



HMP KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE

INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1st January 2013 – 31st December 2013

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, 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.

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3 Description of the Prison

3.1 HMP Kirklevington Grange is a small Category C and D resettlement prison for adult male offenders, situated on the edge of the small town of Yarm on Teesside. The capacity of the prison is 293 and during 2013 it operated at or near capacity. At the end of the year the prison roll stood at 31 Category C prisoners and 260 Category D prisoners, figures which include 34 prisoners on an indeterminate sentence for public protection and 32 prisoners on a life sentence.

3.2 As a resettlement prison, Kirklevington Grange has the specific function of preparing prisoners, many coming towards the end of long sentences, for life back in the community. Prisoners are carefully selected and must demonstrate a willingness to take advantage of the opportunities the prison offers.

3.3 Prisoners begin their time at Kirklevington Grange with induction, assessment, work inside the prison and attendance at classes. Following a rigorous risk assessment, prisoners may then be considered for release on temporary licence (ROTL), undertake unpaid community work outside the prison and have the opportunity to re-establish home and community links. They then may be able to get paid work or further education and training outside the prison, if this is available and part of their sentence plan.

3.4 Prisoners are accommodated within the main building and in four units situated in the grounds. Three of these were originally accommodation units on oil platforms, while the fourth and most recent was purpose built. Further facilities within the establishment include an education centre, gymnasium, workshops for welding and white goods repair and maintenance, recycling facilities and extensive greenhouses and gardening areas.

3.5 Education is provided by The Manchester College and healthcare by Care UK. Durham Tees Valley Probation runs a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes. The charity MIND provides weekly advice and support on mental health issues. Volunteers from NEPACS (North East Prisoners After Care Society) run a tea bar in the visits room and shop facilities are provided by DHL.

4 Executive Summary

4.1 HMP Kirklevington Grange treats its prisoners fairly and with respect. As a resettlement prison it offers prisoners a regime which is well designed to help them re-enter society successfully at the end of their sentence.

4.2 Prisoners at Kirklevington Grange make very few applications to see the Board about issues of concern or complaint. There were five formal applications in 2013, which is fewer in the course of a year than many prison boards receive in the course of a few days. Of course, prisoners here are coming to the end of their sentence in a relatively relaxed semi-open prison and have every incentive to keep their heads down and not draw attention to themselves by raising even legitimate concerns. But in truth prisoners at Kirklevington Grange have very little to complain about.

4.3 The general atmosphere in the prison is calm but positive and the Board has continued to observe good relations between staff and prisoners. Bullying remains

relatively rare, although there was an increase in 2013, compared with the year before. All in all, the Board is confident that the prison has suitable policies in place and takes appropriate action, when necessary, to secure prisoners' safety and wellbeing.

4.4 2013 saw a welcome increase in the number of prisoners in paid employment, a figure stabilising at around sixty by the end of the year. The major initiative of the year was the opening of what has become a very successful coffee shop and car valeting service, located just outside the prison. These developments have added further to the wide range of purposeful activities available to prisoners.

4.5 Last year the Board had in its report no particular issues requiring a response. This year the Board has one issue requiring a response from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Issue requiring a response from NOMS:

In 2013 the Board received an increased number of complaints from prisoners who lost property on their transfer to Kirklevington Grange from another prison. This is very frustrating for prisoners and clearly unacceptable. It appears that prisoners are often unable to travel with their property. NOMS is asked to investigate the causes of this problem with a view to reducing its frequency.

5 Equality and Inclusion

5.1 The prison takes its obligations under the 2010 Equality Act seriously. It has put in place a range of policies and procedures, which clearly demonstrate a commitment to promoting equality and inclusion.

5.2 The Single Equality Policy was reviewed and reissued in 2013. It covers all the required strands (for example, disability, race, age, gender etc) and is supported by an action and development plan. Each strand has a nominated champion and a specially dedicated notice board. A Single Equality Action Team meets every other month. Prisoners are well represented on this team and make a positive contribution. Feedback from prisoners is a standing item on the agenda of team meetings.

5.3 The prison monitors equality and inclusion issues rigorously. A revised equalities questionnaire was introduced in December 2013 to capture and record accurately prisoners' data. The system of discrimination incident reports is now well established. In 2013 twenty-one such reports were submitted and investigated. Only one of these was submitted by a prisoner, the rest by staff. The total is higher than in previous years, perhaps explained by a spate of racist graffiti in the middle of the year. Although the perpetrators were never identified, the prison responded actively through, for example, developing and implementing an action plan and inviting the organisation 'Show Racism the Red Card' to deliver an awareness training workshop, themed around football in the prison.

5.4 It is unfortunate that the designated over-fifties unit on F unit was discontinued in late 2013. This was the result of 'doubling up' on the unit, with the installation of bunk beds and taking two prisoners in each room, as a response to the need for extra prison places.

5.5 Active support for veterans in custody continued in 2013. A group of prisoners attended a useful job fayre at RAF Leeming in June. Veterans completed a very successful Long March in February, walking twenty miles each day in the local area and in the process raising over £1,000 for Combat Stress.

6 Education, Learning and Skills

6.1 On transfer to the prison each prisoner is assessed on his individual educational need. Prisoners are encouraged to focus on a long-term plan for their working life outside the prison system. The Careers Service, working inside the prison, helps each prisoner to make the best choices for improving their education and training.

6.2 All prisoners have an Individual Learning Plan. They are all required to achieve Level 1 in Literacy and Numeracy. Once this is achieved, prisoners are actively encouraged to continue to Level 2, but this does not always happen. The reasons for this are varied but time constraints resulting from the requirement for community work, and the availability and timing of work inside and outside prison all play a part.

6.3 Prisoners with additional learning needs are given good support by the teaching staff. The Functional Skills team provides good support too and its work-based learning is popular with prisoners and staff.

6.4 Board members report that the learning atmosphere in classrooms is calm and focused. Prisoners co-operate well with staff and with each other. Prisoners are rewarded for their successes with on-going verbal encouragement, certification and a yearly awards afternoon. Those taking distance learning Open University courses receive help from within the prison, when required.

6.5 Good wall displays give prisoners a clear picture of educational opportunities and courses available within the prison. A particularly clear display shows an ideal pathway for learning for prisoners.

6.6 The Board has been concerned about the lack of available computers for some OU students. However, the problem seems to be the cost of setting up six available blank laptops for prisoner use rather than the lack of computers or any unwillingness to provide them.

6.7 The Manchester College provides a wide range of courses, covering functional skills in English and Maths and a number of vocational areas. There is a good emphasis on linking education and employment with effective inter-departmental co-operation throughout the prison. For example, the introduction of the car valeting service and the coffee shop, both open to the public, has enabled the prisoners involved in this project to gain certification, to relate to the general public and to gain the confidence to become gainfully employed in the outside world. There have been many positive local comments regarding this initiative. Employability workshops, though non-accredited, help personal and social development through motivating and engaging learners to prepare for community work and employment.

6.8 The data on courses and achievements from Manchester College for the academic year 2012-13 reveal that there were 629 starts and 95% completed. These

are prisoner enrolments with some prisoners being enrolled on more than one course.

6.9 Rates of achievement for 2012-2013 are generally good and as follows: English and Maths, 80%; Customer Services, 100%; First Aid, 97%; Food Safety, 94%; Health and Safety, 91%; Vocational IT, 100%.

6.10 As this is a resettlement prison, it is the responsibility of each prisoner to attend when and where needed for education/training. Prisoners must engage wholly with the system. Staff follow up non-attendance and prisoners are required to provide good reasons for this to avoid sanctions.

6.11 There is good communication between the National Careers Service and offender supervisors in the Offender Management Unit, which ensures that any learning and skills interventions identified are included in the prisoner's sentence plan.

7 Healthcare and Mental Health

7.1 All prisoners have equal access to healthcare within the prison. Preliminary medical checks are carried out within 24 hours of admission. A more thorough examination is carried out within five days of admission.

7.2 The quality of healthcare is generally well regarded by prisoners. Indeed there was only one complaint during 2013 and this concerned the clinical issue of what medication was appropriate for an individual. Prisoners are treated with courtesy and their privacy is respected. Rota visit reports have rarely drawn attention to healthcare issues.

7.3 Prescriptions are obtained without undue delay. Medication is ordered from HMP Holme House in Stockton and is usually delivered to Kirklevington Grange the same day for collection by prisoners the following day.

7.4 Prisoners needing more serious in-patient care generally have their needs met at HMP Holme House, which has the facilities to provide 24 hour healthcare. These arrangements appear to work effectively.

7.5 When necessary, referrals are made to appropriate external services. Prisoners are escorted, or, if their risk assessment allows, make their own arrangements to be seen by agencies outside the prison, for example, opticians and hospital out-patients.

7.6 During 2013 there have been some problems with dental services. A mobile dentistry unit is on site but, for a significant proportion of the year, no X-ray machine was available. Waiting lists were high until additional dentist sessions became available.

7.7 The healthcare team works in partnership with the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust to deliver mental health services. This means that prisoners who need it have access to care and support from suitably trained mental health professionals. A counselor from the charity Mind is available in the prison for one session each week, which is adequate.

7.8 As in many prisons up and down the country, at Kirklevington Grange drug and alcohol abuse is a problem and tackling such abuse is consistently placed as one of the prison's top priorities. A mandatory drug-testing regime is in place and the area drug dog team makes regular unannounced visits. The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DART) provides advice and counseling to addicted prisoners who come into the prison from closed institutions. The aim is gradually to reduce prisoner dependence on methadone. Since late 2012 and through 2013, a DART mentor, recruited from within the ranks of the prisoners, carried out a very useful support role, dealing, for example, with queries and induction issues. At any one time, around 50 – 60 prisoners have been on the active caseload of the DART team, receiving help and advice on drug addiction or alcohol issues.

7.9 In the Board's view, the provision of healthcare is good and at least the equivalent of that available in the wider community.

8 Purposeful Activity

8.1 The prison regime remains fully committed to making sure that prisoners engage in purposeful activity. Prisoners have access to numerous work opportunities.

8.2 A new and positive initiative in 2013 has been the opening of the Grange Coffee Shop and the Car Valeting service. These are linked with sales of metal goods produced in the prison welding shop, as well as an expanded range of garden produce and bread made in the kitchen. There are plans to open an internal coffee shop, which will further extend the purposeful activity available to prisoners.

8.3 Prisoners have a wide range of opportunities within the prison. The white goods department is working at full capacity, as is the welding shop. The re-organised laundry facility is working well with some prisoners taking the initiative to improve efficiency. Recycling is very extensive, covering metals, cardboard, paper, clothing and bedding (though in the latter two cases the best is sent to charity shops).

8.4 At the time of writing prisoners working in land based activity were as follows: internal gardens: 40; Forestry Commission: 8; Task Force: 11; welding shop: 11; white goods: 9. Prisoner qualifications achieved in these areas continue to be at an excellent level.

8.5 Community work is an important part of the prison's resettlement regime. Every prisoner is required to complete thirty days of work in the community. The unpaid work is varied and the prison makes a positive effort to find new placements for prisoners.

8.6 Over the course of 2013 the number of prisoners in full time paid employment has increased significantly. It stabilised at about sixty prisoners. The Training and Employment Group (TEG) team has continued to provide valuable support but the need to find new employers for prisoners in the last stages of their resettlement process is an on-going one. Prisoners engage with the Job Club to find their own suitable employment.

8.7 The National Careers Service continues to provide invaluable advice and guidance to ensure that qualifications can be found and funded and are at a suitable level to aid prisoners in their search for paid work. Interviews are held on a very regular basis and are well attended. The National Careers Service inside the prison reports that there is still the problem of finding funding for some courses that are identified as suitable and that prisoners would like to take. The staff remain positive and helpful in trying to direct prisoners in the best way to find the funding. The prison can help with some funding and the Careers staff are knowledgeable about other sources of help. There have been positive examples of prisoners funding themselves. The TEG team is also fully involved with identifying prisoners and matching them to their employment plans.

9 Resettlement

9.1 The protection of the public, resettlement and reducing re-offending remains at the core of all the prison's policies. "Turning prisoners into taxpayers" continues to be the mantra of the establishment.

9.2 On arrival, each prisoner is allocated an offender supervisor who manages the sentence throughout the prisoner's time at Kirklevington Grange, liaising, as appropriate, with the offender manager in the community and any other relevant internal or external agency. The offender supervisor reviews the Offender Assessment System (OASYS) during the first six weeks following the prisoner's arrival and holds a sentence planning board at which the sentence plan is agreed. Thereafter the offender supervisor and prisoner meet at regular intervals (determined by risk and need factors) to discuss progress against the sentence plan.

9.3 A designated accommodation officer, supported by the offender supervisor, gives advice and guidance to prisoners about suitable accommodation on release. Of twenty-two prisoners recently released, all were discharged to settled accommodation. As part of a regional contract, the charity Shelter has provided additional support for some prisoners who need to secure accommodation.

9.4 The importance of family to many prisoners is well understood by the prison. The visits area is attractive, relaxed and family friendly, with a tea bar and children's play area staffed by NEPACS and assisted by a prisoner. Family ties are encouraged with Family Days. There is a designated family liaison officer. The Chaplaincy team continues to play an important role in family support, dealing with family matters and liaising with outside agencies when required. The prison also has a Listeners peer support system in place.

9.5 Prisoners who are adjudicated to be guilty of substance abuse are usually but not always transferred out of Kirklevington and back into closed conditions. They are judged as breaking the agreement to be actively engaged with the ethos of the prison and its resettlement purposes. But in some instances, where there is evidence that, with appropriate support, such behaviour is unlikely to be repeated, they are permitted to remain, with increased monitoring in place.

9.6 Information is available to prisoners with reference to resettlement activities. External probation offers all prisoners a range of offending behaviour programmes. There are suitable programmes for veterans in custody, though no specific veterans' programme.

9.7 Thirty days community work is compulsory and part of restorative justice. Engaging positively with the regime in the prison, keeping appointments, time management, self reliance on attending courses and actively seeking training and educational qualifications in this prison are all designed to enhance the skills in life necessary for success in the outside world.

9.8 Prisoners need sufficient lawfully obtained money to help them in their resettlement into society. At induction prisoners are assessed on benefits status and outside accommodation status. Courses to help prisoners manage their financial situation are usually offered by outside agencies.

9.9 Prisoners at Kirklevington Grange are eligible for Category D status. This is decided as part of a rigorous and comprehensive risk assessment process. Lifers and prisoners on an indeterminate sentence begin with a period of supervised outside activities. Their particular resettlement regime may include familiarisation with the local area, visiting approved premises in preparation for overnight leave and visiting their probation officer in their home area for sentence planning purposes.

10 Safer Custody

10.1 The prison is clearly committed to promoting safer custody. Appropriate procedures are in place to manage incidents of violence, self-harm or bullying. Two officers act as Safer Custody coordinators and the Safer Custody team meets formally each quarter. The impression gleaned by Board members on rota visits is that the atmosphere in the prison is by and large unthreatening and reasonably relaxed.

10.2 All prisoners are allocated a dedicated personal officer and this arrangement is designed to promote individual prisoners' welfare and allow problems to be brought to the prison's attention at an early stage. A team of Prisoner Listeners is available to support newly arrived prisoners and younger prisoners with personal and family issues. At any one time there are around nine such Prisoner Listeners and their availability is well publicised in the prison.

10.3 The Board is satisfied that the prison operates satisfactory anti-bullying policies and practices. Security Information Reports are the main route into the investigation of any potential bullying problems. Twenty-nine prisoners complained of bullying in 2013, as recorded in information reports, and this represents a significant increase on figures for 2012.

10.4 Five cases were dealt with under Assessment, Care, Custody and Team work (ACCT) procedures in 2013. All were followed up satisfactorily. There was one incidence of self-harm recorded during the year, but no suicides or deaths in custody.

10.5 Overall, the Board is confident that the prison has suitable policies in place and takes appropriate action, when necessary, to secure prisoners' safety and wellbeing.

11 Segregation

11.1 Segregation continues to be used primarily as a holding area for prisoners awaiting adjudication, or for those who, following adjudication and risk assessment, are awaiting transfer to another prison. This means that prisoners are very rarely held in the segregation unit for more than 24 hours.

11.2 The unit has six cells and an office, which is also used for adjudications. Shower and toilet facilities are available and there is a small exercise yard.

11.3 When a prisoner enters the segregation unit, the prison control room contacts the duty Board member. The Board member can then see the prisoner if the prisoner so wishes. When asked by the Board member, prisoners invariably knew why they were in the unit. The paper work is kept up-to-date and can always be seen by the Board member. Board members who visited prisoners held in the segregation unit recorded no special concerns. The Board is satisfied that the segregation regime operates effectively and that prisoners held in segregation receive appropriate care.

12 Residential services

12.1 Prisoners' accommodation continues to be maintained to a high standard. It is mainly in single rooms, although in one of the units prisoners now share a room. This has had the advantage of increasing the prison's capacity and the new arrangements seem to have worked well. The unit had previously been designated for prisoners aged over fifty but is now no longer used for this purpose.

12.2 A concern for the Board throughout 2013 was the number of informal complaints from prisoners who lost property on their transfer to Kirklevington Grange from other establishments. This is very frustrating for prisoners and time consuming for Board members and is clearly unacceptable. It appears that property does not always accompany prisoners on transfer, sometimes because of limited space in the transfer vehicle. This is a matter of national concern and is a problem that needs to be addressed.

12.3 The kitchen has a staffing establishment of one catering manager, a café supervisor and five prison staff. A pool of around 23 prisoners is available for work in the kitchen and training to national vocational qualification (NVQ) level 1 and level 2 is available for these prisoners.

12.4 The standard of cleanliness in the kitchen is high and the Board is pleased to report that following a reassessment by the Health Authority in February 2013 the excellent five star rating has been maintained.

12.5 There are regular Food Consultative meetings which are attended by staff and prisoner representatives. The menus operate on a "pre selection" basis and are refreshed on a four-week cycle. There is a bakery, which prepares bread buns and pizza bases. The range is to be expanded to include baguettes and bread loaves, which should improve quality and help deliver better value for money.

12.6 A member of the Board visits the kitchen each week where they have the opportunity to inspect and taste the food. They have generally found the choice to be good and the food appetizing and of a good quality and standard. As in previous

years the Board is pleased to report that they receive very few complaints about the standard of food provided.

13 Work of the Board

BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended Complement of Board Members	8
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	5
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	1
Number of members leaving within reporting period	0
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Prison	148
Total number of Segregation reviews held	0
Total number of segregation reviews attended	0
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	Not Held

IMB APPLICATIONS

Code	Subject	Jan – Dec 2012	Jan – Dec 2013
A	Accommodation		
B	Adjudications		
C	Equality & Diversity (inc Religion)		
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	1	1
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone		2
E 2	Finance/pay		
F	Food/Kitchen related		
G	Health related		
H 1	Property (within current prison)		
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another prison)		
H 3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue Shopping, Argos		
I	Sentence Related (inc HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re cat etc)		2
J	Staff/prisoner concerns inc bullying		
K	Transfers		

L Miscellaneous

Total number of IMB applications	1	5
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Of total the number of IMB Confidential Access was:	0	0
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In addition to the above, the Board dealt with verbal “on the hoof” applications. These numbered 20 during the year and covered the following topics:

Accommodation	2
Adjudication	4
Healthcare	1
Home leave	4
Property	5
Transport	1
Transfer	1
Work	2

Relationships between Board members and prison staff have been invariably positive and constructive at all levels. The Board is very grateful for the accommodation and clerical support, particularly from two very helpful job-sharing clerks, which enables the Board to operate effectively.

Finally, I am grateful to Board members for their support and contributions to this report.

For and on behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Kirklevington Grange

Nick Flight
Chair
September 2014