

HMP North Sea Camp

Independent Monitoring Board



Annual Report

1st March 2010 to 28th February 2011

Reporting Officer: Mrs E Armstrong (Chairman)

SECTION 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre (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

This Board is known as the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) is specifically charged to:

- 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.
- Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- 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 custody.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have the right of access to every prisoner, every part of the prison and also to the prison's records, with the exception of individual's medical records unless specifically granted in writing by each individual.

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SECTION 3

DESCRIPTION OF HMP NORTH SEA CAMP

North Sea Camp is an Open Category D male Resettlement Prison with a Certified Normal Accommodation now of 378. It opened in 1935 as a Borstal and became an adult male prison in 1988. The prison is set in a rural location six miles East of Boston

The accommodation comprises of five residential units, a kitchen and dining room, a modern Healthcare unit, a well equipped gymnasium, Chapel, Library and working farm incorporating workshops. There is also a large playing field which the prisoners can use for football and outdoor sporting activities, and during association periods up to 20.00hrs during the summer months.

North Sea Camp has the following contractors/agencies delivering services:

Healthcare is provided by Lincolnshire PCT

Education and Training is provided by Lincoln College.

Other programmes at North Sea Camp include CARATS.

SDP has been gradually phased out because of the changing population.

Voluntary organisations providing assistance to prisoners include Community Links, Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous.

SECTION 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The planned improvements to the accommodation units started in October 2010 and are due to be completed by the beginning of May 2011. The overall look of the accommodation units is much improved by the replacement of the exterior cladding, new roofing and replacement double glazed windows. The shower blocks have also been refurbished. With works not starting until October there were times when a unit would be without heating, hot water and showers, and this during one of the worst winters for several years. However, the Board considers that the staff are to be commended for their commonsense approach to coping with the situation, managing the prisoners complaints and ensuring they had access to these facilities regardless. The prisoners seem very pleased with the refurbishments overall.

Following the problems at Ford Open Prison in January 2011 the Management Team at HMP North Sea Camp offered to accommodate a number of prisoners from Ford. The CNA (Certified Normal Accommodation) has since been increased permanently to 378. Most prisoner rooms now have two beds. A small separate unit has been created, which initially was intended for older prisoners who it was thought would prefer the more peaceful surroundings. However, the idea has been abandoned as not enough older prisoners applied to be housed in this unit. The Board would like to congratulate the Management and staff as this has all been achieved within the current budget and without an increase in resources.

The new purpose built Healthcare Unit opened this year which is a vast improvement on the old building, however, the positioning of the unit could be a problem for some prisoners (see 5.3 e). Staffing issues have been overcome (see 5.3 a/b) and Healthcare now provides prisoners with good level of clinical care in a modern, bright and professional ambience

There is a shortage of qualified ACCT Assessors within the establishment which concerns the Board (see 5.4 c). However, during the reporting period there have been no incidents of self harm and only 5 ACCTs.

Racism and bullying does not appear to be a problem at HMP North Sea Camp with very few instances being reported (see 5.1 f)

The multi-faith Chaplaincy Team continues to provide valuable support to prisoners at North Sea Camp. They act as listeners, provide direction for those seeking advice and through the "Futures Unlocked" charity programme offer valuable assistance to those resettlement prisoners being released back into the community.

The main concerns of the Board relate to the changing prisoner profile and increase in prisoner population at North Sea Camp. At the same time the prison management is being asked to reduce overall spending. With an ageing prisoner population generating its own particular needs and demands on the budget plus more IPPs (Indeterminate Public Protection prisoners) the Board cannot see how HMP North Sea Camp will be able to support or sustain the desired resettlement programmes which will facilitate prisoners re-integrate back into their local community (see 5.2 i and 6.2 b,c,d).

AREAS ON WHICH THE BOARD MUST REPORT**5.1 Diversity**

- a. The current Racial Equality Officer (REO) was appointed in 2009 but did not receive any appropriate training for the role until May 2010.
- b. Records are incomplete for this reporting period due to the fact the newly appointed REO did not receive any official training. Departmental Heads have not been submitting reports and so records have not been maintained of important data relating to Race Equality issues.
- c. Without the information it is difficult to see how the Management Team can effectively serve the diverse prisoner population in the establishment
- d. The REO (Race Equality Officer) has now taken steps to review procedures and put in place remedial action plans where necessary.
- e. The Diversity Manager now has a monitoring system in place, updated monthly. This makes it easier to see what information is missing and what the issues are so that steps can be taken to improve service delivery.
- f. There has been a small number of Racial Incident Reports, mainly between prisoners rather than against a member of the prison staff, all of which have been resolved successfully.

Type of incident	Jan 2010 – Dec 2011
Prisoner on Prisoner	2
Prisoner on Staff	2
Staff on Prisoner	3
Total	7

SECTION 5

5.2 Learning and Skills

- a. This reporting year has not only seen an increase in the prisoner population at North Sea Camp but also a change to the prisoner profile with more long/indeterminate prisoners than previously catered for. Accordingly departments have had to adjust to accommodate the needs of these prisoners.
- b. The Resettlement Team has been disbanded and a Community Engagement Team introduced to deal with all CSV and paid work placements.
- c. Training with the Education Team has continued to evolve with courses aimed at providing life skills and personal development to support the Resettlement Programme.
- d. Available courses are clearly advertised in each prisoner accommodation unit.
- e. The establishment has exceeded over 700 work skills accreditations with much of this attributable to the farm and garden teams who have implemented additional training for prisoners. There has been fewer accreditations from the gym and kitchen due to reductions in staffing levels.
- f. With the assistance of the Lincolnshire Action Trust the establishment has been able to deliver a range of training opportunities in Fork Lift Truck courses, Streetworks NVQ's and Warehousing qualifications although this funding ceased at the end of 2010. It is hoped that further funding will be found to continue these training opportunities.
- g. Previously the establishment has not been able to deliver the quality of training due to the short sentence prison population. Now the situation is different and some prisoners are able to achieve up to NVQ Level 3 during their stay at HMP North Sea Camp. This gives the prisoner an advantage when competing for work in the job market.
- h. CSV and Paid Work opportunities are currently in excess of 100 on these programmes. It is expected that paid work placements will continue to increase for those working externally. For those prisoners unable to access external opportunities it is hoped to develop enhanced paid work roles within the establishment.
- i. Funding is obviously a problem for both the Education and Skills Teams and workshops with the workshops finding it difficult to provide even basic materials needed for their courses. The cost of the courses can vary considerably with some basic non technical courses costing as little as £10 and higher level courses costing as much as £300. With the increase in the numbers of long/indeterminate prisoners, in the Boards opinion, more funding will be required to sustain and extend the existing Resettlement Programme.

SECTION 5

5.3 Healthcare

- a. The beginning of the reporting year suffered a few problems with low staff morale and motivation due to poor working practices and the lack of an appointed manager.
- b. Poor communication between departments meant that some prisoners missed their hospital appointments because no ROTL had been organised. There were also instances of hospital letters regarding prescription aftercare being mislaid.
- c. The new purpose built Healthcare Unit opened half way through the year and a new Manager appointed.
- d. The Manager has introduced new routines and set new standards for good practice. Staff are now better supervised and motivated
- e. The Board does have some concerns about the siting of the unit. It is situated well away from the main prison accommodation units which might be a problem for a prisoner who is really too ill to walk or physically disabled. However, the Board is assured that, if necessary, Healthcare staff will visit the prisoner in his room. The Board is satisfied that this is the case.
- f. The old Healthcare Unit is now occupied by a Mental Health Team and CARATS. This accommodation provides more space and privacy and, although HMP North Sea Camp still has no psychologist, there is now the opportunity to provide a more comprehensive and confidential service in less cramped conditions.
- g. As they are both situated in the same unit the Mental Health Team and CARATS can liaise more easily for the benefit of prisoner's health.
- h. There is a dedicated IDTS member of the Healthcare Team who works closely with CARATS to provide support and rehabilitation for prisoners on the IDTS Programme.
- i. Good work is being done with IDTS now that there is a dedicated member of staff appointed to run the programme. It is hoped that more prisoners will be encouraged to engage with the IDTS staff and CARATS.
- j. There are no specialist councillors in Healthcare, CARATS or Mental Health to support the programmes.

SECTION 5

5.4 Safer Custody

- a. There have been no deaths in custody and no reports of self harm for this reporting year.
- b. There have been 83 Violence Reduction plans opened during the reporting year, resulting in prisoners being transferred.
- c. 5 ACCTS in this reporting year with one prisoner being transferred.
- d. The Board is advised that the establishment has only one qualified ACCT Assessor. The Board is concerned that though there are 10 Assessors in total in the prison they have not all received the required refresher training. The Board is advised the reason for this is that the coordinator was based at HMP Ashwell and that has now closed. New arrangements have yet to be put in place.
- e. Two Family Liaison Officers have been appointed this reporting year.
- f. The Board is advised that some Conflict Resolution training has already taken place with the intention of incorporating this into a review of the Violence Reduction Programme
- g. The Safer Custody Committee meets once a month with a representative from most departments attending. Usually a member of the IMB also attends. The Board has been advised that Samaritans no longer attend these meetings.
- h. There were several times during the year that these meetings were either poorly attended or were cancelled altogether at the last minute due to lack of support. The Board expressed their concern to the Management that as a Meeting Schedule is compiled at the beginning of each year there should be no excuse for members not being available to attend or at least send a deputy. The Board is not aware of any recent meetings being cancelled through lack of support.
- i. 525 Adjudications during the year of which 14% were for breach of licence etc

OTHER AREAS OF THE PRISON ON WHICH THE BOARD HAS ISSUES TO REPORT

6.1 Catering and Kitchen

- a. The staffing issues of the previous year appear to have now been resolved and the Catering staff continue to provide value for money on the minimal budget allocated to them.
- b. The menus vary on a weekly basis with prisoner dietary needs being met.
- c. The Kitchen does the occasional themed nights when the menus will comprise dishes from a chosen country. These will often coincide with cultural or religious events on the calendar. This is generally very well received by the prisoners and seen as an opportunity by the prisoners working in the kitchen to further demonstrate their culinary skills especially those doing their NVQs.
- d. On occasions the Catering staff have provided services outside the prison for the local community, such as providing the catering for Christmas dinners for Age UK. The Board sees this as a positive approach by the establishment not only to allow the local community to meet the prisoners but also it assists prisoners, especially long/indeterminate prisoners, adapt and prepare for a life on the 'outside'.
- e. The Board would like to see more produce from the Farm coming into the kitchen.

SECTION 6

6.2 Chaplaincy

- a. There are ten members of the Chaplaincy Team at HMP North Sea Camp; nine of these are part time with only one full time. All religious faiths are represented with the exception being there is no visiting Sikh or Hindu representative. An Imam visits twice a week (14hrs). If the prison Chapel is unable to accommodate a Sikh or Hindu festival then the prisoner is allowed out on Temporary Release (ROTL) to visit Leicester or Peterborough as the nearest place of worship.
- b. The Board is disappointed to be told that the very successful Growth Journey programme is barely able to operate now due to lack of funding. A pilot scheme has been running on a voluntary basis in the establishment which has been very popular with those attending and has achieved a 99% success rate. However, there is no budget to fund the cost of the accreditation required to run the programme on a formal basis and so the programme is to be withdrawn.
- c. The Community Chaplaincy Partnership is still working well though again the Board is advised this too is affected by lack of funding. This Partnership works with the local community seeking their support and co-operation in helping prisoners reintegrate back into society. Every Wednesday a group of representatives of different faiths from the local community meets in the Chapel as part of this programme.
- d. The Prison Chaplaincy Team recognizes the need to change to meet the challenges created by the rise in the prison population and the increasing population of elderly prisoners plus regime changes. Add to this the reduced resources and limited finances available the Chaplaincy has to constantly review its range of Chaplaincy activities, including worship, that are provided by the Team.

SECTION 6

6.3 The Farm

- a. Another disappointing year as the Board still has concerns that the farm is not being managed to its full potential and this has been raised again with Management.
- b. There are too many empty polytunnels and too much emphasis on the breeding of sheep and attending shows.
- c. There is a lack of accountability for animals slaughtered or sold, some of which are pedigree award winning sheep, and what has happened to fleeces etc.
- d. Although the supply of food to the Kitchen is slightly up on last year the Board still considers that the Farm should be supplying far more food, making the prison more or less self sufficient.
- e. The Farm Shop is often poorly stocked and the produce of poor quality.
- f. The Board considers that record keeping is poor and there is still an overall lack of accountability.
- g. Once again this Board recommends that the farm undergoes more frequent auditing and that balance sheets should be produced on a regular basis for audit trail purpose.

SECTION 7

THE WORK OF THE IMB AT HMP NORTH SEA CAMP

The Board carries out rota visits on a weekly basis with a member attending the new prisoner Inductions every Monday morning.

Prisoner applications are taken either via the IMB boxes placed in the prisoner accommodation units or when a prisoner makes a direct approach to a Board member as they walk around the establishment. Applications are dealt with as they are received and prisoners are kept updated on progress as much as is possible as many prisoners are out at work during the day.

The Board monitors Adjudications including the external Independent Adjudicator.

Board meetings are held once a month when the Governor is invited to attend to deliver his Monthly Report and members may raise any other matters of concern or interest with the Governor.

Members attend some of the Prison Service meetings.

7.1 Training

Departmental heads are sometimes invited to talk about their role and the work of their department at the monthly meetings. This is particularly helpful to new Board members on probation but also to all members as a way of keeping up to date with changes which take place within the establishment.

Several members of the Board enjoyed a visit to HMP Hollesley Bay. It was interesting to compare the Education and Resettlement programmes run by the prison. The Board members also met with the Governor and had a most interesting discussion about the prison regimes. The Board of NSC were very impressed with the pride which the prison staff at HMP Hollesley Bay displayed when discussing their roles and their achievements.

Two Board members attended National Conference.

SECTION 7

7.2 Board Statistics for HMP North Sea Camp

Board Statistics	Mar 2010 to Feb 2011
Recommended Complement of Board Members	10
Number of Board Members at start of reporting period	7
Number of Board Members at end of reporting period	5
Number of new members joining within reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within reporting period	4
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	39
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	356
Total number of applications received	97
Total number of segregation reviews held	N/A
Total number of segregation reviews attended	N/A

7.3 Statistics re Applications from Prisoners

Code	Subject	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
A	Accommodation	6	12	7
B	Adjudications	6	4	6
C	Diversity related	4	1	2
D	Education/Employment/Training	5	2	3
E	Family/Visits	1	2	7
F	Food/Kitchen related	2	4	Nil
G	Health related	7	6	8
H	Property	7	2	12
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC)	27	23	38
J	Staff/Prisoner related	3	2	6
K	Transfers	1	13	Nil
L	Miscellaneous	29	38	8
	Total Number of Applications	98	109	97