



The Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board 2011

Her Majesty's Prison Liverpool

**Chairman of the Board
Stanley R Mayne JP**

**Vice Chairman
Miss Margaret McKinney**

Contents		Page
Section One	Statutory Role of the Board	3
Section Two	Description of the Prison	4
Section Three	Executive Summary	5
a	Issues requiring a response from the Minister	5
	i. Mental Health Problems	5
	ii. Staffing Levels	5
	iii. Cells	5
	iv. Transfers from Other Regions and Associated Problems	6
b	Other areas of concern or excellence not requiring a response	6
	i. Drugs, Bullying and Mobile Phones.	6
	ii. Care Suites	6
	iii. Timpson's Workshop	6
	iv. Kitchen	6
	v. Staff	7
c	The Board's Overall Judgement	8
Section Four:		8
	a) Healthcare	9
	b) Separation & Care Unit	9
	c) Chaplaincy	9
	d) Safer Custody & Suicide Prevention	10
	e) Equalities Action Team - 2011	11
Section Five:		11
	a) Foreign Nationals	11
	b) Learning & Skills/Education	11
	c) Probation	12
	d) Reception	12
	e) Drug Strategy	
Section Six:	Work of the Board	13
Appendix (i)	Applications to the Board (Analysis)	13
Appendix (ii)	Analysis of the Board's Work	14

Section One

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

The Prison Act of 1952 and The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and I.R.C. (Immigration and Removal Centre) to be monitored by an Independent Monitoring Board appointed by the Justice Minister from members of the community in which the prison or I.R.C. is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

1. Satisfy itself as to the humane treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing themselves for release.
2. To 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.
4. To enable The Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have the right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also prisoner's records.

Section Two

DESCRIPTION ON THE PRISON

- i. Liverpool Prison is a Category B Local Prison
- ii. The prison has averaged housing 1256 with a maximum capacity of 1436
- iii. Liverpool Prison is a Victorian Prison and consequently faces ongoing problems with the infrastructure of the main body of the prison which houses cells and showers. This part of the prison has suffered due to lack of capital investment in the past. The cells vary in size from single occupancy to dormitory cells holding up to six prisoners. Generally the cells are in poor condition however the shower issues are being addressed with several wings having been upgraded. As a direct result of this many cells which had suffered from damp problems have seen an improvement.
- iv. The prison is split into 8 wings A, B, F, G, H, I, J and K with some wings providing specific roles within the prison:
 - A Wing - 3 D (Don't Do Drugs)
 - B Wing - First Night Remand
 - K Wing - Vulnerable Prisoners
 - J Wing - J1 Reintegration Unit. J2 Enhanced Labour.
- v. The following contractors deliver services in Liverpool Prison:
 - a) Healthcare - Liverpool Community Health
 - b) Learning & Skills - The Manchester College
 - c) Education - The Manchester College
 - d) N.A.C.R.O. - National Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders

Section Three

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a) Issues requiring a response from The Minister

(i) Mental Health Problems - 2011

The Board continues to have concerns about Mental Health/Personality Disorder prisoners being housed in the Separation and Care Unit (B1). This aspect was highlighted in the 2010 Report, with no appreciable changes having occurred. The Board does not consider the environment conducive to the welfare of prisoners and staff. Mental Health provisions within the prison are inadequate. The Board has had serious reservations over prisoners that have been earmarked to psychiatric establishments that remain within HMP Liverpool. The Board accepts that there are severe strains placed upon the Mental Health Estate but the length of time being taken for the removal of the prisoner puts a considerable strain on the prison staff and Health Care workers. Prisoners are not receiving the appropriate care and medications, which results in frustrations. Cells are continually being damaged both on the wings and within Healthcare, and cease to be operational for substantial periods due to financial constraints.

The Board accepts that this issue concerns relatively few numbers of prisoners but the impact on HMP Liverpool is considerable.

The Board would like to commend the professionalism of both the prison staff and healthcare personnel who work in this area, and the Head Psychologist and her staff. They all do an excellent job in often difficult circumstances, within the limitations of their field.

(ii) Staffing Levels - 2011

The Board raised concerns in the 2010 Annual Report regarding the staffing levels at HMP Liverpool. Governor Illingsworth and his Management Team have had to cope with further cuts of £1 million which has resulted in the loss of further staffing. The Board is of the opinion that this puts further strains on the capability of the prison. The situation is not helped by a constant above average level of staff sick leave (17.59% as opposed to the target level of 12%).

Staff are continually being moved from wing to wing to cover for staff shortages. This has had a further impact on prisoner/appointed Personal Officer relations.

The Board would reiterate that it has serious concerns that should unrest manifest itself whether staffing levels would be able to cope with it.

(iii) Cells - 2011

The cell accommodation within HMP Liverpool is not of a good standard and urgently requires refurbishment. The Board has highlighted this issue in previous reports. The infrastructure is Victorian and has long seen a lack of capital investment. The Board recommends urgent consideration be given to rectify the situation.

(iv) Transfers from Other Regions and Associated Problems - 2011

HMP Liverpool is a large, adult, local prison but continues to receive quite a substantial influx of prisoners from the Birmingham area. The Board highlighted in the 2009 and 2010 Annual Reports problems with the transfer of monies and property. This still remains. Prisoners are kept waiting for their monies to be transferred in excess of 5 weeks (HMP Birmingham has different systems and relies on cheques being sent out. This procedure only takes place on a monthly basis and, as described, overlaps on many occasions. HMP Birmingham does not operate the PNOMIS system which further confuses the situation). Prisoners incurring "debt" can lead to frustration and very serious situations (see section 6 Appendix 1 – Work of the Board and the number of applications concerning prisoners monies, property and visits) (Code B, D and G).

b) Other areas of concern or excellence not requiring a response

i. Drugs, Bullying & Mobile Phones

These issues remain a consistent concern of the Board. The Management and in particular the Security and prison officers strive constantly to combat these problems but the problems never go away. The Board appreciates all the efforts put into to curtail the issues but would recommend further resources be allocated to this area.

ii. Care Suites

The Board consider these to have been a huge success and hope to see them fully utilised in the future.

iii The Timpson Workshop 2011

The good work from the last couple of years has continued. Prisoners appear to buy into the scheme and are proud of their achievements. Timpson's once again need to be congratulated and thanked for their worthwhile scheme.

iv. Kitchen 2011

The kitchen has improved throughout the year with hardly any complaints about the food. Funding was obtained for the kitchen to bake their own bread and prepare their own pies/savouries etc which has made substantial savings for the prison.

v. Staff 2011

The Board continues to admire the professionalism of the Governor, Management, Officers and staff of HMP Liverpool. The Board wish to thank them for all their help given to Board Members as they strive to do their duties.

c) The Boards Overall Judgement

The overall judgement of The Independent Monitoring Board at Liverpool Prison is that the Management, Officers and staff provide a generally high standard of professionalism and care for prisoners in sometimes difficult circumstances given the infrastructure of many parts of the prison which is Victorian and in desperate need of capital investment (See Section 3aiii Cells) whilst these two areas have been highlighted in this report many other areas of the prison would benefit from modernisation e.g. Workshops, Separation and Care Unit.

The Board acknowledges the work undertaken by Management, Officers and staff in the continuous process of improvement and modernisation during 2011. The Board would also wish to place on record its thanks to Management, Officers and staff for their cooperation in attempting to resolve prisoner problems presented to The Board through the Applications system.

Major Concerns

- 1** Mental Health/Personality Disorders (Section 3(a) (i))
- 2** Staffing Levels (Section 3(a)(ii))
- 3** Cells (Section 3 (a)(iii))
- 4** Drugs, Bullying and Mobile Phones (Section 3 (b) (i))

Section Four

a. Healthcare Facility at HMP Liverpool 2010

Healthcare Service Review

The recommendations from a full service review held late 2009 and early 2010 are currently being implemented. A service review implementation group meets on a monthly basis to ensure work is carried out. Some of the work streams have smaller working groups and in some cases tasked individuals, below are some examples of work currently under way.

- i. Full Health needs assessment of men held in prison has been completed.
- ii. A 3 person crisis intervention team will be up and running towards the end of the year.
- iii. Development of a more structured Mental Health pathway, mental health working group set to explore issues and look at the referral pathway.
- iv. 1 full time GP now working at HMP Liverpool but advertised for a further 2 posts.
- v. Day Care Centre to be developed for prisoners/patients with complex needs.
- vi. Development and improvement of dental provision.

Inpatient Unit

Operating at 96% for most part of the year, although several cells have been out of action due to damage by disruptive prisoners.

Primary Care

Plan to end "lunchtime treatments" is still high on agenda. H Wing and one other will be the only treatment room open at lunchtime.

Primary care staff shift patterns have changed to accommodate different ways of working by the prison since the reprofiling.

GP clinics have moved back to wing surgeries. Prisoners have more access to nurses who can prescribe resulting in some of the prisoners not having to wait and see a GP before receiving medication.

Patient survey carried out (322 prisoners took part). Findings have yet to be evaluated and published.

Outpatients.

Attendance is improving. The targets of +70% attendance are been achieved on some days but need to be improved.

Liverpool Community Health Nursing Team based at HMP Liverpool received the Team of the Year Award for 2009/2010. This was a huge achievement and acknowledged all the hard work that the staff have put in to develop services.

b. Separation & Care Unit - 2011

There has been a change of name for this unit from the Separation and Care Unit to the Segregation Unit. The intention of this unit is to provide accommodation which does not exceed that of J Wing (which has been allocated as a wing with a basic regime). Prisoners are held in this unit with humane and just treatment. The objective of the unit is to influence prisoner's behaviour for the better.

There have been staff changes on the Segregation Unit during the last year. A new Wing Governor, Senior Officer and Officers have been appointed.

Prisoners are reviewed 72 hours after their initial segregation and again after 14 days. These reviews are attended by the Governor, SO Chaplaincy, Health Care, Carats and IMB. Effort is made to reintroduce the prisoner to the main area of the prison. Should this not be possible, continued management of the prisoner is discussed.

Prisoners with mental health problems remain a concern, although effort has been made to relocate them to a more suitable establishment.

Segregation and Adjudication Review Group (SAARG) meetings are held in order to discuss the management of this unit. On the agenda are monthly reports and statistics, Segregation Unit Operational Manager's Assessment, current quarter's improvement objectives and actions, a review of the SAARG continuous action plan including audit and MQPL (Monitoring Quality of Prison Life).

The SAARG meetings provide a good venue for monitoring of the running of the Segregation Unit.

The Unit is now able to provide all prisoners with a radio. Library books, newspapers and puzzle books are available. An exercise yard is available for use on a daily basis.

Staff on this unit are making sure that all prisoners are dealt with in an appropriate manner. They are also working hard to obtain relevant information, via databases, to maintain optimum efficiency of the Segregation Unit.

All the staff and agencies involved with the Segregation Unit are working hard to manage and improve the quality of care for the prisoners held within this unit.

c. Chaplaincy - 2011

Due to reduction in staffing levels 2011 proved a difficult year for the Chaplaincy Department.

d. Safer Custody & Suicide Prevention - 2011

HMP Liverpool continues to provide and operate a positive Suicide Prevention Policy.

During 2011 HMP Liverpool had 4 deaths in custody (2 suicides by hanging – 2 natural causes). There were 130 reported incidents of self-harm during the year 2011, of which 20 were referred to outside hospitals. 471 ACCT documents were opened.

Prisoner ethnicity will be extended to incorporate strands of equality, disability and homophobia. Shelter has informed the inspectorate that no prisoner leaves HMP Liverpool without accommodation to go to.

The view of The Independent Monitoring Board is that the prison takes this part of its work very seriously and the Management, Officers and staff work in a vigilant and professional manner.

e. Equalities Action Team - 2011

2011 has seen a number of changes, mainly in response to the recently introduced legislation relating to Equality and the resulting Prison Service Instruction – PSI 32/2011 Ensuring Equality - which prompted the new procedure for discrimination incident reporting.

The new system was put in place at HMP Liverpool on 4th July 2011 for reporting incidents of discrimination, harassment or victimisation on the basis of the protected characteristics which are as follows:

- *Age
- *Disability
- *Gender
- *Gender reassignment
- *Marriage or civil partnership
- *Pregnancy or maternity
- *Race
- *Religion or belief
- *Sexual Orientation

The Discrimination Incident Reporting Form (DIRF) replaces the Racist Incident Report Forms, which is now withdrawn, and expands to include the other strands of equality.

Monitoring of the new DIRFs still lies under the remit of the Equalities and Inclusion Office although the complaints are responded to and investigated by Manager F's and DPSM's. Initial analysis of data does not appear to show any specific patterns or concerns at this point. General collection of data for monitoring is difficult because CNOMIS is not currently set up to collate the necessary information for all of the protected characteristics. Data is manually collected through Reception questionnaires.

In terms of engagement with the local community groups, the work has expanded quite considerably in keeping with the legislation and the protected characteristics. Of note is the work of Mencap Liverpool. HMP Liverpool initiated a Buddy system with prisoner volunteers providing support for those with both physical and learning disabilities.

Other areas focussed on are LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender), Irish Travellers, Older Prisoners, and Disability, holding a variety of awareness raising days and forums for consultation with those prisoners sharing any of these protected characteristics. Walton Radio has been a great support to the Equalities Action Team in conducting interviews and promoting equality.

The Board attended several of the monthly meetings but for various reasons not as many as would have preferred. However the meetings, chaired by the Governor, are well organised with exchanges that are frank and well respected on all sides. The Wing Representatives are also well organised and present issues very well. The Board views this aspect to be very positive.

The Equalities and Inclusion Manager (Ms Sue Connolly) ensures that the Board receive minutes from the monthly meetings and we would like to express our gratitude for this.

Section 5

a. Foreign Nationals - 2011

Foreign National prisoner numbers hover around the 65 mark as a number now go to the hub prison HMP Risley. United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) continues to provide support, but weekly surgeries at HMP Liverpool have stopped and replaced by a monthly service due to cutbacks. It is the Boards view that the Border Agency needs to process prisoners who have served in excess of their sentence and remain within the prison system.

b. Learning & Skills/Education – 2011

The performance figures from August 2011-February 2012 :-

Teaching delivery to Contract 100%

Learner Starts 2012

Learner Retention 77%

Learner Success 77%

Learners Awaiting Exam Results 356.

Introduction of new programmes

1 Electrical Engineering

2 Work Ready Programme

3 Food Hygiene

4 Hairdressing and Barbering - awaiting location approval.

Partnership Working

The Education Department was recently directly involved in supporting the establishment to present a submission for a £300k Catering and Hospitality Training and Restaurant Project.

c. Probation/Offender Management Team Unit (OMU) - 2011

The OMU is an integrated unit comprising a Probation Team together with a team Prison Officer Offender Supervisors. The Public Protection Unit is also an integrated part of the Offender Management Unit.

The Probation Team consists of 1 Senior Probation Officer who is also Head of the OMU, 4 Probation Officers and 4 Probation Service Officers (one of which specialises in Bail Accommodation Support).

The Prison Officer team consists of 7 Offender Supervisors, together with 2 officers whose responsibility is to arrange prisoner transfers.

A major focus for the Probation Team in recent months has been to ensure that the quality of reports and assessments produced by the OMU is high, in addition to their Offender Supervisor work. Probation Officers have been coaching the less experienced Probation Service Officers and Prison Officers in completion of high quality OASys (Offender Assessment System) assessments and MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Agency) reports. Problems arising from redeployment of staff due to high levels of staff sickness in the establishment as a whole have made progress difficult in this area, but we are beginning to see improvements.

d. Reception - 2011

Reception continues to process some 50 prisoners per day. The Body Orifice Scanner Chair installed during 2009 continues to be successful at detecting concealed metal objects.

Rota Visits indicate that, in spite of this being a very busy part of the prison, prisoners are dealt with efficiently both upon reception when being transferred out and discharged.

HMP Liverpool has a maximum capacity of 1436 and during the year housed an average of 1256 prisoners.

e. Drug Strategy - 2011

HMP Liverpool made considerable progress with its drug strategy during the year:-

A Wing was set up as a 3D (Don't Do Drugs) Wing for prisoners who are drug free and agree to remain so.

Tighter management of the criteria for prisoners being put onto A Wing and H Wing (Drug Treatment) was introduced and the Health Care Centre also introduced treatments for those with acute addiction, reducing referrals to outside hospitals.

Drug treatments were changed to increase the proportion of prisoners receiving detox as opposed to maintenance.

CARAT initiatives including Drop In Sessions and the use of Recovery Champions to spread the message were successfully introduced.

A new Drug Strategy Policy was published towards the end of the year.

Unfortunately, the effectiveness of both CARATS and Compact Based Drug Testing (CBDT) were adversely impacted by staff shortages and redeployments.

Section Six

Appendices – The Work of the Board

i. Appendix 1 Applications to the Board

CODE	SUBJECT	2009	2010	2011
A	Medical	48	56	78
B	Property	70	84	54
C	Transfers	66	36	101
D	Visits	45	56	56
E	HDC	45	55	34
F	Parole	3	17	2
G	Prisoners Monies	63	75	32
H	Immigration	31	11	9
I	Release Date	44	61	30
J	Assaults	3	25	13
K	Workshops	2	25	19
L	Categorisation	20	45	35
M	Pin Phones	42	52	30
N	Education	3	17	12
O	Canteen	22	18	4
P	Adjudications	-	-	8
Q	Food	6	15	10
R	Drugs	2	2	4
S	Early Release Scheme	-	-	-
T	Mail	36	44	14
U	Miscellaneous	56	57	82
	TOTAL	607	751	626

Application forms (now following guidelines and using the revised application forms as per the National Council/Secretariat) are available to all prisoners on the seven wings of the prison and the Healthcare facility. These are situated on the sides of sealed 'posting facilities' which are distinctly coloured blue and clearly marked IMB. These are opened weekly by IMB members and applications dealt with in a timely manner and recorded in the IMB Office.

ii. Appendix 2

Analysis of The Board's Work

i.	Board Meetings	12
ii.	Rota Visits	52
iii.	Visits for Applications	52
iv.	IMB National Conference	2 delegates
v.	Training Sessions	4
vi.	National Courses	5 delegates
vii.	Review visits	52

2011 was a difficult year for the IMB Board. Mr H Higgins MBE who had been a Board Member for many years sadly passed away in November 2011.