



**HM PRISON Dovegate
Independent Monitoring Board
Annual Report
For the period
1st October 2013 to
30th September 2014**

Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Minister of Justice from members of the community in which the prison 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 prisons 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 upon it, and what impact these have on those in 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.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Dovegate is committed to treating all with whom members interact with respect and fairness, regardless of race, colour, ethnicity, religion, belief, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

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Section 3

3 Description of HMP Dovegate

- 3.1 HMP Dovegate is a male Category “B” training prison, run by Serco Affairs. It was built on a greenfield site in 2001 on the Staffordshire and Derbyshire border. It was enlarged in 2009 to hold remand and convicted prisoners from local courts. Inside the single perimeter fence is a self contained Therapeutic prison (TP).
The Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) of the Main prison is 860 and that of the TP is 200, giving a combined total of 1060. In October 2013 the Operational Capacity was 1060 the same as the CNA. In February 2014 the Operational Capacity was increased by 73 to give a total of 1133.
- 3.2 The Main prison consists of three house blocks.
The two original house blocks, 1 & 2, each have 5 wings built round a control “bubble”. Each wing has two floors, each floor having 30 cells, 4 showers, and a servery and laundry downstairs. There are tables and chairs, a pool table, and exercise machines in the recreation area, plus an outside exercise area.
Cells in these two house blocks, 1 & 2, (with the exception of some 20 cells which are larger and can accommodate two prisoners), were designed for single occupancy and have an in-cell washbasin and toilet. These cells are small and have poor heating and poor ventilation. Approximately 60 of these cells have had a second bunk bed fitted and have been used in the past for “overcrowding”. The Board has always considered these cells as unfit to hold two prisoners. The Board is aware that there have been occasions during the year when some of these cells have been used for double occupancy and is a situation which it deplors.
The newer house block, 3, has 4 wings built round a control “bubble”. This house block has a dedicated drug treatment wing, and holds trial and remand prisoners. The cells are larger, complying with European standards, and have integral showers. All wings have the same facilities as the other house blocks.
- 3.3 The Therapeutic prison has three house blocks, all having single occupancy cells with in-cell toilets and showers. The TP shares some of the Main prison services e.g. healthcare and gymnasium.
- 3.4 Telephones are installed in every cell in the residential areas.
- 3.5 ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) are installed in all the residential areas, allowing prisoners to check their accounts, order meals, and access many other functions.
- 3.6 HMP Dovegate has its own Kitchen and Laundry.
- 3.7 Serco Health provides the healthcare at HMP Dovegate, it has cells for 12 prisoners and the usual range of outpatient clinics. There is an Integrated Substance Misuse Treatment (ISMT) unit in house block 3.
- 3.8 HMP Dovegate has a large Education and training facility, Dovegate College, which is run mostly by Serco, four workshops, a recycling centre, a gymnasium, and a multi-faith centre.
- 3.9 HMP Dovegate has well maintained and attractive gardens and productive vegetable growing areas.

Section 4

4 Executive Summary

4.1 Overall Judgement

- 4.1.1 This year has been difficult for HMP Dovegate. More category C prisoners have been moved out of the prison with a corresponding increase of Category B prisoners, some of whose behaviour is particularly challenging and demanding.
- 4.1.2 In February this year the Operational Capacity of the prison was increased from 1060 to 1133, an increase of 73 prisoners.
- 4.1.3 In March this year, a new Director and Deputy Director were appointed at a time when the prison was experiencing difficulties in some areas of the prison regime.
- 4.1.4 Due to staff shortages there has been some significant cross deployment of staff during the year which causes strain on both the staff and the prisoners.
- 4.1.5 There has been an increase in the level of violence seen in the prison and at times there has been some unease on the prison wings, in some respect fuelled by the large changes seen in the prison population. However, the violence reported in September this year was less than for September last year.
- 4.1.6 The change in prison population, in part, gave rise to a situation which led to many problems in the Care and Separation Unit.
- 4.1.7 There were numerous occasions when the "Activities Roll Call" was wrong, leading to a standfast roll being implemented, causing problems with the smooth running of the prison regime.
- 4.1.8 Notwithstanding the above the Board continues to be impressed by the dedication of the prison staff in looking after, and caring for, a large prison population, some of whom are very difficult to manage.
- 4.1.9 The Board wishes to commend HMP Dovegate for the following:-
- The opening of the "Barbering Salon".(see para. 5.2.8)
 - A new Carpentry course.(see para. 5.2.9)
 - Personal Trainer qualifications.(see para. 5.2.10)
 - Information Technology courses – the first Level 3 qualifications. See para. 5.2.11
 - Working with the Red Cross.(see. Para 5. 2. 13)
 - The introduction of prisoners as "Listeners" trained by the Samaritans. (para. 5.6.4) (The listeners took over from the Peer Support Workers on November 4th 2013).

4.1. 10 The Board has raised the following matters of concern with HMP Dovegate during the year:-

- As was reported last year the Board has concerns about the number of staff on duty, and of low morale. (see para. 5.3.12, 5.3.17, 5.8.3, 5.8.4, 5.8.5, 5.8.6)
- Problems with prisoners' property (in house) (see para. 6.2)
- Attendance at meetings is poor and needs to be addressed (See para. 5.1.4, 5.1.5,)
- SMARG meetings should be held every quarter, but in this calendar year none have been held in the period up to September 30th. (see para 5.7.11)
- Problems associated with the care and separation unit.(see para. 5.7.3, 5.7.4, 5.7.5)

4.2 Questions for the Minister

4.2.1 At the present time there is only one foreign national who remains incarcerated in HMP Dovegate after completing his sentence whilst the deportation process takes place. As was said in previous reports the Board reiterates its condemnation of this process.

4.2.2 The Board queried with the Minister the problem of prisoners' property not being sent with the prisoner. This was referred to NOMS by the Minister and their reply, given in an annex in his reply to the Board, stated that there were only a small number of instances where this problem occurred.
We would respectfully refer the Minister's attention to this problem given in 4.3 below.

4.3 Questions for NOMS

4.3.1 The problem of property not being transferred with prisoners will not go away, many other prisons contact the Board regarding property; and if anything it is getting worse. When will NOMS recognise this problem and take positive steps to resolve this situation (see Annex B H2)?

4.4 Questions for HMP Dovegate

4.4.1 It was reported last year that a number of cells on two wings had been designated as first night accommodation.

4.4.2 However the prison still finds it a problem to satisfactorily deal with first night accommodation and the induction process, and is looking into providing a discreet area where they can both be addressed. The ongoing situation with respect to this will be monitored by the Board.

4.4.3 Cells in house blocks 1 & 2 which were converted from single to double occupancy have on occasions been used for double occupancy. This is to be regretted (see para. 3.2)

4.5 Previous Year's Concerns

- 4.5.1 The Board repeats its request for steps to be taken to increase the time out of cell for those prisoners who spend fewer than 9 hours a day out of the cell. (see para. 5.4.5, 5.4.6, 5.4.7)
- 4.5.2 There is still increased concern about the transfer of prisoners property from one establishment to another. (see para. 4.3.1,)

Section 5

5 Reports

5.1 Equality and Inclusion

- 5.1.1 Equality and Inclusion at HMP Dovegate follows the national policy as expressed in the 2010 Equalities Act and subsequent NOMS policy. The Act requires the Prison to have due regard to advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Protected characteristics are Disability, Race including ethnic or national origins, Colour and nationality, Sex and sexual orientation, Religion or belief, and Gender Reassignment).
- 5.1.2 In the reporting year 2011/2012 the system was reported as working well with the Equalities and Governance Committee meetings being held each month with good attendance and effective leadership from senior managers.
- 5.1.3 In the reporting year 2012/2013 it was reported that the organisation of meetings had had been somewhat disrupted by staff changes, and that the two hours of training needed to be increased so that officers can "live and breathe " equality so that no groups become marginalised.
- 5.1.4 In this reporting year 2013/2014 the Action Plan agreed in 2012/2013 had not been fully implemented, and a new Action Plan for the year was agreed. Attendance at Equalities Governance meetings was poor and needed to be addressed. The Disability data base was to be re-enacted and to be accessible to all.
- 5.1.5 Individual forum meetings have at times been sporadic and not well attended and this needs to alter to enable what is a good system to be fully effective.
- 5.1.6 However there has been a lot of good work and best practice at ground level. The Equality Reps delivering training were very innovative.
- 5.1.7 Prisoners' chaired and took the Minutes in the Sex and Sexual Orientation forum, which was overseen by staff.
- 5.1.8 HMP Dovegate hosted its first Awareness Day in March an event which increased awareness regarding age. Prisoners took part in raising money for Age Concern by running the distance from HMP Dovegate to HMP Lowdam Grange on a treadmill.
- 5.1.9 "Travellers Awareness Day" was on July 1st, and a "Health Promotion Day" was held on the 6th August.

- 5.1.10 Towards the end of the reporting year “Equalities” and “Safer Custody” meetings were combined as the “Safer Dovegate Meeting”
- 5.1.11 Foreign Nationals held in HMP Dovegate as last year make up about 7% of the population and come from 28 countries.
- 5.1.12 Statistics relating to equalities in the prison are produced for the SMARG meetings.
- 5.1.13 The Board is mindful that its membership lacks representation from some specific groups identified in the Act, but the prison is located in a very rural area and it is difficult to achieve. In fact Board members are somewhat depleted and this is in the process of trying to be addressed.

5.2 Education, Learning and Skills

- 5.2.1 Prisoners educational needs are assessed during the induction process and they are allocated places accordingly, including offending behaviour courses.
- 5.2.2 Education is split into three separate colleges. The North College for sentenced and remand prisoners, the South College for vulnerable prisoners, and Trinity College for the Therapeutic Community.
- 5.2.3 The prison has a full compliment of 27 tutors, supported by 14 prisoner learning Support assistants.
- 5.2.4 There are a large number of courses available including English and Maths entry level to 2. GCSE English & Maths in TC, ESOL, IT level 3, Business Studies level 1 to 3, Art level 1 to 2, Budgets and Money Management level 1 to 2, Family Relationships, the Open University and outreach provision.
- 5.2.5 Employment and workshops available include Catering, Electrics, Gardening, Horticulture, Industrial Cleaning, Laundry, Painting & Decorating, Plumbing and Sports Studies
- 5.2.6 The number of prisoners engaged in education varied from week to week but an average Monday morning saw 229 prisoners scheduled to attend of whom 46 or 24% did not attend.
- 5.2.7 There are waiting lists for educational courses which can be quite high at times.
- 5.2.8 One of the main additions during the year was the opening of the “Barbering Salon” delivering NVQ Level 1 and 2. The salon is an excellent resource in the North College and provides teaching hair-cutting skills.
- 5.2.9 This year has seen a new carpentry and joinery course of 12 weeks duration, delivering industry- recognised qualifications at Level 1 and 2. This is externally funded by Construction Skills Solutions who provide the qualified tutor.
- 5.2.10 A Level 3 Personal Trainer qualification is being delivered through the Health and Fitness course.
- 5.2.11 The Information Technology courses have achieved their first Level 3 qualifications.
- 5.2.12 Derby University are working with HMP Dovegate on a research project to improve teaching and learning through peer/student observations and creative projects.

- 5.2.13 Dovegate is now working with the Red Cross who provide workshops and training for peer educators. Dovegate is the first prison nationally to have piloted this project.
- 5.2.14 The education in South College (vulnerable prisoners) has been reduced in response to the changes in the prison population.
- 5.2.15 The room provisioned for Art for the VP prisoners is now inadequate, it is cramped and contains no sink.

5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

- 5.3.1 The IMB reporting year finished on September 30th 2014 which by coincidence was the last day that Serco Health ran Healthcare in HMP Dovegate.
- 5.3.2 As from October 1st 2014 Care UK took over the contract.
- 5.3.3 It has been a challenging year for healthcare to ensure that the quality of care provided by Serco was not affected during the transition period by the change of providers.
- 5.3.4 This has been an emotional time for healthcare staff in HMP Dovegate, and the change has proved difficult in recruitment and attrition. Serco Health has worked very closely with NHS England and Care UK to ensure a seamless service to the people in Dovegate.
- 5.3.5 To mitigate staffing gaps, agency nurses, who have carried out in-house training successfully prior to appointment, have been engaged. The prison has worked with Healthcare to clear these nurses to allow key access, as being mobile is fundamental in the work of the nursing team
- 5.3.6 The Board have however noticed that there have been times when prisoners in cellular confinement on K wing were not being visited daily by nurses. This was put down to the fact that agency nurses were causing late medications on the wings.
- 5.3.7 The new provider has appointed 3 additional nurses so far along with a pharmacist and other dispensers and technicians.
- 5.3.8 As was reported last year the in-patients facility was an area that needed a considerable amount of effort to enhance both its physical and clinical outcomes. Work is currently proceeding to upgrade the healthcare facilities, it is being repainted and will include new IT access, new desks and chairs etc.
- 5.3.9 Healthcare is now a smoke-free area, with increased sessions of the smoking cessation clinics to support this.
- 5.3.10 The number of prisoners failing to attend external hospital appointments is a concern. The limited number of staff (5) provisioned by the prison to attend bed-watches and hospital appointments means that healthcare has to liaise closely with the prison and often make compromises.
- 5.3.11 On checking over a period of 18 weeks the number of external DNA's varied between 4% - 32% (caused by the prison, the prisoner or the hospital).

- 5.3.12 Internal DNA's over the same period varied between 12% – 33%, and were due to limited custodial staff and lockdowns (although there were some prisoners who refused to attend).
- 5.3.13 On one occasion in December 2013 the Board noted that the doctor was only on duty between 3pm – 4pm and only 4 patients were seen; many prisoners were returned to their cells having not seen the doctor.
- 5.3.14 The removal of in-possession medication from prisoners on arrival and its re-instatement only after written confirmation has been received from their doctors has lead to problems and complaints from prisoners. Prisoners can be without their medication for several days.
- 5.3.15 A robust approach has been taken with regard to appropriate medical prescribing with regular reviews of medication. This has not always been popular with prisoners.
- 5.3.16 The Board has received complaints from prisoners that medication prescribed when they have been referred by healthcare to outside hospital consultants, prescriptions have been replaced by the prison GP with alternative medicines. In the eyes of a prisoner this is a particular problem where medication prescribed by an external consultant is not allowed within the prison.
- 5.3.17 On one occasion when healthcare was visited, the desk was covered in open ACCT's and there were 10 or 11 prisoners in the unit. There was only one officer on the unit (instead of 2) to run the unit and the regime, and two other officers were completely taken up by the two constant watches in force. The Board was told that the unit was short staffed, but to provide extra staff this would mean closing down some part of the regime elsewhere.
- 5.3.18 Care UK intends to share their wider experience and knowledge to bring innovative ideas within Dovegates care setting such as mobile diagnostics and telemedicine. The Board welcomes these initiatives and looks forward to their implementation.
- 5.4 Purposeful Activity
- 5.4.1 There are 4 workshops covering two main activities, assembling lighting products and producing wooden pallets. But as was reported last year there have been occasional slack periods when parts were late arriving.
- 5.4.2 There is also a recycling facility employing between 10 – 20 prisoners.
- 5.4.3 A minimum of 12 weeks must be spent in each job before a change in labour will be granted.
- 5.4.4 Accredited Vocational Qualifications available include NVQ's Level 2 in Performing Manufacturing Operations, Storage and warehousing, and Business Improving Techniques.
- 5.4.5 A problem with employment is that when House Block 3 was opened in September 2009 with accommodation for a further 260 prisoners, there was no extra provision provided for work place activities over and above that provided for the original 600 inmates. This has led to some prisoners not having 10 hours out of cell each day because of lack of work.

- 5.4.6 At the start of the reporting year week commencing 7th October there were 89 prisoners locked up for one session a day and 45 prisoners locked up for both sessions. For most of the year prisoners locked up for one session per day varied between 89 – 169, with those locked up for both sessions between 50 – 127.
- 5.4.7 Prisoners locked up for the whole of the working day varied as shown above between 50 and 127.
- 5.5 Resettlement
- 5.5.1 The Resettlement team at HMP Dovegate work in direct partnership with community agencies and organisations, including the Department of Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Stoke College, the Money Advice Service, housing Services and the police.
- 5.5.2 Interventions take place in accommodation, employment, finance, education, training, substance misuse, health and family matters.
- 5.5.3 The accommodation, education and training, and employment targets on leaving the prison for 2014 are currently being achieved. Going into Settled Accommodation 90%, going into Education and Training 4%, and going into employment 13%.
- 5.5.4 Prior to release a meeting is held between all parties to encourage and support the offender in the community. To square the circle officers go into the community to ensure that the correct interventions are in place for the offender.
- 5.5.5 The main problem in Resettlement is offenders burning their bridges with the Housing Providers. They cause damage and do not pay their rent. These repeated offences mean that there are very few places available with accommodation for prisoners released under license on probation.
- 5.5.6 This year has seen the start of the “Restart Induction Programme” for prisoners requiring accommodation in Stoke-on-Trent. They are assessed and given lessons in “Managing a Tenancy” where they are shown how to access the various benefits available, and the basics of being a good tenant.
- 5.5.7 The family support worker has done some fantastic work in relation to building family relationships with prisoners and their loved ones. The Acorn suite is used regularly for a variety of purposes including first child visits, social service visits etc.
- 5.5.8 This year has seen the start of the “Me and my Dad” programme, a 4 or 5 half day course where prisoners discuss what to tell their children about being a dad in prison. What they have told their children, how to communicate with their children and how they can still be a role model. The last session is a family day where the prisoners participate in organising the event. There are 4 programmes held in the year.
- 5.5.9 There are 5 Family Days a year in the Main prison, and 5 Family Days for vulnerable prisoners.

5.6 Safer Custody

5.6.1 As reported under Equality and Inclusion towards the end of the year Safer Custody merged with the Equalities Team and the monthly meeting is now called the Safer Dovegate Meeting. In addition, the presentation of the Violence Reduction data was reviewed and refined. Whatever the format of the meeting, or its name, this committee continues to meet regularly once a month. An IMB member is usually there to observe; attendance is generally good and supporting material is always well prepared. There is unhurried informed discussion of prisoners. The Board believes that this commitment genuinely contributes to the safety of staff and prisoners.

5.6.2 That said, Board members have on occasions, noted that Dovegate has felt a less safe prison.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, overcrowding and an increase in the Category B population have presented the staff with much more challenging behaviour.

Self-harm, weapons finds, and assaults have all increased over the year, and the Board has been puzzled why, by contrast, fewer prisoners were being awarded cellular confinement after adjudications, why so many adjudications were dismissed and why perpetrators of violence remained on “enhanced “ status. However, of late, a more robust enforcement of the IEP system has been operating and the violence reduction data presented at the monthly meeting is more meaningful.

5.6.3 ACCT documents continue to be reviewed at random at the monthly meeting. In the middle of the year, the standard was high, but of late it has dropped. There is a urgent need for more ACCT assessors, and ACCT refresher training. It is thought that the lack of staff, and the pressure on those in post have a bearing on this. In line with other increases, the number of ACCT documents opened has risen and the incidence of prisoners being placed on constant supervision has gone up, putting further strain on staff resources. Some prisoners remain under constant supervision for many days, even weeks, but it is to the prison’s credit that there are often really positive outcomes in these difficult cases.

5.6.4 The Samaritans have been operating in the prison all this year, training and supporting Listeners. There have been some teething problems, with some PCO’s not allowing the necessary movement, and the Listeners’ profile needing to be heightened, but in general it seems to be working well. The Board regrets the decision no longer to allow a Listener representative to the Safer Custody meetings, but nevertheless congratulates the prison and the Samaritans for their commitment and co-operation to this scheme.

5.7 Reintegration, Care and Separation, Close Supervision.

5.7.1 The Care and Separation Unit is a separate building away from the main prison and contains 20 cells, 17 of which are normal cells, 1 special accommodation cell, 1 gated cell and 1 cell which has been converted to a fitness suite.

5.7.2 The CSU team consists of a Manager and ten officers.

5.7.3 Since December 2013 the unit has suffered badly from weak and ineffective management. Several inexperienced managers have been appointed. This has reflected badly on the unit staff and prisoners.

- 5.7.4 There have been more prisoners on constant watch and dirty protests, which in turn has depleted the available staff for other duties. Officers untrained in CSU have been deployed and this has had an effect on the regular staff and the prisoners.
- 5.7.5 The special cells were last used in August 2013, but since March 2014 they have been used many times.
- 5.7.6 There are normally 3 staff in the CSU plus the manager, but in July this year in the core hours between 9am – 11am, and 1.30pm – 4pm they had 2 extra staff, who were used for escorting prisoners to adjudications relieving the pressure on the normal staff.
- 5.7.7 In some measure the problems were not helped by the increase of Cat. B prisoners from HMP Rye Hill in June and July.
- 5.7.8 Challenging prisoners are discussed in multi-disciplinary meetings and decisions made which sometimes result in prisoners being housed in the CSU for rather longer than is desirable
- 5.7.9 The performance of the CSU is monitored by the Segregation and Review Board (SMARG), which should be held quarterly, but no meetings have been held so far in this calendar year.
- 5.7.10 (A SMARG meeting was held in October 2014 a month after the end of the Board reporting year. There were reports for the last 3 months of 2013 and the third quarter of 2014. The first and second quarters have not formally been reviewed, and the Board has been told the figures that are available are not reliable. The Board is unable to quote any statistics covering the whole reporting year.)
- 5.7.11 As reported last year prisoners serving cellular confinement can be housed in residential wings, where frequently healthcare staff do not make the required daily visit. (We cannot be sure that healthcare were always told when prisoners were held in cellular confinement outside the CSU).
- 5.7.12 The Board is notified within 24 hours of any prisoner being moved into the segregation area, and members can speak freely with these prisoners at any time. All prisoners are reviewed after 72 hours and Board members attend these reviews. Further reviews can take place at intervals of up to 14 days which are also attended by Board members.

5.8 Residential Services

- 5.8.1 The residential accommodation is visited on a regular basis throughout the year.
- 5.8.2 As mentioned under Purposeful Activity there is a large number of prisoners locked up during the day mainly due to unemployment and those prisoners who will not engage with the prison system.
- 5.8.3 Last year it was noted by the Board that during late afternoon when prisoners are on association, meals and medication coincide, and officers can be put under pressure as there is only one officer to supervise the distribution and serving of meals.

- 5.8.4 The Board has noticed this that it would seem that because of this problem there are times when on some wings the temperature probes are not being used to check that the food is being served at the correct temperature, and the correct clothing and gloves are not always being used.
- 5.8.5 On many occasions the Board have visited wings in the prison to find that the officers on duty are not familiar with the wing as they have been moved from their normal location to provide cover during times of staff absence.
- 5.8.6 Staff sickness (both long & short term) during the year has been quite high which has led to officers agreeing to do overtime which can be stressful if it becomes a regular occurrence.
- 5.8.7 As was the situation last year it sometimes takes a long time between the reporting of faults and maintenance requirements, and the work being done, or items replaced.
- 5.8.8 There have been times when kitchen equipment has been waiting for repair for what seems a long time, but the kitchen staff must be congratulated for operating so well when this problem occurs.
- 5.8.9 There have been relatively few applications concerning the food provided by the Kitchen, mainly concerning diet or other special requirements.

Section 6

6 Additional Reports

6.1 Prisoner Complaints Procedure

6.1.1 The "Complaints System" in operation at HMP Dovegate was not operating as well as it should be. In many cases it was difficult to ascertain whose responsibility it was to follow through and answer each complaint.

6.1.2 In July 2014 the system was modified to make the functional head (AD grade) responsible for each complaint. The functional head then passes on the complaint to the best person to deal with a specific complaint. The answer to each complaint then goes directly to the Dovegate Performance Unit (DPU), or via the functional head. If the DPU considers the complaint is taking too long to be answered, or that the response is inadequate, the DPU can then go back to the functional head for answers.

The Board will follow this process and check on improvements.

6.2 Prisoner Property (In House)

6.2.1 Lost property in HMP Dovegate has got worse during the reporting year, and compensation claims are becoming alarmingly high.

6.2.2 This situation is highlighted by the rise in number of internal lost property complaints this year 56 as against 31 last year.

6.2.3 The main concern is that the cell clearance procedure is not being adhered to by staff resulting in incorrect paperwork, lost pages, and missing or unreadable signatures.

6.2.4 Senior management being well aware of this problem brought in expertise to address this problem, and the Board will monitor the situation to check on improvements.

6.3 Death in Custody

There was 1 death in custody this year (last year 3).

6.4 Therapeutic Community (TC)

6.4.1 Set against a background of a rising prison population, of an increase in Category B prisoners in the Main site at HMP Dovegate, the Therapeutic Community continues to impress, especially when consideration is given to the fact that many of the TC residents themselves are serving long (often life) sentences for serious crimes. They, however, in applying to the TC, have decided to engage in therapy, and the Board is always impressed with their commitment and determination in what can be seen as a very difficult process.

6.4.2 Since the TC opened, its head has been either a Therapist, or an operational Assistant Director. At present it is headed by an Assistant Director, supported by an Operations Manager, and a Senior Therapist, and this management structure seems to have improved the running of the TC. Unit Managers, Therapy Managers, Counsellors, the specially trained PCO's and the education staff all work hard at the therapeutic regime. There is a genuine feeling of respect, support and positive interaction between residents and staff, and visitors are made welcome and treated politely

6.4.3 Two regular monthly meetings take place, which an IMB member attends when possible: an Operations Meeting for staff, and a Governance meeting, which residents from across the TC attend. It has been disappointing on occasion that problems with roll being correct have prevented residents being able to be brought to the Governance meeting. Both meetings are well structured and clearly provide meaningful outcomes.

6.4.4 Few residents put in applications to the Board, and it is rare for a TC resident to be found in the CSU requiring a Rule 45 review. However, when this does happen the prisoner is always well supported by TC staff. The Board's weekly rota visit always finds the communities clean and tidy, and the gardens without exception well kept, pleasant and productive. TC Venture, the unit established in the previous year to enable prisoners with learning difficulties to engage in therapy, is going well.

6.4.5 One aspect of concern to the Board, expressed in last year's Annual Report is the cancellation of therapy groups, this has continued, as TC staff are redeployed to the Main prison to cover the staff shortages there. However, at the very end of the reporting period the Board learnt that no therapy groups were to be cancelled without the permission of the Director.

6.5 Prison Gardens

6.5.1 There are 12 residents working for 5 days in the Therapeutic Prison and 10 prisoners working in the main prison gardens.

6.5.2 The flower beds and lawns in the main prison are quite exceptional and the flower displays visible over the year are magnificent.

- 6.5.3 The flower beds and lawns in the therapeutic prison again are a pleasure to see.
- 6.5.4 The therapeutic prison gardens have large areas given over to the production of produce, vegetables and eggs, for the prison kitchen. In the main prison gardens vegetables are grown.
- 6.5.5. The value of the produce from the Therapeutic Prison is £8,887, whilst that of the main prison is £1,662, giving a total amount of £10,549 so far this year. This is a magnificent result for the garden manager and his workforce.
- 6.5.6 Projects for 2014 include:-
- The creation of a wildlife meadow at the back of the house blocks
 - Build a memorial garden to remember those that lost their lives in the World Wars.
 - The formation of a new garden group from TP Venture (residents with learning difficulties), who have taken ownership of their own production vegetable area and garden, plus looking after the chickens and pigeons full time am/pm/weekends.
 - A new greenhouse has been purchased to enable the main prison to be self-sufficient in bedding plants:- 8,000 plus vegetables.

Section 7

7 The work of the Board

- 7.1 This year the Board lost 2 of its members due to the tenure rule, there were 4 resignations. There were 2 recruiting campaigns. The first resulting in appointing 2 probationers, 1 of whom resigned after a short period. The second campaign produced 2 candidates, the first never replying to an invitation for an interview, and the second never turning up to the interview, demonstrating that the new recruitment process has not worked well for this Board.
- 7.2 The Board therefore started the year with 13 members and finished the year with 7 members and 1 probationer.
- 7.3 Each week Board members attend the prison to conduct rota visits and attend Segregation Rule 45 Reviews. They also respond to prisoner applications and observe prison meetings. They also observe Adjudications.
- 7.4 As last year members have spent considerable time in dialogue with other Boards, and prisons, about property which has not been transferred with prisoners, both those transferring in and out of Dovegate.
- 7.5 The Board holds a monthly meeting and normally a member of the Senior Management Team attends in order to brief the Board on prison matters and to discuss issues from the rota reports.
- 7.6 Members of the Board visited HMP Oakwood.
- 7.7 The Chair and Vice-Chair have attended the biannual meetings of Area Chairs and two members attended the IMB Annual Conference.

Appendix A

BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended Compliment of Board Members	20
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	13
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	8
Number of new Members joining within the reporting period	2
Number of Members leaving within the reporting period	7
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	605
Total number of segregation reviews held	364
Total number of segregation reviews attended	364
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	18/09/2014

Appendix B**APPLICATIONS**

Code	Subject	2013 - 2014	2012 - 2013
A	Accommodation	12	16
B	Adjudications	5	10
C	Equality & Diversity (including religion)	6	8
D	Education/employment/training including IEP	57	39
E1	Family/visits including mail & phone	26	36
E2	Finance/pay	31	45
F	Food/Kitchen related	11	5
G	Health related	69	66
H1	Property (within current establishment)	56	31
H2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	75	44
H3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	7	5
I	Sentence related including HDC, ROTL, release dates, re-cat etc)	20	35
J	Staff/Prisoner/Detainee concerns including bullying)	13	21
K	Transfers	5	14
L	Miscellaneous	33	17

Total number of IMB Applications**452****392**