



HMP Sudbury

Annual Report

June 2012 – May 2013

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

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Section 3

Description of HMP Sudbury :-

HMP Sudbury was originally built as a US Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during 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 secure accommodation 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 2012 and 31st May 2013.

- The Board has seen a significant change in personnel over the reporting period. This has increased the overall numbers on the board but with over 50% of the board still within the probation period. This has limited the ability of the board to carry anything other than the basic functions.
- The Governor has introduced changes in the management of health care and catering. Both functions are now shared between HMP Sudbury and HMP Foston Hall with a single catering and healthcare manager working between the two establishments. What impact this has, if any is still be assessed as the change is still in its infancy. The changes in catering have not been well received by the catering staff at Sudbury and there has been a marked increase in the number of negative comments recorded in the dining room comments book.
- The Fair and Sustain programme has been completed, the Governor has given the board regular feedback to the board on the programme to date. Changing to overall staffing at Sudbury have been minimal.
- The Board and the SMT regularly exchange views and the Governor or a member of SMT attend the board's monthly meeting.
- There Board notes that there has been an increased number of employers bringing work into the prison which extends the employment opportunities for the prison population.
- The Board has concerns regarding a proposal to extend the overall population of the prison. To achieve this there would be a significant reduction in single room accommodation.
- The Secure Accommodation is now in use and the Board continues to monitor it as required.

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.

There have been no reports to the board regarding diversity or race equality over the reporting period. The prison recently had a pre-operative transgender prisoner and there were clear policies in place to support the prisoner.

The number of prison who come to Sudbury and who need reasonable adjustment appear to be rising in relation to physical and mental health.

5.2. Learning & Skills and Library

Milton Keynes College have taken on the contract previously ran by Lincoln College as 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 problems reported in the previous two reports regarding health care staffing are now largely resolved. There are no significant waiting times and the healthcare unit offers a broad spectrum of medical support. Healthcare in the prison is now provided by Derbyshire Health United. There remain issues in ensuring prisoners attend medical appointments. These stem from prisoners not being informed in time that they have an appointment or prisoners who choose not to attend their appointment. Both lead to wasted time for the medical staff in the establishment.

A recent change has been made to the way that the prisoners are issued with repeat prescriptions. Before the prescription is issued the prisoner has to undertake a medical assessment to ensure that the medication is still required and that the dosage is still correct. There has been local feedback from some prisoners that they are not happy with the change as it seems over –zealous, there have been no formal applications regarding this.

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.

There are plans to convert the existing reception unit into an end of life unit with the facilities needed to support this. There are no set dates for this work to begun at present.

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.

The previously reported issues around prisoner induction and low level bullying of newly arrived prisoners have improved. The board have not received any such reports from prisoners over this reporting period.

The board does note that a number of prisoners are moved into the SAU at their own request. These requests are often linked to bullying s a results of debt within the prison.

Low-level bullying in the food line as reported last year has been addressed.

5.5. Secure Accommodation Unit

There is no segregation unit at Sudbury. There is a Secure Accommodation Unit, this does not conform to the security standards to be deemed a Segregation unit. It is rare for a prisoner to be held in the SAU for a period in excess of 24hrs. The Governor has an agreement that those prisoners who need to be moved to closed conditions can be moved to HMP Dovegate if there is a delay in securing accommodation in other establishments.

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

The accommodation in general is in need of improvement. The prison was built as a temporary structure in the 1940's much of the original accommodation still exists. The board note that there has been a programme of improvements that have included the provision of new double glazed windows. The board have raised concerns regarding rooms in the accommodation blocks that are damp. This seems to be a growing problem and it is hard to see how this can be improved without significant investment.

6.5. 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. The board has not received any complaints regarding the induction process.

6.6. Life sentenced prisoners

Approximately 30% of the current population are classed as serving a life sentence. Their behaviour tends to be stable. This cannot always be said for the short sentence prisoners who tend to be more transient but this mix does not often present problems.

6.7 Kitchens

There have been issues regarding staffing and grading within the kitchens over the reporting period. There is a definite undercurrent in the kitchens with some staff members clearly unhappy. The changes that are taking place with the introduction of a new catering manager have not been well received by some staff. The board see's the kitchens and the provision of catering as a significant area of concern and continue to monitor.

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.

6.8 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. In the past year more resettlement work has been bought into the prison with Mark's and Spencer's, Dunn Elm Mill and Coffee Republic amongst others introducing new work streams into the establishment. Prisoners also continue to gain work experience 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.

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	6
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	5
Number of members leaving within reporting period	4
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	9

Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	213
Total number of applications received	15
Total number of segregation reviews held	N/A
Total number of segregation reviews attended	N/A

7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

Code	Subject	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
A	Accommodation	2		
B	Adjudications			1
C	Diversity related	1		
D	Education/employment/training			
E	Family/visits			1
F	Food/kitchen related			
G	Health related	3		3
H	Property			
I	Sentence related/HDC &home visits	3		
J	Staff/Prisoner Related	1		2
K	Transfers			4
L	Miscellaneous *	4		4
	Total number of applications	14		

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