



HMP Sudbury

Annual Report

June 2011 – May 2012

Section 1

Statutory Role of the IMB:-

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

This Board known as the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) 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.

In enabling the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner, every part of the prison and to the prisons records, with the exception of individual's medical records unless specifically granted in writing by each individual.

The IMB is of the opinion that as a Cat 'D' prison, resettlement underpins the work for each prisoner. It is therefore considered of major importance that the establishment has good links in place to assist prisoners resettle into their community on release, with the assistance of the personal officer scheme, prisoners are encouraged to increase their community links.

The IMB endeavours to closely monitor this area of a prisoner's life.

Section 2

Contents:-

Section 3	Description of HMP Sudbury	4
Section 4	Executive Summary	5
	Questions for the Minister	6
	Questions for the Prison Service	6
Section 5	Areas that require a report:-	
	• Diversity	7
	• Learning & Skills	8
	• Healthcare	8
	• Safer Custody	8
	• Segregation Unit	8
Section 6	Other Areas:-	
	• Accommodation	9
	• Adjudications	9
	• Chaplaincy	9
	• Foreign Nationals	9
	• Induction	9
	• Life Sentenced Prisoners	9
	• Kitchens	9
Section 7		
	• Work of the IMB	10
	• IMB Statistics	10
	• Prisoner Applications to the IMB	10

Section 3

Description of HMP Sudbury :-

HMP Sudbury was originally built as a US Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during the 2nd World War. It was converted to a prison during 1948 and is situated in a rural landscape of some 43 acres on the Derbyshire and Staffordshire border just off the A50 to the west of Derby.

At present it is a designated category 'D' male establishment for sentenced prisoners with a present operational capacity of some 580, with a total foreign population throughout the year of just over 2%. The establishment caters for those who are in the latter stages of their sentence by specialising in the prisoner's rehabilitation and resettlement in preparation for their release into the community, and to reduce the likelihood of their re-offending. As part of this process on average 80% work within the community on a daily basis as part of their rehabilitation and resettlement programme on a paid or unpaid basis.

Most of the original single story accommodation is still in use but has been converted and refurbished and in some instances replaced to provide single and double rooms. In addition, during 2003/4 a Modular Temporary Unit (MTU), containing 40 single rooms on two floors was installed. There is a small segregation unit.

Section 4

Executive Summary:-

This report has been compiled by the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Sudbury and covers the period between 1st June 2011 and 31st May 2012.

- The Board has experience frustrating difficulty in attracting and retaining members. However this has not had an impact on the basic monitoring of the prison, mainly to the hard work and commitment of the present members
- As agreed with Jane Wright the Board has only done a skeleton report this year, this is due to lack of members on the board.
- The Board has seen a significant change in the Senior Management Team. This is leading to changes in organisation and it is early days to evaluate them.
- The Board is monitoring the impact of the Fair and Sustainable Policy and the impact of this on Prisoners and Staff.
- The Board also recognised the continued introduction of initiatives set against a period of uncertainty for the Prison Service stemming mainly from financial constraints.
- The Board and the SMT regularly exchange views.
- The Board still has concerns regarding the provision of health care and the impact it is having on the prisoners.
- The Segregation Accommodation is now in use and the Board continues to monitor it.

Questions to the Minister:-

None

Questions to the Prison Service:-

None

Section 5

5.1. Equality:-

Diversity and Race Equality

HMP Sudbury is now compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

The DIRF process has been put into place and ongoing progress will be monitored. Complaints are now dealt with lowest possible management level.

IMB have observed that the general discrimination has not taken place in relation to the protected factors and complaints are not upheld.

Since the new revised structure Sudbury, the work of the equality is developing more positivity and that is enabling the rep to respond to the need of the population at Sudbury. This is also backed up by positive support from the Equality Advisor who has now put in place guideline and structures for the new side reps (Sudbury induction decency and equities).

The number of prisoners who come to Sudbury and who need reasonable adjustments, appears to be rising in relation to physical and mental health.

5.2. Learning & Skills and Library

Lincoln College remains the main external provider of educational and vocational training classes and also the delivery of qualifications in most of the workshops, gym, catering and library.

The workshops have a good roll on and roll off programme and this meets the need of the Sudbury short sentence prisoners. The prisoners are gaining good skills and qualification in NVQ levels, C&G level 1 and 2 in various vocational courses.

The Board is aware that the learning and skills department also monitor all the prisons that come into Sudbury, All Prisoners are given a prospectus of available activities on induction and have an assessment interview with CIAS (Careers Information and Advice Service) at an early stage, which is followed up in interim and exit reviews.

The Board recognises that the Sudbury Library and, its facilities and learning activities offered have been excellent in members' reports and feedback from prisons, shows that they value this resources, and the various project that are carried out within the library i.e.: toe to toe mentoring, creative writing workshop, Distance learning research and support.

The Board members have reported positively on prisoners' experience in various workshops and the opportunity to obtain qualifications.

5.3. Healthcare:-

The changes reported last year in Healthcare provision have not all gone smoothly. There has been significant staff shortages and other issues.

This has had a negative on the provision for prisoners with increase in complaints lack of stability and longer waiting lists.

Information regarding services offered by the healthcare team and how to access those services is displayed around the prison,

There has been bullying and threatening behaviour affecting prisoners and much of this is linked to drug debt and it is pleasing to note that overall level of drug use in HMP Sudbury is not rising. The drug team and CARAT (Counsellor, Assessment, Referral, Advise and through care) service is well used and the random drugs test carried out by the team is having an impact on the amount of people using drugs within prison.

HMP Sudbury has had a rise in population of elderly and disabled prisoners. Resources have been stretched.

5.4. Safer Custody

The Board expects those held in an Open Prison environment and therefore being prepared for their release and resettlement to be gaining confidence in themselves as people and be treated with respect from all charged with their care and safety. Previously a number of prisoners have reported that they do not feel as safe as one would wish, particularly on first arrival, in open conditions. Changes to the Induction Process reported last year have made no noticeable change to the prisoner perception of safety and this is concerning.

Low-level bullying in the food line as reported last year has continued to be a problem, which has been repeatedly highlighted to senior management. Reallocation of staff has not resolved the problem.

5.5. Segregation Unit.

There has been increase in the use of the segregation, From late March of 2011 when this project was completed and operational many savings and improvements have been achieved including:

Improvement to the vehicular access to this block has now made it possible for the prison service transport provider to access the area more easily.

Prisoners can now be held for a longer period (72 hours) prior to transfer.

Savings have been achieved by using the prison service transport provider therefore eliminating the use of private taxis and a prison officer escort.

The unit will continue to operate as previously in compliance with all prison service rules and from March 2011 will be officially recognised as the Segregation and Accommodation Unit

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

Many of the cells have little secure space for personal items such as medication and most lifers are unable to launder their own clothes, which would be an expectation around independence following release. There are also limited specific facilities for disabled prisoners in Sudbury, although reasonable disabled access is possible to all areas of the prison. This is not satisfactory.

Prisoner / staff relationships are improving however there is still room for improvement.

6.2. Induction Process and Programme

Sudbury has recently changed its induction policy this was partly due to the HMP review and partly due to the MQPR survey results. The new policy came into effect from March 2011. Induction programmed has improved.

6.3. Life sentenced prisoners

14% of the current population are classed as serving a life sentence. Their behaviour tends to be stable. This can not always be said for the short sentence prisoners but this mix does not often present problems.

6.4 Kitchens

The kitchens have been through another very demanding year, through various issues with staffing. This has sometimes had a negative impact on the provision for prisoners.

Special religious festivals were marked during the year including Christmas, Eid and Sikh and Hindu festivals. However there were some concerns raised about the equality of provision within different faiths.

The Board is pleased to see that the prisoners' can also undertake qualification in the staff mess in catering and customer care.

6.5 Resettlement

The Board recognises that Resettlement is a priority area for Sudbury as it contributes to the successful rehabilitation of prisoners into the community as preparation for release. On average 33% of Sudbury's prisoner population are working outside of the prison on a paid or unpaid basis. This is closely monitored by the Board as it affects the management of the prison. There have been increases in the number of prisoner-owned vehicles this has been beneficial in extending the range of possible employment.

Section 7

7.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board:- There has been a problem in recruitment of members.

7.2. Board Statistics:-

Recommended Complement of Board Members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	1
Number of members leaving within reporting period	3
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	100
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	112
Total number of applications received	
Total number of segregation reviews held	
Total number of segregation reviews attended	

7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

Code	Subject	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
A	Accommodation	0	2	2
B	Adjudications	0	0	
C	Diversity related	0	0	1
D	Education/employment/training	0	0	
E	Family/visits	1	0	
F	Food/kitchen related	0	0	
G	Health related	1	0	3
H	Property	0	0	
I	Sentence related/HDC &home visits	3	5	3
J	Staff/Prisoner Related	1	0	1
K	Transfers	3	5	
L	Miscellaneous *	9	7	4
	Total number of applications	18	19	14

* *Miscellaneous includes: - Home Detention Curfew, Home Visits, Prison Rules & External Probation Departments.*