



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT
MONITORING BOARD**

HMP FULL SUTTON 2013

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report covers the 12 months ending 31 October 2013. It highlights issues of note identified by members of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), as they have undertaken their daily duties this year. It is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all aspects of HMP Full Sutton.

1. THE ROLE OF THE IMB

1.1 The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison to be monitored by an Independent Board, appointed by the Ministry of Justice from members of the community, in which the prison is situated.

1.2 The Board is required to satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison, and the range and adequacy of the programmes in reducing their risk to the general public and preparing them for release. The Board is expected to inform, promptly, the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges, appropriate, any concern it has. The Board reports 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 custody.

1.3 To enable the Board to meet these requirements effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

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3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 HMP Full Sutton is a High Security Prison for Category A and Category B male offenders, situated 11 miles from the city of York. The prison has a Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) of 596, an in-use CNA total of 609 and an Operational Capacity of 616. Main Wing prisoners are accommodated on Wings A, E and F. Wings B, C and D are for Vulnerable Prisoners (VPs). In addition prisoners are located in the Segregation Unit when circumstances warrant this. There are also a small number of cells in the Healthcare Unit for in-patients.

3.2 The Induction wing (G Wing) has, during this report year, been re-roled as a drug recovery and treatment unit for 16 prisoners undergoing rehabilitation programmes. Six cells have been retained for use of reception and Inductions for prisoners transferring into Full Sutton.

3.3 The prison also has a Special Secure Unit (SSU) for Exceptional Risk Category A offenders which remained closed during the period of this report. This has been re-roled and has a combined use as a SSU and is currently being used as a Closed Supervision Centre (CSC), which opened in January 2014.

3.4 The primary purpose of HMP Full Sutton is, at all times, to contribute to the Prison Service objectives which are to protect the public by holding those committed by the courts in a safe, decent and healthy environment, to reduce crime by providing constructive regimes which address offending behaviour, improve educational and working skills, and promote law abiding behaviour in custody and after release.

3.5 Prison Population:

On the 31 October 2013 609 prisoners were accommodated at the prison.

There were 14 Category A High Risk prisoners.

There were 166 Category A Standard Risk prisoners.

There were 429 Category B prisoners.

35% of the population had determinate sentences. Of these;

25% were serving 4 – 10 years

65% were serving 11 – 20 years

9% were serving 21 – 30 years

1% was serving over 30 years.

There were 11 TACT prisoners (this is a prisoner sentenced under the Terrorism Act 2000)

The ages of prisoners ranged from 21 to 81 years and the breakdown was as follows:

- 21 – 29 years = 20%
- 30 – 39 years = 31%
- 40 – 49 years = 23%
- 50 – 59 years = 17%
- Over 60 years = 9%

3.6 Agencies in support of HMP Full Sutton:

Security:

- Humberside Police (Police Liaison Officer)
- Humberside Special Branch

Learning and Skills Providers:

- Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) comprising The Manchester College (the Education contractor with subcontractor for Construction - East Riding College),
- East Riding Library Service for the Library Contract
- Prospects Services Ltd
- Writer in Residence (Writers in Prison Network)

Healthcare

- NHS East Riding of Yorkshire PCT
- York Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust
- Airedale Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Macmillan Nurses
- East Riding Safer Communities

Provisions and Canteen

- DHL

Diversity

- Humberside Diversity Panel

Offender Management

- Sure Start – support in Visits
- New bridge – working on prisoner contact, visits and correspondence

Charities

- Shannon Trust – supports the Toe by Toe reading scheme
- York Community Furniture Store – supplies furniture for recycling
- Prison Fellowship – assists in provision of courses and provides presents for prisoners' children
- Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) – Braille Workshop
- Samaritans – support to vulnerable prisoners and Listeners
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- Age Concern

- Muaz Trust
- The Gideons
- The Phoenix Trust
- Ummah Welfare Trust

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 Particular Issues Requiring a Response

4.1.1 Policy matters on which a reply from the Minister is sought.

4.1.1.1 As in previous reporting periods the Board remains very concerned about the potential impact of the financial cuts that Full Sutton has been, and will be required to undertake (see section 5.6 et seq). The Board asks the Minister to note its view, that there may well come a time when the implementation of cuts, in resources, services and facilities, will lead to a potential loss of control, making the prison unsafe for both staff and prisoners.

4.1.2 Other matters that require the attention of the Minister.

4.1.2.1 Paragraph 5.7.2 below records the IMB's concerns about the number of prisoners who remain segregated for longer than 6 months. The Board feels this is unacceptable and asks the Minister to note its view that the problem of overcrowding of the prison service is contributing, significantly, to this issue. The Board are also concerned about the high number of prisoners held in the Segregation unit at any one time and the consequential impact on the Segregations regime.

4.1.3 Operational matters requiring a response from the Prison Service.

4.1.3.1 Serious Incident

At approximately 16:25 on the 25 May 2013, an officer was forcibly taken hostage by three prisoners. The officer was taken hostage randomly with the hostage takers making various demands. Initially another officer tried to intervene to stop the incident but was physically excluded from the scene by the offenders. The venue was E wing's cleaning office. The officer concerned suffered significant harm from the outset of the incident. Subsequent investigations have indicated that this was a pre-planned hostage incident.

A number of threats and demands were made by the offenders throughout the incident, one being to threaten the life of the hostage. As a result of detailed negotiations, a series of weapons were surrendered by the offenders. Following continued negotiation by trained staff and in consultation with "Gold" command an intervention plan was agreed and implemented to bring the incident to a close at approximately 20:40 hours.

Overall the Board felt the serious incident was managed in a professional way, and the Board were present throughout the incident at the command suite. Unfortunately, at the point of surrender, the Board were not allowed to attend the incident scene to monitor the surrender.

This resulted in the Board not independently witnessing the forced removal of the offenders. The offenders were seen by the Board in the segregation unit following the closure of the incident.

The Board has expressed its concerns to the Governor that it was not permitted to be present at the scene of the incident to monitor the surrender.

4.1.3.2 Energy Centre at Full Sutton

The significant general efficiency savings that have been delivered by the establishment have been partly offset by the commissioning of the energy centre. The initial specifications suggested a sizable reduction in energy costs for HMP Full Sutton.

The reality has been an increase in operating costs to the establishment of £382,000 this year (as at 31.10.12 £458,000). There are also ongoing contractual negotiations with NOMIS, the Prison and a third party contractor to resolve what has become an unsatisfactory situation.

4.2.3 Progressive Moves

The Board feel that the ability of Full Sutton prisoners to gain a progressive move has been restricted in the reporting period (section 5.5.2 refers). In the period under review over 100 prisoners have been moved to other establishments, this is a positive. However over 70 prisoners still remain at Full Sutton that are approved for relocation to another establishment but are unable to currently relocate. Many reasons exist for this blockage, but two are consistent in many cases; A lack of available space partly due to prison closures and the "Paid by Results" ethos means that if a prisoner has completed most or all of the rehabilitation courses, as set by the Sentence Plan, the prisoner is less attractive to a receiving prison, as income cannot be gained by the receiving prison for education, skills training or further rehabilitation courses.

The impact of this is that the prisoners waiting to relocate out of Full Sutton are frustrated, and generally hold the belief that to gain a progressive relocation a move into the Segregation unit at Full Sutton, followed by a future move out of the Segregation unit to another establishment, will expedite the relocation. Whilst this is not the case, as prisoners' behaviour will impact relocation, many prisoners are holding a different view.

4.2.4 IPP sentences

As referred to in section 6.2 below, the Board is concerned that not enough is done to impress on those serving IPP sentences the need to address their risk earlier in their sentence in order to avoid them staying long after their minimum term has expired.

4.3 Progress on issues of concern in the last report

4.3.1 Financial Budget

As noted previously in the Annual Report 2012 under section 4.2.1, the Board remains concerned at the continuing requirement to reduce the financial envelope of HMP Full Sutton under the Fair and Sustainable Programme, introduced in 2013. This remains an issue for the Board.

4.3.2 Segregation of Prisoners for more than 6 months

As noted previously in the Annual Report 2012 under section 4.2.2. the Board remains concerned at the continuing high number of prisoners held in the segregation unit at HMP Full Sutton. This remains an issue for the Board. This issue is raised to the Minister in this Annual Report under section 5.7.2.

4.3.3 Prisoner Education Budget

As noted previously in the Annual Report 2012 under section 4.2.3, the Board were concerned about the reduction in the Educational services budget. This remains an issue for the Board. We would draw attention to section 5.2.4 in this Annual Report.

4.3.4 Progressive Moves

The Board would draw the attention of the Prison Service to the matters raised in section 4.2.3 above.

4.3.5 Prisoner Induction Programme, Noise Abatement

The Board are satisfied that these issues do not appear with such regularity as they have in previous periods under review.

4.4 The Board's Overall Judgement

The Board's overall impression of Full Sutton is of a prison staffed with professional and dedicated people. It is to the credit of the number one Governor and all his staff that they have adapted well to the budget cuts and managed to run the prison in a very efficient manner.

HMP Full Sutton routinely performs well in the NOMS performance tables and at the time of writing this report Full Sutton is a Level 4 prison. The Board feels that credit should be given to the staff and management for the good staff and prisoner relationships that were evidenced in the MQPL survey.

The Board receives a monthly report from the Governor, who has often noted that the prison remains calm and well ordered. However the Board are increasingly concerned at the year on year increases in cuts on prisoner services and that this may lead to a potential loss of control, leading to the prison becoming unsafe for both staff and prisoners. The current Benchmarking process would appear to be driven by reducing costs, by way of removing resources rather than any in-depth specific analysis of the actual situations and prison needs.

The Segregation unit's numbers remain very high with little prospect of numbers falling, the Board is concerned with the number of prisoners in the

unit for more than 6 months. The situation requires robust monitoring. In the future the Board has decided not to comply with signing prisoner paperwork if they have been held in the Segregation unit for more than 6 months.

5 Comments on specific aspects of the prison

5.1 Equality, Inclusion and Diversity

5.1.1 The Board believes that the management and staff remain fully committed to ensuring the equitable treatment of all prisoners. They continue to ensure all relevant policies are adhered to and that all prisoners have equal access to the regimes and facilities within the prison.

The Diversity Team continue to encourage best practice within HMP Full Sutton and have good relations with both prisoners and staff.

Each month there are meetings of the Equality Action Group. These are chaired by the Deputy Governor and attended by members of the management team, Chaplaincy and a member of the Humber Diversity Panel. Every other month prisoner representatives attend the meeting. In these meetings issues are discussed frankly and openly. The prisoner representatives contribute fully with the issues raised by them which are fully discussed with the prison management team who look to resolve them within the limits of the current prison regime.

The Board and a member of the Humber Diversity Panel review a random sample of Diversity Incident Reporting Forms (DIRF) Complaints every month. Increasingly staff are recording acts of discrimination on a prisoner's personal file and completing a DIRF form for submission to the Diversity Team. When staff witness what they perceive to be an act of discriminatory behaviour, this also is documented to the Diversity Team. This proactive approach will reduce verbal abuse on the wings and in the prisoner workplace environment.

The Board are satisfied that all complaints are fully investigated and any action taken is fully documented.

5.1.2 Different Faith Groups

The Board believes that the Chaplaincy Team makes extensive efforts to ensure prisoners are able to access all they require, to practice their faith, whilst in prison. They and the Diversity Team are taking a pro-active approach to inform prisoners and staff about practices and festivals followed by the different faith groups.

An ongoing issue has been the difficulty in recruiting new chaplaincy staff, both full time and seasonal. An external recruitment campaign for a Roman Catholic priest resulted in no applications.

Muslim prisoners still maintain that they are less favourably treated than other faiths. This is a perception. There is no statistical or documented evidence to support this and the Board holds the view that the needs of Muslim prisoners are well met at HMP Full Sutton.

Conversely members of other faith groups hold the view that Muslim groups are treated more favourably than themselves. There is no documentary evidence to suggest this is the case. This remains a source of tension between faiths

5.1.3 Diversity Month 2013

In response to prisoner feedback the “Black History Month” was replaced with a Diversity Month, this was held in March and was prison wide.

This was a very successful event. The catering team offered a selection of food from around the world representing many faith groups. The Gym held a football World Cup event which teams from all the wings entered. There was also a Chess competition organised by the prisoners’ Diversity representatives and a Quiz day.

5.1.4 Older Prisoners, Prisoners with a Disability.

Within the prison population there are now 102 prisoners over the age of 55.

The older prisoners groups continue to run throughout the week and the gym operates a special over 50’s session.

There are 107 prisoners with one or more registered disability, some of whom are also over 55.

Within the limits of the current regime the prison management have put in place a series of work adaptations to workplace facilities to support both the older and disabled prisoners’ work aspirations, which allow inclusion in the workplace.

As the number of older and disabled prisoners continues to grow it will become important to continue to address and recommend workplace and regime changes that reflect the needs of both groups in order that they are not disadvantaged.

At present the needs of both groups are monitored by a part time Liaison Officer with specialism in disabilities. As a result of the implementation of Fair and Sustainable into the prison regime this post cannot always meet the standards required within this role.

5.1.5 Foreign National Prisoners

Foreign National prisoners continue to make up about 11% of the prison population. They continue to come from many different countries; the number from Eastern European countries has now risen to over 4%. The prison holds foreign national sessions to assist these prisoners with difficulties that they may encounter whilst in prison. One of the key services offered is the repatriation of the prisoner following completion of their sentence. Again, as with the Disabilities Liaison Officer, a Foreign National Liaison Officer is in place. The role however is available to be allocated by central detail to other prison duties as required by the demands of the overall prison regime.

5.1.6 Gay and Bisexual Prisoners

This group of prisoners are very reluctant to come forward and self identify. There is a perception that the staff do not tackle homophobic abuse in the way they would racism or religious prejudice. The prison's management is planning to revisit the issue with the aim of increasing the support to gay and bisexual prisoners at Full Sutton.

5.2 Education, Learning and Skills

5.2.1 The aim of the prison is to provide high quality programmes intended to meet assessed need that enables offenders to realise their potential for the purposes of personal development and employment in custody and upon release.

5.2.2 As in previous years national directives dictate a change of emphasis towards more vocational awards and skills to enhance and prepare an offender for employment, upon release, as opposed to academic achievement. These vocational awards take the form, as an example, of personal and lifestyle awards, certificates and diplomas, in such subjects as Supporting Others, Personal Well-Being, Community Project and Developing self.

5.2.3 In addition under new funding guidance from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), courses have been removed from the curriculum or amended resulting in less coursed content. As an example, the SFA will not directly fund level 3 "O" and "A" levels as there is an expectation that offender learners will need to apply for funding similar to adults outside the prison.

5.2.4 The changes of emphasis referred to above have resulted in budgetary changes under the OLASS (Offender Learning and Skills Service). This has resulted in an estimated budget reduction of 40%.

5.2.5 Although the new OLASS 4 curriculum reduced the contract value /provision by approx 40%, the number of planned activity places lost has been minimised by the new curriculum design providing less expensive shorter courses.

5.2.6 With all these changes currently being implemented the prison is in the middle of setting out transitional arrangements from the previous funding models to the new funding models. Until this is fully complete the extent to which courses are curtailed or amended and learner hours reduced will not be fully known.

5.2.7 The focus of the curriculum will be on the development of English & Maths to Level 2 (55% of offenders located at Full Sutton are below level 2 literacy and numeracy) relevant to the offenders' needs and progression through the custodial sentence.

5.2.8 Education, Learning and Skills are integral to the offender management model at HMP Full Sutton, providing education learning and skills training to prisoners with a wide range of both needs and abilities. Being mindful of the current economic climate, it is anticipated that the structure of the Education Department will undergo a period of change. This is driven also by the reduction of learning modules available to be taught.

5.2.9 In order for prisoners transferring into Full Sutton to partake in Education and Skills courses all are assessed to determine learning requirements, specifically relating to literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. In the period of this report approximately 70 initial assessments were conducted. In addition all learners have a more accurate diagnostic assessment when accessing English, Maths and ICT classes.

5.2.10 Further to this, learners may be screened for hidden disabilities by specialist staff administering the Hidden Disabilities Questionnaire (HDQ). Learners can either self refer if they have been diagnosed with a learning disability or be referred by any other member of staff, if they suspect there is a need for this service. Once a hidden disability is identified, support measures are determined and put in place for individual learners. The HDQ specialists work closely with the Healthcare Centre and the Mental Health Team.

5.2.11 The Manchester College, as in previous years, has been successful in its bid to continue to provide OLASS services to HMP Full Sutton.

5.2.12 The Education department has capacity for 85-95 learners (110 as at 31.10.12), in 12 (11 as at 31.10.12) classrooms.

5.2.13 In addition there are currently 22 learners studying Open University courses and 10 following other Distance Learning courses.

5.2.14 Koestler Awards: during the period of this report 20 prisoners have received awards involving the Arts, Creative Writing and Modern Music.

5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

5.3.1 HMP Full Sutton continues to provide a first class level of care despite the non-completion of a reorganisation and refurbishment of the Healthcare Unit.

5.3.2 The retirement of the 'in house' GP has been covered by a team of 5 GPs who attend the prison every morning on a rota basis, and 'out of hours' medical provision is provided by an "on call" system. Medication management is still a time-consuming process covered by 2 nurse practitioners who administer supervised medication directly to 42 prisoners up to 4 times daily owing to the ongoing problem of tradable drugs.

5.3.3 The Renal Unit offers a unique service with 3 qualified renal nurses now in post, treating 2 inmates at a time. This eliminates the need for escorts to/from the local hospital for treatment and the resultant disruption to services for the general public and consequent expense. A matter of concern continues to be the expense incurred by prisoners opting not to attend outside hospital for outpatient appointments.

5.3.4 The IDTS (G Wing) is now running a 3rd programme of drug rehabilitation. This is well received by prisoners, and the success of the programme is acknowledged. 'Peer Mentors' have been trained to provide support when prisoners have completed the course, and are very much appreciated. However there is not the same level of support on the wings. Approx 20% of transfers into Full Sutton are drug users or 'mules' bringing in tradable medications. This is a great concern for staff and the IMB.

5.3.5 Telemeds (a Video Conferencing facility) is in the process of being transferred from Airedale Hospital to the local York District Hospital, and is to be rolled out for use in secondary (outpatient) care, as well as emergencies. This is a valuable resource and, when used appropriately, saves on time, cost and use of manpower.

5.3.6 Care of the elderly and chronically sick continues to increase in volume and costs, as within the outside community, but the staff handle all situations with professionalism and compassion.

5.3.7 There is an increasing demand on the Mental Health facilities, with a greater number of prisoners presenting with 'maladaptive behaviour' and deliberately self-harming as a means to an end, and not always because they have a mental health condition – e.g. being refused a prescription for tradable drugs or a transfer, to either a wing of choice or another prison of choice.

5.3.8 The delays in the recruitment system operated by Shared Services continue to frustrate staff and candidates, with currently 4 vacancies for general medical staff and 2 mental health staff, and reductions in staffing

levels imminent due to the introduction of Benchmarking. Nonetheless the Healthcare staff working towards the Quality Outcome Framework is to be commended for their diligence and commitment.

5.4 Purposeful Activity

5.4.1 Purposeful Activity is provided in order to facilitate the full development of prisoners, enabling them to progress through their sentences to lower category establishments and release. The full time/half time time-tabling ensures that both educational and vocational training is available to the maximum number of prisoners. Every prisoner is assessed on arrival, during the Induction process, to ensure that Sentence Planning targets are appropriate to the needs of the individual prisoner.

5.4.2 Working Prison Model

HMP Full Sutton, in line with the Government's Policy, is to become a place of industrious and purposeful activity. The daily regime is focussed around employment, education and training. The average working week is now 24 hours per prisoner, up from 20 hours. This is because of the longer working day that allows for a 30 minute lunch break for prisoners in their place of work. This 'Real Work' experience also best prepares prisoners for work and life on their release.

5.4.3 The Workshop Complex

Within the workshop complex there is a range of workshops including – AutoCAD (Computer aided Design) Drawing Workshop, Braille, Contract Services, DHL, 2 full time and 1 part time Textile Workshops and Waste Management and Recycling.

During 2013 the average number of offenders attending the workshop complex was between 220 and 240 against a maximum capacity of 300. This shortfall was due to a combination of factors including interruptions for acceptable absences e.g. Healthcare appointments, OBP, Call Ups and Searching. On average this accounts for about 50 prisoners a day.

There is no effective cover for instructors when they are absent. The pool of Instructors has been reduced over a 3 year period from 17 to 12.6 whilst the average number of prisoners attending the workshop complex has increased from approximately 180-200 up to 220-240. There are still time-tabling issues that need resolving.

The supply of work in some shops is inconsistent and irregular and not sufficient for the time-tabled numbers.

5.4.4 Vocational Qualifications

The management team at HMP Full Sutton has committed to increasing the number of vocational qualifications offered within the prison. Measures have been put in place so that prisoners in the DHL, PICTA, AutoCAD and Braille workshops all have the opportunity to achieve qualifications.

5.4.5 Passport to Employment Scheme

The passport to Employment Scheme is very simple and impressive. The passport designed by the prison encourages the prisoner to develop a strong work based ethic. It is ideal for those prisoners who struggle with the academic element of vocational courses. It enables prisoners to gain accreditation in areas valued by employers, such as time keeping whilst undertaking various activities at their place of work in the prison. It can also be transferred with a prisoner if he is moved to another prison or is released before he has had time to complete it.

5.4.6 Wing Duties

The Board has been impressed by the standard of cleanliness and tidiness on the wings. This is reflection of the fact that there are 109 prisoners who are employed on wing duties and they are all undertaking or have completed vocational training qualifications.

5.4.7 Gymnasium

The Gym remains the most popular place of activity for most prisoners. This is because of the good relations the staff has with prisoners and the variety of activities on offer. These activities include group exercising such as Kettle Bell sessions, individual sports such as Badminton, Team sports, nutrition and First Aid courses and there are separate sessions for the retired and those with disabilities.

5.4.8 Unemployed Prisoners

There are about 40 to 50 prisoners not taking part in any activities. This figure will include those who have been recently transferred in to HMP Full Sutton and will shortly be signing up for activities. It is The Employment Allocation Panel's top priority to place these prisoners and those who are un-employed when it fills vacancies in the workshops.

All Prisoners who were segregated used to have no access to any activities. The Board has been pleased to see that prisoners held in the Segregation Unit are now offered the chance to take up Educational opportunities and, for those who meet the criteria, there is in cell work available.

5.4.9 Enrichment Activities.

The Board remains impressed with the number and delivery of enrichment activities facilitated by HMP Full Sutton. The Writer in Residence runs Creative Writing and Media and Drama group as well as the Full on Magazine. East Riding Library Services run a Prison Reading Group as well as Story book for Dads. Their Six book reading challenge was very popular. They also support the Shannon Trust Toe by Toe mentors.

5.5 Resettlement

5.5.1 A total of 31 (20 as at 31.10.12) prisoners were released directly from Full Sutton in this reporting year.

5.5.2 It has becoming increasingly difficult to transfer prisoners for local discharge and it is not unusual for a prisoner to remain at Full Sutton until 2 weeks before their release date. A local discharge is preferred as this generally is in the prisoners' best interests.

The benefit of this is that the local Probation Trust will come into the local prison and potentially achieve better resettlement through working with local people in the community to arrange accommodation, family integration and employment.

5.5.3 6 months before the expected release of a prisoner responsibility for co-ordinating resettlement is handed over to the community based Offender Manager. During this period the prisoner will be visited by Job Centre Plus staff who give assistance with relevant benefit applications, community care grants and finding employment. Prisoners are also given assistance with writing CVs and applying for driving licences, passports etc.

5.5.4 With regards to transferring a Category B prisoner to a local prison this has become increasing difficult, mainly due to "economics" of receiving a pre release prisoner.

5.5.5 Category A prisoners cannot be relocated to local prisons. In the last two years of their sentence if not already completed programmes are arranged to ensure that risk diminishing courses have been completed.

5.5.6 The resettlement unit has suffered in the year under review. A number of agencies working with the team have had to withdraw their support services due to financial reasons. The West Yorkshire Probation Trust Step Change Program was one such casualty.

5.5.7 The Resettlement Officer role within the prison is now a full time post; however, the scope of the role under the Benchmarking review currently being undertaken for implementation in April 2014 is unclear.

5.6 Safer Custody

5.6.1 Throughout the year of this report the prison has continued its strenuous efforts to maintain safety for both prisoners and staff. The IMB monitors this through occasional attendance at meetings of the various groups that review progress such as the Violence Reduction Strategy group and the Suicide Prevention Group. These meetings are usually held monthly. They are attended by Governors, Wing Managers and other representatives of other groups such as Healthcare and Psychology.

5.6.2 A range of other initiatives designed to maintain safety is vigorously maintained. These include the Personal Officer scheme, the Listener scheme and the process of gathering intelligence through the Intelligence Reporting system. Safety throughout the prison is also maintained by staff observing the daily routines and also carrying out detailed routine and opportune searches.

5.6.3 The prison retains its zero tolerance policy to acts of violence and bullying and the Governor repeatedly explains this to prisoners through the flow of Prisoner Information Notices (PIN) that are published every week. Notices on wing notice boards explain this and a wide range of approaches designed to help those prisoners to voice their concerns about safety and other aspects of prison life.

5.6.4 The Board receives monthly a comprehensive report from the Governor which details most sections of the prison. This details incidents of assault and self harm and is a useful vehicle for the Board as it monitors safety at Full Sutton. Data for the year in question suggests that there has been little significant change in the level of assaults and incidents of self harm in the first 9 months of 2013 as compared to the 4 preceding full years.

5.6.5 During the first nine months of 2013 there were 4 deaths in custody. Given the increasing number of elderly prisoners this was not unusual. Three of these deaths were of prisoners being cared for under the end of life protocols either in the prison's Healthcare centre or in an outside hospital.

5.6.7 While the prison experienced a serious but very rare hostage taking incident this year the general level of unrest has not been much different from previous years.

5.6.8 However, the IMB is concerned that it might in the future be difficult to maintain the current relatively safe state of affairs. During the year in question the Governor has had to grapple with the requirement to make significant savings in the prison's budget. In addition the Governor has also been required to reduce staffing levels according to national norms as per the Fair and Sustainable review. This has also led to a reduction in the number of Governor grade staff and a reduction in the level of authority and autonomy

for wing management staff. Governors are now grappling with greater individual workloads and the IMB fears that this might lead to issues being overlooked or given insufficient attention. The reduced authority of wing managers means that issues need to be referred to the centre more than in the past. This compounds the workload issues for Governors and may slow down responses to prisoners so that frustration may increase.

5.6.9 With effect from 29 September 2013 new staff profiles have been introduced. As a result there have been reductions in the number of staff available at some times on some of the wings. Staff monitoring the safety of prison corridors have also been withdrawn. At a wing level staff have told the IMB that they feel more vulnerable as a result. The staff have also told the IMB that prisoners have expressed concern that these staff reductions compromise their safety.

5.6.10 Presumably what constitutes a safe level of staffing will be a subjective issue which will always be open to speculation. It may be that HMP Full Sutton has in the past been more generously staffed than other prisons but this does not reduce the level of anxiety that the IMB is now detecting from the changes that are being forced on this difficult part of the prison system.

5.6.11 The Governor has advised that further reductions are likely to be required in the near future as a result of on-going work by the Business Development Group which initially required a 15% reduction in staffing levels on top of reductions already made. The IMB is increasingly concerned that the prison will not be able to maintain its duty of care if these reductions continue to be made regardless of the efforts of the Governor and all his staff to make the “New Ways of Working” work. Given the nature of the population at HMP Full Sutton the IMB believes it is going to be extremely difficult to maintain a safe environment at the prison.

5.7 Segregation, Care and Separation, Close Supervision

5.7.1 There have been a number of prisoners who have been held in the unit for periods greater than six months. The Board feel that many of these prisoners are unable/refuse to locate because of many issues. Predominantly these centre around concern for their own safety on the wing, and the Board feel that another significant reason for refusing to locate is the increase in the number of Muslim prisoners at Full Sutton and the tension between them and other prisoners.

5.7.2 The Board are so concerned that it has decided to further monitor the situation of prisoners refusing to locate to a wing and in the future not sign off any paperwork that relates to prisoners being held in the segregation unit for more than 6 months.

5.7.3 The average number of prisoners accommodated in the Segregation unit per quarter is shown in the table below, for comparison purposes the previous year is also shown. The increase between the two years amounts to 14.8%.

From 1.10.11 to 30.9.12	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Average number of prisoners	25.6	22.3	23.7	25.6

From 1.10.12 to 30.9.13	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Average number of prisoners	25.3	25.7	27.6	33.3

5.7.4 The table below shows the reasons for prisoners being segregated over the reporting year:

Reason for Segregation 1.10.12 to 30.9.13	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Good Order And Discipline	15	18	17	24
Own Protection	5	4	5	3
Special Cell (CSC and CC)	8	10	9	6

5.8 Residential Services

5.8.1 Food is generally good and any negative comments to the IMB tend to concern quantity rather than quality. The quality of food produced by the catering department is of a high standard considering the budget constraints they have to work within. The department also promotes 'special events' in the form of themed menus which are linked into events that take place during the year

5.8.2 Bread loaves and rolls are now prepared and baked fresh everyday in the prison kitchen. This has considerably reduced the bread budget. The prisoners now have a sandwich lunch. The only hot meal is provided in the evening.

5.8.3 110 prisoners have 'opted out' of receiving food prepared by the prison. This "opt out" facility is only available to prisoners who are on an Enhanced IEP (Incentives and Earned Privileges). The 'opt out' enables them to prepare and cook their own food, purchased from the prison kitchen on a weekly allowance of £7 a week per prisoner.

5.8.4 The kitchens on the wings have been refurbished and are well used by the prisoners.

6 OTHER AREAS OF THE PRISON REGIME ON WHICH THE BOARD HAS ISSUES TO REPORT

6.1 The population data given in paragraph 3.3 records that 58 of the 609 prisoners (9.5% of the population in the prison) in December 2013 were serving IPP sentences. The IMB notes that 30 of these prisoners have now been in prison longer than their minimum term set by the court. The Board suspects that Full Sutton is likely to have more IPP prisoners serving beyond their minimum term given that the prison is used to accommodate those who have committed very serious crimes. It is appreciated that prisoners who deny their offence are unlikely to comply with risk reducing programmes and thus unlikely to gain parole. In addition, the Board understands that there is a tendency for those serving long sentences to not realise that the Parole Board

will only consider prisoners favourably if they seek to follow programmes designed to reduce their risk consistently throughout their sentence rather than leaving it to the latter end of their time.

6.2 The Board realises that this type of sentence has been discontinued. Nevertheless, this will not affect current inmates serving these sentences and the Board wonders if enough is done to help prisoners understand the regime involved in these types of sentence.

7 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

7.1 During every week in the year members of the IMB undertake visits to the prison to undertake the following duties: the Induction of prisoners, Rule 45 Review Boards (three times per week), Rota Visits to anywhere in the prison, Segregation Unit Rota Visits, CSC Rota visits, Application clinics and the monthly Board Meeting with the Governor. In addition members attend some of the prison's routine meetings concerning issues such as violence reduction, diversity and the management of the Segregation Unit. During the period of this report members undertook IMB duties on average 42 per month; this is dramatically reduced due to a low level of membership.

7.2 The work of the Board is portrayed in the following table;

Board Statistics	
Recommended complement of Board Members	17
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining within the report period	2
Number of members leaving during the report period	4
Total number of Board meetings during the report period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during the report period	10
Number of attendances at meetings other than the	Not Available

Board	
Total number of visits to the prison (source: Member Attendance Register – includes small number of business visits off site e.g. to regional/national meetings)	On average 42 per month (see note above)
Total number of Applications received	455 (see breakdown below)

7.3 Prisoners requesting the IMB to assist them with issues of concern are able to make Applications to see the Board. Each week two members of the Board hold an Applications Clinic at which the prisoner's concerns are discussed. After making the necessary enquiries the Board writes to the prisoner with its findings.

7.4 The table below contains an analysis of the complaints as contained within applications received from prisoners by the Board during the report period.

Code	Subject	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
A	Accommodation	0	0	8	3	6
B	Adjudications	0	0	5	8	2
C	Equality and Diversity	5	0	1	1	9
D	Education/Employment /Training/inc IEP	8	9	19	13	12
E	Family/visits inc mail and phone	10	5	15	12	20
F	Food/kitchen related	2	0	5	5	12
G	Healthcare	8	11	22	21	27
H	Property	32	28	34	15	31
I	Sentence related	23	32	10	18	11
J	Staff/prisoner related inc bullying	5	19	12	1	2
K	Transfers	6	28	14	13	24
L	Miscellaneous	12	14	17	26	51

Total Number of Applications	111	146	162	136	207
Segregation				89	
Confidential Access			95		98
			59	55	97
Overall Total			316	280	402

7.5 The Board members continue to be grateful for the courtesy and assistance provided by all grades of prison staff and for the good-natured response received from most prisoners.