not been promptly carried out; this has been attributed to the pressure on reduced staffing in the Works Department.

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7. It has proved difficult to secure an outside agency able to offer effective auditing of the prison's DIRF reports; efforts to achieve this are continuing, and in the very latter part of the reporting period, it would appear that the problem had been resolved using a Darlington based facility.

8. Efforts have been sustained for the promotion of Equality and Diversity in the prison at large, through enhanced displays and advertisements in corridors and on wings, through the annual Diversity Week – marked again this year by an imaginative and effective stage production involving prisoners. A monthly newsletter ('Diversity Monthly'), which focuses each month on a specific area of concern, has been initiated. This is circulated to all staff.

9. Good provision for Ramadan was made by the kitchens, and an unusually high proportion of those who opted for the fast continued to the end. Collaboration between the Chaplains has remained close and effective during the time in which temporary arrangements for RC chaplaincy have been in place, pending a new appointment.

10. The proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) prisoners has remained consistent with past years, with a monthly average of 33 (monthly high 58, low 18). The number of foreign nationals reached a peak of twenty in May, exceeding previous totals, but has averaged 16. Staff has continued to give regard to the small number of Traveller prisoners, and to attend the local traveller's forum. The Governor and staff have encouraged the use of Language Line for the benefit of those who do not speak English.

11. Given that no new staff appointments have been advertised in the period under review, there has been no opportunity to redress the lack of ethnic balance in staffing. The same lack of balance still characterises the Monitoring Board's membership, which is also still short of younger members.

**Education, learning & Skills 5.b.**

Q 1. Whether prisoners have been properly assessed on their basic literacy and numeracy skills and other educational needs

RESPONSE: All prisoners are held on remand prior to their move to Deerbolt. In remand, they are assessed for the Learner Registration Service. Scores from this assessment are transferred (with the prisoner) to Deerbolt. The staff at Deerbolt use the service assessment scores to develop individual learning plans, thus avoiding duplication of assessment. The Manchester College, who provide the 'In Scope' educational service for Deerbolt have developed an 'enrolment tool' enabling them to access prisoners relevant background information including previous courses attended and/or learning disability / problems which may inhibit the individual's ability to learn. Prisoners are able to re-sit their initial diagnostic assessment if it is considered to be incorrect.

OBSERVATION: There are no changes since last year

Q.2 Whether their requirements have been incorporated into their sentence plans

RESPONSE: The National Careers Service in Deerbolt have developed a 'skills action plan' which is learner led. Prisoners are interviewed within one week of their arrival at the prison and all relevant information is incorporated into an Individual Learning Plan (ILP)  
The plan identifies prisoner skills, courses they need/wish to follow and their possible career path. To assist in the production of the ILP the entrance area of the Education Department displays posters showing flow charts of the various pathways that individuals can undertake in order to identify their personal learning outcomes. ILP's are stored in the Education Department staffroom and are transferred into the classrooms when the prisoners are attending classroom/workshop sessions. This enables the teaching staff to update and amend the ILP's when necessary

OBSERVATION: There are notable and positive changes which have occurred since the completion of last year's report:-

- a. Prisoners (with help from the staff) now take the lead in the preparation of their ILP's

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b. The ILP's are easily accessed and updated by teaching staff. The Manager of The Manchester College Teaching Staff indicates that the increased prisoner involvement in their ILP improves their commitment to the programmes, their willingness to attend courses and their desire to achieve qualifications.

Q.3 Whether the range of courses is available to enable these plans to be followed.

RESPONSE: Deerbolt maintains an excellent educational facility for prisoners providing a College rather than a School environment. The Manchester College provides the 'In Scope' Courses, nine of which are skills based and lead to a qualification (i.e. Painting and Decorating, Plastering, Joinery etc) A further nine which involves preparation for work and life once released from prison (i.e. Workplace values, money matters, Health and Safety etc.) Three courses introduce the prisoners to IT skills and nine cover the functional skills. An additional programme, known as 'The Studio' enables prisoners to address issues regarding personal behaviour and anger management through the medium of Drama.

The Manchester College now obtains its funding through OLASS4 which is based on payment by results. Initial payments made when the prisoner enrolls on the programme and the final payment is dependent upon completion of the course.

'Out of Scope' courses funded by the Prison Service include those in the laundry, gardens, charity workshop, training kitchens, print shop and Prison Information Communication Technology Academy (PICTA)

OBSERVATION: Again there have been positive changes in course development since last year's report:-

- a. Functional skills have been 'embedded' into the majority of skill based courses both 'in' and 'out' of scope. Consequently, if a prisoner is struggling with writing a calculation while he is carrying out a skill, he is removed from the workshop, assisted with his problem and then returned to complete his task.
- b. Prisoners are assisted to select courses which fit into the length of their sentence so that qualifications can be achieved before the prisoner leaves. However, the majority of courses are now delivered on a modular basis (each module lasting about two weeks) so that if the prisoner is moved or leaves before achieving a complete qualification he is able to continue obtaining modules outside of Deerbolt until he has sufficient to obtain his award.

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**FUNDING:** As noted earlier, The Manchester College obtain their funding from OLASS 4. This is drawn down when prisoners enrol and finally complete their awards.

The prison funding is based upon the number of workshops available and the number of prisoners who attend them. The final calculation means that Out Of Scope courses receive a set amount to cover their annual costs. If further funding is needed then a business plan is required. The criterion for obtaining funding has an impact on the number of prisoners attending classrooms and workshops.

For example: In Scope need to select and recruit prisoners who are most likely to enrol and also achieve their final award. This practice restricts classroom numbers - Out Of Scope funding is based upon numbers so consequently classrooms and workshops are fully manned.

Currently, In Scope staff have been seconded into the Out Of Scope print shop to embed functional skills into the practical printing work. This is an example of the managers working together to overcome some of the difficulties that the funding arrangements create. However, as things stand at the present the different criteria for obtaining funding results in the Prison Service Programmes running more effectively in terms of prisoner numbers and attendance than those programmes and courses provided by The Manchester College

**Q.4** Whether there are enough places on courses to accommodate prisoners who need them.

**RESPONSE:** Prisons in general and Deerbolt is no exception, have experienced considerable changes over the last 18 months. The introduction of 'Fair and Sustainable' has made changes to staff numbers and responsibilities. The closure of other prisons has resulted in large fluctuations of prisoner numbers. Deerbolt experienced a large drop in prisoner numbers from last September, until recently, when the number of prisoners seems to be on the increase. Consequently it has been difficult for The Manchester College to estimate the number of places available for learners during this time. The tendency has been to overestimate especially as they need to ensure that as many as possible of the prisoners enrol and complete qualifications to meet funding requirements. Consequently there remain more than sufficient places available than there are prisoners to fill them.

Inscope courses can usually be staffed over holiday periods. Due to the specialisms of the Out Of Scope courses, when an instructor is on annual leave there is no one qualified to teach the prisoners. However, staff does

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their best to ‘tailor’ programmes so that they fit into 46 weeks rather than 50 weeks allowing for staff leave.

OBSERVATION: It must be difficult to calculate the number of places made available to prisoners in an ever changing prison population. Perhaps, as things settle in the next few months a more accurate figure can be reached.

Figures for ‘In Scope’ Courses

	<u>Places Available</u>	<u>Numbers Enrolled</u>
Sept 2012	8593	5636
Dec 2012	7741	4843
April 2013	8462	5367
July 2013	9365	6083

Figures for ‘Out of Scope’ Courses

Sept 2012	3030	1722
Dec 2012	1940	1252
April 2013	2276	1705
July 2013	2504	1955

Q.5 Whether prisoners are failing to attend courses they ought to follow because they prefer to do better paid work.

Q.6 Issues, both regime and provider driven, which may limit the learning and skills opportunities or are available to prisoners/detainees (e.g. is the establishment failing to escort them to their classes or are released or transferred before they can complete or even start the course.

RESPONSE: As noted earlier in this report, Deerbolt offers a wide range of courses which are designed to enable prisoners to obtain qualifications which will benefit them when they are released. Prisoners are actively involved in their ILP’s and they agree the pathways they wish to follow.

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The Governor responsible for the education department acknowledges that 18 – 21 years olds prefer ‘hands on work with embedded functional skills’ Deerbolt has acknowledged this and amended its provision of courses to meet this requirement. However, there remains a considerable anomaly in the numbers that enrol for courses and those that actually attend. For example: - (using the same dates as Q.4)

	<u>Numbers Enrolled</u>	<u>Numbers Attending</u>
<u>IN SCOPE</u>		
Sept 2012	5636	4497
Dec 2012	4843	4123
Apr 2013	5367	4958
July 2013	6083	5763
<u>OUT OF SCOPE</u>		
Sept 2012	1967	1811
Dec 2012	1252	1156
April 2013	1705	1552
July 2013	1955	1979*

(Some attended wrong Course)

### REASONS FOR NON-ATTENDANCE – August 2013

11 attended Health Care without staff approval  
69 were removed/excluded from class or refused to attend  
1 had completed the course in a previous prison  
16 kept on Wing  
15 ‘Issues’ ??  
50 not required by teachers ??  
6 no reasons given  
1 no towel

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3 staff errors

2 adjudications

31 went to place of work instead of activity shown on work board ( i.e. examination?)

**OBSERVATION:** It would appear from these figures that despite the positive improvements that have been made to accommodate prisoners needs there has been little change in this area since last year i.e.:-

- a. Prisoners are still enrolling on courses but not attending them.
- b. Reasons given for non-attendance are vague and therefore difficult to analyse

Noted with particular concern are ‘issues’ ‘not required by teachers’ ‘kept on Wing’ ‘no reasons given’ ‘staff errors’

The Governor responsible for education and the manager of The Manchester College (both of whom are new to their jobs) are well aware of these problems and do what they can to improve the situation (the work boards were introduced by regimes to assist the Wing staff to ensure that prisoners arrived at their correct destinations)

The Activities Hub who allocate prisoners to their courses and workshops put considerable effort into ensuring that prisoners reach their appropriate destinations.

However, the possible causes for non-attendance remain similar to last year:

- Constant changes in prison population
- Major changes in staff roles and prison regimes
- incorrect/unclear reasons for non-attendance recorded by prison staff on the Wing - prisoner preference for hands on/paid work/gym rather than academic options

Hopefully, when the new management have settled into their roles and the prison population stabilises, then further measures can be taken to resolve this unacceptable situation

**Q.7** Any views of prisoners/detainees about the contribution that learning and skills can make to their future prospects of employment, and their ‘unfiltered’ view of learning and skills provision

**Q.8** The prisoner/detainee view of education and skills training in the establishment compared with their experience of provision outside.

**RESPONSE:** The Manchester College have collated the following feedback from prisoners for the ‘In Scope’ courses. They represent the

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views of 153 prisoners obtained during one week in May 2013 and cover the full range of the provision. All responses were anonymous.

### Prior to course

Guidance provided regarding course	94%	Good
Clearly explained	94%	Good
Introduction to course	97%	felt welcome
How they should behave as a learner	96%	understood
Assessment identifying needs	92%	Good
Help with action plan, aims and goals	90%	Good
Teaching	98%	Good
Lessons well organised and helped learning	96%	Good
Learning skills which will help in life	90%	Good
Reviews to plan and discuss progress	85%	Good
Lessons well organised and helped learning	96%	Good
Learning skills which will help in life	90%	Good
Reviews to plan and discuss progress	85%	Good

The following feedback has been obtained from prisoners in their place of work or moving around the prison:-

**PRINT SHOP:** The atmosphere in the print shop always appears to be relaxed and the prisoners (without exception) enjoy their experience and consider that the skills and techniques they are learning will benefit them when they are discharged. Such is the success of the print shop, it is to be increased in size with one section dealing with warehousing the stock and another printing the various items for sale.

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VIRTUAL CAMPUS: The prisoners produce CV's and other documents in this work area which can be accessed after they are discharged. The area is well run and the prisoners again value the skills and techniques that they gain from their experience.

GARDENS AND HORTICULTURAL COURSES: The Manchester College staff has developed a section of the prison where the prisoners have personal allotments. Here they plant vegetables and herbs of their own choosing and are encouraged to build walls and develop pathways around their plots. All produce is used in the prison kitchens. Prisoners working in this area comment upon how valuable they view this experience which enables them to develop skills for the future.

PRISON GARDENS: Vegetables and herbs are grown in the gardens for use in the kitchens. Prisoners are engaged in the propagation of the plants and encouraged to develop ponds and special garden areas around the prison. The prisoners who work in these gardens are very positive about their experiences.

### DRUG & ALCOHOL UNIT:

Prisoners in this unit are encouraged by the staff to engage in the teaching and rehabilitation of those new to the unit. This is an extremely therapeutic and positive experience for all involved.

LIBRARY: The library provides an excellent service for the prisoners with a variety of stimulating and educational activities including the '6 book challenge' Prisoners are extremely positive about their contact with the Library Service and Deerbolt has achieved the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country for its library provision.

CHARITY WORKSHOP: Here emphasis is placed on supporting prisoners who struggle to cope in other areas of education. They are supported to develop skills (i.e. dexterity) which will hopefully enable them to progress.

FOCUS GROUP: 7 Prisoners I.M.B. led - no officers present

Age: 18 - 4 prisoners

Age 19 - 3 prisoners

Age when no longer in full time education

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- 4 - 14 years of age
- 3 - 15 years of age

### Reasons for leaving school

- 2 - 'kicked out' for drug use
- 1 - 'went to Special School'
- 4 - 'in trouble/fighting etc'

### Current Location (Education)

- 2 - print shop
- 1 - charity workshop
- 1 - P.I.C.T.A
- 1 - ict
- 1 - Maths group
- 1 - just completed a painting and decorating course and obtained qualification

### OBSERVATION:

SCHOOL: None of the prisoners placed much value on their school experiences and five said that they had 'learned nothing' Two prisoners said that their schooling had been 'not bad' and they had learned 'something' However, they were unable to be specific about this learning

### PRISON:

ICT - prisoner said that he had completed level one and as no level two was available he was 'not learning anything' at this time

CHARITY WORKSHOPS - 'not learned anything of value'

MATHS - 'good'

P.I.C.T.A - 'good'

PRINT SHOP & PAINTING AND DECORATING - All deemed to be 'very good' and providing skills which could be transferred into workplaces once discharged from prison.

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All seven prisoners preferred the prison learning experience to that of school and three commented that 'having to attend' the courses improved their ability to learn. Practical skills based courses took preference over those which are classroom based.

CONCLUSION: Throughout this year Deerbolt has experienced numerous changes in prison personnel and prisoner numbers. To the credit of the Governor and her staff, there have been few major incidents in the prison as a whole and several positive changes in the Educational Department. Both In & Out of Scope teaching has moved from a didactic to a student centred model with prisoners taking the lead with their ILP's and learning pathways. The 'embedding' of the functional skills in the majority of the skills based programmes again gives prisoners more control of their learning experience.

**There remains one area which is deemed to require attention during the next year:**

### **1. The anomaly between the enrolment and attendance figures.**

It is hoped that the new managers (Prison and The Manchester College) will continue to develop their partnership during the next year to overcome these issues.

**Healthcare and Mental Health. 5.c.**

- Healthcare at HMYOI Deerbolt is divided into two areas of expertise: Day to Day Physical Health outsourced by the Ministry of Justice to the private company Care UK Plc and Mental Health which comes under the auspices of the Tees Valley Mental Health Authority.
- The current staffing level is six staff nurses, three support workers, three administrators plus a Team Leader and a Healthcare Manager.
- In this reporting year a Pin Phone has been installed, available 0830 hrs to 1400 hrs Monday to Friday to enable prisoners on the wings to make medical appointments for themselves in the same way that they would access medical care in the community. This has now been extended to include an option to reorder medication, again, in line with community practice.
- Clinics for dental care, sexual health, alcohol awareness and smoking cessation take place regularly and are well attended. There is also access to a Sleep Clinic. Any patient requiring hospitalisation is transferred to HMP Holme House until well enough to be returned to Deerbolt.
- There is a Telelink referral (not to Darlington, the local A&E hospital, as mistakenly identified in the last IMB report) but to the nationally commissioned Airedale General Hospital in Keighley, West Yorkshire. Consultant care on a 1:1 basis is available by this means and onward referral to specialists can then be provided.
- Staff sickness, both short and long term, in the HCC has been noticeable in this reporting year but has been managed. This has not affected the medical practice and a general improvement in staff fitness is now apparent.
- A good cooperative relationship with both the General and Mental Health departments has been established. This, in no small measure, is attributed to the close proximity of all healthcare staff in one corridor. There is no physical divide and staff work well together.
- In the Mental Health department, there have been some glitches with timing of sessions. For example, if there is delay in resolving the Prison Roll, the concomitant lateness of prisoners attending sessions has a knock-on effect which, of course, affects the service provided.

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- One recent change affecting Mental Health staff is the transfer of responsibility for some remedial activities (Acupuncture and the Art Group) to Regimes. This change places responsibility for the attendance of prisoners on Deerbolt staff rather than Mental Health staff and consequently removes the possibility of the imposition of fines from the course provider, Manchester College for non-attendance.

**Once again, the IMB wish to make the point in this Annual Report that Care UK is a private company to whom healthcare in Deerbolt has been outsourced. Nevertheless, responsibility remains ultimately with The Ministry of Justice.**

**Purposeful activity (includes Work) 5.d.**

HMYOI Deerbolt continues to offer a very wide range of Activities and Work for prisoners. The objective is to have as few as possible prisoners remaining on the wings during daytime and all the Activities and Education aim to fill a role in improving life chances after release, either through achieving externally recognised educational or craft qualifications, or at least by establishing habits of routine, commitment and perseverance.

In a typical sample week 87% of prisoners were allocated to activities, albeit 4% of these were part-time. 6% were awaiting allocation probably being recent arrivals, 3% were refusing labour, 2% were kept on the wing for medical or vulnerability reasons, while a final 2% were debarred activity on Security grounds or because they were in the Segregation Unit.

However, whilst a high percentage of prisoners were allocated to activities, actual attendance is typically only 68% of those allocated. Statistics indicate that only 4% of non-attendance is down to the prisoner (classified as either acceptable or non-acceptable absence). The remaining 28% of non-attendance at allocated activities seems to be down to the organisation of the activities including 5% classified as cancelled and 16% non-attendance because not all the prisoners allocated to a task were actually required. 7% of non-attendance was classed as “not recorded”. These figures derive from a newly introduced form of data presentation, so it will be interesting to follow changes in the results in future years, because on these data it appears that improvement could be made in maximising the numbers of prisoners engaged in activity.

In the time most prisoners stay at Deerbolt it would not be possible to acquire enough craft skill and experience to qualify for immediate skilled employment outside, but many prisoners can gain externally recognised qualifications on a modular basis which they can carry forward to Colleges in the Community after release. Possibly at least as important is the confidence and self-esteem that prisoners gain through acquiring skills and completing projects.

A good innovation this year has been the development of a 4 week Introduction to Construction course. As well as enabling trainees to decide which aspect of construction they would like to train for, the introductory period allows weaknesses in literacy and numeracy to be addressed as part of the craft learning. Prisoners much prefer to correct educational failings this way rather than attending specific literacy classes where their weaknesses would be displayed before colleagues.

## **Chaplaincy**

Deerbolt has week-round chaplaincy coverage to provide pastoral support, mainly for Christian and Muslim faiths, whilst representatives of other faiths either visit regularly or are on call. There are classes and prayers for Muslims on Friday afternoon, a Mass for Roman Catholics on Wednesday afternoon and Christian Worship for Protestant faiths on Sunday morning.

A choir has been established during this year which is proving popular and successful.

The activities of the chaplaincy team during the year have been many and varied, providing a wide range of interest for prisoners –

**10 prisoners representing** Muslim, CofE, RC and Free Church attended a meeting on the theme of *Repentance Within Judaism*.

**North East Inter-Faith Resettlement Day** – About 50 members of faith communities, Chaplains, members of staff and prisoners attended and the 10 prisoner delegates were able to remain over lunch.

**ROTL** – A prisoner was granted ROTL in order to help on the Prison Fellowship stall on Barnard Castle market.

**Diversity Week:** Successful Chaplaincy-related Diversity Week events included:

Pakistani cookery demonstration

‘Champion Lift Ministry’

Bruce Dyer & Isaiah Dyer Gospel/R&B concerts

‘Riding Lights Roughshod’

**An Arabic Cooking Demonstration** was held.

**‘Tough Talk’** - a charity that shares the Gospel in an informal way that appeals to people who would not normally go to a church meeting, attended the prison.

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**Music and Drama Studio.**

An excellent facility, enabling prisoners to discover hitherto unknown talents both in music and drama, presided over very talented and enthusiastic tutors.

A 'Remembrance Day' re-enactment highlighting both the First and Second World Wars saw prisoners in Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force uniforms on stage, taking the whole process most seriously. It clearly had a very strong effect on them, with the audience finding it very moving too. A big input here from kitchens (food of the time) and library.

**Resettlement 5.e.**

Deerbolt continues to both improve and broaden its re-settlement programme. The dedicated resettlement wing no longer exists; this being in line with the overall ethos of the prison which means that resettlement is firmly in place as a policy throughout the prison. Deerbolt continues to have good links with partner Agencies and we witness those making great efforts to find work and accommodation for prisoners and to help them maintain and, indeed, renew family links.

**Release On Temporary Licence (ROTL).**

Work continues on building links with the community and around forty places are available, however, there are not enough applicants and many do fail the board. Improvements are being made in the difficult area of transport to jobs outside the prison.

**PERTEMPS.**

(Job recruitment agency)The Deerbolt 'Pertemps' link has worked hard to increase the engagement level with prisoners after release by meeting them face to face outside and introducing them to their new contact, this has been found to increase the success rate.

**North Eastern Prison After Care Society (NEPACS).**

Does excellent work on family links and ran a family day in September with nine lads and their families taking part, it was felt that this produced a feel good factor throughout the prison afterwards. They also run father and child days and a dad's course through Surestart.

**Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DART).**

The Recovery wing has been, and continues to be, a major success at Deerbolt. Sixty inmates (12 % of the total population) are resident on the wing at any time; they each have an assigned DART team member and enter a contract relating to voluntary drug testing, behaviour and discipline. They all complete a minimum six week Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART) recovery course and 100% sign up to continue this programme after the initial course. Importantly, SMART can and does continue after release. Significant factors are the introduction of 'Help for Heroes' servicemen to the wing; the fact that all Prison Officers on the wing have elected to be there; the very significant family involvement and the development of Peer Mentors. **This all delivered by a small but dedicated, skilful, innovative and forward thinking team.**

**Safer Custody. 5.f.**

A total of 167 Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) documents were opened during the reporting year, several of which were multiples. The period October 2012 to January 2013 averaged 7 per month which is normal. However, the period February to September 2013 showed an average of 18 per month, which is higher than normal, and a concern to the Board as the population in the earlier part of that time was the lowest for several years.

The Listener Programme at Deerbolt works very well, with several Listeners exceeding all expectations. The Listener representative at the monthly Safer Custody meeting always makes a useful contribution. Training continues with the Samaritans, when numbers drop due to prisoners release.

As reported last year, the roles of Safer Custody co-ordinator and especially the Administration staff continues to be under pressure due to additional prison duties. This has not improved. These roles are very important and the board is concerned that the programme could suffer. A high standard is essential to ensure that the welfare of all prisoners is maintained.

The Violence Reduction Programme (VRP), now 18 months in operation, is working well and the awards given are effective. The need to correlate all information is important to ensure effective management of prisoners.

The wing showers at Deerbolt have been a major problem for several years and the cause of a high level of incidents within the shower area. The Board is pleased to report that the shower situation is improving, as 'C' wing is now a single room system (as opposed to single open cubicle) and works extremely well and safely. This system needs to be applied to all wings to stop shower incidents happening. A high tariff of punishment now operates for all incidents occurring in shower areas.

Staff training continues to be an issue. It is important that all staff are trained to a high standard.

The Safer Custody Team meets monthly, but because of other staff commitments, is not attended as well as it should be. This is a very

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important role and should be given a high profile to ensure that the welfare of all prisoners is maintained to a high standard.

**Issues of concern to the Board.**

**Continuation of installation of single room system of showers on all wings**

**A review of the role of Safer Custody Co-ordinator and Administration staff.**

**Segregation, Care and Separation. Close Supervision. 5.g.**

Segregation staff has to continually deal with difficult prisoners. Experienced and new staff working together has proved to work very well. It calls for a high level of patience, understanding and firm discipline, as the prisoners can be very demanding. The Board can confirm that the Segregation Unit staff has achieved a high standard throughout the year.

Board members see all prisoners held in the Segregation Unit as part of their monthly rota visit. Staff informs duty members of all issues including special cell use and all disruptive behaviour.

A total of 135 Rule 49 reviews were held during the reporting period, and, this must be a record, as *every single one of them* was attended by a member of the IMB. If that is not commitment by a group of volunteers, then I don't know what is! Since March 2013, in a move to ensure a good attendance from all departments at the reviews (except 72 hour), these are now regularly held on a Tuesday afternoon.

Adjudications are now held at 0930hrs daily, and are always conducted in a firm and fair manner. Board members are always made welcome.

A total of 167 prisoners were adjudicated by an independent judge, who attends Deerbolt on a monthly basis. All cases are dealt with in a highly professional and firm manner.

There was concern by the Board in the last reporting period with prisoners held on GOaD on serious charges, and detained for long periods awaiting police investigations. This situation has now been significantly improved by the appointment of a Police Liaison Officer (PLO) who attends Deerbolt twice a week. This is a major improvement and ensures that prisoners, staff and the Segregation Unit operate more effectively. The Board wholeheartedly welcomes this change.

Segregation Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG) meet quarterly, and is attended by all departments including the IMB. All segregation issues are examined with particular attention to Rule 49 cases.

**Residential Services (includes accommodation , food, catering and kitchens.) 5.h.**

**Gym.**

‘Fair & Sustainable’ took place in April. There are now three sessions of gym per prisoner. Full-time workers are offered evening & weekend sessions, and these are well attended. Due to the new regime, the day-time sessions have a poor attendance.

Courses taking place are – ‘Substance Abuse’, ‘Alcohol Awareness’, and ‘Nutrition and Exercise Fitness’ .

It is regrettable that there is no longer a football team, nor ‘Duke of Edinburgh’ award schemes.

**The showers are still in an inadequate condition, difficult to monitor, resulting in an environment where incidents can take place.**

**Gardens .**

A good year. Growing has been very successful, and in conjunction with the local Barnard Castle Rotary Club, vegetable and herb plants have been grown for the local ‘Incredible Edible’ project in the town.

Vegetables have been provided for the kitchens, and the prisoners have taken a great interest in producing this food.

Certificates available are level 1 -National City & Guilds, but no level 2 at present due to staff shortages.

The grounds of Deerbolt are always well maintained. This year Gardens have also taken on waste management.

**Kitchens.**

**The Kitchen staff are to be commended on managing the reduction in budget from £2.10 to £1.97 per person per day.**

They have produced menus that provide an excellent choice accommodating all the dietary requirements of the prisoners. However with a budget where every penny counts the staff feel that continuing reductions in the budget mean they ‘are being set up to fail’.

It has been noticeable this year that there has been great frustration with the time taken for repairs to equipment. There have been significant delays to repairs of major items that have made an already demanding job even more difficult. **In particular parts replacement has been slow, for example an oven was out of action for two months.**

**The use of vegetables grown in the gardens has been a great success this year. This has been achieved through the close working of the staff in the gardens and kitchens.**

There are plans to build on this year's experience so that more can be grown to dovetail with demand from the kitchens. As well as providing additional food into the kitchens, the prisoners working in the kitchens and gardens have benefited from the experience.

There is a training kitchen and prisoners are able to work towards an NVQ qualification.

Kitchens also supply food and drinks for Visits and Staff Facilities.

### **Accommodation.**

The 9 wings in Deerbolt provide a reasonable standard of accommodation.

The residences are in a generally good state of repair and are kept clean and tidy. A 'Cleanest Wing' competition was held to encourage the prisoners to maintain standards.

Prisoners were involved in redecoration on some of the wings which also increases their awareness of their environment, and interest in maintaining standards.

Refurbishment work has been undertaken on some of the wings this year.

**At long last, the Board are delighted to report that work on providing the first individual shower rooms in the prison have been installed on 'C' wing. These have set a standard in decency and safety to be aspired to throughout the prison.**

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There are still some wings with too few showers for the numbers of prisoners. The Board hope that there will be further work this year to improve this situation.

During the year there were a number of incidences of prisoners damaging their cells in the mistaken hope it would lead to them being transferred to another prison. The extent of this damage has a significant impact on the budget.

The Governor and staff work hard to dispel this mythology, and some prisoners have received added days by the Judge.

There is now a system in place where the prison makes financial charges against the prisoner to recoup what they can of the damage repair costs. This clearly will help concentrate the prisoners' mind.

**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 ten and eleven members. A recruitment drive brought in two new members. Tenure of appointment and retirements will lose two members at the end of 2013, and one at the end of 2014, taking the Board down to seven members at that time.

New recruiting arrangements, involving more input from the Secretariat, resulted in ten applications for membership, with interviews set up for October 2013. It is interesting to note that more than half of the applicants picked up the vacancy on-line, rather than the more traditional newspaper advert/article.

Over a number of years, the work of the Board at Deerbolt has been made considerably more efficient by the support of our clerk, Mr. Anthony Coatsworth, and we gladly acknowledge his efficiency and help. During the year, his role was taken over by Ms Joanne Alderson, who has continued Anthony Coatsworth's high standard of support for the Board, for which we are most grateful.

The Board Development Officer Mrs Di Peat has provided good support with speakers and reminders of in-house training at Deerbolt. Mrs Peat organised a highly successful visit to HMP Holme House.

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 this, and the preceding two years during his Chairmanship, for which he is most grateful. This has provided him with a unique and unmissable experience.

**Statistical Appendices 2012/2013. Section 7.**

	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
Recommended Board Complement	14	14
Number of Board Members at start of year	9	11
Number of Board members at end of year	8	10
Number of new members joining during year	1	3
Number of members leaving within the year	2	1
Number of attendances to the prison other than Board Meetings	274	226
Number of visits to the prison including all meetings	362	310
Total number of applications	150	74
Total number of Rule 49 Reviews held	122	135
Total number of Rule 49 Reviews attended.	117	135

## Page 30- Applications analysis

Code	Subject	Year 2011/12	Year 2012/3	Year	Year
A	Accommodation	5	0		
B	Adjudications	8	4		
C	Equality & Diversity (inc religion)	1	1		
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	19	9		
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	28	10		
E 2	Finance/pay	9	7		
F	Food/kitchen related	1	2		
G	Health related	2	0		
H 1	Property (within current establishment)	4	7		
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	5	3		
H 3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	3	0		
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc)	5	2		
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	8	3		
K	Transfers	22	5		
L	Miscellaneous	30	24		
	<b>Total number of IMB applications</b>	150	77		
	Of total: Confidential Access	1	0		

Signed.....David Yeadon - Chair  
22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2014