



The Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board 2012

Her Majesty's Prison Liverpool

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

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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 1219 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 have been addressed.
- 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
		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/Personality Disorder Problems

Mental Health Services at HMP Liverpool are considered to be some of the best in the country. HMP Liverpool has been at the forefront of many initiatives in the field of Mental Health. The prison has access, on a needs led basis, to all the following specialist mental health services: Prison Inreach (CMHT), Forensic Services, Dual Diagnosis, Personality Disorder Services, Early Intervention in Psychosis, Crisis Intervention and mental health services for older prisoners. The incidence of personality disordered offenders within the prison estate is well documented. This is unfortunate and a challenge for the Prison Service. Training is available and can be accessed by all staff. HMP Liverpool was one of the first prisons in the country to recognise the specific rise of personality disorder amongst its prisoners and awareness and training was first offered in 2007/2008. The sectioning of prisoners and their transfer to mental health facilities happens frequently and all transfers are within the legislated time limits. On occasions it is necessary for an individual to be housed in the Separation and Care Unit pending transfer due to their refractory or violent behaviour. This is not an ideal situation but unfortunately unavoidable. Whilst located in the Separation and Care Unit they are monitored closely by mental health professionals and afforded care and medication if appropriate. Prison staff are offered support and guidance from the whole of the healthcare team.

In the 2011 Annual Report the Board referred to a prisoner who had a diagnosis of Learning Disabilities and Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. His removal to a high secure special hospital was delayed due to problems with diagnosis and suitable location due to a shortage of placements. There was a high level of damage to prison property by this prisoner and others at the time. Liverpool Community Health and MerseyCare NHS continue to improve services and strive to offer the prisoner's equitable and quality support for all their mental health needs.

(ii) Staffing Levels

The Board raised concerns in the 2010 and 2011 Annual Reports regarding the staffing levels at HMP Liverpool. Governor Illingsworth and his management team have had to implement substantial financial cuts which have resulted in the loss of further operational staff. Despite an improvement in the constantly above average levels of sick leave, the Board is of the opinion that this places further strains on the capability of the prison. Board members, when performing their duties on the wings, have noted with considerable concern, the low ratio between Prison Officers and prisoners (currently 1:26). It is proposed that staffing levels should be reduced even further, bringing the ratio down to 1:30. Should this further reduction be implemented, the Board feels that the capability of prison staff to contain any incident that may take place would be seriously compromised. This has an impact on prisoner/appointed personal officer

relations. The Board would reiterate what it had noted in the previous Annual Report, that they have serious concerns should unrest manifest itself as to whether the staffing levels would be able to cope with it. The Minister replied to our concerns from the 2011 Annual Report and indicated that no staff cuts had taken place. The Board were disappointed by this response, especially as Board Members are in regular attendance at the prison, and stand by the contents of the Report of 2011 and by this Report.

(iii) Cells

The Board are pleased to report that the upgrade to the showers has been completed on all the wings. This has stopped serious issues of dampness situated in cells within close proximity to the shower blocks. Some wings/cells have benefitted by floor surfaces having been re-laid which has improved matters. The wings are continually being repainted, as part of the prisoner work programmes. This does not detract that the cells are of a Victorian build and require constant attention.

(iv) Transfers from Other Regions and Associated Problems

HMP Liverpool is a large, adult, local prison which now receives prisoners from the courts at Blackburn and Wigan in addition to local courts. There remain quite a large number of prisoners received from the Birmingham area. Issues of property and prisoner monies delays remains. Prisoners incurring "debt" can lead to anger and very serious situations. (See Section 6 etc)

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 in to curtail the issues but would recommend further resources be allocated to this area.

(ii) The Timpson Workshop

The good work from the last few years has continued. Prisoners, in the main, welcome the opportunities afforded by working in the Timpson's workshop and appear proud of their achievements. The Board would reiterate that Timpson's, once again, should be congratulated and thanked for this very worthwhile scheme.

(iii) Kitchen

Despite a cut in the amount spent per prisoner (£2.16 per day) the kitchen has managed to maintain a good standard of food prepared. (It has been indicated that further reductions of the money spent per prisoner will be implemented to £1.96 during 2013 which would place great strains upon the system). Not every prisoner would necessarily agree with this, however, from the Board Rotas,

Applications Process and the kitchens own complaint books, most prisoners are satisfied with the food produced.

(iv) Staff

The Board has sympathies with the staff regarding the closure of the mess/canteen facilities. Staff tend to remain on the wings whilst having lunch etc which is far from ideal.

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 require continual attention. Many areas of the prison would benefit from modernisation e.g. Workshops and the 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 them for their cooperation in attempting to resolve prisoner problems presented to The Board through the Applications system

Major Concerns

- 1 Mental Health/Personality Disorder Problems (Section 3(a) (i))
- 2 Staffing Levels (Section 3(a)(ii))
- 3 Drugs, Bullying and Mobile Phones (Section 3 (b) (i))

Section Four

a. Healthcare Facility at HMP Liverpool

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 patients/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 re profile.

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% attendances are being achieved on some days but need to be improved.

b. Separation & Care Unit

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. (This 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.

Prisoners are reviewed 72 hours after their initial segregation and again after 14 days. These reviews are attended by the Governor, SO Chaplaincy, Healthcare, NOMIS 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 efforts are made to relocate them to a more suitable establishment as soon as possible.

Segregation and Adjudication Review Group (SAARG) meetings are held in order to discuss the management of this 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.

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

There are now 4 full time staff within the chaplaincy department (2 Roman Catholic, 1 Imam and 1 Church Of England). There are several part time staff who attend to the needs of Buddhists’, Sikhs, Methodist and Jewish faiths. This has helped enormously after previous years difficulties.

d. Safer Custody & Suicide Prevention

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

During 2012 there were 4 deaths in custody recorded. 2 of those were from natural causes and 2 were self inflicted.

Prisoner ethnicity incorporates 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.

Section Five

a. Learning & Skills/Education

Full unannounced HMIP/Ofsted inspection took place on 16th December 2011. The Education departments' Ofsted outcome resulted in Grade 2.

Good Teaching and Learning

Good Outcome for Learners

Good Quality of Provision

Good Management and Leadership

Good Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity.

Learner enrolments were 4456.

Retention rate 95%

Success Rate 86%

Equality and Diversity

The First Step Drug Rehabilitation Programme supported by the good partnership working between the departments's Catering and Hospitality team and the establishment's PEI (Gym) team. The programme help raise awareness to learners with substance misuse issues, that exercise and healthy eating can support healthy lifestyles and a path towards rehabilitation.

Learners undertook exercise in the gym and were provided with healthy food samples prepared for them by the Education Department's catering and hospitality team.

The Education Department also supported the establishment's PEI team to offer nationally recognised accreditation to learners completing the programme.

Examples of other E&D activities delivered and supported the department (2011-2012) include

Merseyside Mental Awareness Reading and Well Being Programme

Black History Month celebrations (photographs display, creative writings, multicultural food tasting sessions provided for learners).

Christmas Celebrations

Chinese New Year Celebrations

Men's Health Promotions (Merseyside Primary Care Trust)

Koestler Creative Arts Competition 2012 - From over 8000 Koestler entries, HMP Liverpool learners won 17 of the awards on offer. These include 1 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze, 2 first entries, 5 highly commended and three commended awards for learners work submitted from the Creative Writing, Art, Graphic Design and radio broadcasting programmes. During 2012 National Exhibition in London's Southbank Centre will be exhibiting two pieces of learners work.
Pulp Idol Writing Competition - one learner won 2nd place and another won 3rd place.

Vocational Training Provision Expansion

The department expanded its vocational training provision to include bricklaying and plastering, by subcontracting and forming an on offsite working partnership with the Fusion 21 training provider.

On Site Partnership Construction Carousel Level 1 Diploma

Painting and Decorating	The Manchester College
Plumbing	The Manchester College
Bricklaying	Fusion 21
Plastering	Fusion 21

Off-site Working Partnership – The Manchester College and Fusion 21 offering through the gate employment and further training opportunities.

Staff Mess Business Proposal

Present business enterprise proposal to the establishment for operating the staff mess. Success of this proposal will allow the department to provide Catering/Customer Service Training for learners along with recognised accreditations.

Virtual Campus

The start up of a resettlement programme provided by education, providing internet job search facilities, recognising your own employment skills, CV writing and letters of application support.

Feedback from a learner survey 2011-2012 was quite positive. 93% of learners stated that learning and skills is a safe place to learn
93% of learners stated that they were happy with their course.
Most stated that they enjoyed their course and were looking forward to progressing to level 2
Most stated that they acknowledged that their teacher was knowledgeable and shows them different and easier ways at doing things.

b. Offender Management

The Probation Team consists of 1 Senior Probation Officer (who is Head of the Public Protection and Offender Supervision), and 4 Probation Officer Service Officers (one of whom specialise in Bail Accommodation support). There are also 3 Probation Officers working as Programme Facilitators in the Reducing Reoffending function. They deliver the Thinking Skills Programme, Focus on Resettlement and Short Duration Programme and achieve all their key targets.

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

A major focus for the Probation team in the OMU over the last year 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 assessments and MAPPA reports.

There are two Probation Officers working in the Public Protection Unit to ensure comprehensive assessments of all offenders who have completed offences that pose a risk to the public, and effective risk management of those individuals. Of the 300 high risk or prolific offenders supervised by the OMU 74 are currently VISOR nominal's (Violent Sexual Offenders Register) and 40 sentenced to indeterminate sentences. The team has achieved 100% compliance with the VISOR Key Performance Target over the last year, and has supplied on average 15 reports to MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Agency) meetings per month.

c. Reception

Reception has processed the intake of 630 prisoners in the last year with a total of 1006 discharges. 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.

d. Drug Strategy

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

A Wing originally set up as a 3D (Don't Do Drugs) wing for prisoners who are drug free and agree to remain so has now been changed to first nighters.

H Wing (Drug Treatment) and Health Care Centre provide treatments for those with acute addiction.

Drug treatments were changed to increase the proportion of prisoners receiving detox as opposed to maintenance. H Wing handles approx 200 hundred prisoners per day. CARATS (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advise and Throughcare) have now been replaced by Lifeline.

Section Six

Appendices – The Work of the Board

i. Appendix 1 Applications to the Board

CODE	SUBJECT	2010	2011	2012
A	Medical	56	78	89
B	Property	84	54	69
C	Transfers	36	101	39
D	Visits	56	56	28
E	HDC	55	34	16
F	Parole	17	2	5
G	Prisoners Monies	75	32	34
H	Immigration	11	9	3
I	Release Date	61	30	43
J	Assaults	25	13	9
K	Workshops	25	19	-
L	Categorisation	45	35	4
M	Pin Phones	52	30	34
N	Education	17	12	42
O	Canteen	18	4	4
P	Adjudications	-	8	1
Q	Food	15	10	27
R	Drugs	2	4	-
S	Early Release Scheme	-	-	-
T	Mail	44	14	Inc with PIN Phones
U	Miscellaneous	57	82	106
	TOTAL	751	626	553

Application forms (now following guidelines and using the revised application forms as per the National Council/Secretariat) are available to all prisoners on the eight 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	None Attendance
v.	Training Sessions	-
vi.	National Courses	2 delegates
vii.	Review visits	52