



INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
HM PRISON DORCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period

1st October 2010 – 30th September 2011

'Monitoring Fairness and Respect for People in Custody'

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Section 2

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

i.

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

The Board is specifically charged to:

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

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

ii.

Diversity Statement – The IMB - HMP Dorchester

The Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Dorchester is committed to a fully inclusive approach to Diversity, which encompasses and promotes greater interactions and understanding of people of differing backgrounds. This includes, race, religion, ethnicity gender, nationality, sexuality. age, marital status, disability and Incapacity.

The IMB whilst carrying out its duties are fully aware of the diverse needs and perspectives within the prison population. The IMB values this same approach and understanding within its own recruitment and Board development practices.

All members of the IMB HMP Dorchester Board will undertake their duties in a manner that is accessible to everyone within the establishment regardless of their background or social situation.

The Board will monitor to establish that the experiences and interactions between staff, prisoners and visitors are fair and without prejudice. That without exception it is an expectation that all people should be treated with respect and courteously

The key element of the work of this and other IMB Boards is the series of regular unannounced week day and week end visits which enable it to make first-hand observations of prison life, acting as the eyes and ears of a humane society. Therefore there is a need for a committed IMB board in its role as an informed body due to the rapid changes and developments.

Section 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

i.

Dorchester is a typical Victorian design Local Category B Remand Prison built around 1880 located in the centre of Dorchester in the South West region. HMP Dorchester serves the Crown and Magistrates Courts covering Dorset and South Somerset. Holding adult male prisoners up to Category B, convicted and remand prisoners, including vulnerable prisoners and some young adults aged 18 – 21. Foreign Nationals held towards the end of their sentences and detainees awaiting transfer to Immigration Centres. The prison's purpose is to protect the public, serve the courts and reduce-re-offending.

Operational capacity is 260 with a Certified Normal Accommodation of 147.

- Risk assessments require that at times a high number are held in single cells
- Many prisoners request cell sharing. Following risk assessments some prisoners need to share cells due to their vulnerability on an ACCT programme.
- The transient annual prison population is approximately 1700 – 1900 with an average stay of 6 to 8 weeks
- The prison population varies day to day presently mix is 27% on remand 11% un-convicted and 62% sentenced prisoners.

ii.

Although described as a 'small' prison this does not reflect the impact of a very busy prison which requires, very labour intensive support on a one to one with prisoners and the need for proactive clerical administrative support. Without this consistency level of staffing it cannot meet the needs of its role and the criteria for the mixed status of the prisoners' received daily from the courts. On average due to the short length of stay there are 1700 - 2000 transient prisoners through the prison which does impact on the work load and resources.

Each prisoner requires a high level of officer support for prisoners presenting with demanding and complex needs, as many arrive as first timers. Equally this is reflective of the requirement of the high level of input from the Health Care provision.

Residential Units:

A Wing	Convicted and un-convicted adults and young adults (YOs)
A4 landing	Drug treatment/detoxification unit
B landing	Convicted and un-convicted adults and young adults (YOs)
C Wing	Inducting Wing / First Night Centre
D Wing	Vulnerable Prisoner Unit
D2 landing	Segregation Unit
Health Care	4 in-patient beds are still operative although we are informed there will be no NHS bed provision within HMP Dorchester in the future. There is a 24/7 nursing cover, with one trained lone night nurse cover.

Section 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Particular Issues Requiring a Response:

1. Future Prison Financial Cuts:

It is a tribute to staff and management of all levels that they have operated so professionally and effectively in what could have been a disabling environment due to the impact of the rapid changes which are still ongoing as we conclude this reporting period.

If there are to be further cuts this will impact and Increase Risk to Security and the Safety of the prison environment for which this prison has always maintained a good safe environment throughout. This will impact negatively upon the challenges ahead for the Reducing re-offending and Restorative Justice strategies identified from the detailed needs led assessments.

This year has seen an evident increase in the aged population with mobility and other age related issues being received at this establishment.

Therefore, we would welcome an assurance from the Minister that this is acknowledged that the prison will have a secure budget for adequate resources to meet the need and role for this establishment.

Requesting a response: Minister. NOMS.

2. Loss of funding for Community Partnerships locally:

i

There are community organisations locally having their grants and funding reduced therefore this may impact on the delivery of services and their past good working partnership with this prison. The loss of funding for 'Shelter Association' is a great loss to this establishment as they assisted greatly with housing issues for prisoner's re-settlement on release. Therefore it is important that HMP Dorchester has adequate funding for its re-settlement work.

ii Discharge Grants:

There are serious concerns by the prison and ourselves that Discharge Grants are not available for prisoners when sentenced who only have less than 14days to serve. Therefore they leave prison without any monies only to return as a re-offender shortly after release. This should be addressed as this will impact upon any reducing reoffending work. We feel that this can only be realistically addressed at Ministerial level if prisons are 'to work'.

Requesting a response from - Minister. NOMS

3. NHS Services:

i. Concerns continue that the Alcohol Dependent prisoner has not had sufficient assistance. Whilst accepting there has been a little amount of support recently for this group, there needs to be sufficient funding allocated to addressing the need for prisoners presenting with Alcohol issues. There has continued to be lack of funding for this group year on year.

ii. Concerns are raised that there is one trained night nurse lone worker cover, as observers of serious incidents when there is loss of life. This is in our opinion a heavy responsibility being carried by the NHS nurse. Although there is an out of hour call system with the emergency ambulance service which is the same as in the community, there can be delays accessing a prison at night.

iii. There has been a rise in the elderly population within this prison this year requiring increased attention due to high levels of need due to the age related health and mobility restrictions. This impacts greatly upon the management of this group in a prison with limited suitable accommodation.

iv NHS Accommodation for Mental Health Prisoners:

The IMB do have concerns that the use of the Segregation/Care Secure Unit has seen some serious Mental Health prisoners lodging there awaiting transfer to Forensic NHS accommodation.

We request an assurance that this will not be an expectation or become the norm for the future due to the loss of NHS beds or the lone NHS staff night worker situation. The IMB will continue to monitor this closely.

Requesting a response Minister. Prison Service. PCT

3.NHS Local Complaints process:

i There has been an increase in prisoner applications to the IMB on Health issues. In July 2011 there were 10 applications. It is an opinion that in many cases these could be dealt with as a local resolution direct within the HealthCare unit within a timely response. Considerations should be given to the response time scales as many prisoners are accommodated for a short length time.

ii It has not been possible for the IMB to identify through the NHS information any real trends for complaints. The applications to the IMB have been about dispensing medication and the out of hours GP facility.

iii The PALS service is limited as it is not easily accessible for prisoners at this local establishment. ICAS does not seem to be involved or suggested.

iv The HMP complaints for Health Care are processed and referred on to Health Care dealt with very effectively within reasonable time scales although they are not responsible for Health Care complaints.

Requesting a Response from : PCT. Prison Service

5.IMB Budget Reductions:

Reluctantly we have to raise this point in our annual report as this uncertainty effects any serious budget management or control. The IMB Budget reimburses the travel expenses of its voluntary Board members..

If this mileage allowance is reduced then the IMB will become an elitist organisation when only members who can or are prepared to subsidise financially the Ministry, can be appointed. This throws in the face of Diversity issues and the concept that there should be a broad representation from the community which is not only the basic principal of the Independent Monitoring Organisation. It may question the community's confidence in the collective observations and informed judgements if they have to seriously restrict their prison visits.

We recommend respectfully that the Minister Reviews this seriously as any reduction in allowance will impact on the effective monitoring role for this board and its attendance at the prison. The expectation from top down for volunteers to take on more administration work is disconcerting. Fears for the loss of members who cannot afford to continue in post are genuine.

Requesting a response - Minister.

5. Purposeful Activity:

i. One issue being brought to the fore is that prisoners on Remand do not have to engage in any activity if they choose not to, many may feel if they do it reflects their guilt. In our opinion this leaves the prison officer impotent to establish engagement in work, or any learning and skills experience. To be able to access purposeful activity to the full requires a staffing level adequate to implement this. The IMB still feels that there is insufficient purposeful activity.

In the community there is an expectation that individuals who can work should, or are searching for work or in education or training if not incapacitated, maybe this should also reflect the same in a prison environment!

ii. Some prisoners can await confirmation from the courts of their status seven to ten months or more, others who have a short sentence also do not take up the opportunity to actively be involved in work, or Learning & Skills training. On release they have not engaged in any effective purposeful activity that assists in participation in a reducing reoffending agenda. The only change to this ethos can be initiated from the Ministry.

Requesting a response from the Minister - NOMS

Section 5

IMB Over-View:

The overall view is very positive with evidence of a remarkable change supported by staff meeting the challenges in such a short period of time with such a commitment from all.

During this reporting period it is the board's view that there has been evidence of a tremendous lot of hard team work, resulting in good practices which should be highlighted. **(Those areas or teams not mentioned here are performing well and with professionalism) these good practices are in the following areas:**

1. Staff Leadership Management and proactive Team Building
2. Dialogue Sessions Approach & Ethos.
3. Family Visits
4. Chaplaincy developments
5. Learning & Skills/ The Hub
6. OMU reducing Re-offending and Restorative Justice Strategy
7. Diversity appointment of a non uniformed Manger/developments
8. Heath Care developments
9. Segregation/CSU unit staff care & support to disturbed prisoners
10. Security

i. The many changes this year has lead to pressures on staff at all levels who continue to show a proactive approach to developing good working relationships which should be acknowledged by all. Without this commitment and motivation they could not have achieved these positive outcomes this year which continue to provide a safe prison environment. (Evidenced from staff, prisoner surveys and observations by the IMB).vi i It is the board's view that the opportunities are there to build further on the excellent reputation as a high performing local prison. There is a strong focus and motivation within the prison for making this prison a serious contender to reduce the prisoners' level of re-offending, with all the challenges this will bring.

ii There has been a partnership agreement with YOI Portland and HMP Dorchester which has brought some dynamic and innovative planning. The approach with the dialogue sessions for all levels of staff and prisoner participation, all were encouraged to contribute proactively to the planning of the 2year strategy with a clear focus on delivering an active re-offending agenda. There is evidence that prison staff have had a

genuine 'listening' approach to prisoners' experiences both good and poor identifying the prisons strengths and weaknesses.

It is evident to the board that the good prisoner-staff relationship is key to maintaining the safety of the establishment even when under considerable pressures.

iii. As mentioned in last year's report the prisoner time out of cell and engaging in purposeful activity is crucial to the success of 'Making Prisons Work'. There has been a substantial amount of proactive work which enabled this to be improved with more jobs available. There is an acceptance there are job limitations within this Cat B prison restricted environment. Work is in progress to develop the strategy to developing new ways of engaging prisoners in meaningful activities, meaningful jobs for future life skills.

Conclusion:-

In spite of the huge changes taking place generally within the Prison Service and the impact upon HMP Dorchester, the staff and prisoner surveys, responses are it is still considered a safe and well run establishment.

Section 6

Dialogue Ethos – Staff development / Managing Change.

i. This approach has given opportunities for individual and collective contributions. Developing a transparent and secure environment enables perspectives and viewpoints to be seen and understood by all. This facilitates key individual and collective planning, together with short and long term goals. The system assists in an inclusive approach to identify strategies rather than a top down approach.

ii Staff Development - this was identified as a key factor and a priority to the future of making HMP Dorchester an effective successful prison. An in house Union Learning Centre facility was opened this July 2011 with an excellent facility available to all staff, relatives and the wider community. Staff usage of a well equipped Gym with qualified specialist trainers available. The organization of team charity and fun activities enables team- building increases communication both within the prison departments and local communities.

iii The prison staff and prisoner Dialogue sessions have been welcomed by prisoners who have interacted well with some insight to their individual views and collective suggestions for future developments. Areas such as the Drug Strategy, Diversity , and Prisoner wing representative groups. These are notably proactive and give a feeling these have been individually challenging , this assists with prisoners taking responsibility for areas they had not considered before ie: restorative justice to name but one. It is refreshing to see this in action

Section 7

Reducing Re-Offending – Restorative Justice - Offender Management Unit

A 2yr policy and strategy document has been produced giving a clear focus and proactive approach for all departments to collectively work to the aims and objectives set out in this document. The department has an overall lead manager as the Head of Re-Offending of the Dorchester and Portland Partnership.

HMP Dorchester will deliver Restorative Justice in the following three areas:

- Community engagement
- Victim reparation
- Establishment disputes

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a commonsense approach to deal with offending behaviour and local disputes where those affected by the behaviour of the offenders and the offenders themselves voluntarily come together in conference. This is delivered by trained RJ facilitators to seek balance to the harm that has been caused.

Section 7a The Offender Management Unit (OMU) is presently undergoing major changes toward a generic model in order to support prisoners.

i. The OMU is well managed by a dedicated operational manager. The Head of Learning and Skills and the Head of Re-settlement work closely together to develop the strategic response to need and to ensure the public protection procedures are adhered to in all areas and departments. The Reducing Re-offending Lead Manager has been proactive in developing community links and membership on the Dorset County Council , West Dorset District Council, Partnership Forums and obtaining membership of the Chamber Of Commerce.

We are informed that there has been increased community interest shown by organisations and groups wishing to join partnerships with HMP Dorchester. Encouragement and development of these organisations to visit the prison, meet prisoners and staff, to identify employment possibilities, to promote a joint understanding of the prison, prisoners and employers needs and expectations for the future developments. The need to bid for private funding is crucial as central funding continues to be cut or severely limited. Inspirational work has been achieved in this area but the imaginative list of planned developments for each pathway is dependent upon the continuing co-operation of these partnerships.

ii After a long gap, the appointment of a Head of OMU and Public Protection is welcomed. Although the OMU has managed the interim period well, it has not been without its stresses and strains, due to financial cuts and being under-resourced. It should be recognised how dedicated and professional these staff had been during this period

Section 7b: Education- Learning & Skills

- i.** The prison's staff have made some positive links with outside agencies to assist with educational funding ie: The Princes Trust. The Eden project.
- ii.** Training opportunities have been increased with qualifications for NVQ for the Kitchen, Forklift Truck, Corgi Gas Maintenance, Cleaning with links at the Weymouth College.
- iii.** There are 63 jobs available for a prison population of over 200, some posts may be made part-time to enable more prisoners to be actively employed.
- iv.** The employment on release figures show a slight increase to 19% the key performance target is set at 18%. A considerable amount of work and resources were undertaken to enable two prisoners to be released on temporary licence in order to work in the community. However one continues to have success whilst the other re-offended which must de-motivate all the staff involved. This demonstrates that even with all this proactive good work involved, the ultimate responsibility for success lies with the individual.
- v.** Courses have been revised to ensure they are needs led which can be challenging due to the transient population in a local prison. At present 68% are attending accredited courses, 14% non accredited.
- vi.** There are 88 education places available daily. A prisoner survey identified that on the whole the prisoner felt well supported and the course contents is presented in a manner that can be understood.
- vii.** The prisoners indicated they felt safe in their learning and working environment. Those with special educational needs are assessed at induction and provision made which may involve teaching on one to one.

Section 7c: The Gym

Has a full and imaginative programme of activities publicised throughout the establishment. They have referrals from health care for healthy living strategies. It plays a key role in the life of many prisoners. The department offers a lifestyle assessment for all prisoners. It offers trained prisoner volunteers experience in providing a service to community organisations who use the facilities.

Section 7d: The Chaplaincy

- i. A new Chaplaincy lead who also is currently the area Chaplain for the South West and as such represents the Chaplain General and Chaplaincy Headquarters which oversees the South West Chaplaincies. The Coordinating Chaplain is the establishment lead for the "Attitude, Thinking, Behaviour" Pathway. Several courses are now run which are well attended and having encouraged participants of all denominations to discuss issues which assist them cope with future life situations.
- ii. This is a very dedicated service and team ministering to all denominations seeing prisoners daily on a regular daily basis. The key area of listening and pastoral care continues to be the major function of this team

Section 7e: Library

Is well used although there has been at times difficulty in retaining a trained library orderly due to the short length of stay. Once a month the Librarian attends family visits to work with parents and children.

Foreign Nationals are assisted to order books on arrival at the prison.

Section 7f: Family Visits

Whole day families with children visit take place monthly. This programme is designed to keep families and children in contact in an informal and friendly environment. All HMP Staff attending the visits are out of uniform and assist with any issues arising. The father provides a financial input towards lunch and any drinks or confectionary for their children. This gives fathers time to engage in play, reading and other activity with their children. The visits clerk is in attendance to facilitate booking for future visits, which is cost and time effective for the family.

Section 7g: Time Out of Cell:

The benchmark for this prison is 5.7 hours out of cell and an average of 15 hours per prisoner weekly for purposeful activity. The IMB believe that this benchmark is not acceptable as many prisoners do not reach this average for purposeful activity. It is evident that this is insufficient for officers and other personnel to work with prisoners to address offending behaviour issues and the ability to promote any prisoner motivation for a work ethic ethos. Many prisoners' in conversation with the IMB ask or request they would like to work or wish more purposeful activities

Section 8 Diversity

i. The current Reporting period has seen a major shift adding a much wider diversity element to the previously predominant Race Equality role. In addition to Race the Diversity Race Equality Team (DREAT) remit now covers Age, Disability, Religion and Sexuality and Transgender Identity.

ii. While paying close attention to the expanded areas Race issues never the less continue to occupy a significant proportion of the Diversity Team's time and it is a measure of the sensible handling of such issues that there has been no serious incident at HMP Dorchester. As a snap shot as the situation changes week to week During the 12mths up to March 2011 this year there were 47 perceived racist incidents, mostly of a minor nature, compared to the 29 the previous year for the same period. The increase in this can be attributed to one vexatious prisoner. A factor in the low recorded racist incidents may be expected due to the low proportion of BME prisoners detained in HMP Dorchester.

iii. Whole Prison Ethnic banding figures up to March 2011 (the prison statistical year (as a snapshot)

White British	85.3%
White Irish or other	4.0%
Black or Black British	2.7%
Asian or Asian British	2.7%
Mixed Race	1.3%
Chinese	0.4%
Not Stated	3.6%

iii. As a category B local prison HMP Dorchester has a heavy prisoner turnover which reflects in the background of its Foreign National prisoners. The six months at the commencement of the year recorded 95 F.N. from 34 countries this mix of nationalities increases time with language difficulties, translators, legal representation and provision of reading matter. This has further complicated the work load as the Border Agency (UKBA) has discontinued visits to all Foreign Nationals. These FN representatives will only visit convicted prisoners.

iv. **On the Positive side** the Diversity Manager has set up a FN support Group. There are also wing representatives acting as coordinators of the group. There has been a comprehensive spreadsheet on the Z Drive for all officers to access who the prisoners are and their natural language, along with the identification of foreign nationals with locations to assist the officers and prisoners. There has been a part time Diversity assistant to enable a focus on the aged prisoner and disability need which is a great need in this prison.

April this year appointed a new non uniformed civilian Diversity Manager who will be able to give an undivided attention to this development role and the full Diversity remit. The previous Manager was a very effective uniformed Senior Officer who was regularly diverted to operational duties continued under a great workload to meet the needs of the role at that time.

vi The Prison Diversity lead is the newly appointed Deputy Governor transferred from HMP Portland bringing support and experience of Diversity matters to the Manager.

vii The Diversity and Race Equality team meets bi-monthly chaired by the Governor or his Deputy. Attendees are functional heads, prisoners' representatives who are encouraged to speak freely, community representatives. The IMB attends in an Observer role.

Section 9 Health Care

i. The Health Care Unit despite all the uncertainties of the beds and premises has worked well. The staff continue working in this same environment which as mentioned in previous years reports is not fit for purpose. To replace the current facilities with a newly re-furbished Health Centre. This will result in the loss of all in-patient beds at HMP Dorchester.

ii. We are informed that funding has been agreed by N.O.M.S. This funding is applied to this financial year, the site and design of the centre has yet to be agreed. The IMB hope this will come to fruition as this has been promised year on year to no avail.

iii. The MoJ in conjunction with the NHS is reviewing the provision in-patient in particular Cat B local establishments. Currently there are 4 beds designated to Health Care and the remaining 7 cells used for 'lodging'. These 'lodgers' can be prisoners who could not be accommodated on normal location due to various diversity disabilities therefore unsuitable for the Segregation unit. Ideally these prisoners should be managed by wing staff which may not always be available.

iv. An audit is in progress on the use of Health Care beds and the lodging criteria. The Complaints process and procedure is being reviewed currently as many prisoners have been advised to access the IMB applications process rather than the NHS complaints system. This confusion makes it impossible to identify accurately and trends.

v. Three new clinical rooms are now operative on the wings giving a more suitable accommodation for confidential treatments. They are used for regular clinics and mental Health In reach Teams consultations.

vi. We are informed there is a full complement of staff including two prison officers employed by the PCT. A health care assistant has been replaced by a Registered General Nurse. This new arrangement gives an improved cover, however there is only one lone qualified nurse at night working in liaison with the prison staff. Although we regularly observe the use of bank staff who are unable to answer any queries the IMB have not able to refer us to any appropriate NHS staff.

vii. Health promotion action group has been set up and is achieving good results. There are now designated link nurses for, older adults, learning disabilities, sexual health, diabetes, and asthma which encourage individual responsibility. Health care and the gymnasium have collaborated in encouraging prisoners to have health assessments and participate in PE activity tailored to individual needs. This includes co facilitating Smoke Stop, Well Man and Older Adult clinics.

viii. Meeting the needs of prisoners is improving and a forum has been initiated to develop this strategy together with a holistic approach to prisoner healthcare. The IMB has greatly improved communication with the PCT and the Healthcare Unit and is kept well informed. The IMB is invited to attend the PCT and HMP Partnership quarterly meetings, monthly Health Promotion and unit meetings. We have regular access to the PCT manager and receive regular monthly reports

Section 10 Mental Health - Primary Care

On arrival at Dorchester Prison prisoners are triaged by the Healthcare team and reception staff to try and establish any mental health issues. It is not always possible to identify mental health issues as staff are very reliant on information given by the prisoners who may not wish to admit to having any problems. Prisoners known to Community Mental Health Services are difficult to identify as case notes do not arrive with the prisoner. There are specific Mental Health clinics in operation where a RMN will see and assess any prisoner who shows any symptoms of poor mental health. If appropriate they will be referred on to the secondary mental health team. Prisoners can be seen on an urgent basis within 24 /48 hours.

Section 11 Mental Health - Secondary Care - PMHIRT

The prison Mental Health In-reach Team (PMHIT) commissioned by the PCT.

The team includes Consultant Psychiatrist, Team manager and four registered Mental Health Nurses all based at Forston Clinic the local psychiatric hospital. This team also offers advice, support and training to HMP staff.

Period 1st October 2010 – 30 June 2011:

There is limited psychological support for prisoners, 15 prisoners received specialist psychological support.

Referrals to PMHIT	92
One to one contacts	450
Transferred to NHS forensic beds	7
Waiting more than two weeks for transfer to forensic bed	2
Placed in segregation under mental health 1998 act	2

The IMB recognises the caring and sensitive treatment given to these severely disturbed prisoners by the NHS and HMP staff.

Section 12 Segregation - CSU

- i. This (4) celled unit is used as a temporary measure to remove prisoners from the general population, in order to diffuse potential risk of harm to themselves or others in the prison environment. The approach is not of punishment but for prisoners to be returned to the general population as soon as it is felt safe to do so.
- ii. Visits by the IMB to the Segregation unit is an integral part of the IMB role who have statutory duties to observe transparency and treatment of individuals removed from normal location. When a prisoner is transferred to the segregation unit the IMB are informed. The duty IMB weekly rota member will see and speak to all prisoners in the unit, any of whom can at any time request to speak to the IMB in confidence. A secure locked box, for confidential enquiries, opened only by IMB members is situated on the segregation wing.
- iii. Changes in the Senior Management Team (SMT) between October 2010 and March 2011 caused a breakdown in communications when the IMB was not kept informed so could not attend the reviews. However with the restructuring in March 2011 the situation has been resolved. The board have no concerns to the application by the prison of its protocols and processes within the unit

Section 13 Reviews and Adjudications

An initial 72 hours review takes place the IMB are kept informed and attend where possible. When prisoners are placed on G.O.O.D. Reviews are held regularly every fourteen days. They see and speak to the prisoner either prior to or after a review if unable to attend. The IMB check case notes for each segregation prisoner on their regular visits to the Segregation Unit.

Total Routine Visits to the segregation unit	123
Prisoners seen on routine visits	306
Total Prisoners seen on ACCTS	143...
Total number reviews attended by IMB	65
Total number of Adjudications attended	54

Adult adjudications increased by 13 but Y.O adjudications reduced 1.

Section 14 Use of the Special Cell

This accommodation is used sparingly and only as a last resort when a prisoner is so disruptive that he cannot be managed elsewhere in the establishment. Three prisoners have been placed in the special accommodation during the reporting period October 2010 to the end of June 2011.

The IMB are confident that all protocols for the use of the special cell were correctly followed and to date the Board has had no concerns.

Section 15

Safer Custody and Violence Reduction

The IMB on rota visits have seen a total of 143 prisoners who are on ACCTS.

i Listeners:

Maintaining an adequate number of Wing Listeners remains difficult due to the fact of prisoners being transferred and /or released and prisoners being disbarred from the role for security reasons

Samaritans The representative at Dorchester is currently in the process of organising listener training to cover self harm and mental health.

The Samaritan telephone number continues to be used by a small number of prisoners at night during 'Night State' when access to certain members of staff/professionals is not available

ii **Harm Minimisation Strategies:** Currently there are no areas requiring a minimisation plan

iii Residential:

An overall priority is made to assist residential SO's to carry out ACCT reviews without the need to be reminded. Overall the number of ACCTs opened in HMP Dorchester is still relatively low. D Wing continues to experience a fairly high turnover of Vulnerable Prisoner due mainly to bullying. This problem is being proactively addressed (as with all areas of the prison) by applying the anti bullying measures at the earliest opportunity the prison anti bullying policy operates as a no tolerance approach.

iv **ACCTs:** Training is ongoing throughout the year with all HMP workforce at Dorchester to ensure that all are able to update the documentation/writing up of Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork files, as this is vital for monitoring, reviews and assessments for vulnerable individuals.

These are well managed, regularly reviewed, and audited. All prison staff, the Chaplaincy , Health Care and the IMB are aware who is on an ACCT. The IMB when on rota visits try to see all ACCT prisoners and raise any issues or queries with the Governor/s.

v Areas of concern

Generally there are no specific areas of concern from: Security, CARATS, Healthcare, Chaplaincy, Reliance, Diversity, PE/GYM, IDTS. Recently the transport contract has been taken over by Geo May and there are difficulties at present with the late arrivals from the courts. This has been raised by the IMB we are reliably informed this is being reviewed with the establishment and the contractor.

vi Drug Strategy

There have been efforts to get illegal drugs and mobile phones into the prison. Illegal drugs introduced into the prison are reducing due to the proactive security efforts. Staff are aware if not monitored closely there could be an increase in bullying.

vii Bullying

Prison personnel are currently making a proactive effort to reduce the level of bullying within the prison by adopting a zero tolerance with encouragement to prisoners to report any incidents to the Wing officers.

viii Prisoner Wing Forums have been set up and there have been no safer custody issues raised

ix Violence Reduction and Safe Custody

Meet monthly with focus being placed on Restorative Justice and Reducing Re-offending. This is a relatively new drive/ethos and is a steep learning curve for staff and In the main they are dealing with groups of less than enthusiastic individuals. Violence reduction and safer custody is paramount to the safety of all within the prion environment.

Section 16 Kitchen and Catering

i This continues to be a well managed and an excellent training environment for prisoners working and developing their skills and experience. The prisoners welcome their opportunity to train in this environment and are well aware in liaison with the learning and skills department that their qualifications will be a good foundation for further qualifications in catering greatly assisting in getting employment when released.

ii The kitchen has discontinued serving hot lunches Monday to Friday. Prisoners now have sandwiches or baguettes delivered to the landings and while this seems at first sight to be a retrograde step it is claimed that most of the general population outside prison have a lunch of this nature without detriment to their health. The prison believes that the new system saves time previously spent going to the server, leaving time for other out of cell activities. Cooked lunches continue to be served on Saturday and Sunday.

iii

It is always clean, and the variety of meals with the limited financial resources never ceases to amaze one, the team manages well in catering for medical dietary requirements and try very hard to put- on special food for cultural festivities to meet the needs of the cultural diversity within the prison population

iv

If there are further reductions in the future to the catering budget there are fears this will impact negatively on the ability to cater for festive cultural occasions ie: Christmas, ID and others. cultural festivities. It is strongly felt that to save costs if the Catering Manager was in a position to locally source products this would assist in managing any further budget reductions!.

Section 17 Other areas of the prison which the Board wishes to report

Drug Strategy:

i The drug strategy continues to face real challenges which have the potential to impact both positively and negatively upon the work carried out. In general staffing continues to be an issue regarding the future of the Drug Strategy Management Structure. Monthly meetings continue to be held with representatives from all departments and the IMB attends as an observer. Trafficking of drugs into the prison is an ongoing issue. The key danger area is from prisoners on licence recall and from the courts.

i **The drug search dogs** are highly significant in the Supply Reduction and act as a deterrent including finding illegal drugs which are trafficked into the prison. Intelligence continues to play a significant role in supply reduction. Visitors found attempting to bring illegal drugs into the prison are reported to and arrested by the police.

ii **The Drug Dialogue Strategy Group** is a new initiative of fortnightly meetings. The core group is made up of prisoners and staff. Prisoners are users/ex-users and non users. They share their thoughts, experiences and discuss the impact of drugs on themselves and the prison. Prisoners and staff both find these meetings beneficial evidenced by the responses recorded at the meetings. Prisoners are proactively encouraged to participate in these sessions.

i.e. Quote! "I think we need to get some of the more difficult prisoners to come to the dialogue so we can understand why they behave the way they do and how we have made some positive changes in our lives"

Drug Strategy:

iii **IDTS** teams are working under great pressure at times as they receive prisoners straight from court, at present there are 72 prisoners on IDTS programmes therefore equates to approximately a third of the prison population at anyone time. This team has not had any administrative support again for a number of weeks and we are informed they will not be allocated this support in the future. The IMB do feel this is/will put added pressure to the professionals working with these prisoners and they do require the resources to manage such a programme.

iv. **S.P.A.R.K** This newly set up programme assisting prisoners on a short introduction programme to address any drug issues gives them the incentive to be referred when transferred to other establishments' to enter the drug programmes on offer. As a board we welcome this at this stage as the IMB in last years report were concerned that the Short Duration Drug Programme was withdrawn.

AREAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED

N.B. * We would like to state that any areas of the prison not specifically mentioned in this report are performing very well and have given no cause for concern and the staff responsible should be equally proud of their achievements. We have no concerns and observe that the staff are very committed and deliver a good service to the prisoners.

Section 18 COMPLAINTS - Prison Service Complaints

Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 10	Jan 11	Feb 11	March 11	April 11	May 11	June 11	July 11	Aug 11	Sept 11
66	93	85	64	50	39	39	84	51	50	42	59
Totals	772										

The HMP Prison Service complaints process is very effective in processing prisoners complaints within a reasonable timescale, they respond direct to the prisoner. Where they are out of time is evident that they have taken time to take an active investigation in some cases requiring detailed analysis. They are very transparent and helpful when the IMB wish to make any enquiries.

There were 79 complaints' within this period for loss or damaged property average over 10% of the population. 41 were as a result of transferring from other prisons on investigation it is difficult to identify at times the actual source of the problem, therefore leads to prisoners accessing applications for compensation. The prisons service does need to address this on going problem.

49 have been complaints about the 'canteen' a government external sourced supplier which in many cases do not put the correct order together and many items are missing for which the prisoner has paid for. Although the prison service tries proactively to sort this out it can cause immense difficulties for prisoners having to await any resolution from the company.

Healthcare NHS Complaints:

It has been difficult to establish any significant trends from the NHS records, There has seen an increase in complaints regarding the NHS complaints system asking if the IMB can assist in getting the prisoner to be heard or some resolution. These mainly are clinical medication issues although there does appear some regarding the out of hour's duty Doctors service which to the IMB appeared to be relevant. We are informed this is now being dealt with by the PCT.

The IMB find at the local level usually an effective resolution has been obtained, we would prefer that the prisoner went to the Health Centre personnel direct. Although the prisoner has access to the NHS PALS service this appears not as suitable for such a local prison as it maybe in others due to the time it takes for a prisoner to be contacted or their imminent transfer and or the inability of PALS to speak to prisoners via the phone and in confidence. The use by the prisoner at this establishment of AICAS has been very limited.

Section 19

19a. THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

Recommended complement of Board members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	12
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	10
Number of new members joining with the reporting period	4 (incl. 1 re-appt)
Number of members leaving with the reporting period 1 transfer	5
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	11
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	87%
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	63
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	406
Prisoners seen by IMB on visits	306
Total number of applications received	123
Total number of Adjudications attended	54
Total number of segregation reviews attended	42
Total number of Segregation visits	122
Total number of serious incidents*	3
Death in custody (1 prisoner hospitalised externally)	2

- During the 3 serious incidents 10 members of the IMB attended all incidents the IMB observation/s records evidence that the HMP staff dealt with these very efficiently with the professional approach expected use of force was not required.
- A death in custody is always a disturbing effect upon all in the prison these were dealt with by the HMP staff very professionally with empathy for prisoners, staff and relatives 'the duty of care was evident throughout'.
- One Death in Custody occurred whilst the prisoner was Hospitalised. An IMB representative was interviewed by the Prison Ombudsman on both occasions awaiting news of any Coroners Court.

19b. IMB Applications (Prisoner Complaints)

Code	Subject	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
A	Accommodation			3	10	3
B	Adjudications			2	5	2
C	Diversity related			4	4	3
D	Education/Employment Training			4	7	10
E	Family/Visits			8	20	13
F	Food/Kitchen related			2	3	0
G	Health related			10	25	25 (10 in July)
H	Property			20	35	23
I	Sentence related			3	2	17
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee related			3	2	11
K	Transfers			6	15	8
L	Miscellaneous			5	5	8
	Total number of applications	87	87	71	130	123

19c. Prisoner Applications to the IMB

- N.B. We do not have a breakdown of the total applications for the previous reporting periods. (, 2006/07, 2007/08).
- Loss of property remains a concern which seems to be an on-going problem that should be more pro-actively addressed by the prison service, as it is unfair for prisoners with limited financial resources who purchase items, then lose them on transfers. Equally important are the loss of personal belongings. Recently there has been a number of lost personal property when prisoners have been transferred from HMP The Verne to HMP Dorchester.
- The increase of applications about Health care during the month of JULY 2011 was of concern, these were mainly about prescriptions and medication there were issues surrounding the Out of Hours Doctors service. This has been reviewed by the HMP and the Health Care staff. Within the last two months there has been a decline with applications to the IMB. The IMB will continue to monitor in liaison with health care staff. The health care complaints through the HMP process are dealt with by passing onto the Health Care the prisoner is informed in a timely communication this has been done.

19d IMB Training

Members of Dorchester IMB have undertaken various training courses throughout the year. The courses have been both internal and external and included both experienced and new members. Collectively there has been a proactive commitment to training and updating skills and knowledge.

- At the monthly board meeting a 45 minute slot is allocated for training covering a specific and relevant topic for the board's information. This is seen as a very important element of the board being updated on specific and current affairs.
- These courses have included; Security, CARATS, Fire Evacuation, Health and Safety,/ C & R training/disengagement techniques. Information Assurance/Data Protection./ Diversity / Restorative Justice./ Reducing Reoffending. Health Care/ Primary/Secondary Mental Health. ACCT updates.
- We thank the prison staff who have presented their specialist subjects and for their support which has enabled the members to access the in-service training courses. This enables the board to be up to date and well informed of the many changes and activities being promoted during this very challenging year for the board.

IMB Training

Details	Nos of Courses	Nos of Attendees
Serious Incident Exercise	2	2
Foundation Course	2	2
Prison Training sessions	4	14
Prison Presentations @ IMB Board Meetings	11	110
Desk Top Policy/ Exercises	2	2
Team Performance Review	1	10
Probationary 6/12 Assessments Final	1 2	3 2
Total members training Days/members attendances	25	145

19e IMB Team Performance Review

The annual team performance review took place October 2010 with 80% attendees. Collectively there is a genuine concern if there are any further cuts to the IMB budget that the board may not be able to monitor **Effectively**.

ii As a board we felt the IMB has been effectively monitoring despite the many changes which has seen a great number of new personnel, governors with re-profiled roles and responsibilities. It has been a struggle at times to keep up with this commitment. There were also concerns that these rapid changes of staff and their roles impacted upon the regular communications directly with the IMB due to the pressures on both.

iii This was addressed satisfactorily by the, Senior Management and Lead staff and the Chair negotiating a way forward. This resulting in the Senior Team Mangers' attending the IMB training sessions to deliver current feedback on their roles and responsibilities, ongoing developments with monthly reports to IMB. This transparency assisted greatly to enable the IMB to keep up with the many changes (sometimes weekly) and the impact upon regimes.

The IMB accompanied the local MP Mr Oliver Letwin when he visited the prison as a request from the board.

The Chair of the IMB attended a briefing session when the Prison Minister Mr Crispin Blunt visited HMP Dorchester.

The Board Development Officer (BDO) is responsible for the oversight of the Training Needs of the Board's Members.

The BDO has produced a leaflet outlining the role of the IMB for prison staff to promote the clarity of propose for prison staff as there have been many new employees taking up posts in HMP Dorchester.

At a full staff meeting in August 2011 an IMB Member gave a presentation on the role of the IMB together with its responsibilities. This gave all staff members an insight and a clearer understanding of the IMB remit.

The IMB wish to thank all levels of prison personnel at HMP Dorchester for their openness, and transparent approach when dealing with individual board members queries, which enables the board collectively to fulfil its statutory duties.

Judith Anstice
IMB Chair
HMP Dorchester

30.09.2011

Glossary of Terms

ACCT- Assessment Care in Custody Team

AICAS – Association of Independent Complaints Advisory Service

BDO - IMB Board development Officer/Training Officer

BME- Black Minority Ethnic

CARATS- Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice & Through - care Services

CSU – Care and Secure Unit

CSRA- Cell Share Risk Assessment

DREAT- Diversity Race Equality Action Team

G.O.O.D – Good Order or Discipline

HMIP- Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons

IDTS- Integrated Drug Treatment Service

KPT- Key Performance Target

MQPL- Measuring the Quality of Prisoner Life

NOMS- National Offender Management Service

OMU- Offender Management Unit

PCT- Primary Care Trust

PNOMIS- Prison Nomis

YO- Young Offender

FN- Foreign National

SPARK - Short Drug Programme

VP – Vulnerable Prisoners

RJ – Restorative Justice

RR- Reducing Re- offending

Final Page