



Annual Report

HMP Leeds

January 2011 to December 2011

SECTION 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE BOARD

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 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 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

CONTENTS

Section 1	Statutory Role of the IMB
Section 2	Contents
Section 3	Description of HMP Leeds
Section 4	Executive Summary
Section 5	Areas that must be reported
5.1	Diversity
5.2	Healthcare including Mental Health
5.3	Learning and Skills
5.4	Safer Custody
5.5	Segregation
Section 6	Other Areas
6.1	Catering & Kitchen
6.2	Censors
6.3	Closed Visits
6.4	Drugs
6.5	Foreign Nationals
6.6	Gymnasium & Physical Education
6.7	Incentives and Earned Privileges
6.8	Library
6.9	Reception and First Night Centre
6.10	Resettlement
6.11	Residences
6.12	Security
6.13	Visitors' Centre
6.14	Visits' Rooms
Section 7	The work of the IMB

SECTION 3

DESCRIPTION OF HMP LEEDS

HMP Leeds is an inner city local prison serving the local courts of West Yorkshire. It is a Category B prison with an Operational Capacity of 1120. The prison ran at a reduced capacity of 1088 until August 2011 due to refurbishment work. The establishment has four Victorian Wings and two modern Wings; one of the Wings is dedicated to the vulnerable Rule 45 prisoners. Cells are either single or shared by two prisoners. Wings now have specific Regimes. Reference the Executive Summary.

The prison has its own Healthcare centre, commissioned by the Primary Care Trust, Leeds. Facilities available to prisoners include a Gym, Education, which is contracted out to The Manchester College, and provisions supplied by external suppliers with a national contract. There are approximately 30 Voluntary and Community Service organisations working within the prison. These include the Samaritans, West Yorkshire Chaplaincy Community Project, Prison Visitors, Bereavement Counselling and minority interest groups. The Jigsaw Visitors' Centre, an independent charity working closely with the prison, is a beacon project of many years standing.

Prisoners man the Prisoner Information Desks and others act as Healthcare Representatives, Recovery Champions and Listeners, trained by the Samaritans, on each wing.

There are 44 Life and 22 Indeterminate Public Protection (IPP) sentenced prisoners as at December 2011. In the previous year the figures were 23 and 16 respectively. The average for 2011 was 18 Lifers and 43 IPPs.

SECTION 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concerns

Policy

The Board does not have any concerns regarding policy that they feel require a response from the Minister. The fact that this is the first Report for many years not to do so, reflects the positive developments that have taken place at Leeds Prison to improve the welfare of the prisoners held there.

Operational – not requiring a response

The fabric of the Reception area continues to give concern but there has been an improvement in the provision of services to make the arrival and departure of prisoners a less stressful event. (Ref. Sec. 6.9) HMP Leeds management report an increase in the likelihood of the replacement of the Reception building within two years. This is to be welcomed but the Board is very disappointed that this sorry state of affairs has been allowed to continue for so many years. The Board has raised the monitoring priority of this area and its attendant transport services.

There was some concern throughout the year of the attendance levels at classes against the number called. The Board has recently been informed that a member of staff has been allocated specifically to address this issue and produce recommendations to gain improvements.

The effect on the prison population resulting from the necessary concentration of valuable, limited resources to specific areas has yet to be evaluated. During 2012, the Board's monitoring will identify any concerns.

Overall judgement

The Board wishes to recognize the momentous changes in strategic approach to the prison regimes at HMP Leeds throughout 2011, based on 'The 7 Key Outcomes' in response to the Government's Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing Offenders".

The introduction of a Drug Recovery Wing with treatment programmes, deterrents and incentives is a major step towards the reduction of drug and alcohol dependency of inmates and a significant factor in improving prisoners' wellbeing. A considerable reduction in positive drug test results and applications to the Board from this wing in 2011 indicate that the programme is already having a positive effect. (Ref. Sec. 6.4)

The Board is pleased to report a continuation in improvement in staff / prisoner relations. This is not an easy area to quantify but members have observed a considerable number of occasions where staff have demonstrated a positive and caring attitude towards prisoners, particular those of a fragile nature.

The Board would also like to express its satisfaction with the positive relationship with the new Governor, Paul Baker and his staff, whilst still maintaining a professional and independent position.

The IMB is encouraged in its role of monitoring and reporting especially in challenging areas whether strategic or operational, as with the recent introduction of Payment by Results (PbR) proposals for the Resettlement wing, and the management of very difficult prisoners.

SECTION 5

AREAS WHICH MUST BE REPORTED

5.1 DIVERSITY

The Diversity Equality Action Team meetings are attended by representatives from across the prison and also by prisoners who work as Diversity Representatives.

The Hate Incident Reporting Scrutiny Panel comprises a selection of members from outside agencies who represent West Yorkshire Police, Victim Support, Stop Hate UK, and Leeds City Council.

Members of the Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Prisoners' Forum meet on a monthly basis and have produced leaflets and posters for distribution around the prison. They plan to invite speakers from organisations outside the prison to provide information and advice.

There is a group for Travellers and a group for older prisoners.

Staff training is ongoing relating to the areas of diversity and the various forms of disability with a view to raising awareness of staff.

Further good work relates to the needs of foreign national prisoners. Where deportation is to follow at the end of a sentence, some prisoners have to be held for an inordinately long period before documentation for removal is received.

Religious festivals continue to be marked with celebrations and special food.

HMP Leeds has applied for the prestigious Investors in Diversity Award in 2012.

5.2 HEALTHCARE INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH

The Health Care Centre premises underwent considerable refurbishment and a significant change of use to a number of the cells.

It is planned to reduce HCC functionality and distribute general health care to the wings. Health problems of a more serious nature will result in external hospitalisation.

A number of the cells in H3 now house prisoners from D Wing who are on external work experience under ROTL. The intention is to protect them from undue pressure and bullying from other prisoners to bring illicit items into the prison.

The dental area was extended and H3 was partially re-decorated. Physiotherapy sessions are run in the recreation room; positive feedback has been received by members from prisoners who use this facility.

No issues have arisen over dental or optician waiting lists or treatment bookings. Appointment lists are checked by Board members and the services are deemed satisfactory from the lack of applications received in this area.

An alcohol-based hand wash was quickly replaced by a foam-based one when it was discovered that prisoners were able to extract the alcohol.

There has not been a significant number of healthcare related applications at any period throughout the year and the 2011 total is down on 2010; 29 compared with 34.

5.3 LEARNING AND SKILLS

During the reporting year, the prison has seen the appointment of a new Head of Learning Skills and a new College Principal. Industry and Curriculum Reviews are currently being conducted, the latter necessitating staffing changes. In addition, September saw the completion of a three-month Activity Allocation and Attendance review.

The backlog of prisoners needing to be assessed has fluctuated throughout the year and currently stands at seventy. The prison is still trying to devise and implement a system that ensures attendance at Assessment. This is a point commented on in previous Board Reports and the HMCIP Report of 2010.

When assessment has taken place, an interview with Working Links leads to a Client Action Plan, which does take account of prisoners' wishes and qualifications.

The revised curriculum due to be introduced in two months will ensure that all courses are vocational, Literacy or Numeracy. Some of these, e.g. Business Enterprise, are already taking place and working successfully.

The imminent use of Virtual Campus and the proposed support for prisoners wishing to carry out Open University work are to be commended. The latter addresses a concern raised in previous Reports.

Initially the Board was pleased to note that the Construction Skills course had been changed from Level 1 to Level 2, but unfortunately the nine-month duration meant that it was difficult for prisoners to complete all the units. There are now arrangements to enable men moving to a cluster prison to continue the course.

Provision for Vulnerable Prisoners is included in the above planning, as they will have a session using Virtual Campus.

Whilst accepting that the curriculum changes are in line with national and Skills Funding Agency thinking, the Board regrets the loss of the main Art courses.

All workshops have continued throughout the present year, with a number of pleasing developments. A Construction Skills course relevant to men wishing to enter the building trade has been introduced, one of the textile workshops now has contracts for producing aprons and Desktop Publishing has become the Leeds Print Studio, with plans to extend its space. Negotiations are in place to include Social Enterprise projects, the extension of links to outside industries and the provision of modular buildings to increase workshop provision.

Conversations with prisoners throughout the year have revealed a high level of satisfaction with their Learning and Skills experience and the Board consistently notes good practice from tutors.

There has been work to increase the places offered in Learning, Skills, Kitchen and wings, and the number is now very near to that required to accommodate all prisoners. Apart from Key Workers, the pay is the same for Learning and Skills.

One of the prison's 7 Outcomes is a target of 90% and 80% attendance at Learning and Skills respectively. Learning is now averaging 80%, a pleasing 20% improvement on last year, and Skills averages 80%, although variations occur on different wings. There is not, however, a consistent methodology used to report figures, so the three month appointment of a Senior Officer to devise a method is to be welcomed.

The Board is pleased to make positive comments about Learning and Skills, particularly in the light of the changes mentioned in paragraph 1. It continues, however, to state the basic fact that whatever the quality of provision, if the desired levels of assessment and attendance are not attained, then the provision is not being used effectively.

5.4 SAFER CUSTODY

Within the last year an even greater emphasis has been placed on achieving zero tolerance to drugs, violence and bullying. With

efficiency cuts over the past year, the Unit lost two officers and there are currently only three Senior Officers in post. In their own words, they proudly report that they maintain the usual “Rolls Royce” Service“.

There is a continuous endeavour to challenge prisoners’ antisocial behaviour and to agree on what is and is not acceptable conduct. Thorough investigative processes are in place and perpetrators are identified and monitored. When the key suspects of antisocial behaviour are identified, they are either warned, or where a pattern of unacceptable behaviour emerges, they are placed on basic Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) levels. Bullying is categorised and monitored.

From all reports this last year, there is one area requiring improvement and this relates to the reception of prisoners from the courts. While the prison has no direct influence on the timing of prisoner arrivals from the courts, it has been noted that prisoners are often not back from the courts in time to access all of the facilities provided in the First Night Centre. This is particularly crucial for vulnerable first time offenders. On the plus side, various resources already in the prison are being made available to foreign prisoners, for example, the foreign language resources from other foreign national prisoners and the use of DVDs and reading materials for induction and training purposes.

In comparison to the previous year fewer deaths in custody were recorded during the period this report covers. One prisoner was found suspended and one died of natural causes, although this is still being investigated.

Deaths in Custody:	2010	2011
Natural Causes	4	1
Self-inflicted	2	1

In the last internal audit on the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process, the First Night Centre was awarded a Green audit efficiency score of 96%. The Safer Prisons staff are proud to note that HMP Leeds is the only prison to achieve a “green award” in the Safer Prisons sector within England and Wales during 2011-12.

5.5 SEGREGATION

A major staff restructuring of the Segregation Unit took place in 2011. The resulting reduction in numbers and the length of experience of staff raised concerns with Board members. The Governor presented his reasoning both at Board meetings and to individual members.

The unit continues to function satisfactorily and Board access is unrestricted although multiple officer unlocking sometimes takes longer

to organise. On-going risk assessments determine the unlock requirements.

The Board's records indicate that all prisoners are offered their entitlements. A small gym is also available for use in the unit.

The quarterly figures for the average daily occupancy have increased throughout the year, principally as a result of zero tolerance policies. Q1 7.0; Q2 9.4, Q3 14; Q4 17.75.

Board members attended GOOD reviews and adjudications with no serious issues in procedures or outcomes reported.

The Board will continue to closely monitor the operation of the Segregation Unit.

SECTION 6

OTHER AREAS

6.1 CATERING AND KITCHEN

The kitchen is manned by a Catering Manager, Senior Officer and uniformed officers, Industrial Catering Staff (formerly 'civilian' staff) and prisoners, from a list of 44.

Kitchen staff carry out surveys among the prisoners to gain feedback on quality and variety.

All religious, ethnic and dietary requirements are catered for.

Only 21 written complaints were received from an annual serving of approximately 1.6 million meals, consisting of full hot meals, snacks and packed meals.

Board members observations and prisoner comments on the wings have identified a noticeable decline in the original quality of the food from its source in the kitchen. This can be attributed to the size of the establishment at Leeds and the need to keep meals warm for an extended period of time following distribution from the kitchen.

On-the-job training is given to all prisoners working in the kitchen. Relevant catering NVQs are to be re-introduced in conjunction with the education department. Consideration is to be given to establishing a work experience program with the supplier of catering facilities with the possibility of subsequently gaining full time employment.

The Board is pleased to note that the replacement and maintenance programs identified in our previous report have been completed.

6.2 CENSORS

This department handles the mail being sent in for prisoners and mail being sent out by prisoners. Each day several hundred letters are received and delivered around the wings and similar quantities from prisoners are collected and despatched.

Following a period when the work was carried out by staff available on the day, there is now a continuity of experienced staff that are able to seek out and recognise suspicious packages and envelopes containing illicit items.

Details of all monies received in the mail are recorded prior to being credited to prisoners' individual accounts and notification being sent to the prisoners stating the amounts received.

6.3 CLOSED VISITS

Prisoners can be placed on closed visits when they have, or are suspected of having, received illicit items during a visit. A review of the prisoners on closed visits takes place each month in the presence of an IMB member. The punishment is normally for a period of three months, but the situation relating to each individual is carefully considered at each review. Following the review, letters are sent to the prisoners to inform them whether they are to remain on or have been taken off closed visits.

Visitors who try to pass items into the prison can be sent warning letters, they can be banned from visiting for a period of up to three months, and can also be arrested and charged by the police for trying to hand over drugs during a visit.

6.4 DRUGS

The Board registered its concern in its 2010 report about the increasing number of prisoners resulting in a positive MDT. The year to date (YTD) for 2010 was 16.9% against the Key Performance Target (KPT) of 17%.

The Board is pleased to note that the MDT for 2011 was 8.7% against a revised KPT of 16%.

Suspicion MDT rates have increased, reflecting improved and reliable intelligence submitted to the Security Department intelligence.

Outcome 3 states: HMP Leeds aims to be a prison that reduces drug and alcohol dependency, reflected in a 5% MDT rate.

A Drug Recovery Wing (formerly D Wing) was introduced in September 2011. Since its introduction, there have been, to date, zero positive MDT results on this wing. Although it is early days, this is a remarkable and encouraging turnaround that the Board hopes will be sustained.

It is also noted that the number of complaints submitted from D wing is on a downward trend.

The Board has met substance use managers and attended drugs strategy committees on a regular basis and is pleased to record that the intensified recovery programmes, extensive use of community agencies, peer group and officer support, coupled with a Deter and Reward Strategy are resulting in a fairer and humane approach to this serious issue.

The Board recognises and welcomes the downward trend in discovered drugs coming into the prison following extended joint

operations with West Yorkshire Police, the introduction of a compact for prisoners arriving in Reception and a zero tolerance attitude to possession.

The Board will continue its close monitoring of these promising developments and welcomes the growth of a recovery ethos set against challenging targets.

6.5 FOREIGN NATIONALS

For the last six months of 2011 there has been a constant figure of 134 foreign national prisoners residing at HMP Leeds. The nationality breakdown is as follows:

Eastern European	41
Pakistani	31
Middle Eastern	16
African	12
Chinese	7
Vietnamese	7
Other nationalities	20

The foreign national prisoners liaison officers see all new arrivals to the establishment the day after arrival. An induction process uses DVDs in relevant languages, picture boards and leaflets. A language identification chart, with 30 languages on, is also used to enable prisoners to contact Language Line Services. These charts are also displayed on all Wings. Each foreign national prisoner is given one free five minute phone call to their family overseas every 28 days.

Considerable care is taken to try and locate new prisoners on a landing or wing where others of their nationality are resident, the benefit being that they are more likely to integrate and adapt to the prison regime. Every effort is made at HMP Leeds to overcome language barriers, and in addition to those methods referred to above, there are Prison Information Desks (PIDs) on each wing, easy access to the Big Word, newspapers or headlines downloaded from websites in a wide range of languages are made available, the library houses a collection of books in 25 different languages and English Speaking for Overseas Learners classes are run.

As at 20/12/11 there were 10 prisoners being held under IS91, authority to hold beyond release date, and awaiting deportation. A frequent difficulty in removing these prisoners is obtaining the required documentation from their home country to facilitate their return.

The Diversity Team have good working relationships with the United Kingdom Border Agency, [UKBA], and every fortnight UKBA staff visit the prison to interview all new receptions and any specific prisoners that they particularly need to speak to. In addition a full surgery for all convicted foreign national prisoners is held every quarter.

Staff on the Diversity Team have also forged some good links with High Commissions, e.g. Eastern European countries, Pakistan and India, which has greatly assisted in some prisoners being repatriated.

The Diversity Team promote both the Early Release Scheme, [EU nationals convicted for two years or more], and the Facilitated Returns Scheme, [non EU nationals convicted for 12 months or less]. It is difficult to assess how many applications are successful as invariably the prisoners are transferred to an Immigration Removal Centre. It can be confirmed however, that 2 ERS prisoners were returned to their home country in 2011.

The specific dietary requirements of foreign national prisoners are competently catered for by the prison kitchen and religious needs are provided by the multi-faith Chaplaincy.

The Board's view is that The Diversity team are succeeding in an exemplary and committed manner in carrying out their responsibilities for overseeing the requirements of foreign national prisoners within the bounds of the Prison Rules.

6.6 GYM AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A recent smaller gym provides encouragement to less confident, disabled and vulnerable prisoners to try out the facilities in a less imposing environment.

Wheelchair access is available to all facilities.

Sessions are run in an evening and early morning for those prisoners unable to attend normal sessions due to working or on ROTL.

Vulnerable prisoners, those on ACCTs and newly inducted prisoners are encouraged by gym staff to attend sessions.

Physical Health Awareness Training (PHAT) sessions are held for overweight prisoners.

'Father and Son' days are held quarterly whereby children are allowed in to the gym to play sports or work out alongside their fathers.

During 2011 staff and prisoners were involved in an external National Weightlifting event for the disabled.

Nine Open College Network qualifications are available for prisoners. Links have been formed with County cricket and major rugby league clubs.

The standard of the shower facilities remains a disappointment and financial constraints mean an upgrade is unlikely before 2013.

This is the only blemish on what continues to be an exemplary facility.

6.7 INCENTIVES AND EARNED PRIVILEGES (IEP)

IEP related applications to the Board are minimal – only seven throughout 2011. Observations from attending adjudications and reviews, support the Board's view that the scheme is applied fairly throughout the prison.

The prison has adopted a zero tolerance attitude to drugs and violence and this has resulted in an increase in the use of the Basic regime as a punishment.

Applications submitted to the Board and its presence at Diversity related meetings indicate that the IEP scheme is not implemented in a racially biased way.

The Board has been informed that the scheme is to be used more extensively for reward and punishment within the prison's drugs strategy.

There are plans to increase the differentials between regimes.

6.8 LIBRARY

The Library continues to provide a good service to the prisoners with many thousands of books in stock. It also obtains newspapers and magazines to order.

It has been a year of change with the retirements of the Librarian and other members of the team. There seems to have been a delay in a replacement Librarian being in post, but hopefully 2012 will see a more settled staff situation.

6.9 RECEPTION AND FIRST NIGHT CENTRE

The Reception premises and their non-suitability for purpose remain a concern and have done for several years. Plans for new premises continue to be discussed but have not, as yet, come to fruition.

Staff provide a good service that suffers from the poor facilities and occasional problems with privatised transport services. The latter results in delays in transporting prisoners in and out of the prison and unsatisfactory delays in unloading prisoners.

The Board has increased its monitoring priorities for this area and the associated transport services.

Board members report that the First Night Centre exhibits a caring atmosphere and is run efficiently under difficult conditions with variances in expected arrival times.

No complaints were received from the FNC during 2011.

6.10 RESETTLEMENT

On the 18th September 2011 C Wing at Leeds changed its identity to become the Resettlement Wing. This is now a Wing where prisoners engage with staff and demonstrate a willingness to work towards leading a law abiding life on release.

The criteria for prisoners living on the Wing are as follows:

- (i) Return to a West Yorkshire address upon release.
- (ii) Have 12 months or less to serve.
- (iii) Category C or D.
- (iv) Have no proven adjudications involving drugs or violence within the previous six months.
- (v) A willingness to engage with Offender Supervisors and Resettlement staff/Partner Agencies, i.e. Shelter, Job Centre Plus, Leeds Credit Union and others.

On arrival on the Resettlement Wing, prisoners are invited to a specific induction morning and in addition receive a booklet outlining expected behaviour on the Wing. Prisoners are also asked to complete an Offender Behaviour Reflective Assessment, which is simply to answer four basic questions. Evidence from the Wing SO suggests that this process can be a very therapeutic exercise for many prisoners.

Those living on the Resettlement Wing are prioritised for support, education and employment. Each prisoner has an Offender Supervisor, based in the Offender Management Unit, who is the focal point for everything a prisoner does, e.g. education or work through to Home Detention Curfew, [HDC], and Release on Temporary Licence, [ROTL].

A series of initiatives have been undertaken, which include extra Gym sessions, a guitar workshop, a theatre workshop, a family event and a job fair, all aimed at encouraging Resettlement Wing prisoners to engage and to raise self esteem.

The 6th Hub historically managed those prisoners who were serving 12 months or less and would be returning to a Leeds address. These prisoners have now transferred to the Resettlement Wing. The role of the 6th Hub continues to focus on obtaining work placements for these prisoners.

The Board is pleased to note that there has been considerable success in the last 12 months and that organisations across the spectrum have employed prisoners on ROTL. Some have continued this employment upon release.

The Board commends the dedicated and enthusiastic approach of all the staff involved in this work, whose aim is to achieve successful outcomes for the prisoners and the prison.

6.11 RESIDENCES

2011 has seen a major change in organisation of the role of the wings at HMP Leeds:

- A wing: Vulnerable prisoners
- B wing: Convicted induction
- C wing: Resettlement wing
- D wing: Drug recovery wing
- E wing: Post recovery wing
- F wing: Remand prisoners

This change consists of a more focussed grouping of prisoners with a view to improving the quality of prison life, maximising efficient use of available resources and working towards the achievement of the prison's 7 outcomes. The prison also hopes that the reorganisation will help to pave the way towards success in the Payment by Results pilot.

The Board is monitoring the effects of the change closely; its impact on the prison is yet to be fully revealed as the new roles have only been in place since September 2011 and several other changes in staffing and management have to be factored in. However, initial reaction from prisoners spoken to by Board members have been largely positive; there are currently fewer applications to the Board; prisoners are benefiting from increased time out of cell, more access to facilities and more targeted purposeful activity.

The Board commends the increased emphasis on prisoners being more responsible for their choices and actions – the connection between actions and consequences, both positive and negative, is understood and appreciated by prisoners spoken to by the Board. Alongside staff-led initiatives, peer support groups such as SMART Recovery and Narcotics Anonymous are being used to reported good effect in D wing drug recovery work. Efforts to strengthen connections with families are also to be commended, as are links with employers and with the outside world in a wider sense by using ROTL to allow some prisoners to undertake work for employers such as Timpsons and Haworth Scouring.

The effect, if any, of concentrating certain limited resources on particular groups of prisoners is yet to become apparent. This will be an area of interest for the Board in 2012. Members are also monitoring variations between the wings in the take-up of education and workshop employment.

Improvements to the fabric of the building have created a more efficient use of space and a more comfortable environment for staff and prisoners; the age and original design of the building still create some problems – for example temperatures can still be uncomfortably high on upper floors in hot weather.

6.12 SECURITY

The monthly Security meetings were amalgamated into the Drug Strategy Meetings in 2011 due to the commonality of areas covered and the need to share information.

The Board's view is that this change was effective in the sharing of information across HMP departments and particularly informative for the Board attendees at the meeting and subsequently other Board members.

An extensive building and maintenance programme took place throughout 2011. No serious security incidents were reported, reflecting the thoroughness of the security and the vetting procedures in place.

Over-the-wall packages show a downward trend that can be attributed, in part, to closer liaison with West Yorkshire Police and patrolling.

Intelligence-led searches increased throughout the year resulting in an improvement in the number of mobile phones discovered.

There have been no serious escape attempts over the past year.

The adoption of the 'Two Red Lines' policy of zero tolerance to drugs and violence is a considerable contributory element to the ongoing improvement in security throughout the prison. This does, however, result in high occupancy of the Segregation Unit.

There is to be a Security Audit in early 2012. The SMT are confident of receiving a high rating.

(Update – the prison received a highly commended 'Green' rating)

6.13 VISITORS' CENTRE

The Visitors' Centre is managed and run by a team of staff dedicated to maintaining pleasurable family visits and continuity of family links. As well as the normal regular visits, members of the team arrange special days when families with children can play games together and have a meal. At Christmas time there are several family visits when Father Christmas also arrives with presents for the children. There are visits for adults only when families can sit and chat together without interruptions from little ones. In addition, staff are able to assist by signposting family members to other agencies when help is needed.

The Governor has reinstated family forums where a number of prisoners along with their wives, partners or mothers have a buffet

lunch and then have an opportunity to raise with the Governor any questions, complaints or issues which they may have.

One issue raised at a recent family forum was the difficulty experienced in getting through to make telephone bookings. This matter was also the main complaint received at the Visitors' Centre. There are four members of staff within the gate at the prison who deal with the bookings. They are kept very busy manning the phones, processing visitors at the reception desk and searching them prior to going into the visits hall.

The Governor is aware of the situation and ways of improving and updating the visits booking systems are currently being investigated.

The Visitors' Centre is a registered charity. A proportion of funding is provided by HM Prison Service each year, but the remainder of the income necessary to provide such an excellent service has to be obtained by regularly submitting bids to charities that support work with children and families.

6.14 VISITS' ROOMS

The upper floor of the building is fitted with cubicles to enable prisoners to meet with their legal representatives in private. The room is also used for the family visits when parents and children do activities together.

The ground floor is used for the regular daily visits with set tables and chairs and a play area to one side. There is also a refreshment bar which is run by the Visitors' Centre.

Best use is made of the space available. A replacement building has been on the waiting list for many years but lack of available funding has delayed the process.

The walk for visitors from the gate to the Visits Room has been improved with planters and hanging baskets, but the entrance area before entering the visits rooms is shabby and not very welcoming.

Having a regular team of officers in Visits is good for continuity as they get to know the visitors and their behaviour and are alert to suspicious activities.

SECTION 7

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

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	15
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	5
Number of members leaving within reporting period	3
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	31
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	414
Total number of applications received	261
Total number of segregation reviews held	26
Total number of segregation reviews attended	25