



**The Annual Report of the Independent
Monitoring Board
1st January - 31st December 2013**

**Her Majesty's Prison
Liverpool**

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

**Vice Chairman
Miss Margaret McKinney**

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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	-	First Nighters
B Wing	-	First Night Remand
K Wing	-	Vulnerable Prisoners
J Wing	-	J1 Reintegration
		J2 Enhanced Labour and Basic
- 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, Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT), Forensic Services, Dual Diagnosis, Personality Disorder Services, Early Intervention in Psychosis, Crisis Intervention and mental health services/early 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 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 Mental Health Care Team.

(ii) Staffing Levels

The Board raised concerns in the 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports regarding the staffing levels at HMP Liverpool. Governor Illingsworth and his management team have had to implement substantial cuts which have resulted in the loss of even 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. If staffing levels were reduced further, the Board feels that the capability of prison staff to contain any incident that may take place would seriously compromise staff. 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 Board stands by its concerns as mentioned in the 2012 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. Issues of property and prisoner monies delays remains. Prisoners incurring "debt" can lead to anger and very serious situations.

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 they 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) The Bike Shop

The bike shop does sterling work refitting wheelchairs and recycling bikes in a partnership with the Jole Ryder Charity and the Margaret Carey Foundation. Both are sent by containers to Africa, Eastern Europe and Iraq. Since 2002 10,000 units have been through the workshop and the Board has perceived prisoners take great pride in their work.

(iv) Kitchen

Despite a cut in the amount spent per prisoner the kitchen has managed to maintain a good standard of food prepared (£2.10 to £1.96 per day in October 2012 - though kitchen staff were only told this in March/April 2013 and it was backdated and deducted then). An overspend on special diets is hoping to be further reduced.

(v) Staff

The Staff Mess has reopened and is a great success. Prisoners are able to take vocational training at four levels run by Manchester College (NVQ1, NVQ2, Professional Cookery and Customer Service). 65% of takings are ploughed back into the mess. The Board perceive this as an excellent training ground for future employment.

c. The Boards Overall Judgement

The overall judgement of the Independent Monitoring Board at Liverpool Prison is that 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 acknowledge the work undertaken by management, officers and staff in the continuous process of improvement and modernisation during 2013. 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.
2. Staffing Levels.
3. Drugs and bullying and mobile phones.

Section Four

a. Healthcare Facility at HMP Liverpool

Healthcare Service Review (involving Lancashire Area Team)

- (i) Full health needs assessment of men held in prison has been completed.
- (ii) A 3 person crisis team is now in place and up and running.
- (iii) Development of a more structured mental health pathway and mental working group set to explore issues and look at referral pathway.
- (iv) 1 part time GP now working at HMP Liverpool with 3 locums.
- (v) Day Care Centre.
- (vi) Development and improvement of dental needs is increased to 6 sessions a week.

Inpatient Unit

Operating at 96% for most part of the year although several cells are out of action due to damage by disruptive patients/prisoners.

Primary Care

The plan to end lunchtime treatments has now ended. Primary Care shift patterns have changed to accommodate different ways of working by the prison since re-profile. GP surgeries have now moved to outpatients. A patient survey carried out received 150 replies, all positive. Outpatients' attendance is improving. The targets of 70% + attendances are being achieved on some days but needs to be improved.

b. Separation and Care 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 basic regime). Prisoners are held in this unit with humane and just treatment. The objective of the unit is to influence prisoners' behaviour for the better. Prisoners are reviewed every 72 hours after their initial segregation and again after 14 days. These reviews are attended by a Governor, SO, Chaplaincy, HCC 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 prisoners is discussed. Prisoners with mental health issues remain a concern although efforts are made to relocate them to a more suitable establishment as soon as possible.

SAARG meetings (Segregation and Adjudication Review Group) are held in order to discuss management of this unit. The unit is now able to provide library books, radios if permitted, newspapers and puzzle books. 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 with the Chaplaincy Department (2 Roman Catholic, 1 Iman and 1 Church of England). There are several part time staff who attend the needs of Buddhists, Sikhs, Methodists, Jewish faiths, Salvation Army, Pagan and other faiths (the Buddhist post is currently vacant). 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 2013 there were 4 deaths in custody (3 natural causes/illness (not on ACCT's) and 1 self inflicted (on an ACCT). 624 ACCT's were opened and there were 207 incidents of self harm.

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 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

(1) Full unannounced HMIP/OFSTED Inspection 21st October 2013. The Education departments OFSTED outcome resulted in Grade 3.

Good teaching and learning.
Good outcomes for learners.
Good quality of provision.
Good management and leadership.
Good safeguarding and Equality and Diversity.

(2) Headline figures below show an overall summary of teaching and learning performance and breakdown of curriculum strand performance for 2012-13:-

Learner enrolments 5633
Learner achievements 3244
Retention rate 93%
Success rate 78%

(3) Equality and Diversity.

The First Step Drug Rehabilitation Programme supported by the good partnership working between the departments Catering and Hospitality Team and the establishments PEI Team. The programme helps 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 Departments Catering and Hospitality Team.

The Education Department also supported the establishments PEI Team to offer nationally recognised accreditation to learners completing the programme.

Examples of other activities delivered and supported by the department (2012-13) include:-

Merseyside Mental Awareness Reading and Well Being Programme.

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

Christmas Celebrations.

Mens Health promotions (Merseyside Primary Care Trust).

(4) Vocational Training Provision Expansion

The departments training includes bricklaying and plastering by sub-contracting and forming an on and offsite working partnership with Fusion 21 training provider.

On-site partnership construction carousel Level 1 diploma. P & D. The Manchester College. Plumbing The Manchester College. Bricklaying - Fusion 21. Plastering - Fusion 21.

Off-site partnership. The Manchester College and Fusion 21 offer through the gate employment and further training opportunities.

(5) The Staff Mess re-opened in August 2013 which allows the department to provide catering/customer service training for learners along with nationally recognised accreditations. Opportunity for all members of staff to purchase breakfasts and lunches.

(6) Virtual Campus. The Education Department delivers an employability skills qualification which includes offers start-up of resettlement programme provided by the Education, providing internet job search facilities, recognising your own employability skills, CV writing and letters of application support.

b. Offender Management

The Probation Department consists of 1 Senior Probation Officer and 4 Probation Officers. High risk or prolific offenders in 2013 varied day to day, about 300 at any time. Prisoners on ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offenders Register) 2013 – 100 at any one time.

The IPP sentence (Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection) was abolished in December 2013 so Probation only received 1 new IPP sentence in 2013, however, an approximate figure of how many IPP's they hold at any 1 time is 27. The percentage of compliance for VISOR KPT's (Key Performance Target) in 2013 was 100% throughout. Reports sent to MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) in 2013 were 121.

3 Probation Officers working in Thinking Skills Programme. Focus on Resettlement and Short Duration Programme achieve all key targets. The Public Protection Unit is also an integral part of the OMU.

c. Reception

Reception has processed 9755 receptions, 9930 discharges and 19685 combined.

Breakdown;-

Reception		Discharges	
Admission	5344	Release	3248
Court	3207	Transfers	1498
Temporary Absence	1204	Temporary Absence/Home Leave	1215
TOTAL	9755	TOTAL	9930

The Body Orifice Scanner 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.

Drug Strategy

HMP Liverpool has made considerable progress with its drug strategy during 2013. A Wing originally set up as 3D (Don't Do Drugs) Wing for prisoners who are drugs free and agreed to remain so, has now changed to first nighters. A comprehensive help scheme with personal officers and Listeners is assigned to all new prisoners (H Wing) (Drug Treatment). Healthcare Centre staff 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 approximately 200 prisoners per day. J2R (Journey to Recovery) was introduced in 2013, a therapeutic landing for prisoners with a history of substance misuse.

Section Six

Appendices – The Work of the Board

i. Appendix 1 Applications to the Board

CODE	SUBJECT	2011	2012	2013
A	Medical	78	89	125
B	Property	54	69	62
C	Transfers	101	39	38
D	Visits	56	28	32
E	HDC	34	16	12
F	Parole	2	5	4
G	Prisoners Monies	32	34	19
H	Immigration	9	3	4
I	Release Date	30	43	24
J	Assaults	13	9	10
K	Workshops	19	-	-
L	Categorisation	35	4	9
M	Pin Phones	30	34	23
N	Education	12	42	10
O	Canteen	4	4	5
P	Adjudications	8	1	2
Q	Food	10	27	11
R	Drugs	4	-	-
S	Early Release Scheme	-	-	-
T	Mail	14	Inc with PIN Phones	12
U	Miscellaneous	82	106	59
	TOTAL	626	553	461

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