



The Independent Monitoring Board

at

HM Prison Kirkham Annual Report

1st January 2012 – 31st December 2012

Final February 2013

Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

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

The Board is specifically charged to:

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

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

Section 2

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Section 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 Certified and Operational Capacity 630

HMP Kirkham occupies the site of a former RAF technical training centre. The site was taken over by the Home Office in the early 1960s and has been in use as a prison since 1962, celebrating 50 years in August 2012. With few exceptions the infrastructure and services is World War II vintage, although prisoner accommodation is relatively new having been redeveloped over the period 1990-1999.

It is a Category D Open Prison in the North West Area holding adult male convicted prisoners. The Deputy Director of Custody is Alan Scott and, at the end of 2012, the acting Governing Governor is Nicky Hargreaves. Graham Beck will be the new governor, taking up the post in early 2013. They are supported by 110 Prison Service unified grade employees, 80 non-unified personnel and over 50 external staff including those providing education, Substance Misuse Service (SMS) support and healthcare.

There are 24 billets which provide single occupancy basic living accommodation. There is also an 80 bed Admissions Unit (double occupancy rooms) which has been adapted for all new arrivals during 2011 from the Next Steps Centre.

Prison Facilities:

In addition to core residential accommodation the following facilities are available:

- Access to jobs (voluntary and paid).
- Christian Chapel and a 'Multi Faith' Room.
- Community work bus
- External college opportunities
- External initiatives including the DHL canteen distribution for North West Prisons.
- External training opportunities through established partnerships with the Marriott and De Vere hotels
- Farms and gardens. A Gold Medal was won and a place in the final 4 in the Windlesham Trophy awarded at the Southport Flower Show 2012.
- Fitness Instructor training leading to qualifications.
- Fork Lift truck training and qualifications to instructor level
- Gymnasium facilities for use by offenders, staff and invited members of public.
- Healthcare Centre – contracts with the North Lancs. Primary Care Trust.
- IPAC – Information for Prisoners and Advice Centre –staffed by officers and inmates. Local volunteer and charity groups assist e.g. CAB.
- Industrial Cleaning
- Large Conservation area with a herd of rare breed cattle and other animals.
- Learning & Skills Department, with IT facilities. Manchester College is the Education provider.
- Library -provided by Lancashire County Council.
- NVQ courses in building and painting and decorating.
- Prison employment opportunities with privately funded enterprises including Calpac Amaryllis, and Recycling Lives

- Prison Shop – open to the Public
- Video Conferencing Suite.
- Visits Centre and facilities for family days.
- Waste Recycling Unit.
- Welcome Centre
- Workshops including Woodwork

The following Agencies offer support at various levels in or to the prison:

- Achieve: volunteering and work placements
- Age Concern
- Arooj: A Social Enterprise, not for Profit Company
- Citizens Advice Bureau: deal with debt management & welfare issues
- CXL: careers advice
- Disability North West
- Drug Intervention Programmes: provide support on release via SMS (Substance Misuse Services)
- Job Centre Plus: Benefits advice
- Lancashire Probation Service
- Langley House Trust
- NA and AA: Narcotics and Alcohol Anonymous
- National Association of Prison Visitors
- NAVAJO: Gay & Lesbian issues
- P.O.P.S.: Partners of Prisoners: family issues & visits and children's playgroups
- Royal British Legion: Resettlement issues
- Samaritans: prisoner counselling, support & training of Listeners
- Shelter
- SOVA: Supporting Others Through Volunteer Action
- Wigan Offender Accommodation Resettlement Service
- Working Links –education/training guidance

Often internal committees take concerns from prisoners and external agencies are contacted by officers for advice and assistance.

3.2

In early 2012 a small bistro in the welcome area of the establishment was opened but had to be closed due to planning objections following complaints from other businesses within a radius of a mile. It is hoped that a resubmission for approval, placing more emphasis on training and the gaining of qualifications as well as a recategorisation of usage will be successful in 2013.

Section 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 Kirkham IMB are proud to be associated with a prison that goes that extra mile in the resettlement of its prisoners (see report section iro 5.5,5.6 and section 6 iro of SME team). The Prison staff and the IMB work well together for the benefit of the prisoners in their care.

4.2 As in most penal institutions, this has once again been a challenging year. The Board at Kirkham are proud of the achievements at their establishment (see paras 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4 & 6.1) and should be equally proud of themselves in that they have “managed” exceptionally well despite being “under compliment” for a good part of the reporting year (see below re tenure issues). Due to the autonomy granted IMBs, we at Kirkham have been able to fulfil our obligations with limited resource by instigating in house training, mentoring and support, whilst at the same time ensuring that “the lights stay on”.

There has been a reduction in staff and the current initiatives in place, including Fair and Sustainable and benchmarking, are having an impact on staff morale. The IMB are also concerned that the last year has seen no continuity in leadership from the top and that in the last few year the prison has seen a brisk turnaround of No1 Governors. This cannot be good for the establishment and the IMB will continue to monitor this to ensure that any changes made are not detrimental to the population.

4.3 Particular Issues requiring a response:

- The new rules imposed by the Public Bodies authorities iro Tenure have, to a great extent, led to a number of experienced and valuable members tendering their resignation and the Board can only see the situation worsening over time, added to the fact that it has been increasingly difficult to get volunteers to join the Board - and to retain those members when they do join!
- HMP Kirkham does not have a segregation unit, (see 5.7) but the holding unit has seen some unfortunate activity, including a fire (see 5.7). This behaviour is in part due to the unsuitability of some men entering the prison (increase in Prison population etc) and to the fact that the SAU is :
 - a) badly appointed and positioned with other prisoners able to talk to the men being held and potentially pass them items such as cigarettes/matches (with the possibility that a volatile situation could be further aggravated thus destabilising the establishment;
 - b) the building is a multi use block, utilised for the holding of men who have asked to be placed there for their own safety, those men requiring removal to closed conditions and as a secure drug dispensing station.

Although a thorough debrief and lessons learned were forthcoming and the block is now a non smoking unit, the IMB are concerned that men are still found to be smoking in the unit, particularly those who are held for any length of time.

Despite these problems, we do feel that there is a place for an SAU in Open establishments and would hope that future benchmarking of aligned open estates, recognises the benefits of a holding unit.

4.4 Previous year's concerns:

Some expensive facilities are **still** not being utilised sufficiently, as detailed in last years report. These include:

- the Virtual Campus – little evidence that it has had a positive effect on the men
- Big Bertha –the food macerator
- Boss Chair in visits – although there is an attempt to be more proactive with the use of this resource in the last reporting year (we will continue to monitor)
- Video Conferencing suite
- Training kitchens in Education - although once the licencing for the Bistro has been resolved, there will be more emphasis placed in qualifications being attained as part of the overall Bistro experience. See 3.2

Staff sickness is still an issue and has resulted in the Prison being marked down in the Performance Rating System, the overall status excluding staff sickness is green. There is a regional strategy in place to help reduce sickness in staff by offering support to return to work and examine the issues causing the absences.

Following comments made in the 2011 MQPL review regarding the level of courses offered to aid employment, the establishment now offers Level 2 qualifications in several subjects and our External Learning & Support Policy facilitates learners engaging in higher grade courses at colleges.

Section 5

MANDATORY REPORTS

5.1 Equality & Inclusion

At HMP Kirkham we operate under the Single Equality Act 2010. There is an excellent Diversity and Equality Relations Team under the direction of the Deputy Governor, a Senior Prison Officer and a Prison Officer. There are currently 7 Prisoner Representatives and all prisoners are treated fairly in the spirit of the Equality Act and any complaint is fully investigated

The cohort of older prisoners is circa 55, which is 8.8% of the prison population. There are 4 men over 70, 1 of whom is over 80.

There are currently 21 disability live care plans in place, 6 of these needing PEEPS. There are a number of prisoners who experience mobility difficulties; they are supported by other prisoners with any tasks which require assistance. It is noted that other establishments have volunteer carers visiting the prisons, HMPK have prisoners acting as 'carers' and their help is very much appreciated.

All areas of equality and inclusion which are under the umbrella of the Single Equality Act 2010 fall within nine strands of protected characteristics to ensure no person's treatment is compromised.

The prison is fully committed to equality and inclusion and the eradication of discrimination at all levels. Anyone is free to challenge any decision which they feel is in conflict with this policy. During 2012 only 9 DIRF's have been submitted, Arooj have provided external monitoring on completed DIRF's and HMPK have received only positive feedback. Arooj also provide a successful 'drop in' centre in giving prisoners who may have diversity issues reassurance and help avoiding subsequent absconds.

Bi-Monthly meetings are held to discuss all nine strands of diversity and there is the opportunity to highlight to managers any areas of concern regarding the issue of discrimination within the prison.

5.2 Education, Learning and Skills

HMP Kirkham has approximately 160 men per week taking part in internal and external training. This is a drop from last year due mainly to a change in profile of the men coming to the establishment with increased literacy and numeracy skills, most arrive with level 1 or 2 skills rather than basic level which has historically been the picture.

A new Functional Skills course in Maths and English is delivered in 3 sessions each week, lasting for 6 weeks. The model of delivery has already proven to be successful when delivered in the Armed Forces to increase basic numeracy and literacy levels. Results of the first course indicate that this mode of delivery is successful in the prison estate and is quite suited to the need of the Kirkham regime in that learners can address needs soon after arrival in readiness to settle into workplaces with fewer interruptions. Following successful completion of the pilot Vince Cable, MP, visited the prison to gain feedback from some of the men who had completed the course.

The longest waiting list for places is on a Jobseekers Course but this is due to ROTL issues as men waiting on this course are also approved for ROTL and are finding difficulty fitting in attendance at the course.

A Hidden Disabilities Assessment is undertaken if the Education department feel that a prisoner may have learning difficulties or special needs, these assessments are carried out in liaison with Healthcare and assist the tutors and prison staff in dealing with a prisoner with this classification.

A new course PEARL [Personal Employability and Reflection for Learning] has been introduced for men who are designated as key workers, these courses are run in groups of 10. They are activity based and look at social skills, self awareness, motivation and managing feelings. To date 3 groups have completed this training.

5.3 *Healthcare & Mental Health*

Mental Health

A new mental health nurse is due to start in the New Year and will be offering more therapies such as cognitive behaviour therapy [CBT].

Older prisoners now have access to bowel screening programmes [bowel cancer screen]. HMPK have 2 men due for early compassionate release due to cancer diagnosis.

The area next to the Healthcare rooms is to be refurbished for older prisoners, a grant for £20,000 has been received from Greener on the Outside project [GOOP] to cover the costs of the work.

Physical Health

HMPK is continuing to receive lots of men with more complex diseases creating a burden on existing resources as the healthcare unit was initially established for short term prisoners. Men now have access to the Expert Patient programme, a former prisoner has been trained to act as a tutor on this course. The Expert Patients Programme (EPP) is a self-management programme for people who are living with a chronic (long-term) condition. The aim is to support people by:

- increasing their confidence
- improving their quality of life
- helping them manage their condition more effectively

For 2 years now the establishment has achieved 100% uptake of Hepatitis B vaccine.

5.4 *Purposeful activity (includes work)*

The local charities below offer work in the community for prisoners prior to release or paid employment:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Age Concern shops | Lytham, St Annes, Blackpool |
| • Aiming Higher | Blackpool |
| • All Garden Services | Preston |
| • Barnados shops | Blackpool, St Annes |
| • Butterfly Group | Blackpool |
| • Claremont First Steps | Blackpool |
| • Crossland Park Project | Blackpool c/o DDH |
| • Donna's Dream House | Blackpool |
| • Fylde Borough Council | St Annes |
| • Guild Lodge(Whittingham) | Preston |
| • International Aid Trust | Preston |
| • Princes Trust | Kirkham, Preston, Blackpool |

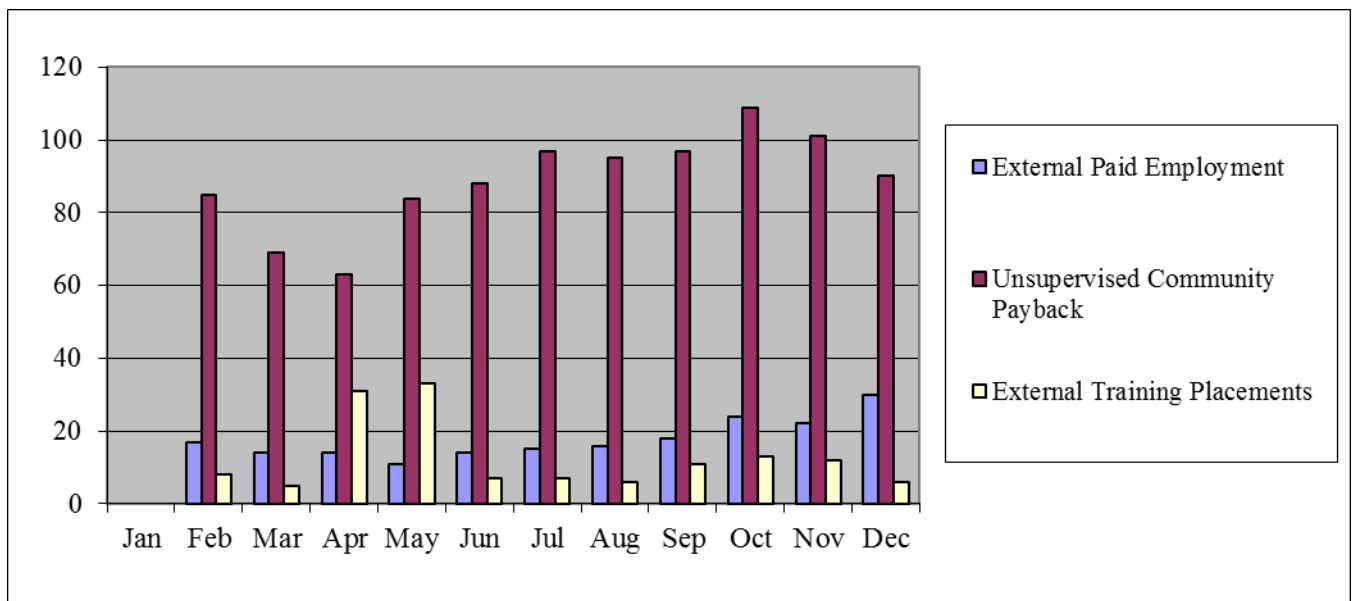
- Lifeline (Drugs services) Preston, Manchester, Rawtenstall
- Marie Curie shop Kirkham
- PDSA shop Blackpool
- Preston Council for Voluntary Service Preston
- Preston Muslim Society Preston
- RSPCA shop & centre Blackpool
- Samaritans Blackpool
- Shelter Blackpool
- St Cuthbert's Church Lytham
- St John the Evangelist Preston
- St Josephs Church Wesham
- St Michael's Church Kirkham
- St Paul's Church & Shop Ansdell
- Streetlife Blackpool
- Trinity Hospice recycling Blackpool
- Trinity Hospice shop Blackpool, Bispham, Kirkham, St.Annes
- Turbary Owl Sanctuary Preston
- Warton Parish Church Warton
- Willows Church Kirkham
- YMCA shop Preston

We also have various training placements offered to prisoners from the De Vere Hotel Blackpool and the Marriott Hotel Preston.

There are a number of joint enterprises taking place with external companies. CALPAC, Pets at Home, Amaryllis and DHL currently operate from HMPK and a number of companies are in discussions to locate to the establishment following a successful Local Prisons Enterprise event held at the end of September 2012.

There are now staff skilled in Cleaning Professional Skills/Industrial Cleaning, accredited training is now taking place alongside local training. The cleaning suite received assessor accreditation in November 2012.

The table below shows the numbers of prisoners who undertook various placements or employment over 2012, the collection of these figures began in February 2012.



Refurbishment of trams from Blackpool took place in 2012, the completion date for the switch on of the Blackpool Illuminations was achieved and HMPK received good recognition for the work. There are more trams to be restored.

There is a Farm shop, which offers goods grown or made on the establishment for sale to the public and it is hoped to extend the range of stock and expand opening hours to offer an improved service to the public in 2013. On the establishment there are cattle which are looked after by the Farms and Garden team. There are also a range of greenhouses in which are grown tomatoes and other salad greens for use in local prisons as well as sold to local suppliers. Vegetable crops are grown throughout the year but due the very wet weather in 2012, a lot of the root vegetable crop was lost.

5.5 Resettlement

Offender Management Unit has undergone changes in staff and processes throughout 2012, and the Board approached the OMU with a view to improve the system as a number of prisoners were complaining that their ROTL dates were not being given out on a timely basis. Changes have been implemented and the IMB will monitor the situation to ensure compliance.

Approximately 60% of the prisoners are entitled to town visits, HDC and ROTL. These privileges are very successful but there is an average of 1 man per month failing his ROTL. Overall the abscond rate is extremely low, average is less than 1 per month. This is mainly due to the support system in place in HMPK. There is a Information for Prisoners and Advice Centre [IPAC], a Support Centre and a team of Listeners [trained by the Samaritans] who are all prisoners themselves, supported by a highly trained and motivated staff team.

5.6 Safer Custody

A Safer Custody Audit took place during August 2012. The audit encompassed Violence Reduction, Death in Custody and Suicide/ Self Harm. HMP Kirkham were awarded a Green rating (91% or above) which is the highest possible rating.

The Green rating will make a positive contribution to the establishment's position within the Prison Rating System (PRS) strengthening its performance within the North West and the Dynamic Comparator Group. The success of the audit was not solely achieved by the work of the Safety Custody Team but by all working together to achieve a safe, decent environment for prisoners and staff alike. The IMB are grateful to the staff of Kirkham prison for their commitment and support of the prisoners in their care.

Staff have seen an increase in prisoners transferring to Kirkham with mental health concerns due to continued substance or alcohol misuse. These men are assessed on arrival and monitored carefully to check how they adapt to open conditions, especially if they have been in closed conditions for a long period of time. Kirkham IMB have concerns around the suitability of some of the men being sent to the establishment, and this was a concern in previous reports. Were it not for the vigilance and diligence of staff at HMP Kirkham, the establishment could easily be destabilised by men plainly unsuitable to be held in open conditions.

Refresher training has been undertaken for completion of ACCT's as the use of that procedure is rather infrequent in the establishment. Anti-social behaviour can be an issue on the billets especially after weekend leave, mainly due to loud music and some name calling. These issues are dealt with quickly to ensure no further such behaviour.

5.7 *Segregation, Care & Separation, Close Supervision*

There is no Segregation Block at Kirkham. It has been re-designated as a Secure Accommodation Unit (SAU) and is a Holding Unit for those offenders waiting to be returned to closed conditions.

The IMB are advised of all men who are to be transferred and they are offered an interview with us. 99% decline.

A fire took place in SAU when a prisoner was allowed to smoke, following a lessons learnt exercise the area has now been designated a non-smoking area and anyone held there should be escorted outside to smoke. The IMB have some concerns around the use of the SAU but do feel that it has a place and purpose in an open establishment.

5.8 *Residential Services (includes accommodation, food, catering and kitchens)*

HMP Kirkham occupies the site of a former RAF centre so accommodation is spread over 24 billets providing single occupancy and an 80 bed double occupancy unit which has been adapted for all new arrivals to the establishment.

A billet inspection team including staff and prisoners has been put in place to keep on top of any problems in the living quarters. A lot of work has been done to keep up standards of the billets, especially in the use of toasters which were being left unsupervised and was causing a number of fire alarms to activate. Prior to Christmas 2012 the IMB chair was invited to be part of a billet inspection with awards being given for the best billet.

A recent hygiene inspection was carried out by the local authority; an issue was raised on the delivery of fresh vegetables to the kitchens from the Farm & Gardens area. All fresh produce grown in the establishment is now delivered to a dedicated preparation area and processed in line with hygiene requirements. There are some excellent feedback comments from prisoners on the quality of the food.

Section 6

HIGHLIGHTS of OTHER AREAS

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6.1 AMIMB Award 2012

The above award highlighted the work done by staff and prisoners in the Substance Misuse Services team. The team have trained up a large number of 'recovery champions' to work as peer supports alongside the staff, this style of co-operative working facilitates many of the services offered including induction of new prisoners and group work sessions around substance use, addiction and recovery.

The SMS team were also short-listed for a Civil Service Award. A Recovery Week was held in April 2012, this was exceptionally successful with men engaging with and working with victims and external support organisation. It is intended to repeat this venture in 2013.

In August 2012 HMP Kirkham celebrated its 50th anniversary by holding an open afternoon for staff, family & friends which was a great success.

KISS – Kirkham Inmates Supporting Stroke - This initiative is run in HMPK gym, local people who have had strokes come to the gym twice a week to engage in a regime of exercise, carried out by prisoners and supervised by the gym staff. Unfortunately there is no certification or qualification to recognise the work done other than an entry on the prisoner's work record but all men involved state that gain a great sense of achievement when involved in this programme and this has proved purposeful year on year.

6.2

There continue to be issues with drugs, especially spice. Issues of legality have been raised over the 2nd spice test. There are regular finds of mobile phones, SIM cards and drugs, including steroids and other substances. All items found are seized and culprits dealt with through the adjudication process.

There has been a reduction in staff and the current initiatives in place, including Fair and Sustainable and benchmarking, are having an impact on staff morale. The IMB are also concerned that the last year has seen no continuity in leadership from the top and that in the last few year the prison has seen a brisk turnaround of No1 Governors. This cannot be good for the establishment and the IMB will continue to monitor this to ensure that any changes made are not detrimental to the population.

There have been a number of resignations from the IMB over the last 12 months for a variety of reasons, some have been work related but the board has also lost experience due to the 15 year tenure rule. This has placed a large responsibility on the new members of the board.

The number of complaints received have been creeping up, especially towards the latter part of the year. The largest increase is in ROTL and missing property, however it is felt that better education for prisoners as to the correct process instead of raising a complaint would reduce this number. The applications received by IMB regarding ROTL are very low so the new processes in place to ensure all prisoners are aware of their ROTL dates as soon as possible appears now to be working much better.

Section 7

7.1 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	13
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	5
Number of members leaving within reporting period	8
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	11
Total number of visits to the Establishment	188
Total number of segregation reviews held	n/a
Total number of segregation reviews attended	n/a

7.2 IMB Applications

Code	Subject	2009	2010	2011	2012
A	Accommodation	0	0	0	0
B	Adjudications	0	1	0	0
C	Equality & Diversity	0	2	0	0
D	Education/employment/training	6	2	6	3
E1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	1	2	2	0
E2	Finance/pay				1
F	Food/kitchen related	0	1	0	0
G	Health related	0	2	2	2
H1	Property [within current establishment]	5	7	4	0
H2	Property [during transfer/in another establishment]				3
H3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos				0
I	Sentence related [inc HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc]	8	7	3	6
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	0	2	1	2
K	Transfers	1	5	1	0
L	Miscellaneous	5	4	4	2
	Total number of IMB applications	26	35	23	19
	Of total : number of IMB Confidential Access was:				

Section 8
GLOSSARY

DIRF	Discriminatory Report Form
HMPK	HM Prison Kirkham
ROTL	Release on temporary licence
SMS	Substance Misuse Service