



THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

At

**HM PRISON
PRESTON**

ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014

**For Presentation to the
Secretary of State**

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act of 1999 require every Prison to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary from members of the community in which the Prison is situated.

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 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.

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SECTION 1: DESCRIPTION OF PRESTON PRISON

HMP is a predominantly Victorian radial prison, constructed between 1840 and 1895, although the site has been occupied since 1790. During this period, it has fulfilled a variety of roles, including use for military purposes, and more recently as a Category C prison. Today it operates as a Category B male local prison, servicing the Courts of Lancashire, holding male offenders aged 18+ who have been remanded in custody, are awaiting trial, or allocation to another prison after sentencing. It is situated on a very confined site near to Preston City Centre, and experiences all of the difficulties typical of this style and age of establishment.

The prison's Mission Statement explains its vision to be "HMP Preston will work collaboratively with commissioners, our partners and our community to challenge and assist offenders to change their lives in order to prevent victims, cut crime and make our communities safer." In all that it does the prison aims to deliver decency and care in a safe and secure environment.

Preston is classed as a complex prison under Fair and Sustainable. The prison is in line to take on a resettlement role in the future.

Prison Roll: At the time of this Report (April 2014) the prison roll averaged around 700 with an operational capacity of 842, against a certified complement of 455.

Prison Facilities:

The performance of the Works Department on the Planned and Non-Planned Maintenance has been good. 100% of all works have been completed, with 98% being completed on time, with the main cause for delay being the lack of parts.

Two major emergency projects had to be undertaken during the year. The first was the central heating pipes to the library and the Education Unit which had to be repaired due to corrosion, to avoid closure of those units. The second was the roof to the Laundry and the IT suite, which was damaged in the high winds.

The external contract with Service Line for the repairs to machinery and equipment continues to cause delay and frustration. Three dishwashers on the wings were out of action for several months. Unfortunately the Works Department is not allowed to approach a different contractor to complete the work. Several formal complaints have been submitted and recently there has been an improvement in performance. It is too early to say whether this is permanent or not.

This year has seen the implementation of a major contract to rewire the whole of the prison to modernise the fire alarms reporting system. This has required taking out of operation a landing at a time, with a subsequent overall reduction in the prison's capacity. Once the criteria for the works were established, the work has been carried out well and with as little disruption to the prison as could be expected.

The department is currently understaffed. The uncertainty as to its future with the possibility of it being outsourced is understandably a cause of concern for the staff. As a consequence of this situation any vacancy is only being filled by agency staff. The slightly higher turnover of agency staff is made worse by the need for each one to obtain their security clearance.

For the second year running an application has been made for funding to upgrade the showers in the gym. For the second year running it has not been granted.

WING	DISTRIBUTION
A	Includes the Segregation Unit, First Night Centre and Induction.
B	Is a diverse residential unit
C	Houses the Drug Detoxification Unit and the Vulnerable Prisoner Unit
D	General Accommodation Wing
F	Recovery Wing Substance Misuse
G	Prison Orderly Accommodation

In addition to the core residential accommodation, the following facilities are available:

- A 30 bed Healthcare Centre with regional beds for local prisons
- A well stocked and managed Library and Resettlement Area
- An IT Centre with 48 computers offering 5 courses
- Well-equipped PE facilities inconveniently on 3 sites, but well-managed and delivered
- A Textiles workshop.
- A Chapel and Faith Area
- A short Duration Drugs Programme Unit
- Video Courts

Partner Agencies:

Healthcare: Healthcare is predominantly delivered by the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust with integrated Mental Health resources being the responsibility of one, on site Manager.

Education and Training: provided by staff from Manchester College.

Other Agencies: Several other Agencies offer support in the Prison, with an impressive number of partners working in Resettlement.

It is a matter of concern that these Agencies have to operate under severe financial constraints and the Board will continue to monitor this area.

SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An overview of the Prison

Background

This year, 2013/2014, has seen a major restructuring within the prison with the implementation of Fair and Sustainable and Benchmarking. This has necessitated a review of and a re-structuring of the implementation of the resources and work to reduce the re-offending of the offenders in HMP Preston.

In January 2014 the Reducing Re-Offending Delivery Framework was published. This report highlighted six pathways that have been identified as major factors in reducing re-offending. These are Accommodation, Employment Learning and Skills, Health, Finance and Debt, Children and Families, and Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour. These pathways are not seen as standalone functions, but as a co-ordinated approach managed by the individual pathway leads. To improve this co-ordination some of the providers associated with these functions that were previously located within the Intervention Team, have now been physically co-located within the Offender Management Unit (OMU). This is to foster a closer working relationship with all parties, and to eliminate the inevitable duplication of work by people with overlapping responsibilities, but situated a considerable distance apart. This will also increase the efficiency of the offender supervisors to manage the custodial section of their case load.

The OMU is currently staffed by both Probation Officers and by Prison Officers. When any shortage of staff occurs in the prison the OMU is seen as a reservoir of operational staff to be accessed. It is common for up to and above 200 hours to be lost from OMU per month due to back filling vacancies of operational staff. This is causing delays in producing Sentence Plans, the paperwork for Category status and other functions being produced. Prisoners are complaining that they are in the wrong prison due to their categorisation, or they cannot be moved to start their rehabilitation courses in appropriate prisons until they know their Sentence Plan. This cross deployment is likely to continue.

The categorisation of HMPs Preston and Haverigg as the only two resettlement prisons in Lancashire and Cumbria has made problems for OMU. Many prisoners from both Lancashire and Cumbria are refusing to be relocated to Haverigg due to its isolated location. Many of these prisoners have been being held in the Care and Separation Unit, until their case is resolved. This is not an appropriate location to hold a prisoner with what some people would say is a legitimate grievance. There is a proposal to re-role HMP Lancaster Farms from a Youth Offenders Institution to a Category C Resettlement prison for Lancashire. This should help relieve some of the pressure on HMP Preston.

Issues for the Minister

Once again the Board has grave concerns over budget cuts which has led to the reduction in staffing within the Establishment and additional strain being placed on staff and services – for example in the Offender Management Unit, timely completion of Sentence Plans and Categorisation enabling prisoners to progress in their rehabilitation.

The effect of these changes has been noted by the Board, with a loss of interaction by staff with prisoners on occasions.

It is to the credit of the staff in all areas that they continue to provide these important services despite the difficulties.

The Board wishes to place on record their view that any further reductions in staff or resources would potentially have serious consequences in the effective running of the Establishment.

SECTION 3: MANDATORY REPORTS

1. Diversity:

The PEAG (Prisoner Equality Action Group) Meetings are held monthly and are chaired by the Deputy Governor.

The meeting is attended by the Deputy Governor, Safeguard Governor, staff members, IMB, Chaplaincy, Education, Kitchens, outside agencies and Prisoner Representatives who are on the Prisoner Consultative Committee. The meetings are normally well attended.

It is the Board's Opinion that Prisoners at HMP Preston who share a protected characteristic which includes disability, age, race, colour, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or belief are not discriminated against or disadvantaged and have equal access to regimes and facilities where possible. Special needs are considered and where possible met and overall prisoners feel safe and treated with decency and respect.

The Management and Staff take Equality and Inclusion very seriously. The staff training 'Challenge it Change It' has been discontinued nationally but at induction new staff are taken through the NOMS equality policy statement and are directed on how to challenge and report issues that occur within the protected characteristics. It is a dedicated team of people at HMP Preston who deal with Equality and Inclusion.

Foreign Nationals:

Due to the significant staff changes that there have been at HMP Preston there is now no Foreign Nationals Officer. However the work is successfully shared between the Equalities Officer and the Safer Custody team. Some of the statistics that were being accumulated are now no longer done as a matter of course. It is not possible to easily say how many Foreign Nationals have been imprisoned at HMP Preston since the demise of the Foreign Nationals Officer. However current statistics are disseminated on a regular basis. Currently the position is as follows:

Total foreign nationals in custody	26
Total held on IS91	2
Total foreign nationals on remand	16
<i>of which also have an IS91</i>	2
Total foreign nationals serving a sentence	8
<i>of which also have an IS91</i>	2

IS91 - Warrant to Detain, regularly reviewed by the Immigration Authority.

The Immigration Authority attends on a regular basis and hold one to one interviews with prisoners if required to do so.

All new Foreign Nationals who are in the First Night Centre are interviewed and again when they are transferred to 'their' wing location. They are also given the facility of a 5 minute phone call to the Country of their origin.

In accordance with Immigration Authority suggestions the prisoners are not all housed in one wing but are spread across the prison.

Generally speaking the foreign nationals are satisfied with the way they are treated by prison staff, although there is some small discontent among Muslims regarding all over body wash facilities before Friday prayers.

There are 16 different ethnic groups represented in the prison population at the time of this Report.

2. Education and Learning and Skills:

There has been an increased emphasis this year on Employment, Learning and Skills. It is a requirement now that any prisoner assessed at less than Level 2 in Functional Skills / Reading and Writing is mandated on to the appropriate course. This is recognised as good practice by Ofsted. There is also an emphasis that as many activities in prison as possible should have an element of education or employability incorporated in them. Gym now has less purely recreational activities and more structured accredited courses. This includes a programme of Functional Skills along with other traditional employment courses. The new position of Health Champion is aimed not only at improving the health and wellbeing of prisoners, but the training as Champions will help them to gain employment as a Health Trainers with the Health Service and Probation Service.

Preston has achieved its targets for employment and training on release, which is a good achievement in the current economic climate. Preston has also been successful in obtaining an extra £350k on its OLASS contract due to evidenced-based improved delivery. This was for education to expand its services in the prison to the more vulnerable groups, for example the prisoners in the hospital and those residing on F Wing, the recovery wing, and for more vocational training. Preston has also been successful in obtaining funding for the installation of polytunnels and training in horticulture. This initially might seem odd in the built up environment of Preston prison, but horticulture has many health related benefits, and to the west of Preston there is still an active area of market gardens.

The Library is operating well, and now has books in twenty-seven different languages which represent the needs of the prison population. However the number of visits to the library has declined this year, as has the number of books lent out. This has coincided with a reduction in the number of visits from the Wings due to the new staffing levels.

The National Careers Service interviews all prisoners within 48 hours of entering prison, and a further four times during their stay. This good work is carried out by a staff whose employment in the prison is a microcosm of the changing times in which staff operate. At the start of 2013 they were employed by Working Links, who then lost the contract to Merseyside Connections Partnership (MCP), who contracted the service out to VIA. On 1st August MCP took the contract back into their control. MCP has now lost the contract to Economic Solutions who will take over this October. Meanwhile the staff continue to perform against all this uncertainty and has also been recognised by Ofsted as providing good practice.

The IMB has concerns that the new staffing levels have resulted in prisoners arriving late from their classes and being taken back early. In a worst case scenario this could lead to the classes not providing enough hours for the courses to be accredited.

3. Healthcare

Integrated Mental Health Team

The IMHT consists of Mental Health Nurses, an Approved Social Worker, Counsellors, and Psychological Well Being Practitioners.

The team continues to provide mental health awareness training to the prison as well as providing this training to the Listeners. Also links have been developed with "Veterans in Custody" in the North West, providing support when in custody and a pathway on release.

Valuable links with other departments and outside agencies exist to identify and help prisoners with mental health problems.

The IMHT continue to contribute to the Intervention process and are part of the Safer Custody Group.

H1 landing consists of 10 single rooms and two dormitories. H1 is a regional bed facility. As well as access to psychiatric advice from the local hospitals there are 6-7 sessions weekly by a visiting psychiatrist.

There are a multitude of therapy sessions available in the department and prison.

Generally there seems to be reasonable communication between Prison staff and IMHT in terms of highlighting prisoners needing urgent help, but there still remain delays in some cases.

Primary Care Team

The primary care team at HMP Preston runs a large number of services and provides a wide range of care to the prisoners in the establishment.

The team are based in the main prison with each wing having its own wing treatment room. Primary care is also responsible for the management and running of the 12 bedded in patient facility H2. This offers not only intensive nursing care for those prisoners in our own establishment, but also for those referred to us from the other prisons in the region.

H2 provides care for those that need more nursing care than can be facilitated on the wing, or in a facility without adequate nursing/medical cover or facilities.

As a regional referral facility, particularly from HMP Wymott, where there are more elderly prisoners, it is inevitable that deaths from natural causes will occur whilst Prisoners are either at or under the care of the Preston Healthcare. It is clear that the staff are very caring in these cases, and care is generally at least as good as that which would be received in the community; however there may be a need for training in palliative care, particularly pain and nausea management. Also the importance of staff reporting symptoms to the GP and onward referral as appropriate has been highlighted.

Although it is clearly a decision to be made by the Governor, it is concerning that Prisoners visiting outside hospitals have sometimes, historically, been inappropriately restrained, on occasion even at the point of death, and liaison between healthcare and Prison is important in these cases. The Board note that an updated risk assessment protocol is now in place.

Primary Care also delivers services similar to those delivered in the community such as:

Sexual Health, Chronic Disease (Diabetes, Asthma, Epilepsy, CHD, Palliative Care), Well Man clinic, Older person's clinic, Smoking Cessation and Medication reviews etc. These services are offered on top of the day to day medication administration and response to emergency calls within the establishment.

GP Clinic

There are 5 GP sessions a week which prisoners apply for through an open application procedure. These applications are triaged by healthcare staff and prioritised dependent upon clinical need. Due to the high numbers applying and currently high "Did Not Attend" rates, the GP waiting list is currently 3 weeks; this has been recently exacerbated by a GP being away.

Recently efforts have been made to address the unacceptable missed appointment rates which cause the waiting list to increase. It would seem that lack of communication between healthcare and prison has often resulted in prisoners not being escorted to their appointments; also appointments have often only been received by prisoners too late.

The IMB have been monitoring this and are pleased that due to the introduction of "Healthcare Enablers" significant progress seems to have been made recently in bringing prisoners to their appointments. However, this important area needs watching and is monitored regularly as it seems to be the biggest reason for unacceptable delays in accessing the GP.

Difficulty in bringing Vulnerable Prisoners through the general population and mixing in the healthcare waiting area means that some clinics have to be VP only; this can result in longer delays for these prisoners to access services such as opticians due to sufficient numbers having to be collected to form a clinic. It is hoped that, having highlighted this, that a way can be found to give them the same access as the general population.

In addition to GP clinics, Nurse practitioner clinics were usually run 6-8 times a week. Prisoners who have applied for the GP are offered an appointment with a trained nurse prescriber instead of a GP appointment. This is to offer a more easy accessible and timely service, however unfortunately, due to recent staffing problems, this valuable service has had to be curtailed.

Dental Department

This small department is run by a very committed dental nurse with visiting dentists and clinical technicians in a well-equipped surgery. However, at a recent meeting several issues were highlighted which suggest that the department is not being used to the best advantage.

The main issues revolve around reliably getting prisoners to the clinic, with appointments often wasted despite the wings being notified. Also staffing issues can cause unavailability of escorts and there is no waiting area to give some flexibility.

A recent concern is that, due to the regular dentist being on sick leave, cover is greatly reduced. The IMB has suggested that urgent consideration should be given to escorting prisoners to the nearby dental clinic in the few cases where delay might be detrimental to the health of a prisoner. It is also unfair and inappropriate for untrained staff to be making prescribing decisions in these cases.

Staffing

Over the last year Primary Care staffing numbers have continued to be an issue; several things contribute to this, such as the lengthy recruitment process (which is being addressed) and also the loss of recruitment and retention payment for all newly recruited staff. This has led to new staff leaving and some staff being recruited and not even completing the recruitment process.

However, at the time of this Report, the staff generally seemed happier about the level of staffing throughout the department.

Conclusions.

Overall the impression in the department and from healthcare staff throughout the prison is one of offering a caring and committed service to the population.

The management of the department appears very effective, and, significantly the interface between prison and healthcare is flexible and cooperative, although issues such as escorting patients to the department sometimes remain.

Waiting times for GP appointments can be problematical, and the loss of the Nurse Practitioner clinics due to staffing difficulties is unfortunate.

The dental clinic would benefit from some discussions within healthcare and the prison to make best use of the facility.

4. Safer Custody and Suicide Prevention:

It is regrettable that during the reporting period there have been 6 deaths from natural causes and 1 self-inflicted death. Support services were made available to both staff and prisoners.

The Safer Preston team continue to work hard at making Preston Prison a safer place to live and work. The committee meets each month.

The quality of the observations entered in the ACCT (Assessment, Care, in Custody and Treatment) documentation is reviewed at each committee meeting with any relevant comments being fed back. These are generally of a high standard.

A total of 491 ACCT documents have been opened during this reporting period. The Chaplaincy plays a major role in the ACCT review team.

Trained Listeners are located on all wings. The Samaritans who attend and provide constructive input to the above meetings train the Listeners. The contribution from this group of prisoners cannot be underestimated. Their "listening ear" is effective in providing support to their fellow prisoners.

All incidents of self-harm are discussed and where a prisoner is thought to be at particular risk, all aspects of his care are reviewed. Near miss interviews are carried out for all prisoners who self harm and are admitted to hospital as a result.

A total of 213 self-harm incidents took place during the reporting period.

The Violence Reduction Action Plan is reviewed at most meetings of this Team. Violent incident investigations are reviewed and any lessons learnt identified. Appropriate action initiated when necessary.

Cell share risk assessment interviews and reviews take place as appropriate.

5. Segregation Unit:

The Board has concerns around staffing, particularly of a dedicated Supervising Officer. Only 2 in the afternoon which leaves one when exercise is on. When very difficult prisoners are in the Unit there is potential danger if a prisoner is on 3 man unlock. Prisoners on ACCT documents also make it particularly difficult.

Concerns around paperwork which is very important in Segregation. The reduced officer level means that paperwork often gets left whilst more pressing tasks are done.

Restraint reporting could do to be re-visited as the Segregation Staff are responsible for it, but Wing Managers are responsible for filling in the forms and there is often a delay in this which leads to incorrect statistics.

The staff in this unit have to be commended for their professionalism in dealing with, on occasions, violent and challenging behaviour.

SECTION 4: AREAS OF GOOD PRACTICE AND AREAS OF CONCERN

The Board would also like to draw attention to **good practice/improvement** in the following areas:

GOOD PRACTICE

1. Prisoner Consultative Committee:

This Committee continues to be a useful conduit providing benefit to both the prison and prisoners.

The Committee is chaired by the Head of Residence and Safety, who makes sure that all matters of concern are dealt with and all members are encouraged to take part. The Chair reports back each month on actions taken to meet any problems or suggestions and where appropriate, to inform the Meeting why some of these cannot be met for whatever reason. The Committee has the effect that 'small problems' brought before it are dealt with before they become 'large' problems.

Minutes are placed on each wing and prisoner representatives are easily recognized and are able to be approached from meeting to meeting. IMB members are present at each meeting and give a report on what is thought important and answer any questions. The meeting is well represented from the prisoners' representatives and it is thought that the reduction of applications to the Board has reduced significantly since the PCC's inception. Board Members are able to inform prisoners' representatives about the role of the IMB, which is not always that well known.

2. Family Ties

The work of maintaining links with families is continuing. The Story Book Dad programme of letting fathers record themselves telling a bedtime story to their children is continuing. Special Family Day Visits have also continued. The visits area has been tidied up and a survey has been conducted among the visitors. Surprisingly, the searching of visitors, including children, is not seen as a concern on the survey returns so far; a good comment.

There are concerns for the IMB about the reduced levels of staff covering all aspects of visits; the booking in of visitors and the number of staff in the visits hall. This can impact on the length of time it can take to book in visitors, which can be variable.

3. Chaplaincy:

The Chaplaincy Team perform a vital role within the Prison and provide a spiritual role to every faith. They are also a great service of comfort to prisoners and their families at times of bereavement or distress and the Board never fail to be impressed with their quiet, caring involvement. The current chapel is in the process of being converted to Multi Faith area and will be used by a variety of faiths with differing beliefs and practices.

4. Community Engagement Centre:

The Community Engagement Centre is now firmly embedded in the Interventions and Support Policy. The Centre is used by a variety of agencies to provide information and resources to support the newly released prisoner and his family with accommodation and benefits advice.

Support from Shelter has been particularly beneficial in finding accommodation on release, with fewer prisoners being released with no fixed abode.

3. Catering:

The catering manager and his team have once again impressed the board with their provision of varied menus and good quality food to suit the dietary requirements of prisoners.

Menus are planned well in advance and are on display in the Catering Manager's office. Pictorial menus are available in all wing serveries to assist those with language or literacy difficulties.

This forward planning was also noted during a visit by the Ministry of Justice on 11 February 2014. It reported the menu descriptions and specifications developed by the Preston team are now used as best practice by other establishments nationally. The daily food allocation at Preston at that time was £1.96.

Comments books are held in the server on each wing and are regularly checked by catering staff with IMB members conducting random checks during visits. Any valid issues raised are noted and acted upon.

The inspection during February confirmed these checks with the only comment relating to the duty governor's checks in that at the time of the check, what was sampled and a comment on food quality, was not always recorded.

The Catering Manager or his representative, an IMB member and wing representatives attend the monthly prison consultative meetings where any problems are raised and discussed. The Board notes that the Catering Manager addresses all reasonable complaints speedily within the constraints imposed by budgets and standard contracts.

Prisoners continue to be provided with one hot meal a day at lunchtime with a packet of soup, packet of crisps, filled baguette, piece of fruit and a cake or biscuit being provided in the afternoon. The Catering Manager provides a hot evening meal for inmates who have been at court all day and relies on wing staff to be as accurate as possible with regard to movements/transfers in an effort to keep waste to a minimum. Approximately 2,200 meals a day are produced.

The MoJ report noted that a balance between home produced and bought in products is provided and dishes which are predominantly homemade represent 70% of meals produced. Both Halal and non Halal meat is offered. Recipe and portion size control systems are published and displayed and the actual plate balance of food is broadly based on 55%, 30% and 15% of carbohydrate, fruit & fibre and protein respectively which meet current Department of Health guidelines.

IMB visits to the kitchen, wings and discussions with the Catering Manager confirm the above. The Catering Manager is keen to produce as much homemade food as possible as it helps keep costs down and offers less opportunity for contamination. It is expected that the Catering Manager will be within budget at the end of the financial year.

The Catering Department offers a certificate in food safety/hygiene in retail - a recognised level 2 qualification and Board members are invited to attend training sessions along with officers.

The board is impressed with the 98% pass issued by MoJ following a Health and Safety risk assessment carried out on 11 March 2014 which covered topics such as safe systems of work, hazardous substances, and manual handling.

The board continues to be satisfied that the Catering Manager and his staff are dedicated to providing the best quality and variety of meals within budgetary and health requirement constraints and maintaining high standards of health and safety for those working in the kitchen and residing at Preston prison.

The following areas cause the Board concern:

1. Prisoner Reception Area and Gatehouse:

Year on year we report on the unsuitability of the Reception Area. This has also been expressed by HMIP Inspections. When the Establishment had an operating capacity of 455 it may have been functional, however, when the normal working capacity today is in the region of 700 with maximum capacity of 842, these facilities are blatantly inadequate. We are sure that financial constraints will once again be given as the reason for inaction. However, the Board will continue to press for improvement in this area.

2. Staffing Levels and Moral

The Board is concerned with the overall reduction in staffing levels and the consequent level of staff discontent and lack of interaction, on occasions, between staff and prisoners and the effect on Staff moral which has been noted by Board Members. It is hoped that this trend will be reversed in the coming months.

SECTION 5: THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

During the reporting period the Board held its 12 statutory monthly meetings. Each time either the No1 Governor or his Deputy joined us and gave a detailed report of the previous month; as of last year, the attendance averaged 94% of the membership. At some meetings we were pleased to have a member of the Senior Management Team as our guest and this has helped publicise the work we do, as well as helping the understanding of our role in the Prison for both staff and prisoners. Our monitoring role was carried out by Rota visits, by taking Applications, by seeing every prisoner on Rule 45 and attending the weekly review of his case, as well as by attending a wide range of meetings as observers. In the reporting period 46 Rota visits were carried out, and conducted in groups of two. Each member takes a particular interest in one aspect of the Prison regime and reports back to colleagues on a regular basis. Additionally, Adjudications, by both Governors and the District Judge, were witnessed, ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork) document reviews attended from time to time, and Resettlement Exit interviews observed. We were regularly in attendance at the Prisoners' Consultative Committee. Although it is impracticable in a busy local prison for the Board to be represented at the daily induction sessions, we have an entry about our role in the Induction Booklet given out to each prisoner on reception. The Chairman has met with the No1 Governor on a regular basis. We were pleased to be represented at the very successful Family Days, and it is common practice at Preston for IMB members to make 'non-duty visits to the Prison, additional to the visits required to carry out their Rota duties.

It should also be noted that the Board lost 6 experienced members in December 2013 due to imposed tenure of appointment which has placed an additional burden on the remaining members.

Recommended complement of members	20
Number of Board members at start of the reporting period	16
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12
Number of new members joining in the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	6
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	499
Total number of visits to the Prison including all meetings	638
Total number of Applications received	365
Total number of weekly Segregation Reviews held **	52
Number of Segregation Reviews attended by the Board	86

** It is our practice to ensure that a duty member is present at the weekly R45 review, which sometimes coincides with the 72 hour review. **All prisoners put on Rule 45 (for their own protection or for disciplinary reasons) are visited by a member of the Board within 24 hours of being informed by the Segregation Unit.**

APPLICATIONS: 191 visits to the prison were made by members of the Board to deal with Applications which totalled 365 in the reporting period compared with 403 in 2012/13. All Application categories are shown in the table on the following page:

Code		Subject	Totals
Accommodation	A1	Cell Quality	4
	A2	Wing/Cell allocation	8
	A3	Regime / Association	14
Adjudication & Segregation	B1	Adjudications - Internal	8
	B2	Adjudications - External	1
	B3	Rule 45/49 Segregation	1
Diversity	C1	Racist issues referred to prison staff	0
	C2	Racist issues not referred to Staff	0
	C3	Other diversity issues e.g. Disability	2
ETE & Regimes	D1	Education / Employment	10
	D2	IEP	14
Family / Visits	E1	Visits	25
	E2	Resettlement Issues	5
	E3	Mail / Pin phones	21
	E4	Money Matters	15
Food/Kitchen related	F1	Food / Kitchen issues	0
Health Related	G1	Health issues	64
Property	H1	Property related to previous prison	31
	H2	Property related to current prison	21
	H3	Canteen/Argos/Facilities list	4
Sentence Related	I1	Basic Sentence (inc remand time)	0
	I2	HDC	9
	I3	Immigration/Deportation	3
	I4	Categorisation	14
	I5	Police days	0
	I6	ROTL	0
	I7	Parole Board	1
Staff/Prisoner/Detainee related	J1	Apps about Staff	25
	J2	Apps about prisoners/detainees	3
	J3	Apps from Staff	1
Transfers	K1	Transfers	19
Miscellaneous	L1	Miscellaneous	42
		Total	365

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Despite the constraints placed upon the Establishment, we hope that this summary view of the work at HMP Preston conveys:

- Continuing good leadership at both senior and middle management level
- A high degree of staff commitment despite the additional challenges and pressures placed upon them
- A commitment to deliver excellence despite increased draconian financial constraints
- Very effective working with partner agencies, despite financial cutbacks, to the benefit of prisoners
- A readiness to be self critical and review established procedures that are not working
- A commitment to the Healthy Prison criteria
- A recognition of the need for Diversity in all its forms
- A sensible realisation of the continuing challenges ahead both financial and staffing
- A shared vision that Preston always tries to do better

HMP Preston strives to provide a safe and secure environment for prisoners to take full advantage of a range of behavioural, educational and industrial training classes within the prison. These combined with the continued support upon release provided by the Probation Service, substance misuse services, Shelter and other organisations, allow the IMB to be satisfied with HMP Preston in its work to reduce re-offending and to rehabilitate its prisoners into society

Year after year, we comment on the professionalism and dedication of all staff at Preston Prison. Again, many of the achievements noted in this Report would not have happened if all the staff, regardless of grade, discipline or employer, had not made their own distinctive contributions, and the Board would like to record this fact. Team work is part of the Prison's culture and strength. We would also like to acknowledge the support and help of management and staff in carrying out our task, and thank them for their unfailing courtesy and co-operation. The staff at HMP Preston are showing commendable ambition for the future (in spite of horrendous imposed cuts to an already impoverished budget), which the Board shares, whilst hoping that the conditions for all concerned will be improved to enable that ambition to be fulfilled. Preston is a commendable prison in which prisoners are cared for humanely and decently, and in which many staff are ready, within time constraints, to go that extra mile on prisoners' behalf. We particularly valued over the last year the support and understanding of our work shown by the Governor, Paul Holland, his Deputy, Danny Khan and the Senior Management Team of the Establishment who were always available for discussion when necessary.

Chris Creelman

Chairman

On behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board

HM Prison Preston

July 2014