



HMP GARTH

IMB

ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD

1st December 2010 - 30th November 2011

SECTION 1

Statutory Role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary 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 concerns 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 the right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also the prison records.

SECTION 2

Contents

Page 2	Section 1 – Statutory role of the IMB
Page 3	Section 2 - Contents
Page 4	Section 3 - Description of the Prison
Page 5	Section 4 - Executive Summary
Pages 6 - 13	Section 5 - Statutory Reporting Areas (1) Race & Diversity (2) Learning & Skills (3) Healthcare & Mental Health (4) Safer Custody (5) Segregation
Pages 14- 18	Section 6 - Other Areas (1) Offender Management (2) Catering & Kitchens (3) Chaplaincy (4) Reception (5) Therapeutic Community (6) Works (7) Security
Page 19	Section 7 - The Work of the Board.
Pages 20 - 21	Board Statistics

SECTION 3

Description of the Prison

- 3.1 HMP Garth is a Category B Training Prison. It opened in 1988 and holds long-term and life sentenced prisoners, together with IPP prisoners. E Wing opened in 1997 and houses a Therapeutic Community run in conjunction with Phoenix Futures. In 2007 a further two wings were added i.e. F & G, together with three new workshops, an education centre, a new kitchen and additional gym facilities.
- 3.2 The Healthcare Services are provided by the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust. The Centre is a Type 3 facility and can accommodate up to 8 prisoners.
- 3.3 Education and Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) are provided by Manchester College.
- 3.4 The Operational Capacity is 846, with a certified normal accommodation (CNA) of 811. Of these, 65% are serving a Life Sentence.

SECTION 4

Executive Summary

Issues requiring a response:-

- 4.1** The Board is really concerned about the decision taken centrally to charge the establishment with the salary & on-costs of a prison officer who is on the National Executive of the 'POA' & is based in the south-east of England. Not only is the establishment responsible for these costs, the Governor also has to include him as a current staff member & include him when rotas are drawn-up. We feel this compromises the safety of the prison as well as being both illogical & unfair.
- 4.2** The Board is still concerned about the number of mobile phones in the establishment.
- 4.3** Staff searches are infrequent & seem to take place at the same time i.e.:- between 8.00 am & 9.00am. We feel they should be both more frequent & at random times. The Board were advised that Searches had been conducted outside of these times and from a different location.
- 4.4** The reduction in the number of dog teams has increased the opportunities for mobile phones & drugs to be brought in. This is contrary to the recommendation 'HP41' in HMCIP's 2009 report.
- 4.5** We are increasingly concerned about the number of disruptive prisoners with apparently serious mental health issues. It would appear that the system has been designed to ensure only those prisoners diagnosed as 'mentally ill' can be sent to a secure hospital for treatment, whilst the remainder are diagnosed as having a 'personality disorder' which as it is untreatable have to remain in prison. If we were being cynical we could come to the conclusion that the object of this was to save money at the expense of the person!
- 4.6** The focus of Governmental policy regarding offender learning is to ensure offenders are able to gain employment upon release. Funding will move to the 'end of sentence' period and as HMP Garth is a Cat B Training Prison, this has created a feeling of uncertainty within the Learning and Skills team.
- 4.7** With the spectre of even more efficiency savings looming, the SMT is always striving for ideas to improve and best use the available resource. We understand that there are no easy solutions and are sure that HMP Garth will continue to achieve the high standards it has set.

Overall Judgement

The Board considers that, even in the current economic climate, the prison continues to provide a safe environment where prisoners are treated with decency and respect and have access to an intensive programme of education and skills, but has serious concerns regarding the effect, on the regime, of continuing substantive financial constraints.

SECTION 5

Statutory Reporting Areas

Section 5.1 - Race & Diversity

- Since our last report, the management of all matters related to 'Race & Diversity' have been taken over by a DPSM. Although the previous manager is now responsible for another major area in the establishment, he still works closely with the new manager, ensuring a 'seamless' transfer of responsibilities. Each of these senior managers is to be congratulated for their efforts.
- HMCIP made a total of 9 recommendations for action related to 'Diversity and Race Relations' at HMP Garth. All of these recommendations have either been fully addressed or are currently being addressed.
- These detailed recommendations can be found in the Chief Inspector's last full report dated April 2009.
- Until recently, the establishment had extremely active 'Race & Diversity Action Teams' – 'REAT' & 'DEAT'. The 'REAT' met monthly and 'DEAT' bi-monthly. The 'DEAT' meeting followed on from the 'REAT' meeting, as much of the information discussed was very similar.
- As discrimination on both racial & diversity issues overlaps the new manager met with the Deputy Governor to discuss the amalgamation of both teams under a 'Diversity' banner. This action was agreed by the Governing Governor & we now have a new & extremely active 'DEAT' group.
- Membership of the 'DEAT' is wide & comprises of:- (a) Governors; (b) Officers; (c) Co-ordinating Chaplain, the Iman & other faith representatives ; (d) Prisoners – who represent wings; (e) Civilian clerical and professional staff; & (f) Our Board:
- A number of the prison representatives have received 'equality training' & a programme to ensure all receive training is in place.
- Once completed they receive a polo shirt – designed by them – to identify them as 'Equality Representatives'.
- They are also able to access designated additional areas in the prison to address equality issues.
- The reps meet once a month prior to the meetings to identify issues concerning prisoners.
- It is pleasing to be able to report that all prisoners experience equality of opportunity in all aspects of prison life, are treated equally and are safe.
- Racial diversity is embraced, valued, promoted and respected.
- 'Diversity' in all of its forms is evident throughout the establishment.
- All prisoners should have equality of access to all prison facilities. This is now the case & the small number of prisoners with mobility issues have 'carers' – these are other prisoners on the same wing(s) who have been risk assessed & deemed suitable to take on the role.
- The prison is aware of the specific needs of all minority groups.

- Distinct policies have been implemented which aim to represent their views, meet their needs and offer peer support.
- Committees & groups have also been introduced to meet the needs of the following minority groups:- (a) 'LGBT'; (b) Elderly prisoners; (c) Travellers; & (d) Disabled prisoners:
- The manager of the kitchens also ensures that not only are all the diverse racial food requirements are provided but also he works closely with the group in designing menus for specific feast/remembrance days.
- The Chaplaincy team is fully involved & committed in ensuring the spiritual welfare of all prisoners is met.
- As reported last year, HMP Garth's 'Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy' has now been updated & reflects current legislation and the Equality Act 2010.
- Both Management and staff wholeheartedly support the principle of diversity and equal opportunities & everyone's differences are recognised, respected and valued.
- All forms of unfair or unlawful discrimination, victimisation or prejudice on the grounds of colour, race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant reason are rigorously addressed and challenged.
- There is a commitment to providing an environment which allows people of all backgrounds to work together to achieve their potential.
- Every possible step is taken to ensure individuals are treated both fairly and with respect.
- There is a system in place which enables both prisoners & staff to report any discriminatory language or actions.
- These reports are audited by both the 'DEAT' manager & 'Safer Garth' manager.
- Although HMP Garth has approximately 19% BME prisoners, rather than focusing solely on race issues, other diversity strands are given the same weighting so all areas are covered.
- An 'Older Prisoners Action Plan' produced last year has now been fully implemented.
- There are currently 189 disabled prisoners with a clear disability policy in place.
- There are regular worship sessions for all faiths.
- The following events have been undertaken/celebrated this past year:- (a) Christian festivals; (b) 'Ramadam'; (c) A successful Eid feast took place; (d) 'Black History Month'; (e) Chinese New Year; and (f) Holocaust Memorial Day:
- Forums for Travellers and Irish nationals are now regularly timetabled.
- Complaints have decreased this year, as the prisoners state they have more confidence in the process now. Many more complaints are resolved at a lower level through discussions and through prisoner equality reps.
- Monitoring is undertaken by 'DEAT', the Board and 'Lancashire Police Diversity Unit'.
- The establishment's 'Creative Media Group' publish a regular magazine entitled 'Diversity Matters'. As the prisoners have responsibility for this, the contents are both positive & thought provoking.

- All staff are currently undertaking diversity training entitled 'Challenge It-Change It'. There are currently 93% of staff trained. A number of our Board members have also accessed this training. This training is ongoing.
- All aspects of both 'Diversity and 'Race Equality' have a very high place on the priorities of the Governor and her SMT. This proactive approach has resulted in life for both prisoners and staff, being far more positive and rewarding.

Section 5.2 - Learning and Skills

5.2.1 Strategic update – Current Governmental policy aims to change the way Offender Learning is structured. Under this new policy prisons will be put into groupings called 'clusters' (HMP Garth will be in the North West region 'cluster') to be managed by Lead governors and Lead Heads of Learning Skills.

The key focus is to reduce re-offending by ensuring offenders are able to gain employment upon completion of their sentence. With this aim in mind, the majority of funding in future will move towards the 'end of sentence' period and therefore to Category C establishments and the Probation Service. As a longer term, Category B Training Prison it is, as yet, unclear where HMP Garth stands.

The Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) contracts are to be re-tendered (Feb 2012) with the funding model also undergoing change based on outcomes e.g. learner achievement, retention of learners and end of sentence employment. Indications for HMP Garth suggest that in the short to medium term, some contracted hours will be lost.

5.2.2 Performance – The structure of this department rests on a framework of Employability, Personal and Social Development and Literacy, Language and Numeracy. Following a re-structure in 2010/2011, full-time posts were marginally reduced and replaced with sessional posts to maximise flexibility and increase cover availability. In spite of these changes performance continues to exceed targets:

Enrolments – 2,224
 Achievements – 85%
 Retention Rate – 91%

5.2.3 Curriculum – All qualifications are linked to the employability agenda so that all prison learners gain skills to help them find work or become self-employed when they leave prison. A personal and social development course has been created so that prisoners are able to confront and change their attitudes and behaviours. Distance learning plays a continuing and important part of the curriculum with HMP Garth having the largest number of distance learners in the North West (and possibly the UK). However, Governmental changes now require this type of learning to be linked to employability and a 'sift' process is undertaken to assess whether applications meet the criteria. This means more applications being turned down leading to complaints from prisoners but in the light of changes in HE funding, prison learners will be expected to increasingly contribute to the funding of their distance learning courses. Phase 3 of a training package to promote employability including units on Business Studies and Accounts to Level 1 is now running. Within the Peer Mentoring scheme a course for Mentors and orderlies, with qualifications, is now running. The Art course on the Hospital Wing has ceased due to the closure of that wing.

5.2.4 The 'Virtual Learning Campus' has gone live during 2010. This facility is still in its infancy at HMP Garth but a newly appointed VLC facilitator is ensuring that this national network of ICT will provide a number of actions hitherto unavailable to prison learners. They will be able to use a limited and controlled internal facility and eventually be able to apply for jobs when nearing the end of their sentence using this system.

Section 5.3 - Healthcare and Mental Health

- The Department for Health has a duty of responsibility in the provision of a National Health Service that will provide a national good performance resulting in a comprehensive and excellent standard of all health care treatments.
- That same principle of entitlement to high quality access health care must be afforded to all persons who are subject to custodial security within the secure network Criminal Justice Aspects of Health.
- The contract held by the 'Central Lancashire PCT' ceased in June 2011 and the new provider is now the 'Lancashire Care Foundation Trust'.
- The healthcare team provide a multi-professional range of services within the establishment as well as liaising with external hospitals in the area.
- The diversity of needs, presents an extremely challenging obligation to provide healthcare for a continual demanding maintenance of assessments and treatment programmes for the prisoners.
- At the time of this report the compliment of healthcare staff members consisted of:- (a) one lead manager ; (b) twenty one trained staff ; (c) one healthcare assistant; & (d) one healthcare administrator:
- There is one open qualified nursing vacancy at the present time.
- There has been a maintained continuity and retention of multi professional personnel comprising of:- (a) Registered General Nurses; & (b) Registered Mental Health Nurses: This has helped to establish a pattern of care treatment programmes for prisoners.
- There has been a significant improvement of partnership working, with the introduction of an 'outreach' mental health team. This new mental health team now linked with the existing 'in-reach' team.
- The improved monitoring of appointment for prisoners has proved effective in the reduction of lost time and resources.
- All external hospital appointments are strictly adhered too in line with NHS legislation hospital waiting times and cancellations are subject to assessment.
- The monitoring of complaints submitted by prisoners is under the direct care and management of the Senior Healthcare Manager.
- Our establishment has a dedicated prison governor partnership with the healthcare professionals and a regular monthly meeting is held to discuss healthcare matters.
- Following a lengthy process of inpatient care needs – undertaken by the PCT & senior management of the establishment - it was mutually agreed to terminate the continuance of inpatient healthcare provision.
- The joint undertaking was managed in a sensitive manner.
- Prisoners with physical disabilities have been supported with specially adapted cells.
- There will be a maintained 24 hour cover by a Registered General Nurse.
- The existing hospital regional bed facilities at HMP Preston will continue to provide secure hospital inpatient facilities.
- The consequence of that decision has now provided a lower ten-room section that will allow a new suite of offices and clinical areas.
- The advantages of increase of physical clinical spaces will enable an improvement of the range of designated treatment clinics in a bright and relaxed environment.
- At the time of writing this report, the 'Care Foundation Trust' is endeavouring to recruit suitable GP's to fill a number of locum vacancies. This will result in maintaining the stability of clinic sessions.
- A full range of dental treatment is provided.

- The clinics are extremely active due to continual demand of requests by prisoners seeking oral treatments.
- A dental nurse triage system is in place that supports the challenging complexity of pain relief and oral care needs.
- Emergency treatment care is available on the day.
- In the Annual Report for 2011 we are content in reporting that overall an acceptable level of Healthcare is provided; however, there has been a growing number of Complaints regarding the Healthcare Service, and therefore it is proposed that in 2012 the Monitoring of Healthcare is an “area of Special Interest”.

Section 5.4 - Safer Custody

5.4.1 The Board is able to confirm that the Prison continues to regard the issue of Safer Custody of high priority and vigorously pursues a ‘Continuous Improvement Programme’.

Safer Custody Team Statement:

“HMP Garth is committed to providing a safe, non-threatening environment for staff, prisoners and visitors. We believe that everyone here has the absolute right to live, work, and visit in complete safety, free from fear of abuse, harm or oppression.

5.4.2 In support and monitor of the strategy, a ‘Joint Violence Reduction Suicide and Self-Harm Meeting’ – The Safer Garth Meeting – is held every month. This is attended by senior management, principal officers, wing staff and other Departments, including:- (a) Psychology; (b) Carats; (c) Security; (d) Education; & (e) Listeners and prisoner wing representatives: These meetings provide a management led focus on current violence reduction issues, based on relevant and up-to-date data. All members of the team actively participate in the discussions. It has been noted that attendance at the meetings varies, resulting in quality discussion and continuity of focused activity being reduced. There has been renewed activity to correct this.

5.4.3 The main focus during 2011 has been the promoting and establishing of the CAB (challenging anti-social behaviour) Strategy which was introduced during 2010. The CAB Strategy is based on the Prison Service’s zero tolerance for violence and anti-social behaviour in Prisons, which promotes a whole prison approach to challenging anti-social behaviours, which if not checked, shifts the balance of power and good order away from the legitimate authority of the staff. The aim of the system is to encourage and promote positive, pro-social behaviour. We consider that the Strategy is being well supported and is becoming Prison wide in its application. It is however a time consuming process and will require constant promoting and monitoring in its use.

5.4.4 ACCTs

- The total number of ACCT documents opened during 2011 was 153. This is an increase of 22 on the previous year.
- The risk of self harm within the prison setting is a danger that cannot ever be eliminated due to the pressures of increasing mental health illness of prisoners and the inherent substance abuse.
- The ACCT management programme is an important element in safeguarding the risks of prisoner suicide and repeated self harm, is imperative in the prevention of loss of life.

- This annual report can disclose that at HMP Garth there have been no reported suicides.

5.4.5 Self Harm

- There was a total of 107 Self Harm related incidents recorded on the IRS, which is an increase of 42 against last years figures, this being the 4th.year of an increased trend. The majority of Self Harm Incidents consisted of superficial cutting and Overdosing.

5.4.6 Violence Reduction

- Throughout 2011 there was a total of 2110 Violence related SIR's submitted, which has increased by 478 over last years figures. The highest number for SIR's being submitted were related to Threats and Abuse.

5.4.7 Assaults

- The number of assaults on Prisoners has increased by 4 with 37 reported incidents during 2011. There was a significant increase in assaults on staff with 14 incidents compared to 5 for 2010.

5.4.8 Unexplained Injuries

- During 2011 there were 31 unexplained injuries reported which is an increase to last year's figure of 24.

5.4.9 C&R Incidents

- The total number of C&R Incidents during 2011 was 68, which has significantly increased from the 44 recorded for 2010.

The above statistics are a cause for concern and a worthy of detailed consideration by the Safer Garth Team.

5.4.10 Anti-Social Behaviour Violence Survey

- This was conducted during October 2011 but unfortunately was only completed by 41 respondents, which is unlikely to be representative of the establishment. Against the background of the adverse trend of the Statistics quoted above, it is necessary to improve the participation of responses to the Violence Survey.

Section 5.5 - Segregation

5.5.1 Staffing

As required by 'PSO 1700' officers allocated to the Segregation Unit may only serve a three year term. The Unit manager has ensured that this requirement is met in that all of the officers and one of the Senior Officers in the unit have been changed. This change has brought a refreshed management style where both managers are working closely together and the officers have a good mix in relation to experience, age and gender. Those moving onto the unit have settled in well and their expertise, gained in the residential units, has proved an asset to the unit. Given the difficult situations these staff are having to deal with on a daily basis and having to de-escalate some very difficult incidents, they are to be commended for there professionalism.

5.5.2 Incidents Overview

The unit incurred some very disruptive behaviour from prisoners throughout the year again this has been in phases and dealt with appropriately by the staff. There have been

numerous assaults on staff from spraying urine through the side of their cell doors to physical assault in all cases the police have investigated. These investigations have resulted in a range of actions some prisoners being charged by the police and put before the court, some referred back to the prison to be dealt with by the Independent Adjudicator and the governor adjudication system.

Incidents of destroying property and flooding the unit have occurred when groups of disruptive prisoners have encouraged each other to cause damage. The unit maintained a strict stance and kept the prisoners until they displayed a balanced level of behaviour, before relocating them on normal location in Garth or in occasional circumstances transfer to another prison.

This period again has seen a reduction in incidents and the use of the special cell and the use of Control and Restraint despite the increasing amount of disruptive prisoners to pass through the unit.

There are still a large proportion of the prisoners passing through the unit with mental health problems many of whom have been referred to Mental Health and behavioural units. There has been an introduction of Complex Case meeting being held with the Mental Health Team on those prisoners who are causing particular concern. These meetings are in the early stages but do appear to be having an impact on the management of these prisoners.

5.5.3 Transfers of Prisoners

The unit has had a turnover of 240 Rule 45 prisoners in the past 12 months many of these have been transferred out of Garth. The governor of the unit attends bi-monthly meetings with other prisons to network and arrange transfer to assist prisoners to re-settle into normal location, these meetings have proved to be successful in being able to move prisoners around the system who have been extremely disruptive and given them the opportunity to make a fresh start.

Prisoners are still moving to the unit as they refuse normal location at Garth and want a transfer, there is a policy that they will not get a transfer within a short period, and this is to stop the flow of prisoners using the unit as a means of getting a transfer from Garth. The unit has also implemented a restrictive regime in the unit for these prisoners which has had an impact on their decision to refuse normal location.

5.5.4 Fabrication of the unit

The fabrication of some cell floor covering and walls is looking tired there has been a bid put forward to refurbish six cells with fixed furniture. A deep clean of some cells would pay dividends. The unit has recently been repainted in more calming colours and is looking a reasonable standard.

Cleanliness is at an acceptable level although rubbish has been allowed to accumulate outside the unit on occasions. Recent inspections of the Hotplate Area by the Catering Manager have been commented on as to an appropriate standard.

5.5.5 PSO 1700, 1600 /PSI 26/2009 Audit

All policies in place, there are some areas of improvement required

Induction process of new prisoners being received into the unit is in place and prisoners are informed what regime they will be on in the unit.

Initial and 14 day Reviews take place on time and are attended well by members of the Healthcare Team and Offender Management unit representatives.

I&EP process fully implemented.

SMARG meeting are now held quarterly with a good representation of areas.

We were pleased to see the Standards Audit took place in April of Standard 55 Segregation of Prisoners and achieved 96%, action points have been met.

On the whole given the constraints the unit is under we find it to be an effective area that manages some of the most difficult prisoners in the Category B estate.

SECTION 6

Other Areas

6.1 - Offender Management.

- The department currently operates with twenty Offender Supervisors, namely eighteen prison officers and two probation officers, one transport clerk and support staff. Caseloads for the officer case managers average 40-45 and for the probation officers 50-60. These workloads are considered to be realistic although the many changes that have taken place, and continue to take place mean that there is a risk that work can be reactive rather than proactive.
- To date many officer allocations to the team have been made under Job Rotation procedures. During the next year, under the proposed 'Fair and Sustainable' procedures officer grades will be reviewed and the allocation process will be modified.
- A good teamwork atmosphere prevails within the unit with new members being well supported and mentored. As part of this process the unit's 'Offender Supervisor Work Book', produced 'in house' provides a good reference source.
- The transfer officer is now an established part of the team & during the past twelve months she has been involved in the transfer of approximately 30-40 prisoners per month, a high number for a Cat B Training Prison, as well as Court Productions and Accumulated Visits.
- HMP Garth currently holds approximately 220 Cat C prisoners, an increase of about 70 since last year. This increase has occurred largely because of changes in the way prisoners are categorised and because of the re-categorisation of IPP prisoners.
- The number of Cat D prisoners has dropped slightly to around 12.
- The re-categorisation process has recently been reviewed and is now conducted within the OMU.
- The Offender Support Committee, which includes prisoner representatives from all of the wings, was suspended last year. It has now been restarted on a bi-monthly basis and is working effectively.
- The prison is engaged in a six month long pilot project of a 'Parole Hub'. This involves using the prison as a base for the Parole Board to interview prisoners directly and by video link from a number of prisons in the area. If the pilot is successful HMP Garth may formally become the hub for the Lancashire area. This may have some limited resource implications but it would become a significant addition to the role of the OMU.
- During the last twelve months the Unit has adapted to a great deal of change but it has striven to consolidate its work and to take on new challenges. This will continue with specific emphasis upon the Fair and Sustainable philosophy, the gradual introduction to more specialist officers and to the benefits of participating in 'Specification, Benchmarking and Costing ' workshops which it is anticipated will be available both locally and nationally in order to assist the change process.

- The head of the OMU felt that specific reference should be made to the sterling work undertaken by the support staff in the Unit.

6.2 -Catering and Kitchens

The catering department is coping very well with the changes to staff numbers since the benchmarking process was put into place and all unified grades were removed to other areas and an additional 2 staff were removed from the staffing structure. This has made the catering team's job roles differ widely yet we feel the current team have fitted in well to these changes and have provided an excellent service to the establishment.

The catering team consists of a total number of 11 staff members who are all professionally trained chefs; they in turn work with a prisoner workforce with a total number of 45, in a high standard of food preparation and hygiene. These prisoners are trained to cover all tasks of the catering environment. NVQ 1, 2 and 3 is also offered to prisoners and which is delivered via our education department. A number of the more able prisoners are also running a weekly staff restaurant, the quality & service is of an extremely high standard & this facility is always fully booked,

The works department and the catering department work closely to ensure equipment is well maintained, there are some difficulties over the speed of job repairs.

The control of food costs and operating expenditure is again causing difficulties and is a challenge, yet with some minor adjustments to the menu and work practices, the unit manager is confident that gains can be made.

The standard of wing serveries has again been good in appearance and hygiene practices.

6.3 - Chaplaincy

The Board considers that Chaplaincy staff and associated volunteers provide a great amount of pastoral care, support and religious provision for prisoners of all faiths. Care is taken to respect and facilitate prisoners' religious requirements regarding dress, diet and possession of religious materials. These needs are primarily determined during the Induction phase at which prisoners are interviewed by a member of the Chaplaincy and provided with a booklet explaining the purpose of, and services provided. The religious festivals of all denominations within the prison are recognised and celebrated including arrangements for fasting and abstinences. Worship for the main religious faiths takes place weekly.

The mainstay of chaplaincy work is the pastoral support offered to those within the walls of the prison. Chaplains are active on all wings, and other areas of the prison supporting prisoners who are unwell, at risk of suicide or self harm or are undergoing a time of crisis.

The Chaplaincy also facilitates, on a weekly basis, a number of courses including Faith Specific Study Groups, and Bereavement Counselling allowing the opportunity for prisoners to benefit both mentally and emotionally. The Chaplaincy also lead on the prison's restorative justice work and facilitate the SORI (Supporting Offenders through Restoration Inside) Programme four times yearly and provide opportunities for select prisoners to engage with community youth programmes as part of their own restorative work. A short victim awareness course has also been launched, for prisoners who would not be able to take part in the restorative elements of the SORI programme.

As well as providing services for prisoners, the Chaplaincy also provides excellent support for prison staff, volunteers and visitors.

Throughout 2011, there was a great deal of uncertainty with the staffing within the chaplaincy, however in September Garth welcomed a new Anglican and Coordinating Chaplain to the prison, with the previous acting Coordinating and Ecumenical Chaplain being made available for redeployment. This has resulted in maintenance of a very similar staffing level within the chaplaincy team as has been experienced over recent years and will hopefully encourage stability in the team in the foreseeable future.

The prison service faith and pastoral care specification, benchmarking and costing model has been introduced nationally and has given some clarity on the expectations of chaplaincy teams, although it leaves a large proportion of chaplaincy work 'out of scope'. At Garth a great deal of work has been done by the chaplaincy team to implement this new model and it has been used to refocus all of the work performed by the department.

It is noted that there is still no provision for chaplaincy volunteers who diligently attend the prison on evenings or weekend to meet with a vetting contact point during one of these times. Vetting contact points currently only cover business hours, meaning that volunteers need to take time off from their day jobs to attend the prison for their vetting checks.

6.4 - Reception

Last year we reported an Officer had been replaced by an OSG on most of the shifts and this meant there was an additional need for OSG training. It is pleasing to report that the majority of new OSG's have adapted to the new role and are performing well.

Unfortunately the Senior Officer has been put back into the profile on weekend mornings, but is only replacing an officer who has been taken out of the profile. However we accept that in these times of restraint the establishment is subject to quite dramatic cuts & the Senior Management team has a difficult job in ensuring the smooth running of busy areas such as Reception.

There has been an ongoing problem of prisoner's property being held in Reception for longer than we would have wished; however at the time of writing this report we are pleased to report that the property shelves are clear and all prisoners have received their property. This was helped by there being some quiet periods when staff were able to concentrate on property distribution. We are confident that even if prisoner movements increase, that the property will be distributed on time and not become an issue. This matter has been helped by the Governor redeploying an OSG from 'visits' to distribute property to the wings on weekend afternoons.

The contract for transferring prisoners was awarded to 'GOAMEY' & they started the contract on 1st September.

There are three main concerns we wish to highlight, which are:- (a) The amount of profiled hours that have been taken from reception, to cover emergency escorts and staffing shortfalls ultimately resulting in reception being closed when scheduled to do 'call-ups' – we have seen records of all these occasions; (b) The property having to be stored is excessive and there doesn't appear to be enough space to store it. The staff have utilised a holding room to ease the situation, however at the time of writing this report it is already full; & (c) The lack of quality performance by 'GEOAMEY' in both bringing prisoners in & taking prisoners out of the prison. The two main 'bones of contention' is that they have, on a number of occasions, forgotten to pick prisoners up for transfer & 'or arrived very late, causing officers in the unit having to remain after their allotted finishing time. The firm does not seem to understand the complexity of ensuring a smooth transfer or reception & we are concerned that this contract may have been awarded solely on the grounds of cost as against quality!

6.5 – Therapeutic Community

The TC at HMP Garth runs, within the prison in partnership with Phoenix Futures, an independent charity. The TC is an abstinence –based programme, where the long term aim is to become permanently substance free. There is common misconception that the TC is ‘just substance rehabilitation’ programme however this is not the case. The TC helps to modify behaviours by using pro-social modelling from staff and senior residents, and through peer pressure. There are 44 beds on the unit and residents live and work on the wing.

Residents are responsible for their own change; however they address their problems together as part of the community. Residents encourage positive behaviour and challenge negative behaviour. This is known as mutual self-help. The community is the method by which change occurs and therefore it operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and residents must be totally dedicated to treatment otherwise discrepancies may occur. The programme lasts for approximately twelve months.

The TC helps to reduce offending by addressing risk factors. Taking poor cognitive skills as an example, that the TC addresses this risk factor by using the routine and structure to help residents delay gratification by learning that they have to have patience and become less impulsive. Throughout the programme the residents will have key work sessions, where they will be able to discuss any issues on a one to one basis. A care plan will be completed with objectives regarding continuous treatment needs. The key work session will last approximately one hour and will take place once every two weeks on induction, and once a month for the rest of the programme.

The TC staffing has reduced by 1; It is now – 1 civilian Treatment Manager, 1 civilian Admin worker, 3 civilian facilitators and 4 officer facilitators.

Next year the TC will be accepting referrals from Alcohol only prisoners’ inline with the Governments new strategy. No adaptations will need to be made to the Programme, because, as it says above, the Programme focuses on behaviour related to substance misuse – not the substances themselves.

This year a lot of work has been done on the TC to improve family links, and open day was held to which nearly half of the community’s families came in to talk to staff and learn more about the programme – the day was very enjoyable to staff, residents and family members. Residents now look at family relationships in their key work sessions.

The TC is audited by a few different organisations, this year they achieved 116%in the RSG Audit (the 16% reflects exceeded work). They also scored very highly in their first Community of Communities peer review 93% for the Core TC Standards – which is very high for a prison TC.

There are plans to open a Substance Recovery Wing on the opposite side of the TC wing; all of the staff are feeling very positive about this as this will be a supportive environment for TC residents to graduate to.

6.6 – Works

It has been another demanding year in respect of the Workload, with a number of Major Projects:-

- 1) Refurbishment of the MDT Suite.
- 2) Programme of Refurbishment of Shower Facilities.
- 3) Drugs Dispensing Room.
- 4) Refurbishment of the Healthcare, which involved the conversion of a Cell Block to Office and Treatment Room Facilities.

These major works will improve the service provided.

The programme of Maintenance has been severely affected in terms of labour availability and finance, by the substantially increased burden of the rectification of damage caused by "smash ups" in the Care and Separation Unit this year.

There is understandably apprehension among Works Department staff with regard to the outcome of the "Fair and Sustainable" Programme.

In Summary, the Board continue to be satisfied with the upkeep of the Prison, notwithstanding there can be substantial delay in responding to certain work throughout the establishment.

6.7 – Security

The Security department has benefited from a stable team with few changes over this reporting period. Standard Audit Unit visited in April/May 2010 auditing two modules, it was pleasing that for the second consecutive year improvements have been made against baselines resulting in some excellent audit scores for Tools, Equipment and Property which achieved a compliance score of 98% and also Accounting and Supervision which achieved compliance score of 97% increasing Garth's overall security marking to a GREEN 93%.

The Escape that took place from the escort of 3 prisoners bound for HMP Liverpool and Altcourse, has had a significant impact on HMP Garth and particularly the security department; a huge amount of training has taken place for staff, which has centred on Escort and Cellular Van training. The security department has also changed the way it handles information and the introduction of an Analyst to the Security Department is a welcome addition.

Routine cell searching is still conducted although there is now a greater emphasis put on Intelligence lead target searching; this is proving a more effective use of resources which compliments local security objectives.

Other Establishment targets which are linked to the Security function are MDT; the establishment has continued to achieve good results against its target of 8% with a current YTD actual of 5.25%. Whilst the target for contingency plans has been withdrawn, Garth has continued to complete contingency desktop and live exercise at a rate of one per month. There is concern from staff within the department as to the future; the Fair and Sustainable framework will change the look of the security department massively, and the Security Senior Officers will be removed as will the individuals currently performing the Security Analyst and OSG collators' role, creating a void in experience and operational cover within the department.

SECTION 7

The work of the Independent Monitoring Board

- 7.1 During the reporting period there were some changes to the Board. Two members resigned for personal reasons, another retired and sadly another valued member died suddenly.
- 7.2 Two new members were recruited just before the end of the reporting period.
- 7.3 Board Members continued to be assigned to specific areas of the prison for Monitoring responsibility and also as representative to observe at Key meetings.
- 7.4 A Team Performance Review was carried out and following further discussion an Improvement Plan was prepared.
- 7.5 During the reporting period a number of Board Members visited two prisons in order to widen members' experience of other prisons and other Boards approaches to Monitoring. The Garth Board also hosted a reciprocal visit.
- 7.6 The Board BDO up-dated the Induction Programme and the Mentoring Procedure for New Members.
- 7.7 A designated Board Member attends the induction programme for new prisoners and also the induction of new staff to explain the work of the Board and how prisoners may make applications to the Board.
- 7.8 The Board continues to operate with a team of 3 Members on duty each week.

Board Statistics

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement 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	14
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	4
Number of members leaving within reporting period	3
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	105
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	730
Total number of applications received	261
Total number of segregation reviews held	576
Total number of segregation reviews attended	576

Code	Subject	2009/10 (01/12/09 – 30/11/10)	as a % of total no. of apps	2010/11 (01/12/10 – 30/11/11)	as a % of total no. of apps
A	Accommodation	0	0	7	2.7%
B	Adjudications	5	1.5%	11	4.2%
C	Diversity related	12	3.5%	1	0.4%
D	Education/employment/training	15	4.4%	17	6.5%
E	Family/visits	6	1.8%	11	4.2%
F	Food/kitchen related	2	0.6%	6	2.3%
G	Health related	22	6.5%	31	11.9%
H	Property	73	21.4%	58	22.2%
I	Sentence related	36	10.6%	21	8.0%
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee related	45	13.2%	34	13.0%
K	Transfers	45	13.2%	35	13.4%
L	Miscellaneous	80	23.5%	29	11.1%
	Total number of applications	341		261	