



Annual Report  
HMP & YOI PARC

MARCH 2011 – FEBRUARY 2012

## Section 1

### **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

## **Section 2**

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## Section 3

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### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

HMP and YOI Parc is a category B local establishment and Young Offender Institution with a small Young Person's Unit and an agreed:-

- i) Baseline Certified Normal Accommodation - 1170
- ii) Current operational capacity – 1474
- iii) Maximum capacity – 1670

HMP and YOI Parc opened on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1997, and is the only privately run prison in Wales. It is managed by G4S Care & Justice Services on behalf of the National Offender Management Services. Many of the prison staff are recruited from the local area.

In common with all contracted establishments, HMP and YOI Parc has a Controller. The Controller manages the 25 year contract between the Prison Service and G4S, and is directly responsible to the Director of Offender Management (Wales).

Agency delivering services:

- Maintenance – G4S Integrated Services
- Library Services – Bridgend Borough Council

Voluntary Organisations:

- The Prince's Trust
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- The Koestler Trust Awards – Arts by Offenders
- Mothers' Union – Assistance with crèche facilities
- Samaritans – Includes training of Listeners
- The Hay Literary Festival

Among Distinguished Visitors to the establishment during the reporting year were:

- Billy Bragg (founder of Guitar Indoor)
- Simon Weston OBE
- Players from Cardiff City Football Club
- Carwyn Jones, First Minister, AM for Bridgend
- Visiting speakers for Hay in the Parc
- David Shaw, IMB National Council Member
- Francis Done, Chair of the Youth Justice Board

## Section 4

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### (a) Particular issues raised in the report on which the Board seeks a response are:

##### (i) Policy matters, on which a reply is sought from the Minister:

The Board were pleased to learn that HMP Parc was successful in achieving Level 4 Status at the end of the reporting period for 2011/2012, however we are aware that some frustrations exist in relation to the accurate reflection of performance data across the establishment due to the different populations; a clear example of this is the level of fights and assault on the Young Person's Unit which accounts for approximately 45% of the total figures for the establishment but in effect are committed by only 5% of the overall population. This presents an inaccurate picture of the levels of violence at HMP Parc and the Board are keen that this should be rectified by amended reporting mechanisms.

Despite the appointment of a new Coroner, there are still a number of inquests to be heard, one going back to 2009, but the numbers are fewer than in previous years. We urge the Minister to take action to resolve this matter so that prisoner's families can achieve closure.

##### (ii) Operational matters, on which the Board seeks a reply prepared by or commissioned by the Director of Offender Management Wales:

The Board recognises that problems of evaluating and recording the attendance and achievements in Learning and Skills in what is a constantly changing prison population but urges them to provide records of this work.

#### (b) Other issues raised in the report which do not require a response are:

##### (i) Issues of concern to the Board:

Prisoners and wing staff are not always aware of medical and dental appointments and a better communication system must be put in place to inform prisoners of these.

In the Young Persons' Unit the Board continues to be concerned about the separation of young people as they are put behind the doors of their room.

##### (ii) Examples of best practice:

Once again HMP Parc has achieved outstanding results in the Koestler Awards – the best ever and this is a true reflection of the work carried out in the Creative Arts Department.

The Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Departments go from strength to strength and it is a pleasure to see the colourful floral displays across the establishment. The Department consists of a dedicated team of staff and prisoners alike who enjoy a hands on experience tending the animals, giving prisoners a purpose in life.

Parc Supporting Families is an innovative project and exists for prisoners resolved to reform their approach to life, acquire skills for living in the community and above all to retain family links. It is successfully run by a very dedicated team of staff and HMP Parc should be commended for their work. They have also been successful in securing a lottery bid which will give them £4m + over the next four years to develop new initiatives.

**(c) Overall Judgement:**

HMP & YOI Parc is a well-run and safe prison giving prisoners and young people the opportunity to develop skills and gain qualifications which will assist them, once they return to normal life.

There is a great deal of good work going on at HMP Parc but as reported in previous years HMP Parc does not always celebrate its own successes. More effort is needed to inform the Board and the local communities of the excellent projects going on and the effect this has on the prison population at HMP Parc.

## Section 5

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### AREAS ON WHICH THE BOARD IS DUTY BOUND TO REPORT

#### 5.1 Equality Action Team

The team consists of the Equality Manager, the Equality & Diversity Officer, the Foreign National Prisoner Co-ordinator and the Operational Manager, who is responsible for the Older Persons Unit.

##### 5.1.1. Equality Monitoring & Profile

Parc is a culturally diverse prison with a prisoner Black Minority Ethnic (BME) population of 11.7%. This is an increase of over 2% from the last report of 9.37%. This is not reflective of the population of the local area or of the staff profile, which remains at 2.7% Black Minority Ethnic (BME). The necessity of education in cultural diversity is therefore important.

Figures from the different ethnic groups within the average population of 1448 are as follows (2010/2011 figures in brackets).

Asian	46	32)
Black	76	(64)
Mixed	25	(27)
Chinese or other ethnic groups	8	(7)
White	1249	(1197)
White Irish or White Other	14	(18)
Not Stated	23	(43)

4.4% of the current prison population are Foreign National prisoners, comprising 37.8% of the Black Minority Ethnic prisoner population. In numerical terms there are 63 foreign national prisoners, five of whom have finished their sentences. One prisoner from India is due to return home. The other four from Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia and Jamaica remain in custody.

2% of the prison population is listed as gay or bisexual. Valuable links were established with several external organisations in 2011, such as the Terence Higgins Trust, which provided free sexual health education. Art Angel, who have worked for 2 years at HMP Wandsworth with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender staff and prisoners, also provide input.

##### 5.1.2 External Scrutiny and Partnership Groups

A Group has been set up to monitor performance on Equality & Diversity matters as a 'critical friend'. Current membership: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Excellence Centre Wales, Disability Wales, Learning Disability Wales, Valleys Regional Equality Council, Tai Pawb, Mencap Cymru and Gofal.

#### 5.2 Learning & Skills (Education)

On arrival all prisoners are asked to complete a basic skills assessment in literacy and numeracy. All levels are catered for and are strongly advised and encouraged to participate.

- ***The Board recognises the problems of evaluating and recording the attendance and the achievement of what is a constantly changing prison population but urges them to provide records of this work.***

With the aim of reducing re-offending by improving each prisoner's Employment, Training and Education opportunities, during the year Parc developed a fresh approach, starting with an assessment of the offenders' immediate resettlement needs and long-term aims.

HMP Parc submitted the largest number of entries (230) for any establishment in this year's Koestler Competition. For the first time HMP Parc gained the largest number of awards (74), with prize money of over

£1000. The Director was presented with a special Koestler Award at the annual exhibition of the Royal Festival Hall. 30 pieces of 2D artwork in the community were also exhibited in the cafe of the Royal

Glamorgan Hospital. Many prisoners follow and achieve GCSEs in Art and Design and their work is displayed throughout the Prison.

- ***The Board commends the enthusiasm shown, the high standard achieved making the Koestler Competition an excellent motivational vehicle for all ages and the opportunity for public and professional recognition.***

There have been further workshops in music, rapping, instrumental and vocal, drama, circus skills, creative writing, graphic design and many more. Funding from the Valley and Vale Community Arts, enabled professional musicians from the community to work with all age groups. A "Write for Life" project took place with adults, young offenders, young people and prisoners in the vulnerable prisoner unit in conjunction with Literature Wales and the Basic Skills Agency for Literature in Wales.

- ***The Board is impressed by the continued development of work in the Creative Arts Department and the inspirational efforts of staff to motivate prisoners of different ages and ability.***
- ***The Board urges the Department to provide regular and comprehensive bulletins advertising and recording their many achievements, projects and events.***

New projects undertaken by the Physical Education Department include: Coaching Sessions with a volunteer international rugby player; and workshops with a Para-Olympic athlete aimed to inspire and engage all participants to make the most of any situation to turn one's life around. During the year HMP Parc became the first prison in the UK to become an Outreach Centre for Sports Leaders UK.

- ***The board commends the work of the Physical Education Department, its organisation, record keeping and communication. Its dedication to the continuing introduction of project partnerships that enable the education, rehabilitation and development of all prisoners through sport and physical education.***

### **5.3 Learning & Skills (Industries)**

The Industries Section of the prison is part of the Learning & Skills department using the ethos of manufacturing processes to achieve NVQ and City and Guild qualifications. Contracts are carried out from within the prison and by obtaining outside contracts.

The target is to obtain 26 hours of purposeful activity on a fulltime basis with approximately 265 places and 211 places part time. However when you compare these numbers of places of activity to the prison population of (1400+) it is a very low figure.

We again emphasise that the Prison is a Category B Prison and that it is under resourced to fulfil this role

- ***However the Board congratulates the prison on its efforts in training prisoners to enable them to achieve qualifications while in prison.***

The Horticultural Department is going from strength to strength with a new poly tunnel and a new office/general purpose building being constructed by the prisoners.

- ***The Board congratulates the Horticultural Department on the magnificent floral displays throughout the Prison.***

The Animal Husbandry Department is at work 365 days a year tending to the animals, building shelters and giving prisoners a purpose in life.

## 5.4 Healthcare

Healthcare is delivered in-house by G4S Integrated Services.

The benches in the H/C waiting room have now been bolted to the floor and no longer cause a possible risk/hazard.

There are no longer queues in the waiting room for methadone as the dispensing machines have been moved and sited on a wing.

Most of the applications received by the IMB concern doctor and dental appointments. Prisoners claim that they are not always notified of appointments and this causes difficulties for the Board.

New nursing staff have been appointed and they have been trained up to work within a prison environment, where necessary.. There are far more opportunities for professional development than in the past.

A new dentist has been appointed which means that the two dentists in post should be able to reduce the backlog of appointments.

- ***Better communications must be put in place to inform prisoners of medical and dental appointments***

Outside Agencies, along with the Physical Education, Drug and Alcohol and Healthcare Departments provided an opportunity for a Staff Health Promotion Day, attended by over 200 staff.

## 5.5 Care and Separation Unit

The unit is used to hold prisoners who have been removed from normal location because of their indiscipline, or, in some circumstances, for their own interest.

The Unit consists of 24 cells, 21 for segregation, 2 special cells, and 1 unfurnished cell. Some cells have camera coverage on a 24 hour basis.

Segregation review boards take place three times a week. The Board attended most 72 hour reviews, and all 14 day reviews during the reporting period.

The Board continues to judge that the reviews were conducted in a fair and proper manner – if, occasionally, starting late!

The Jig-Saw Project is ongoing, and has been supplemented by in-cell education packs which provide educational material to enhance prisoner skills in numeracy and literacy (basic reading and writing).

The prison is capable of holding a total of 1,600 men and Young Adults, and the Care and Separation Unit has provided management with the necessary support in providing a positive custodial environment.

- ***The Board considers the Care and Separation Unit to be well managed, with staff highly motivated, and seemingly intent on providing a positive, helpful, and, when required, the necessary disciplined approach to prisoner welfare, along with good staff and prisoner interaction.***

CSU is to be renamed in future: the Integration, Support and Re-engagement Unit.

## 5.6 Young Persons' Unit

The Young Persons' Unit is a 64 bed unit, responsible for housing 15 to 17 year olds. There are two units dedicated to the young people. The board monitors the unit weekly. The unit has designated staff, trained and equipped to work with young people and their needs whilst in prison.

- ***The Board can report that this unit is well run and the young people's interests are put first. It is monitored closely and is often visited.***

Recently, it was highlighted that some of the young people didn't seem to recognise the role of the IMB, due largely to the times of board members' visits, when most young people were at education. Various steps

have been taken to address this, with workshops and a poster campaign. Hopefully the board can continue to do this.

- **A lot of good practice has been acknowledged by the Board and many events and activities have taken place within the unit.**

Examples of good practice include: a weekly Film Literacy course, where the young people watch and make films; and a series of workshops (facilitated by a research project), assessing the benefits of music participation for young people in custody. Youth Achievement Award schemes continue to be pursued, and are working well. Another Duke of Edinburgh course has started.

The various projects currently undertaken (including one for the Environmental Department of the Bridgend Council) or projected, are proving highly beneficial for the young people's development, as well as providing them with skills to lead a crime-free life after prison.

- ***The Board continues to be concerned about the separation of young people, as they are put behind the doors of their rooms.***

There were 449 separations from January to February in the current reporting year. We try to monitor this but are not informed of this every time they occur. Board members sign to say they've seen them when they have.

- ***We would also highlight again the lack of facilities available for OI or vulnerable young people.***

The prison continues to try and address this and we have observed good treatment of these young people, however there is no proper provision for them.

The unit staff work well towards helping young people, and the Board is always involved with the unit.

## **5.7 Safer Custody**

Members of the Board have regularly attended the monthly Safer Custody Meetings; these meetings are very well attended by staff.

There were two deaths in custody during the year [not self-inflicted], the investigations into these deaths are still underway and no date has been given for the inquests however it should be noted that the appointment of a new Coroner has already seen improvements in the scheduling of inquests.

There has been an increase of 173 in the self harm figures compared to the last reporting period. Cutting and scratching remain the most prolific type of self harm. It is noted however that in a number of cases of we have held a number of prolific self-harmers who injure themselves repeatedly. The Safer Custody Unit (SCU) provides a safe and supportive area for prisoners in times of crisis, the aim of the unit is to provide intensive care and support for prisoners who need to be relocated from a large residential unit to a more intensively supported location. A number of interventions are available on this unit including Yoga, Stop & Think programme for prisoners who have problems controlling their emotions or behaviour, Emotional Freedom Techniques, Meditation, Anger Workshop, Acupuncture and Stress Management.

Animal husbandry (now with the addition of two ponies) continues to be of great benefit, especially to vulnerable prisoners. The two PAT dogs on the unit are looked after by one of the prisoners, one of whom, looking after these dogs, commented: "These dogs have totally changed my life as I had the job of looking after them and have done so for seven months. The job with the dogs and the trust and respect I have from the officers to the Managers has enabled me to have total control of my life." Prisoners on the unit also have access to the Animal Centre for animal assisted therapy; a relatively new initiative which has been used in other establishments in the past.

### Self-Harm Figures – March 2011 to February 2012

Mar11	Apr11	May11	June11	July11	Aug11	Sept11	Oct11	Nov11	Dec11	Jan12	Feb12
70	62	54	45	36	32	38	39	54	41	53	56

The number of serious assaults committed throughout the year was 27; this is the same as the previous year despite the increase in prisoner numbers. There were 63 assaults on staff during the reporting period.

### Assaults including Fights – March 2011 to February 2012

Mar11	Apr11	May11	June11	July11	Aug11	Sept11	Oct11	Nov11	Dec11	Jan12	Feb12
44	36	38	48	40	36	42	16	35	40	31	28

The Young Persons Unit provided a disproportionate number of assaults per prisoner compared to the rest of the prison. The Young Persons Unit is supported by Voice Advocacy Service who offer an independent provision to young people on all matters including attending adjudications when requested.

### Assaults including Fights YPU – March 2011 to February 2012

Mar11	Apr11	May11	June11	July11	Aug11	Sept11	Oct11	Nov11	Dec11	Jan12	Feb12
15	17	17	25	14	15	20	6	12	15	12	16

The Older Persons Unit consists of two sixteen cell units, all the cells on one unit and one cell on the other are equipped for wheel chair use. Prisoners on these units are able to access keep fit and craft classes which are delivered on the wings. Discussions have been held with MacMillan Cancer Support on the provision of end of life palliative care for prisoners with terminal illnesses.

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## **Section 6**

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### **OTHER AREAS ON WHICH THE BOARD WISHES TO REPORT**

#### **6.1 Catering**

The decrease in the allowance per capita, per day, has resulted in smaller portions and less variety. This, in turn, has produced frequent complaints from the prisoners.

#### **6.2 Multi-Faith Chaplaincy**

The multi-faith chaplaincy team is committed to providing as inclusive a multi-faith service as possible. Individually, the chaplains fulfil a vital role in the prison regime in their non-judgemental availability at all times to staff as well as to prisoners, especially at times of distress or loss in the family.

During the year the Chaplaincy team ran: Advent and, Lent courses, an introduction to Christianity, a I2I Torbiyah Course (Muslim teaching), and a Living With Loss course. As a result of a Writing Workshop, the team is currently in the process of producing a book, written by prisoners, of their experiences of faith, particularly whilst in prison

During the year, the team also facilitated visits by Billy Bragg (Musician), founder of Guitar Indoor (consisting of an afternoon spent with prisoners, and the donation of 6 guitars and other instruments for use by prisoners); Simon Weston OBE who spoke at the Remembrance Events (attended by over 150 prisoners, along with members of the Local British Legion). Two Christian Authors were welcomed and spoke about their books at Hay in the Parc

#### **6.3 Inquests**

There continues to be a lengthy wait for inquests to be heard, but it is noted that there are far fewer outstanding than in previous years. It is however noted that the appointment of a new Coroner has already resulted in improvements to the scheduling of inquests.

#### **6.4 Property**

Property issues continue to form a substantial portion of the applications sent to the Board. As a result of a new directive from the Prison Service, prisoners can no longer receive property handed in on visits except for new admissions immediately after admission into prison.

#### **6.5 Staff**

As a result of recent economies, there have been a small number of staff redundancies which has resulted in a lowering of morale among remaining staff.

#### **6.6 Visits**

Something new compared with other prisons: the Visits Department has always come under the remit of Security. At HMP Parc it has been decided that Visits should come under the remit of Parc Supporting Families.

HMP Parc has the first purpose built Family Interventions Unit in the Prison Estate. It is now firmly bedded in, and exists for prisoners resolved to reform their approach to life, acquire skills for living outside, and above all to retain their links with their families. It is based on the premise that children require a father figure willing to become involved with them, help them grow up, be loved, and who will encourage them to gain a good education. In this way it is hoped to contribute towards reducing the appalling ratio of 6 out of 10 children, who see their father go to prison, ending up in prison themselves. Thus a homework club has been established to help children bond with their fathers.

## **6.7 Prison Radio Station**

Plans were underway during the current reporting session for a small radio studio to be opened, operated by the prisoners and with programmes presented by them, for broadcasting in the prison,

## **Section 7**

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### **THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

#### **7.1 Statutory, general and particular duties**

The duties of the Board consist of meeting with prisoners and dealing with any problems or concerns on their behalf and of monitoring all aspects of prison life insuring fairness and respect for those in custody.

The Board has a full complement of 20 but has been working as a Board of 17; thus recruitment is underway to appoint a full complement of members.

Four Board members are on duty each week, talking to prisoners, monitoring and attending meetings e.g. Safer Custody, Diversity meetings.

Each member of the Board is expected to attend 75% of all monthly Board meetings.

#### **7.2 Rota Visits**

**Rota Visits and Segregation Review 2011 - 2012**

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
<b>Rota Visits</b>	42	47	46	36	43	47	44	36	43	39	47	46	516
<b>14 - Day Reviews</b>	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	26

#### **7.3 Training**

The three new members appointed last year have now been signed off, and are fully functioning members of the Board with specific individual responsibilities. Further recruitment is ongoing as HMP Parc is on the verge of expanding by another 200+ places.

Pre Board meeting training continues with half hours slots available to Managers giving all members an update on new initiatives or up to date training.

The Annual Away Day training was held in November 2011 and decided on a focus to monitor in the first half of 2012.

Visits were received from other Boards from HMP's Birmingham, Cardiff, Dartmoor and Guys Marsh.

Two fairly new members attended the IMB Conference in Leicestershire and one member registered to attend the next Continued Development Course.

#### **7.4 Internal & External Meetings**

Board members regularly attend meetings including Safer Custody, Safeguarding, Diversity. The Chair regularly attends meetings of the Contracted Estate in London and also the Wales Area Chairs Meeting. A long standing member is on the IMB Independent Interviewers Panel.

## **7.5 Applications and Summary of Applications**

The Board received 753 applications during the reporting period, over a 100 fewer than the previous year.

### **Summary of Applications to the Board**

Health	200
Property	156
Miscellaneous	107
Family / Visits	98
Staff / Prisoners	57
Regimes	41
Sentence Related	38
Food	23
Accommodation	19
Diversity	9
Adjudications / Segregation	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>753</b>

Close liaison with the Complaints Clerk ensures there is no duplication of issues resulting in the same application/complaint being dealt with by the Prison and the Board at the same time.

## **7.6 Glossary of Abbreviations**

**ACCT** Assessment, Care in Custody & Teamwork  
**BME** Black & Minority Ethnic  
**CAMHS** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services  
**CSP** Community Support Plans  
**EU** European Union  
**FNP** Foreign National Prisoner  
**GOOD** Good Order or Discipline - Segregation under Rule 45/49  
**HDC** Home Detention Curfew  
**HMP & YOI** Her Majesty's Prison & Young Offender Institution  
**IEP** Incentives and Earned Privileges  
**IND** Immigration and Nationality Directorate  
**IMB** Independent Monitoring Board  
**NOMS** National Offender Management Service  
**PACT** Prison Advice Care Trust  
**POPS** Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group  
**PSF** Parc Supporting Families  
**POI** Prisoner's Own Interest – Segregation under Rule 45/49  
**ROTL** Release on Temporary Licence  
**SMARG** Segregation Monitoring and Review Group  
**WAG** Welsh Assembly Government  
**YJB** Youth Justice Board  
**YO** Young Offender  
**YP** Young Person  
**YPU** Young Persons' Unit