



# **HMYOI STOKE HEATH**

## **Annual Report**

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2010 - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

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## **Statutory Role of the IMB**

The prisons Act of 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 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 concerns 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.

## **The Establishment**

HMYOI Stoke Heath is situated near Market Drayton in Shropshire it was originally built in 1964 but has doubled in size since then. It is a split site with accommodation for 202 Young People (15-17) and 548 Young Adults (18 -21) During this year the decision has been taken to re-role the prison which from July 2011 will accommodate category C adult male prisoners and young adults but no longer young people.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Particular Issues Requiring a Response**

1. We remain concerned about the long distance from home of many of the trainees contributing to disruptive behaviour and difficulties of visiting for relatives. (see our report of 2009 – 2010)
2. This prison has continued to have to look after trainees with often severe psychiatric and personality disorders. These prisoners have often required intensive medical and nursing care in the Heath Care Unit and several have required constant watch. It is fortunate that the unit has the skilled staff to deal with these situations particularly as transfers out to secure psychiatric units are often very slow.

It is our view that a health care unit in this prison is essential after the re-role which is due shortly. With the continued presence of young people the likelihood of similar psychiatric/personality problems is high and in the absence of a unit trainees will be placed in the SRU awaiting transfer out to a psychiatric unit.

### **Other issues of concern or excellence not requiring a response**

The major operational activity this year has been as a consequence of the re-role of the prison which has involved staff, management and prisoners. This potentially disruptive event has gone much more smoothly than we feared which is a tribute to all concerned.

## **Overall Judgement**

Again we are pleased to report that we have no major concerns about this prison during this year

There have been two deaths of young people in this prison during the year both of which await reports from the Ombudsman and Coroners Inquests. We were fully informed about both of these events and liaised with prisoners and staff. We have no particular concerns in relation to these sad events which were very stressful for all staff and management.

The major change this year has been the re-role of the prison from Young People and Young Adults to Category C adult males and Young Adults. This re-role will not be complete until later in the year.

Because of the uncertainty about what was going to happen in relation to the re-role rumours abounded until the announcement was finally made and there was associated staff anxiety related to job security. Many teaching staff have lost their jobs.

We have been impressed by the way staff and management have coped with all of this uncertainty and their ability to adapt to a very different role.

## **Diversity Equality & Race Relations**

The board are pleased to report that during the last year there has been a reduction of incidents involving BME trainees. Albeit all incidents are thoroughly investigated and are reported on at monthly meetings at which an IMB member is present.

These meetings are well attended by a cross section of the prison's management and representatives of BME trainees from the wings. These meetings are chaired by the Governing Governor.

All matters concerning BME trainees are thoroughly discussed and where necessary action is taken. The correlation, analysis and investigation of racist incident Reports continue to be thorough and auditable. Foreign National surgeries take place at regular intervals with the Immigration Service, and where necessary interpreters are present.

The Chaplaincy continues to play a very active role in supporting diversity/equality within Stoke Heath and have provided excellent support to trainees and staff during the past year.

The board receives very few applications concerning the management of diversity/equality within the establishment. This suggests that the prison continues to take these issues seriously.

## **Learning & Skills**

### Education Department

The Education Department has achieved good results in the area of vocational training with prisoners gaining recognised vocational qualifications in a wide number of areas. Excellent work is done in encouraging trainees to continue in education and training and college places are arranged for those who wish to attend their local college when they leave Stoke Heath. Staff commitment is high and relationships with staff appear to be good and relaxed.

However in classroom based subjects this level of engagement is weaker. Despite a satisfactory HMCIP inspection result and despite some well run classes many prisoners remain largely disengaged, with some prisoners using education as a meeting place or opportunity to settle old scores. Too often disruptive behaviour and violence has broken out in classes with staff and/or other trainees being threatened. There appears to be limited training to prepare new teachers for work in the prison environment or any attempt to provide in-service training in the management of a volatile and unpredictable population.

The Board recognises the high levels of stress that the teachers have been under for some time. A very difficult teaching job combined with the uncertainty of future roles has been tackled with great professionalism. The Board would like to commend teaching staff for their dedication and commitment during this difficult time of change, the withdrawal of young people and the forthcoming re-role to a category C prison.

## **Vocational Education**

### **Manufacturing**

Performance this year has been similar to the last although the value of goods dispatched has dropped. This may be due to staff shortages. Training of NVQ assessors has also been affected by staffing.

Performing Manufacturing Operations (PMO) course is ongoing with Manchester City College.

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## **Healthcare**

The new health care manger is now in post and having a very positive influence on the department.

The report of HMCIP (Young People) was very good and accords with our observations

The unit has performed above the target standards.

There have been a lot of patients with very difficult mental health and personality disorders which have often require constant watch. Staff have dealt with these demanding situations with commendable skill.

Our concern is that if this department is closed because of the re-role such very ill trainees would have to be placed in the SRU. We have seen that transfers out to secure psychiatric units is often very slow.

The department received the 'You're Welcome' award for 11 to 19 years old, A Health Service wide award competed for nationally. Stoke Heath was the only prison to receive this.

Health Fayres have been held on the wings and proved very successful. Patient surveys have been conducted and the information used for developing the service.

None attendance at various clinics continues to be a problem from time to time.

We do hope that this invaluable unit survives the re-role.

## **Safer Custody & SRU**

### **Young Adults Safeguarding**

The Board is impressed by the way in which the Safeguarding Team undertake their duties. They are proactive, constructively self critical and keen to ensure that the duty of care with which they are charged is fully implemented.

Monthly meetings are held, well represented from all departments of the Establishment, including trainee representatives from the wings. These meetings are chaired by a member of the Senior Management Team and also attended by the Samaritans and the IMB.

Individual follow-ups on vulnerable trainees and constant monitoring takes place whilst they are in this category.

The introduction last November of the Tackling Anti Social Behaviour scheme has been received with enthusiasm by both staff and trainees alike and to date the scheme is making good progress.

Another area we are pleased to report is the marked improvement to the entries in the ACCT documents. These entries are rigorously monitored by a member of Senior Management Team.

In the event of sometimes volatile behaviour of the population within the Establishment we are satisfied that Stoke Heath can be regarded as a safe prison and this is confirmed by frequent questioning of trainees.

### **Young People Safeguards**

The YP (Young People) safeguards meetings are held monthly. There are representatives from each of the YP wings, managers and staff plus relevant departments within the prison. These include: Youth Offending Team, Education, Healthcare, Samaritans, Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Gym and Safeguards team. The meetings are chaired by the Safeguards Governor. At these meetings the young people are encouraged to share their concerns and comments on issues raised.

At each meeting the statistics for Violence Reduction, Suicide Prevention and the quality of entries in the Assessment Care in Custody and Team Work (ACCT) document are discussed. Anti-social behaviour, Bullying, Use of Force and Child Protection are also discussed.

Earlier in the year the quality of entries in ACCT documents were causing concern. To address this, refresher courses were arranged so that all staff could access them. By December the quality had much improved and the training was working well. Between January to March the quality had taken a dip. In view of this we will continue to monitor

the ACCT documents.

In November to improve the unacceptable behaviour a new system was introduced called TAB (Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour). There are three stages of TAB:

- TAB 1. Is a monitoring period where the young person is observed. If his behaviour does not improve then the young person will go onto:
- TAB 2. The young person will be downgraded to basic for one week and a plan of changes he needs to make will be agreed. If his behaviour does not improve then he will be placed on:
- TAB 3. The young person will remain on basic and will have to engage with the Individual Development Unit and will be expected to participate on the Positive Option Programme. If his behaviour still does not improve then the Governor has the option of placing him in the Separation and Re-Integration Unit on basic regime.

The initial reaction to this new system has been good. The staff are fully behind it and behaviour has improved. The young people know what will happen if their behaviour is unacceptable.

The Samaritans train the listeners. Each month the meeting considers new young people to take on these roles. Unfortunately the prison is having difficulty finding the right calibre within the young people's estate.

Last year we reported that problems between gangs had been a continuing challenge to staff. This theme continued this year. When a Concerted Indiscipline happened at other Young Offenders Institutions Stoke Heath received a number of young people who continued their bad behaviour at the establishment. Some of these young people had to be transferred out and others split up between the three young peoples wings.

In December the prison was informed that it was to be re-rolled, as a result of this we were informed that by the end of March there would be no more Young People coming to Stoke Heath.

## **Incidents**

Reflecting the age of the population in this prison and the associated volatile behaviour there have been twelve serious incidents this year.

Death in custody	2
Barricade	5
Prisoners standing beyond internal railings on the wing	3

Incident at height on external roof 1

Incident at height within manufacturing 1

### **Separation, Reintegration Unit (SRU)**

The unit has continued to perform to a high standard. As we noted previously the staff are very focused and the atmosphere continues to be much calmer.

The continuing great improvement in this pressurised unit has been recognised during the year with the award of Senior Office of the Year (a national award) being presented to the senior officer of the unit.

There has also been a change of policy to shorten as much as possible the length of time trainees are held in the SRU. This has proved better for trainee attitudes and the unit has been even calmer as a result. The introduction of Integration Plans for trainees has focused on their return to normal conditions as quickly as possible.

## **Reception**

In the last report we were concerned about the length of time that trainees took to pass through reception. This has been greatly improved as a result of the First Night Care now taking place on the wing rather than in the reception.

We also noted last year our concern at the length of time trainees waited in the prison van when they arrived this has also greatly improved and the processing of trainees is now more efficient.

We are pleased to note that the problem with transit trainees reported last year in relation to using the toilet facilities at Stoke Heath has also been resolved and trainees now can access toilet facilities when required.

## **Accommodation**

Drinking water on E wing is provided from water containers which are used to fill flasks which trainees take to their cells. This appears to work satisfactorily but is obviously not as good as having an acceptable supply direct to the cells.

Because of the forthcoming re-role the young people's wings are now closed.

There have not been any particular problems with the wings generally this year. Previously we highlighted the higher risk of fights, bullying and assaults in shower areas. There is an ongoing programme of shower area refurbishment to help with supervision.

Wing maps are now used to help with problems like gang activity so that location of possible perpetrators is evident for more proactive management of real and potential problems.

## **Kitchens & Catering**

The very busy catering department continues to supply hot and cold meals every day throughout the year. It copes very well with day to day demands, the provision of food for special festivals and Halal food.

## **Faith**

The chaplaincy flourishes under new leadership and provides for the needs of the many faiths represented in this prison. Its remit is very wide helping with the many and various problems that prisoners face and was very supportive to all concerned following the two deaths in custody.

## Applications

During the reporting period we have used a system of dedicated forms in sealed envelopes which are placed in the official IMB boxes which are installed on every wing and the SRU

During the reporting period we took a total of 161 applications compared with 248 in the previous reporting year.

Breakdown of application issues:-

Accommodation	02
Adjudications	11
Diversity Related	01
Education/employment/training	04
Family/visits	12
Food/kitchen related	02
Health related	04
Property	47
Sentence related	06
Staff/trainee related	40
Transfers	25
Miscellaneous	18

## Statistics for the Past Four Years

Code	Subject	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
A	Accommodation	00	01	06	02
B	Adjudications	00	01	08	11
C	Diversity related	00	00	02	01
D	Education/employment/training	02	03	08	04
E	Family/visits	05	00	13	12
F	Food/kitchen related	02	01	06	02
G	Health related	02	07	06	04
H	Property	19	22	46	47
I	Sentence related	25	13	30	06
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee related	49	23	43	40
K	Transfers	34	19	37	25
L	Miscellaneous	40	31	43	18
Total number of applications		178	127	248	172

## The Work of the Board

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	20
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	12
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	18
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	06
Number of members leaving within reporting period	03
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	10.8
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	98
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	562
Total number of applications received	161
Total number of segregation reviews held	166
Total number of segregation reviews attended	164

## **RESETTLEMENT**

The Resettlement team at Stoke Heath continue to meet and in the most instances exceed the KPT (Key Performance Targets) targets they are set. In the area of housing 100% is achieved most months only on the rare occasions does a prisoner go out NFA (no fixed abode) this is invariably because of past behaviour. Accommodation is becoming harder to find as funding is being withdrawn.

Education, Training and Employment; this year a number of companies have visited the prison to interview trainees; they get a taste of what a real job interview is like ; they are helped to produce their CV's and occasionally a job on release is promised. A number of trainees have gone on to University and College courses these include plumbing, joinery, art, music, and criminology; one has won sponsorship and mentoring from the Koestler Art Project. The Army, Next Steps and Connexions are just some of the outside agencies the team liaise with. The enthusiasm of the staff in this department is commendable.

The ROTL team (Release on Temporary Licences) have been particularly busy this year. The trainees have spent a total of eight hundred and ninety three days on ROTL which has included the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, The Prince's Trust, Barnardo's, college and job interviews along with town visits and overnight releases. Community work was carried out at the local Hospice saving the charity £18,000.

### **Adjudications**

The number of adjudications remains high (1,710) reflecting the volatile nature of this prison although this is a decrease from last year (2,707)

### **Inductions**

Since the young people were taken out of the prison because of the decision by the YJB and the subsequent re-role there is no longer a need for a member to do their inductions. The induction of Young Adults is done by wing staff who inform the trainees of our role.

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## **Meetings Attended by the IMB**

In addition to Board Meetings and Rota Visits Board members visit the induction wing on a weekly basis to speak to new trainees, and we aim to attend all SRU reviews.

A Board member attends the following meetings:-

Safeguards for Young People & Young Adults  
PCT/Prison Partnership  
Clinical Governance

Staff Performance Recognition  
EDAT  
Violence Reduction  
Trainee Consultation Meetings  
Resettlement  
Security  
Health & Safety  
Senior Management Team Away Days  
Other meetings if required.

Val Meachin Chair.