



HMP North Sea Camp

Independent Monitoring Board

Annual Report

1st March 2011 to 29th February 2012

Reporting Officer:
Mr Stephen Knox (Chairman)

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)

The Board 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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1. 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 a working farm incorporating workshops. There is also a large playing field which prisoners can use for football and outdoor sporting activities and during association periods up to 20.00hrs in 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 and Lincolnshire Action Trust.

CARATS - providing drug/alcohol support and counselling

Probation Service

The Short Duration Programme (SDP) which focused mainly on literacy and numeracy skills for short term prisoners has been phased out because of the changed population.

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

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From the exterior, the overall look of the accommodation units has been much improved by the replacement of the exterior cladding; new roofing and replacement double glazed windows. However, internally the North and South Units reveal the original decades old structures, clean but shabby and in places exposing bare rotten wood. The shower and toilet areas having been refurbished are clean and tidy. Most prisoner rooms now have two beds and are cramped with insufficient storage space and in need of refurbishment.

Another area in a poor state and in need of refurbishment is the external waiting room for official and other visitors to the establishment. For some, this will be the first impression they get of the prison and it will not be a good one. In contrast, the Visits Centre within the prison used for family visits was refurbished some time ago and provides a comfortable environment with examples of prisoners art work on the walls and with good refreshment facilities.

The purpose built Healthcare Unit is a vast improvement on the old building and now provides prisoners with good level of clinical care in a modern, bright and professional ambience.

There have been few instances of racism and bullying being reported and these are not seen to be a problem.

The main concerns of the Board at North Sea Camp relate to issues arising from the increasing prisoner population and profile i.e. ageing prisoners and prisoners serving long term or indeterminate sentences. An ageing prisoner population generates its own particular needs e.g. healthcare requirements, activities, accommodation adjustments, facilities and assistance for wheelchair users. The prison causes problems for some of the less mobile prisoners, particularly those reliant on wheelchairs. Demands on the budget, when management is being asked to reduce overall spending and staff time will make it difficult to support and sustain the desired resettlement programmes that facilitate the re-integration of prisoners into their local community. High unemployment in the area adds to an already difficult resettlement problem.

The Parole Board backlog of about 6 months causes concern to many prisoners and extends their stay

The Board has concerns over a situation affecting the gymnasium. This is an important facility for prisoners and good use is made of it. The opening hours were increased during the year, but this was not matched by an increase in the hours of the Instructors (one full time and 1 part time). The Board were informed that an additional part time Instructor would be made available, but because of shift patterns and other duties the additional hours

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allocated to the gymnasium never really materialised. On the plus side, the staff who do work in the gymnasium do an excellent job in the hours they have. Of particular note is the time they and prisoners give to people with learning difficulties who come from the community to use the facilities. We have unsupervised sessions on a daily basis 0800-2000hrs

Prisoners regularly experience problems with the Offender Management Unit (OMU). There are frequent occasions when prisoners who are due out on ROTL are not getting timely information and their arrangements have to be cancelled. The Board recognises that the work of staff in the unit is hampered to some extent by external agencies that are slow to provide information and the concentration of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) places a strain on resources, but low staffing levels to cope with these problems have contributed to delays. Prisoners have commented to Board members about the poor access and attitude from staff when they visit the OMU, something that members have observed.

3. AREAS ON WHICH THE BOARD MUST REPORT

3.1 DIVERSITY

Race and Diversity is managed through DREAT (Diversity and Race Equality Action Team) meetings. These are chaired by the Governor and held bi-monthly. An agenda item provides an opportunity for a Prisoner Representative to address the meeting and raise any concerns. All problems raised by the Prisoner Representative are resolved either at the meeting or assigned to a member of the Senior Management Team as an action point for later investigation.

A Prisoner Race Equality meeting is held every month when a Prisoner Representative meets with the Race Equality Officer. Any unresolved issues are taken forward as action points and are addressed at the next DREAT meeting.

The Prisoner Representatives hold an 'Over 50's Club' twice a week which has proved to be very successful and is well attended, if only for its recreational value.

The Board is satisfied that all racist incidences, on the rare occasions when they arise, are investigated thoroughly by the Management of the prison.

The ageing prisoner population in North Sea Camp brings with it an increasing number of prisoners with disabilities of one kind or another. The Board is of the view that the prison is not always set-up to deal with them. Whilst wheelchair users are assigned a 'buddy' to assist them in getting about, not all the facilities available are accessible and wheelchair storage in the prisoner's room is inadequate.

3.2 Education

Education is provided by Lincoln College and Lincolnshire Action Trust.

The Board is pleased to report that compared to last year there has been a notable increase in the number of prisoners enrolling for education, a trend that is set to continue. The current achievement rate of successfully completed learning aims is 64% and is expected to increase considerably as results for courses are received and exceed the previous year's rate of 80%.

There have been considerable changes to the curriculum in North Sea Camp since the last report. The Vocational Training area has progressed significantly from only offering Level 1 Bricklaying and Painting & Decorating to now being able to offer Level 2 in both subjects and Level 3 in Bricklaying. It is hoped that Level 3 Painting & Decorating will be available soon. A further improvement is that learners in these subjects not only gain their VT qualification, but they are also able to learn English, Maths and IT whilst in the workshop. Several learners have chosen to complete a Pre-Apprenticeship that covers all aspects of the Apprenticeship framework except the on-site experience.

The suite of short courses available to prisoners has also expanded, having evolved through learner feedback and are regularly being updated to meet the needs of those who use them. The instructors who facilitate the courses have worked hard to get outside agencies involved and now have a list of organisations that regularly attend to enrich the learning e.g. HMRC to talk on tax requirements, RBS to talk on personal and business finance, Upright Solutions who give information on web analytics and marketing, Fresh Start Insurance who specialise in insurance for people with a criminal record and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The delivery of English and Maths has been developed so that the new Functional Skills qualifications are offered from Entry 1 – Entry 2. These qualifications are designed to equip learners with the necessary skills to be able to solve everyday problems. IT is embedded in all the courses and is also offered as a discreet class on a part-time basis and as an evening class.

3.3 The Community Engagement Team

The Community Engagement Team was introduced to deal with all Community Service Volunteer (CSV) and paid work placements. The Team has successfully adjusted to accommodate the increase in prisoner population and the needs arising out of the changed prisoner profile, there being more long term/indeterminate sentence prisoners. Training to help equip prisoners on placements has continued to evolve with courses aimed at providing life skills and personal development to support the Resettlement Programme.

Available courses are clearly advertised in each accommodation unit and also on the main walk way.

The establishment has succeeded in obtaining work skills accreditations, much of this attributable to the farm and garden teams who have implemented additional training for prisoners. There have been fewer accreditations from the gym. 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, and other qualifications.

The increase in the number of long term/indeterminate prisoners has enabled the establishment to deliver quality training not previously possible with a short sentence population. Now, some prisoners are able to achieve up to NVQ Level 3 during their stay, improving their employability when competing for work in the job market.

Currently, there are in excess of 100 prisoners taking advantage of the Community Service Volunteer (CSV) and Paid Work programmes. However, local unemployment may make future paid work placements more difficult to obtain. For those prisoners unable to access external opportunities it is hoped to develop enhanced paid work roles within the establishment

3.4 Healthcare

The Primary Healthcare service at HMP North Sea Camp was transferred to Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT) on 1st April 2011.

The Head of Prison Healthcare is based in HMP Lincoln and visits HMP North Sea Camp regularly. Daily operational management is maintained by the on-site Manager for Primary Health Care Services. Management for IDTS and Mental Health Services remains with the management structure from HMP Lincoln.

The Healthcare Centre has 16 part time and full time staff and is open for appointments on three occasions over the course of the day for one hour sessions. In addition, specific clinics are open during core hours. There is no problem with dentistry as prisoners make their own appointments when out on town visits or home leave. Prisoners also have the ability to use the Rotl system if an emergency appointment is required. The optician attends for half a day a month which is inadequate and results in a long waiting list of prisoners who do not have town visits or go home on resettlement programmes.

The team has to meet the healthcare needs of a wide range of long term prisoners e.g. the elderly, those with complex conditions, wheelchair users and those who require support with social care. The numbers in these categories will increase with the rise in the prisons population. The establishment is currently liaising with social care providers in Lincolnshire to secure medical assessments for prisoners, but in the meantime all care needs are being provided for by the primary healthcare team. Social Services have not previously assessed prisoners before release, causing difficulties in determining the through care services needed on release and this is again part of the liaison with social care.

The EPOC (Early Presentation of Cancer) programme has been started at North Sea Camp. This is a programme that is facilitated by the charity Development Plus in association with McMillan. It allows communities to look at their needs and recruit representatives to deliver health promotion, advocacy and support to those who have been diagnosed with, concerned about or affected by cancer. This service will ensure that prisoners recruited as ambassadors for their community will be able to deliver these services to their peers using their own prison language. It is hoped that by doing this there will be support for those who cannot go on home visits to gain understanding and be able to put all their concerns into perspective. It is also hoped that the prisoner ambassadors from North Sea Camp will be able to go to other prisons and present this programme to other establishments.

Integrated Drug Treatment Services (IDTS)

Due to national changes to drug service delivery within prisons and changes, with all funding being provided by the NHS, all services are currently out to tender for re-commissioning. The new service is expected to be commissioned in Sept 2012. LPFT have bid for the service as lead provider in partnership with the current CARAT provider Phoenix Futures.

IDTS continue to experience difficulties at North Sea Camp in relation to engaging illicit drug users into treatment. Illegal drug use continues to be problematic with prisoners reluctant to engage with services in fear of reprisals or loss of cat D status and return to closed conditions.

The IDTS clinical lead has been working closely with the prison management who are fully supportive of drug treatment within the establishment, with good cooperation and commitment from the various agencies and departments, including the appointment of health/IDTS champions. Knowledge is being gained from other prisons where the service is already being provided and delivered.

The number of prisoners in IDTS treatment is low (between 17-25) with few being transferred in who are under treatment. The clinical lead has approached all sending establishments advising of treatment options for IDTS available at North Sea Camp and providing establishments with information leaflets explaining the whole range of service options.

Following the transfer of services to LPFT benefits have been identified in relation to the ROTL process for those in IDTS treatment. Community provision for continued prescribing is supported by LPFT community services and problems associated with this process previously have been eliminated. Joint working with the CARAT service continues to thrive. The establishment of these close working relationships result in a quality service to patients.

Mental Health

The LPFT has responsibility for delivering the service. Leadership is provided by a Lincolnshire Prison Healthcare manager with operational management undertaken by a team co-ordinator. This structure has been in place for almost a year and is now well established.

Notable trends in mental health are to a reduction in the number of prisoners identified with common mental health needs, while incidents of Serious Mental Illness (SMI) have increased. The eligibility criteria of North Sea Camps open status inhibits prisoners with unstable SMI needs being transferred in. For those held here, the ongoing management and arrangements present a significant volume of work and complexity. This workload is managed by our Community Assertive Treatment Team (CATT) who, while based mainly at HMP Lincoln, operates weekly clinics by a mental health nurse and occupational therapist. Where the health of SMI cases deteriorates, our dual site operation presents a significant advantage with regards to continuity of care.

The Board is pleased to record these improvements in Healthcare and Mental Health provisions in this establishment.

3.5 Safer Custody

The Board is pleased to report that there have been no reports of self harm or deaths in custody in this reporting year

The Board was concerned that the establishment had only one qualified ACCT Assessor for most of the year. Although there were other staff who had received ACCT training in the past, they had not received the required refresher training and therefore could not be considered 'qualified' to assess and complete documents. The problem was addressed by Management only in the latter months of this reporting period. It is fortunate that the number of ACCT cases was low.

The Board is advised that some Conflict Resolution training has taken place with the intention of incorporating this into a review of the Violence Reduction Programme.

The Safer Custody Committee meets once a month with a representative from most departments attending and a Board member on an irregular basis. The Board has been advised that Samaritans no longer attend these meetings. 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.

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

4.1 Catering and Kitchen

The kitchen produces a high standard of food with a 4 week menu cycle and with 5 choices including a healthy eating option. All the people involved should be commended for achieving this below the standard cost rate set by the Prison Service.

The Kitchen does monthly themed nights when the menus comprise dishes from a chosen country. It caters for cultural and religious events throughout the year. 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 NVQ's.

All prisoners are encouraged to do NVQ's and some reach level 3. High morale is reflected in the excellent hygiene reports from HEO and the Area Catering Manager despite the visible ageing of some equipment which is of concern.

The Catering staff has provided services outside the prison for the local community, such as providing the catering for Christmas dinners for Age UK and is a partner in Boston Community Showcase. The Board sees this as a positive approach by the establishment to allow the local community to meet with prisoners and assistance for prisoners to integrate back into the community.

The Board would like to see more produce from the Farm coming into the kitchen.

4.2 Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy Team functions with full and part time staff. All religious faiths are represented with the exception of Sikh, Hindu, Jewish and Pagan. Prisoners of these faiths are empowered to lead their worship, prayers and meditation. The Multi-faith room has been improved by way of prisoner resources. Washing and toilet facilities, although highly desirable, have not been provided due to restrictions on what utilities can be brought to the facility. Other worship services, prayers and festivals are covered in-house and when appropriate, eligible prisoners are enabled to attend their nearest temple, mosque etc. outside the establishment. An Imam visits the prison twice a week.

Members of the Multi-faith Chaplaincy Team meet on a regular basis to monitor religious activity in the establishment and to implement changes as and when required. The Chaplaincy Team are flexible in their views and actively work with prisoners, the regime and the outside community to introduce new ideas into worship and the range of spiritual, learning and social events that are on offer in the prison.

The Community Chaplaincy Partnership is working well, though again the Board is advised this 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. One day a week a group of representatives of different faiths from the local community meets in the Chapel as part of this programme. The focus of the main Sunday Service has shifted to the evening, to enable a range of outside groups to come into the prison where such opportunities were missed by having it in the morning. In addition, Chaplaincy have organised a number of prisoner led charitable musical events for the prison and wider local community and for people with special needs.

The Prison Chaplaincy Team recognizes the need to change to meet the challenges created by the rise in the prison population and the increasing number of elderly prisoners, plus regime changes. Add to this the reduced resources and limited finances available, means that the Chaplaincy has to constantly review its range of activities provided.

4.3 The Farm

There has been a marked improvement in the management of the farm under the direction of the kitchen manager. He has produced a growing plan for the coming year that will provide more home grown food for the kitchen from the farm.

There are plans to use the poly-tunnels to their full potential, with 12 being hired out to a local seed company and expected to bring in an annual income of approximately £6,000.

Fleeces from the sheep will be sent to the wool market where they are expected to fetch good prices.

The Farm Shop is located near the prison entrance and sells meat and vegetables grown on the farm and fresh baking from the kitchen. This is all of a high quality and reasonably priced. It is open for visitors, staff and prisoners.

The attractive gardens give a good first impression to visitors. Prisoners have been assigned their own specific areas of responsibility and take pride in their work. All the plants used for these colourful displays are produced on the farm from seed. .

The Board commends all those involved for their efforts in putting the farm back to full production.

5. THE WORK OF THE IMB AT HMP NORTH SEA CAMP

5.1 Overview

The Board at North Sea Camp is recovering from previous personality clashes and resignations and is actively recruiting new members. Currently 3 dual boarding are assisting in creating a new and stable Board

Board members carry out rota visits on a weekly basis with one member attending. Prisoner applications are taken either via the IMB boxes located in the 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 soon as practicable, bearing in mind that many are out at work during the day.

Members make brief reports on their rota visits and these are made available for the Governor to see. Board meetings are held once a month when the Governor is expected to attend to deliver his Monthly Report, discuss current issues and respond to member's questions on matters of concern or interest.

Board members monitor some of the few Adjudications arising and attend some of the establishment's management meetings.

The Governor, Senior Managers and staff are cooperative and supportive of the Board's presence and activities. Members again benefited from the support of a conscientious and willing Clerk.

Training

Members have taken the opportunity of attending training courses within the prison. 2 National Trainers came to give members guidance and support at a time when membership of the Board was low. 2 National Training Courses were attended.

Two Board members attended National Conference.

5.2 Board Statistics

Recommended Complement of Board Members	10
Number of Board Members at start of reporting period	3
Number of Board Members at end of reporting period	5
Number of new members joining within reporting period	5
Number of members leaving within reporting period	2
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	25
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	241
Total number of applications received	48
Total number of segregation reviews held	N/A
Total number of segregation reviews attended	N/A

5.3 Statistics re: Prisoner Applications to the Board

Code	Subject	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A	Accommodation	12	7	3
B	Adjudications	4	6	2
C	Diversity related	1	2	0
D	Education/Employment/Training	2	3	0
E	Family/Visits	2	7	3
F	Food/Kitchen related	4	0	3
G	Health related	6	8	1
H	Property	2	12	7
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC)	23	38	18
J	Staff/Prisoner related	2	6	4
K	Transfers	13	0	4
L	Miscellaneous	38	8	3
	Total Number of Applications	109	97	48