



HMP RISLEY

INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2012 – March 2013

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 Home Secretary 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 the right to access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison records.

2 TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1	Statutory role of IMB
Section 2	Table of Contents
Section 3	Description of the prison
Section 4	Executive Summary
Section 5	
5.1	Diversity
5.2	Learning and Skills
5.3	Healthcare and mental Health
5.4	Safer Custody
5.5	Care and Separation Unit
Section 6	
6.1	Belief in change
6.2	Accommodation and Facilities
6.3	Security
Section 7	
7.1	Statistics
7.2	The work of the board
Section 8	Glossary

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

HMP Risley is a male, Category C training prison. There are currently 1076 prisoners held at Risley and the maximum capacity is 1095. It is estimated that over 81 % of the prison population have substance misuse issues - (drug or alcohol related) Just over 15 % are classed as foreign nationals, 22% are sex offenders, 6% are IPP's, and 6% are serving mandatory life sentences. The remaining 50% are serving a variety of sentences, some of whom are less than 6 months. These short sentence offenders provide many challenges to the prison, as it is difficult to provide relevant programmes or training for them.

The prison site consists of 7 wings and a Care and Separation unit. Two of the wings house vulnerable/ sex offenders.

The training facilities include 12 workshops and 14 education classrooms. There is a very well resourced library.

The Health Care Centre is well staffed there is a full time Doctor and plus Dental, Ophthalmic, Physiotherapy and Podiatry Services.

There is a Sports Hall and two gyms.

There is a multifaith centre which is supported by several ministers and a Muslim Imam.

4 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Issues for the Minister

The prison has responded positively to the budget reductions in 2012-2013 and will continue to do so into 2014. Managing these budget cuts takes considerable time and effort and inevitably can only damage the regime and its efforts to address offending behaviour. The board is aware of financial constraints on the public purse but would stress these cuts need to be limited in order to maintain a safe environment in which to keep prisoners. Some prisoners have suffered with the regime cut backs, these mainly being older, infirm prisoners, who have been left in their cells for periods of 22 hours. The board would like the minister to give assurance this will not continue and extra funding will be found to eliminate this practice.

The residential unit, known as Birchwood unit, which has been mentioned in reports for a number of years continues to be over looked. The building is well past it's sell by date and continues to present a number of problems causing undue stress to prisoners. They include damaged beds, cockroach infestations fluctuating water temperatures causing prisoners to go without showers. The televisions, gained under the IEP scheme, do not work well as the aerial system in the building is defective. This sort of accommodation is unacceptable to house prisoners and has in the past

been brought to the attention of previous ministers. The costs of running such a unit, with its many defects, is a strain on the current budget.

The board have major concerns regarding the level of purposeful activity, which remains too low. A number of workshops are not getting the correct number of prisoners therefore not operating to full capacity, and the board would like to see all workshops operating at 100% capacity. This would give prisoners the opportunity of out of cell activity. Despite the efforts of the institution to provide additional facilities, the facilities remain inadequate, with prisoners held in cells for too long. The board asks that the Minister investigates this shortfall and will make the resources available to allow full time purposeful activity for all prisoners.

Issues requiring a response operational response

Learning and skills

Over the last few years many positive changes have been made within this area, but there is scope for further improvement. The provision of the full contracted allocation of hours would go some way towards achieving an acceptable level of purposeful activity for all prisoners.

General

The continued requirement to make savings is having an adverse effect upon staff and prisoners - this is unacceptable and more resources should be given to ensure that prisoners are not left in cells for extended periods.

The continued use of the Care and Separation unit to hold vulnerable prisoners whilst suffering severe problems with mental health issues has been raised before by the board, but this practise continues. The board would like to see specialist areas used for this purpose offering a more acceptable environment.

5.1 DIVERSITY

Since our last annual report the focus of diversity related issues has widened to include not only racial issues but also those relating to disability, age, religion, sexuality and ethnicity.

The responsibility for this wide ranging area is now part of the portfolio of a particular governor and given that they have many other responsibilities, progress towards fulfilling the recommendations of the 2010 HMIP report has been slow. However an updated diversity policy is now in place.

In the new format, the forum for discussion of diversity related issues are the DEIAT meetings. Attendance at these meetings has improved by both staff and prisoner representatives. The designated governor monitors all the DRIF forms and they are discussed at the DEIAT meetings.

The number of DRIF forms submitted during the year was 78 and 19 were proven. A sample of DRIF forms have been scrutinised by the board and all found to be completed comprehensively. The breakdown of protected characteristics showed that the vast majority were race related.

There are 17 disabled prisoners in HMP Risley. Facilities for disabled prisoners have been improved and there is now a wet room for wheelchair users. The wheelchair buddy system is now fully functional and this means that prisoners in wheelchairs no longer have long waits to be moved from area to another. Eleven of the disabled prisoners are able to go to work with the help of their buddy.

Care and personal evacuation plans are now in place for all prisoners where the prison is aware of need. The prison management is also aware that there are other prisoners in Risley who might benefit from similar plans but who have not declared a need. The staff are adopting a 'softly softly' approach so as not to upset or embarrass anyone.

For those prisoners who do not go to work, either because they are medically unfit or because they are over the age of 65, far too much time is spent behind their doors, typically 22 hours per day. The board has made many representations to the prison management over what they consider to be an unsatisfactory regime.

Risley contains a large number of foreign national prisoners. The prison management is addressing their particular problems and many documents have now been translated into other languages. Pictorial canteen sheets have been introduced. The telephone translation service is still used quite sparingly with other prisoners often assisting with translation. ESOL classes are very well attended and the education department provides outreach classes in some workshops. Induction of foreign national prisoners could be improved by having pre – prepared materials in a variety of languages.,

There are still a number of sentence expired prisoners being held in Risley.

Following a complaint to the ombudsman in respect of contamination of Halal food which was upheld, the prison have made efforts to prevent it. It has been identified that the contamination is occurring at the servery not in the kitchen. The training of servery workers has improved. Instances of incorrect tools being used have been observed; screens in the serveries have now been fitted and separate utensils supplied reducing incidents of cross contamination.

5.2 LEARNING AND SKILLS

Learning and skills provision is linked with the funding provided therefore it essential that prisoners attend the relevant courses prior to their release.

The board can report that there has been a slight improvement in the provision of training places at Risley. The position is that there are now 960 places (compared to 943 last year) for 1076 prisoners. There will be a further 20 places when the proposed coffee shop and Timpson's enterprise is put in place shortly. The total of 960 consists of 648 Full Time and 312 Part Time places i.e. 854 full time equivalent so there is still a shortfall in provision. Manchester City College remain the providers.

The Head of Learning and skills is now in full time post and is responsible for strategic leadership, and that the programme is performance managed based on the following criteria:-

- . The level of income generated (this is still currently low at Risley due to established contacts being honoured). More lucrative contracts are being sought to improve this situation.

- . Occupying prisoners usefully, and equipping them with the necessary skills, so that post sentence completion, when they are released into the prevailing labour market are able to gain employment. The target was exceeded this year by 3% (from 35%) of employment on discharge. Originally 23 % remained unemployed after discharge but this has been reduced to 10%.

- . To ensure that all prisoners gain qualifications (this has been hampered by the fact that not all instructors were required to do this)

- . That targets for those entering Higher Education or Training are achieved

HMP Risley is responding to the prisoner employability agenda by working alongside other agencies, who have accountability regarding the quality of their provision. Hard outcomes have to be achieved. Any new courses offered have to reflect the needs of prisoners and thereby the needs of the wider community. Customer Service is now a compulsory part of their provision.

Prisoners serving the last 6 months of their sentence are pushed to attend all the relevant courses, including interview techniques and CV writing etc These support services are fully integrated, and OMU are very much responsible for this.

Completion of courses is at a very high rate and although the board is pleased to see these improvements, the problem of unfilled places in workshops remains. There are systems in place to chase up those not attending courses.

Foreign National prisoners are difficult to place on courses, due to deportation regulations. However, they are offered ESOL and often work in the textiles workshops 11 and 12 - this is dictated by the skills funding agency.

There are 6 education classes housed in 2 buildings. Trained teachers are employed to teach some basic skills of literacy and numeracy, some 70 % of prisoners, on entry,

are assessed as below level 1. However, after attending lessons, they are often able to achieve an NVQ. The main problem is engaging prisoners and motivating them to attend, this is a real challenge for the prison. They have tried to overcome this by The Gateway Induction Programme and it appears to be having some successes, attendance rate was 83% last year and the target had been achieved.

Some important community links operate, for example producing Braille materials for a variety of publications. Education provision has been inspected by Ofsted and was judged as requires improvement.

41 % of prisoners, on release, will go into further training, education or employment.

5.3 HEALTHCARE

The healthcare facility at HMP Risley aims to provide a health service which is equivalent to primary care services provided to NHS patients locally. The number of applications received from prisoners regarding Healthcare issues has significantly decreased this year from 30 for the period 2011-2012 to 17 applications received for the period 2012-2013. This significant reduction in applications received may be due to Healthcare having their own internal complaints procedure in place.

There is a significant age range of patients from 21 years to 70 years plus, contributing to the footfall through the Healthcare Unit on a regular basis.

Two resident doctors in post have decreased the need for the use of locum doctors and only two locums were used during the past financial year. Patients wishing to see a doctor usually have an appointment within 10 days. The nursing team is no longer running to maximum capacity with one post left vacant; this has led to the need for the staff to work on an overtime basis at regular intervals.

Some nursing staff have said that they feel vulnerable particularly when on duty at weekends or during call outs to wings at night. This is particularly relevant where it is necessary to access a prisoner in a double cell. This vulnerability during the times given is due to the shortage of prison officer staff.

It has also been noticed that the number of Code Red requests for assistance has risen in recent months and this has increased the workload of the nursing staff significantly - particularly when striving to maintain service levels during differing shifts.

Flu vaccinations are routinely given for those in the elderly population at H.M P. Risley and for those deemed vulnerable through health issues. HMP Risley is awaiting a new palliative care suite which is due in September 2013. This new facility should enhance the care which is given on the prison wings at present and help alleviate the strain on the nursing staff within the

health care team. It should be noted that the nursing staff have gone above and beyond their normal duties to deliver palliative care on the wings throughout the past year.

There is not in house team provision at HMP Risley to deal with serious cases of mental ill health; two psychiatrists come into the establishment on a regular basis.

The language barrier and the fact that some foreign nationals are often held at HMP Risley after their sentence has ended have caused those prisoners to become frustrated and deterioration in their mental health is often seen.

A pilot scheme which began in October 2012 and which targeted those prisoners with learning difficulties to help them work towards their offending behaviour targets ends in July 2013 and this is a concern to the primary health care team as they feel this pilot scheme has produced some positive outcomes.

The numbers of prisoners coming into HMP Risley who suffer from ADHD is increasing and this is of concern as there are no facilities in the establishment to deal with this type of prisoner on a daily basis. Records show that ADHD diagnosed prisoners are vulnerable to segregation, as they are, "unable," to successfully undertake offending programmes and comply with the regime.

A psychologist is to be based in the primary care team from May 2013 and this will benefit the prisoners and staff members.

5.4 SAFER CUSTODY

The Safer Custody Team supports and monitors vulnerable prisoners and is assisted by the Peer Support Group. Monthly meetings of the Suicide and Self Harm Group are well attended and the minutes of these meetings are well documented.

Issues regarding listeners and prisoners are also documented in great detail, as are training courses for listeners. The listeners continue to provide support to fellow prisoners and the availability of listeners throughout this reporting period has been sufficient.

The Board have carried out an overview of all minutes and documented presentations of the Safer Custody Team, reference ACCTS on Licenced Recalled Prisoners (both monthly and annually), Foreign National Prisoners (again both

monthly and annually), in-depth documentation on Current “At Risk” Prisoners and “Case Study Updates” on Raised at Risk Prisoners.

Case Study Updates covers:-

Positive Points of Practice

- Informative assessment
- Collaborative working practice exemplified by attendance at review of Chaplaincy
- Initial Care Map “Best Practice” submitted by S.O. Total detail incorporated into report, easy to understand, showing a sequential progression of issues
- Open process of documents completed within 24 hours of opening
- Good quality handovers from night to days

Safer Custody Incidents/Serious Self Harm

In the year to date, there have been 36 incidents, 4 of which were considered “Serious Self Harm” – major cuts, ligature or overdose - which required transport to hospitals. Most other incidents were reduced by the prompt action and skill of the officers on the wings. There was one “death in custody” which was from natural causes.

Documentation and Recordings of Safer Custody Incident

Having been given total access to files within the “Safer Custody Department”, all incidents and ongoing incidents are fully and professionally documented.

5.5 CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

Prisoners are located in the CSU (before or after adjudication) following a misdemeanour or for their own safety and protection. Prisoners relocated for own protection fall into two categories threats of self harm or threats from other prisoners. The total number of prisoners passing through the CSU during the year was 68 with the breakdown into categories as below

Initial location under Rule

G.O.O.D Rule 45b	26
G.O.O.D o/p Rule 45a	11
Pending Adjudication Rule 53	31

The numbers of prisoners in CSU varies considerably from day to day, however, during the first three months of the year the number of prisoners being received in the CSU saw a decrease by 2 and a further decrease was seen in the following three months by 9.

During the first six months of the reporting year there was a decrease from 17 to 2 prisoners coming into the CSU for their Own Interest; it is believed that this is a reflection of the violence reduction measures implemented and that there are less bullying/gang issues in the prison.

All prisoners on arrival at CSU are seen by healthcare and healthcare then monitor the prisoners thereafter on a regular basis. A Governor visits the CSU on a daily basis.

During the reporting year it was found that there were no unsuitable prisoners transferred to the CSU. The board remains concerned that prisoners on open ACCT's are being held in the CSU.

The PSO 1700 makes a mandatory provision for the protocol that is in place at HMP Risley which provides for an officer within the CSU notifying a member of the IMB whenever a prisoner is located to this unit. An IMB member then visits the prisoner as soon as is possible to ensure that all their statutory needs are being met.

The prisoners within the CSU have access to a shower, some of their own property, a radio and an outside yard for exercise. In the HMIP report it was recommended that benches be provided in the exercise yard, none are present yet.

The board attend a sample of adjudications, when members do attend they ensure that all the adjudications are carried out in a fair manner and in accordance with the relevant guidelines. They also ensure that the prisoner has sufficient time to prepare their case and are given every opportunity to speak for themselves at the adjudication.

Segregation reviews are carried out routinely as required; board members attend the majority of reviews. Often members of staff who have had contact with a prisoner before their relocation fail to attend segregation reviews. The Board feels their input would be very helpful.

Prisoners claiming 'Own Interest' after adjudication has seen a decrease from 23% to 0 in the first quarter and this remains at zero. Prisoners do not appear to be committing offences in order to relocate themselves to the CSU.

The IMB is concerned that there is a lack of effort to provide education and constructive activities for prisoners in the segregation unit.

The board consider the CSU to be a very well run unit with staff providing a high standard of care. The CSU continues to be quiet, clean and relatively peaceful given

its purpose. At a time of extreme difficulty in relocating prisoners from the CSU to other establishments the board have witnessed the hard work the governors put in during the reviews particularly to achieve reallocation to other establishments when appropriate to do so. The prisoners tell us they are well treated by the officers who form a small dedicated and appropriately trained team.

6.1 BELIEF IN CHANGE

The Belief in Change programme was launched at HMP Risley on 2nd February 2012; it was successfully hosted by programme facilitators, a wide range of agencies attended including local employers, faith groups and drug and alcohol services.

Belief in Change is a 6 month course ESF funded programme being piloted in HMP Risley and HMP Channing Wood extended with additional budgeting. It is a unique integration which combines "What Works" in reducing re-offending with multi faith perspectives.

It is accredited by the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel and is the first programme of this kind which is explicitly informed by the multi faith and spiritual practises.

Throughout the on-going programme the board have carried out an overview of presentations, attending early morning meetings with prisoners. Very early in the programme, board members noticed a major change in the prisoners participating in the programme. They were enabled to take turns in chairing the meetings.

Within the first group of prisoners on the programme, 7 were released back into the community, not on license. With assistance from the Belief in Change group and outside agencies, one ex-offender found stable accommodation and employment – he had previously been homeless.

One obtained his CSCS card on 1st week of release and employment in the building trade.

One having been released for 4 weeks found accommodation in Hanley, Staffordshire and is regularly engaging with his employment mentor.

One is residing in Ascot House and is presently employed in the building trade.

Two ex-offenders, obtained Focus level 1 qualifications SL and JK while on the programme to enable them to get work in a gym.

One was transferred to Thorn Cross, then obtained his Rail Track PTS qualification.

While on the programme, graduates are employed in the gardens, library, kitchens and wing cleaning. They are also engaged in education and mentoring.

The belief in Change group are working with a wide range of agencies both internally and externally of the prison Service. It has been pleasing to see that various inspirational people and services have offered assistance to the group.

They include Colin Parry (son killed by IRA bomb) and Bishop James Jones of Liverpool who was so impressed he brought the good work to the attention of Chris Grayling – Justice Secretary.

At the time of this report a, "grey cloud," has appeared regarding on going funding. The Board would ask that MOJ give this funding serious consideration to allow for the on-going good work to continue and reduce the statistics for re –offending.

6.2 ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

The residential wings in Risley continue to deteriorate, prisoner painting parties have improved the decorative order and keep the place graffiti free. It is the deteriorating state of the facilities and equipment which concern the board most -particularly B wing which has been described in numerous reports by HMIP as unfit for purpose. Although the minister is well aware of the problem he has not seen fit to address it.

Some of the problems of B wing are as follows:

Despite the best efforts of pest controllers who visit the prison regularly there are still reports of cockroaches on the wing. The showers sometimes do not work due to the low water pressure. The TV reception in the wing is very poor resulting in a very limited choice for prisoners. This leads to more frustration for prisoners. The facilities for association are very small and cramped for so many prisoners.

The maintenance and repair of much of the equipment in the prison is poor, and example of this is the washing machines and driers having failed to operate can take many months to repair. The result of this is that prisoners are drying their washing draped over the railings on the walkways restricting visibility and causing a nuisance when items drop onto the floor and the netting. It also results in items going missing causing further frustration amongst the prisoners.

Food service areas in the residential units have been a concern with sneeze screens being broken, these have been replaced but the fitting was very poor resulting in most being broken or damaged yet again.

There have been difficulties with the smoke evacuation vents not closing correctly letting in rain and allowing birds to enter the building which resulted in bird excrement being deposited on the floors and snooker table. The repair rate is unacceptable and it should be noted the Board are very concerned about this aspect of the provision at Risley.

The tannoy system does not work in some areas and needs a thorough overhaul.

The HMIP report of 2011 stated that small repairs were done promptly, this only applies if the SMT are reporting the issue.

Some items on F wing including loose taps on the residential areas remain unusable as they are loose.

Generally the residential areas are clean and tidy but with the majority of them aging they are in need of comprehensive refurbishment.

7.1 BOARD STATISTICS

Recommend complement of members	20
Number of board members at the start of the reporting period	10
Number of board members at the end of the reporting period	10
Number of new members joining during the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving during the reporting period	2
Total number of board meeting during the reporting period	10
Average number of attendances at meetings during the reporting period	
Number of attendances at meetings other than board meetings	
Total number of visits to the prison	521
Total number of applications received	272
Total number of segregation reviews held	
Total number of segregation reviews attended	

Applications

Code	Subject	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
A	Accommodation	7	3	5
B	Adjudications	3	18	3
C	Diversity related	4	3	6
D	Education/employment/training	17	11	16
E	Family/visits	20	24	12
F	Food/Kitchen related	2	7	12
G	Health related	26	30	15
H	Property	38	49	47
I	Sentence related	39	31	14
J	Staff/prisoner related	23	21	20
K	Transfers	15	14	8
L	Miscellaneous	43	51	60
	Total	237	272	218

7.2 SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE BY THE BOARD DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

Each week board members attend the prison to conduct rota visits and monitor adjudications.

They also respond to prisoner applications, attend Separation and Care reviews and observe prison management meetings. Board members also observe ACCT reviews and attend any serious incidents.

The Board holds a monthly meeting at which the Governor, or his representative, generally attends in order to brief the Board on prison matters and to discuss issues from rota reports. Presentations have been given by prison staff to the board to inform them about specialist functions within the prison.

Two Board members attended the IMB Annual Conference in 2013. Members have attended National and local training courses.

Members have visited other establishments during the year. The chair has attended area Chair meetings at numerous establishments throughout the year.

The Chair would like to thank the continued support of the Board, with particular thanks to the Vice Chair and Board Development Officer. The Board continues to be grateful for the assistance given to the IMB from Prison staff who are working through some major changes with Fair and Sustainable and Benchmarking.

8 GLOSSARY

ACCT	Assessment, Care in Custody & Teamwork – Replacement for F2052SH
CSU	Care and Separation Unit (segregation)
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
HMP	Her Majesty's Prison
HMCIP	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons
IMB	Independent Monitoring Board
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
OLASS	Offender Learning and Skills Service (part of LSC)
PCT	Primary Care Trust
UKBA	United Kingdom Border Agency
YOI	Young Offender Institution
IPP	Indefinite Public Protection
DRIF	Discrimination Incident Reporting Form
DREAT	Diversity Race Equality Action Team
SO	Senior Officer
PSO	Prison Service Order
PSI	Prison Service Instruction
GOAD	Good Order and Discipline
VO	Visiting Order