

HMYOI LANCASTER FARMS



Annual Report 2013

Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

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Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons 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 for Justice 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, of 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.

This report covers the period 1 February 2013 to 31 January 2014.

Lancaster Farms IMB is committed to an inclusive approach to equality and diversity which encompasses and promotes greater interaction between people of different backgrounds, including race, religion, gender, nationality, sexuality, marital status, disability, age, etc. We recognise that a fully inclusive approach to equality must also respond to differences which cut across social and cultural categories such as mental health, literacy and drug addiction.

The Board values this approach to equality and diversity in its recruitment and Board development practices, to increase the repertoire of skills and awareness amongst its members of the diverse needs and perspectives of the population of Lancaster Farms YOI. Duties are undertaken in a manner which is accessible to everyone in the establishment, regardless of their background. The Board monitors to establish that the experiences and interaction between staff, prisoners and visitors is fair and without prejudice. Where this is not the case, the Board will alert appropriate authorities and individuals, including the Governor, Senior Management, the Area Manager and the Prisons Minister.

The substantive body of this report has been written by our different focus groups who each have oversight (*though not exclusively*) for a particular area.

Section 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

Lancaster Farms YOI is the only dedicated young offender training institution in the Northwest. It is a modern prison with accommodation for 530 male prisoners in the age range 18 to 21.

Prisoners are accommodated in one of four units, with each unit divided into two wings. Most accommodation is in single cells, although there are a small number of double cells with bunk beds. Coniston houses the induction unit; one wing of Derwent houses prisoners who are mainly serving less than two years, the other those having 'enhanced' status within the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) Scheme; the remainder of the prisoners are allocated to either Windermere or Buttermere. The main centres of communal activities – Education, Workshops, Gymnasium, Chapel and Library – are easily accessible in the main compound, as is Healthcare and Ullswater, the Care and Separation Unit.

Food is prepared in the contracted-out kitchen and transported to the wings in heated trolleys.

Healthcare is undertaken by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Education is provided by staff contracted through Manchester College.

Substance Misuse Services have been provided by the Crime Reduction Initiative (CRI).

Section 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 In 2009 the prison changed from one holding both juveniles and young adults to a local prison, holding both remanded and sentenced young adults. In 2011 the prison changed again to become the only dedicated young offender training institution in the Northwest. During the currency of this year's report the prison was required to transfer prisoners from one wing to make room for adult prisoners and to plan for operating a regime in which adults and young offenders shared the same prison; it was subsequently told that this would not be happening and the prison would continue to admit only young offenders. Within a month of this decision the prison was informed that during the course of 2014 Lancaster Farms would re-role as an adult prison and all the young offenders would be transferred to other prisons. This degree of change and uncertainty is not only damaging to the morale of staff but is unsettling to prisoners; it is also at a cost to the public purse. This report should be read against this background.
- 3.2 Although this year has unfortunately seen two Releases in Error, one Escape and one Death in Custody, the new Governor has worked hard to establish and maintain high standards and expectations and has the full support of the Board. Overall HMYOI Lancaster Farms is a well-run institution.
- 3.3 Equality and Inclusivity is taken seriously and the team has been proactive in streamlining services and ensuring the promotion of the Equalities agenda.
- 3.4 The Chaplaincy Team provide pastoral support to all, regardless of religious affiliation and ensure the needs of all faiths are met.
- 3.5 There has been a consistently good learning atmosphere in classrooms and workshops with positive working relationships between prisoners and vocational training staff.
- 3.6 During the working week there is generally a good level of engagement in purposeful activity, with a high proportion of prisoners either attending classes or engaging in some form of work.
- 3.7 The healthcare within the prison remains of a high standard with good staff/prisoner relationships.
- 3.8 The Death in Custody was dealt with professionally and conscientiously with great sensitivity being shown to the family and other prisoners and staff on the wing.
- 3.9 Staff in the Care and Separation Unit show commendable professional attitudes and positive engagement with prisoners.
- 3.10 There have been fewer serious incidents within the prison this year and those which have occurred have been dealt with in a professional and expeditious way.

We consider that throughout the reporting period the prisoners at Lancaster Farms have been treated fairly and humanely. There are, however, a number of outstanding issues on which we make the following recommendations:

Recommendations for consideration by the Minister:

- 3.11 The Ministry of Justice should be proactive, producing and operating a long-term strategic plan for the prison estate generally, rather than being reactive with short-term plans,

frequent changes to which lower the morale of staff, are unsettling for prisoners, and are an unnecessary drain on public funds.

- 3.12 Funding must be such that quality, quantity and service time of food is acceptable for this age range of prisoner. **(Section 4.8, page 14)*

Recommendations for consideration by NOMS (National Offender Management Service):

- 3.13 Key areas of the prison are made wheelchair accessible. *(Section 4.1, page 7)*
- 3.14 Written information is consistently provided by the local hospital regarding follow-up treatment of prisoners attending their clinics. *(Section 4.4, page 10)*
- 3.15 Better continuity is achieved by visiting psychiatrists. *(Section 4.4, page 10)*
- 3.16 The time taken to assess and if necessary transfer prisoners identified with problems which cannot be addressed at Lancaster Farms be reduced. *(Section 4.7, page 14)*

Recommendations for consideration by the Governor of HMYOI Lancaster Farms:

- 3.17 Classroom sessions should be no longer than 1.75 hours without a break. *(Section 4.2, page 8)*
- 3.18 The number of vocational training links with employers should be increased. **(Section 4.3, page 9)*
- 3.19 A number of issues are addressed that contribute to prisoner inactivity including call rates and other organisational difficulties, especially in the light of the changing prisoner population. **(Section 4.3, page 9)*
- 3.20 That links between Education, Learning & Skills, Resettlement and OMU are robust and provide an effective partnership to deliver sentence plans. **(Section 4.5, page 11)*
- 3.21 Much greater emphasis needs to be placed in the management of Resettlement and Reducing Re-offending and the important functions which this department should be providing. **(Section 4.5, page 11)*
- 3.22 That all interventions necessary for prisoners to be able to move forward with their sentence plans are provided at Lancaster Farms and, in particular, the Restorative Justice Programme. **(Section 4.5, page 12)*
- 3.23 The arrival of prisoners and the staffing of Reception be co-ordinated to ensure that new arrivals are processed without undue delay. *(Section 4.6, page 13)*
- 3.24 Re-integration plans for prisoners discharged from CSU be implemented. *(Section 4.7, page 14)*
- 3.25 The change of regime to prisoners eating in-cell be reconsidered and if this is to continue then the in-cell lavatory should be screened and ventilation improved. **(Section 4.8, page 14)*
- 3.26 Formal training should be provided for Personal Officers. **(Section 4.8, page 15)*

These concerns were also all highlighted in our report for last year

Section 4

REPORTS

4.1 Equality and Inclusion

Overview

The reduction in resources and changes in the Senior Management Team at Lancaster Farms over the past twelve months has impacted on Equality services. Staffing levels have reduced and there is likely to be a further reduction in available resources as a result of the benchmarking process. The Equality Team is now managed by the Safer Custody Manager. Despite pressure, the team have been proactive in streamlining services and ensuring the promotion of the Equalities agenda. Recurrent changes in Senior Management Team responsibilities have led to frequent cancellation of the Equalities Action Team (EAT) meetings. The recently appointed Deputy Governor is now Chair and has made a strong commitment to Equality and Inclusion. His decision to move the meeting to the formal setting of the Boardroom has signalled the importance of this subject to prisoners' representatives.

Key achievements:

- In 2013 there was a significant reduction in the number of Discrimination Incident Reports (DIRFs) from 87 in 2102 to 37.
- A website developed for staff to access information and resources relating to Equality and Foreign National Prisoners.
- A dedicated information booklet is provided to prisoners on arrival in addition to the standard induction pack.
- Induction booklets for Foreign Nationals have been updated and are also available in Romanian and Bulgarian.
- Links have been strengthened with outside agencies such as 'Arooj' – a Muslim Faith agency and 'The Traveller Project' while there are plans to increase transparency in monitoring DIRFs by involving an external independent agency in the process.
- The Gay/Bi/Trans Prisoner Support Group has run consistently throughout the year.
- The local Mental Health Trust has funded a twelve-month project looking at sexual health and masculinity in small groups.
- The Chaplaincy Team provide good pastoral care to followers of all major world faiths and ensure the needs of other faiths are met. Chaplains attempt to see new prisoners within 24 hours and provide pastoral support to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Every effort is made to ensure the standards of PSI 51/2011 are adhered to.
- A regular bereavement course is provided by the Chaplaincy in addition to supporting individual prisoners at times of significant family events.

Key issues:

- Lancaster Farms is not fully wheelchair accessible but a cell on the reception wing has been adapted to accommodate wheelchair access, although it has not been used for this purpose in the past year.

Recommendation:

- Key areas of the prison are made wheelchair accessible

4.2 Education, Learning and Skills

Overview

This section of the report deals with OLASS (Offenders' Learning and Skills Service) funded education and vocational training. Other related prison activity, including work provided in the prison, library provision, gym and offending behaviour programmes are dealt with in the Purposeful Activity section.

The Manchester College provides 322 full-time OLASS places. Our monitoring visits include many visits to classrooms and workshops over the year and we are generally pleased to report a consistently good learning atmosphere at Lancaster Farms.

Key achievements:

- The development of a Groundworks course (landscaping, etc) will provide useful qualifications and possibly some in-house contracts.
- The Writer-in-Residence has produced some outstanding work through the year culminating in a staged reading of a play at the Royal Exchange in Manchester. However, his appointment has now come to an end and it is to be hoped a replacement can be found to continue work of a similar standard.
- The Virtual Campus is being developed through the appointment of a dedicated member of the staff to co-ordinate its use across other departments like Careers and Learner Records.
- Positive working relationships between prisoners and vocational training staff have frequently been observed.

Key issues:

- The productivity of over-long class sessions (currently 3.5 hours, increasing to 3.75 hours in 2014) continues to be of concern. The situation is exacerbated by prisoners often eating their breakfast pack the night before and being hungry throughout the morning session. It is hoped that proposals put forward by Education staff to split sessions with a break for a snack or exercise can be implemented to alleviate the situation.
- Prisoners working in the kitchen should be able to gain appropriate qualifications through their work.
- Although the number of prisoners sent back from education sessions has reduced, more work needs to be done with Education staff to reduce this further.

Recommendations:

- Classroom sessions should be no longer than 1.75 hours without a break.
- Prisoners working in the Kitchen should be able to gain appropriate qualifications through their work.

4.3 Purposeful Activity

Key Achievements

- Learning and Skills (L & S) continues to make a significant contribution to purposeful activity by providing sufficient places (344 in October 2013, but reduced from November due to a transfer of prisoners from Lancaster Farms in preparation for the now suspended policy of dual designation), with relatively good attendance rates (84%).
- There are 178 work places making a strong contribution to keeping prisoners engaged in purposeful activity, with good attendance rates (86%).

- Accommodation has now been constructed to enable bricklaying classes to operate in realistic outdoor conditions, thus allowing the Business Production Workshop to occupy the former Bricklaying Workshop.
- The prison also continues to respond positively to the Prison Work agenda with talks proceeding on a number of new developments.
- Efforts continue to be made to up-skill the work provided as wing orderlies and cleaners can now gain qualifications and it is planned to allow prisoners working in the Business Production Workshop, Waste Management, Groundworks and Kitchen time off to undertake qualifications.
- Seven Thinking Skills Programmes (TSP) operated in 2013, a marked improvement on 2012.
- One 6-week Restorative Justice Course was offered in 2013, showing an improvement on last year, with another planned in 2014.
- The Gym remains a beacon of good practice in that it strongly motivates prisoners, offers good facilities and supportive staff and a wide range of courses and qualifications.
- Library hours have been extended and there has been a lot of restocking, although it remains underused on some evening sessions because of the unavailability of Supervising Officers.

Key Issues

- The work provided continues to have a tendency to be relatively low skill and routine, lacking in specific 'harder' skills and not yet providing the opportunity to gain qualifications.
- Relative lack of concrete involvement of outside employers remains, particularly companies that operate within the prison and also provide job opportunities on the outside for ex-prisoners.
- There is a capacity of 16 prisoners in the Kitchen but this is rarely achieved and their experience is still not accredited by TMC.
- Enabling prisoners to have sufficient access to the Library continues to be a problem.
- The CALM (Crisis, Aggression, Limitation & Management) programme has not run in 2013, though it is to be noted that it is hoped to run a substitute 'Resolve' programme in 2014.
- The continuing need to curtail association due to staffing shortages should be brought to an end at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Prisoner inactivity during normal working hours remains an issue to be further addressed by improving call rates, being more rigorous in ensuring that prisoners with no good reason are not left on the wings during the working day and reducing send backs.

Recommendations

- That more is done to up-skill work provided and involve a wider group of prisoners who undertake work to also take related qualifications.
- The involvement of more external employers in work provision.
- A number of issues that contribute to prisoner inactivity be addressed, including call rates and other organisational difficulties, especially in light of the changing prisoner population.

4.4 Healthcare and Mental Health

Overview

Healthcare continues to be provided by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust which is commissioned by NHS England. Within the prison the Head of Healthcare manages both Primary Care and Mental Health Services.

Key developments

- The new Prison Partnership Board (PPB) covering the 5 Lancashire Prisons has now been set up and terms of reference agreed by all 5 Governors and representatives from NHS England. A Board member normally attends the quarterly meetings.
- The Health Operations Group covering the 5 prisons has amended its terms of reference to bring it into line with the PPB and the governance arrangements have been agreed.

Key achievements

- Primary Care Service introduced a new appointment system which has improved the service. The appointment system has also enabled the staff to offer more clinics but some of the prisoners are choosing not to attend their appointment. This is probably a reflection of the age and maturity level of the prisoners.
- Staff/prisoner relationships have been observed to be very good.
- Complex case reviews continue to be held regularly to discuss and plan the ongoing care of the most vulnerable young men with mental health problems. This is proving to be a satisfactory way of working. Several of these very vulnerable young men have been on constant watch in a gated cell during the year.
- No difficulties have arisen when necessary to access regional beds within the Healthcare Ward at HMP Preston.
- The more flexible shift patterns of the Mental Health Team means a much improved service for prisoners.

Key issues

- There are still some problems with prisoners arriving with slips which have not been filled in by the people sending them. This means the nurses do not know where to send the prisoner back to, meaning they are sent back to their wing where some of them are being given IEP warnings as if they are 'send backs' from work.
- Some prisoners have been arriving in Healthcare from Workshops wearing dirty overalls, which is not acceptable in a clinically clean area.
- The Mental Health Team have reported that they have had a number of different psychiatrists visiting the prison and so there is not always good continuity of psychiatric advice and care.
- Prisoners attending hospital are not always provided with a written statement from the hospital as to any follow-up treatment required which can lead to misunderstandings and confusion.

Substance Misuse

The Substance Misuse Service (SMS) provider changed in July 2013 and the new provider, Crime Reduction Initiative (CRI) is now responsible for all aspects of the service.

There is a Manager appointed to cover the SMS at both Lancaster Farms and Kirkham prisons.

Key achievements

- There was little or no disruption to the service provided for prisoners during the transition thanks to the work undertaken by the manager and her staff to ensure continuity.
- SMS works on a recovery agenda which means a more holistic approach to care.
- Plans to open a Recovery Unit are progressing well and the unit is due to open in April 2014. This should provide a more streamlined environment for all prisoners with substance misuse issues.

Recommendations

- Better continuity is achieved by visiting psychiatrists.
- Written information is consistently provided by the local hospital regarding follow-up treatment of prisoners attending their clinics.
- The system for prisoners attending healthcare appointments from education classes be reviewed

4.5 Resettlement and Reducing Re-offending

This is a cross-cutting area of work and should be read in conjunction with other areas of the Annual Report – Health, Learning and Skills, Purposeful Activity.

Key achievements

- The delivery of family days has continued although this has been hampered by uncertainties around the availability of Prison Officer support.
- The introduction of volunteers into the Visits Hall to help supervise children of visitors is welcomed although more could be done to provide a safe play area.
- POPS (Parents and Partners of Prisoners) continue to provide an improved service to visitors in the Visits Centre although the arranging of visits by prison staff has become an issue on occasions causing upset and frustration to visitors.
- A recent recruitment campaign for Official Prison Visitors has led to the appointment of two further volunteers. This is an important service for those prisoners who would not otherwise receive visits.
- Surestart has been commissioned to run the Dads' course.
- Two members of Arooj, a charity working with BME offenders, are working with prisoners and their families to seek to reintegrate released prisoners back into the communities from which they come: most notably East Lancashire.
- The Resettlement Course has been changed to encompass a Stage 1 and 2 approach.
- Shelter continues to deliver the Accommodation and Finance and Debt Pathways and their 'Through the Gate' team are now operating. The service is available to assist any prisoner returning to the City of Manchester serving less than 12 months. It is hoped to extend this to other major catchment areas when possible.

Key issues

- The lack of a settled strategic lead remains a critical issue with several personnel changes taking place during the year. This has meant that progress – although achieved in some areas – has been fragmented and there has not been an updated Strategic Document.
- Provision of a safe play area for children in the Visits Hall.
- The lack of stretch in terms of work experiences and learning and skills and also the opportunities for outside agencies and companies to be involved in the prison remains, although efforts have been made to improve this within this 12 months with links being made to Asda, Lancaster City Council and Timpsons.
- Staffing shortages and cover for absences have been an issue in OMU resulting in prisoners becoming frustrated at their inability to gain information about their sentence plans.
- There continues to be no effective partnership between OMU and Resettlement in the delivery of sentence plans.

- Errors and delays in the processing of requests for visits causing unnecessary frustration for prisoners and their families.
- Although the involvement with the Sycamore Tree Restorative Justice Programme this year is welcomed, it has only involved a very small proportion of the prisoners who may potentially benefit from it.

Recommendations

- That a settled strategic lead for this important area of work be established and stability achieved.
- An effective partnership between OMU and Resettlement in the delivery of sentence plans be established.
- That given the importance of maintaining strong links between prisoners and their families the arrangements for processing requests for visits be reviewed and improved.
- That given the strong evidence on the link between the reduction in reoffending of prisoners and their attendance on a Restorative Justice Course, more courses are made available for eligible prisoners.

4.6 Safer Custody

Overview

Suicide and Self Harm

- Overall ACCTs (Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork) have been completed correctly but on occasion some departments (for example Education and Chaplaincy) have not always received the documentation on time.
- A Death in Custody occurred during the latter part of the year. Matters are being dealt with professionally, conscientiously and appropriately.
- Training of Listeners has continued throughout the year. The involvement of a Listener with a prisoner prior to the prisoner's escape has led to a reassessment of the confidentiality principle where security is concerned.
- Prison razors are now dispensed and collected daily in order to avoid misuse. It is anticipated that an electric razor at a modest cost will soon be available from canteen. Battery swallowing remains a concern, albeit in small numbers. Stockpiling of medication for inappropriate use has resulted in a change of policy which, while not foolproof, is working well.
- TAB (Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour) recording has changed to improve the overall effectiveness of the process.

Violence Reduction

- Any act of violence towards staff and other prisoners triggers the IEP procedures and appropriate sanctions are imposed.
- There has been an increase in weapon finds but a reduction in the number of razors being misused.
- There has been an increase in violent behaviour during movement. Other hot spot areas are College, Workshops and Farms & Gardens. Hot spot signs are placed in these areas. Acts of violence in these areas are awarded the maximum tariff at adjudications. Showers also continue as an area of concern but extra supervision is helping.
- CSRA (Cell Sharing Risk Assessments) are checked daily.

Security

- Monthly Security Meetings are always well attended and have considerably improved this year in rigour and efficiency. Issues are examined and acted upon in a businesslike and timely way.
- Increased vigilance has resulted in a decline in disorder incidents, often limited to attempts to incite others to indiscipline. A more robust adjudication awards policy has been introduced in cases of prisoners 'going over' railings on landings.
- There are regular finds of mobile phones and related equipment as well as illicit packages thrown over the perimeter fence. Extra security measures in the Farms & Gardens area has resulted in increased finds of such packages.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that the new IEP Scheme is deterring potential disruption as prisoners become aware that such involvement means they are unlikely to reach enhanced level.
- The Security Department receives much intelligence, a lot of it non-specific, with various indicators suggesting a fairly settled establishment at the year's end.

Key issues

- The length of time prisoners are sometimes held in prison vans before being processed by Reception staff is unacceptably long. Due to the fact that Reception is not staffed between the hours of 11.30 and 13.30 there have been many occasions when prisoners have been held in waiting vans for over two hours. Prison management maintain that this is a contractual issue with GeoAmey but, in our view, this is a decency issue. It is quite inappropriate for prisoners to be left in this way without access to toilet facilities (other than a bag) and little surprise that urine frequently ends up on the floor.

Recommendation

- The arrival of prisoners and the staffing of Reception be co-ordinated to ensure that new arrivals are processed without undue delay.

4.7 Segregation, Separation and Care

Overview

- The CSU consists of 12 cells, 2 of which are camera cells, 5 safer cells and there are 2 special cells which have been used twice in the reporting period.
- About 30 prisoners were located in CSU each month with a modest increase occurring in August. On several occasions the unit has been at or near full occupancy.
- Segregated prisoners normally have appropriate access to showers, exercise and phone calls but there was slippage in this at one point in the year. Access to education classes has also suffered. These occurrences seem to be due to staffing pressures elsewhere in the establishment.
- The Segregation Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG) has been combined with the Use of Force (UoF) for quarterly meetings. The number of incidents has remained stable through the year except for a modest increase in the third quarter, thought to be due to the spell of hot, dry weather.
- Overall CSU is managing well, often under considerable pressure, and we have frequently noted the commendable professional attitudes of staff and their positive engagement with prisoners. We are concerned, however, when the unit is under undue pressure because of staffing needs elsewhere in the prison.

Key issues

- At times the unit holds a number of problematic or vulnerable prisoners, needing careful management, who are difficult to relocate on normal residential units. The time taken to transfer some of these prisoners to other prisons providing the required interventions is unacceptably long.
- The lack of re-integration plans for segregated prisoners has been raised at SMARG meetings and it is disappointing that nothing has yet been implemented.

Recommendations

- The time taken to assess and if necessary transfer prisoners identified with problems which cannot be addressed at Lancaster Farms be reduced.
- Re-integration plans for prisoners discharged from CSU be implemented.
- Prisoners should not have to eat meals in cells without a properly screened and ventilated lavatory.

4.8 Residential Services

Key Achievements

- Since last year privacy screening has been installed in all double cells on each wing in the form of shower curtains. However, many of these have reportedly been damaged by prisoners.
- There have been fewer serious incidents within the prison this year; those which have occurred have been monitored by Board members, who have reported on the professional and expeditious way in which staff have dealt with them.
- The Prisoners' Forum now runs every month on individual wings and bi-monthly for the whole prison, with one representative from each wing. It is well chaired and clerked and attended by senior staff and prisoners, who deal with most concerns raised at the meeting, and report back at the next meeting if this is not possible. This meeting remains extremely valuable, offering prisoners living experience of how society can operate. Unfortunately there have been a number of last minute cancellations and rescheduling in recent months, which is an unhelpful model for the sometimes fragmentary organisation of prisoner wing representatives.
- Monitoring of food complaints by the Catering Manager is good and we have been pleased at the commitment shown to improve the quality and service of the food on the limited allowance of £1.96 per prisoner. Given the importance of a nutritious diet to this particular age-group, and the link between food and behaviour, we are concerned that this level of allowance in the long term could be counterproductive. Food sampled and observed on the wings during rota visits has generally been satisfactory and, although some complaints on inadequate portion size have been received, these are generally as a result of insufficient monitoring of portion control by Officers supervising wing serveries. The effort made to produce traditional Christmas and Eid lunches was particularly commendable.
- Kitchen and serveries are well maintained and there appears to be a good standard of food hygiene with staff properly attired and using the correct implements. The contribution made by prisoners working in the Main Kitchen is appreciated by both prisoners and Kitchen staff alike
- The Prison grounds are well cared for and reduction in litter is noticeable.

Key issues

- All meals are taken in-cell, removing an important opportunity for prisoners to socialise as part of the rehabilitation process. It is also demeaning for prisoners to take their meals in their cells, next to a lavatory, even with a flimsy shower curtain in position.

- We are concerned that breakfast packs are distributed to prisoners in their cells on the previous evening resulting in many of them being consumed then, leaving them without a breakfast on the following morning and a potential gap between meals of up to 19 hours.
- The Personal Officer Scheme generally works satisfactorily, with some very conscientious and caring Officers. However, on occasions applications by prisoners to the IMB reveal problems which should have been dealt with promptly by Personal Officers. It is to be hoped that the good practice exhibited by many Officers can act as a role model to reduce the 'no-can-do' approach of the minority. We believe that a properly run scheme, with Officers given specific training on how to perform this role with young offenders, would bring great benefit to the prison both in terms of the behaviour of prisoners and the pastoral care they receive.
- On occasions shortage of staff has meant some curtailment of the prison regime at weekends on some wings. This curtailment does not help individual prisoner's state of mind or the behaviour of prisoners as a group.

Recommendations

- National funding for prisoners food be increased.
- Breakfast packs be distributed at breakfast time.
- The role of Personal Officers be retained, with training specific to those dealing with young offenders.

Section 5

STATISTICS

5.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board

Recommended complement of Board Members	17
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	18
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	13
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	5
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the establishment	573
Total number of segregation reviews held	212
Total number of segregation reviews attended	85
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	January 2014

5.2 IMB Application Monitoring 2011/2013

CODE	SUBJECT	2011	2012	2013
A	Accommodation	10	11	12
B	Adjudications	12	10	10
C	Equality & Diversity (including Religion)	3	2	3
D	Education/Employment/Training (including IEP)	12	30	31
E1	Family/Visits (including Mail and Phone)	15	25	29
E2	Finance/Pay	1	1	2
F	Food/Kitchen-related	8	7	6
G	Health-related	5	11	12
H1	Property (within current establishment)	13	18	22
H2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	26	7	24
H3	Canteen, Facilities, Catalogue Shopping, Argos	8	5	10
I	Sentence-related (inc HDC, ROTL, Parole, Release Dates, Re-cat, etc)	14	20	44
J	Staff/Prisoner/Detainee concerns (including Bullying)	17	27	20
K	Transfers	21	29	26
L	Miscellaneous	23	21	17

Total number of IMB Applications:	188	224	268
Of total, number of IMB 'Confidential Access' was:	0	1	1

Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody