



HMP USK & PRESCOED

Annual Report

2013 - 2014

Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act of 1952 and Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent Board, appointed by the Home Secretary / Minister for Justice, 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 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 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 prison records.

Section 2

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Section 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISONS

3 HMP Usk & Prescoed are located on three sites. A Cat C Prison in the town of Usk, a Cat D prison in the area of Prescoed and Cilwrgi Farm located a few miles from Prescoed. Prisoners are supported by Personal Officers, Case workers, a Psychology Department, a Substance Misuse Team, the Chaplaincy, a Healthcare Department and a Resettlement Team. Healthcare offers a daycare facility but has no Healthcare beds to support ongoing treatment needs.

3.1 HMP Usk opened in 1844. Throughout its existence, it has provided a variety of regimes and is currently a male Category C prison holding vulnerable prisoners. In April 2013 the CNA (certified notional accommodation) was 266, in November 2014 this capacity was increased to 272. Both sites have plans for further increases.

The objectives of the prison are to hold prisoners securely and safely, to provide a well ordered establishment where prisoners are treated humanely and with decency and respect. The structured regime is intended to prepare the prisoners for a safe release, reduce the risk of re-offending and positively contribute to society.

3.2 HMP Prescoed is situated in open countryside approximately 3 miles from the town of USK. It is a Cat D Resettlement prison and was opened in 1939. In April 2013 the CNA was 213, by April 2014 this rose to 230.

The regime at Prescoed is designed to rehabilitate and educate, through a structured sentence plan and resettlement plan, to promote the reduction in risk of prisoners re-offending when they return to their communities. Opportunities exist for education and work placements with resources being allocated to the resettlement of prisoners. Training in a range of industries and activities has long been an established regime at Prescoed and continues to be consistent in its acquisition of suitable work placements.

The Board can report that during the period there were two absconds and two ROTL failures. This reflects a success rate of which the prison is naturally proud, particularly when considering how many temporary licences are issued each year.

All prisoners who abscond are returned to closed conditions, other unauthorised absences are adjudicated and robust punishments applied. (e.g. Loss of privileges)

3.3 HMP Cilwrgi Farm consists of 460 acres, 160 acres of which are woodlands, plus a variety of outbuildings. The farm has a thriving milking herd (119) and a flock of chickens (25). Cilwrgi has a number of training opportunities for prisoners, e.g. milking parlour / herd management, animal husbandry, arable farming techniques, sawmill activities, farm machinery basic skills etc. The average number of prisoners working and training on the farm each day is 17. The average number of prisoners working or training at the farm is 25. During the reporting period, productivity and operation has been affected by occasional restrictions brought on by TB. The Farm is designated an area of Special Scientific Interest (SSI)

Section 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 4.1 In line with national policies HMP Usk & Prescoed has undergone considerable change to maximise efficiencies within reprioritised budgets. During this difficult time, the IMB Board has observed the impact these changes have made and been impressed that staff have managed to minimise any negative outcomes so effectively. Plans to outsource some functions that are currently handled internally will link in with the ongoing changes and the Board will monitor progress and look for the minimum disruption to the prison populations. The reduction of staff has influenced the prison regimes whilst maintaining standards of prisoner care and their preparation for release.
2. Usk and Prescoed had a change of Governor during the reporting period. This inevitably causes a feeling of uncertainty, particularly as the establishments were working through a planned programme of change led by the outgoing Governor. The transition from one to the other has gone well although there has been a noticeable change in management style. The feeling amongst Board members is that the prison(s) have a sound future.
3. Both prisons were subject to an unannounced HMP Inspection. The outcome was very good and both sites scored highly. (Usk 4434) Prescoed 4444)
- 4 The Board has lost 4 very experienced members this year and their wisdom has been missed, however, we are left with a relatively young board (with recruitment about to happen) who have risen to the challenge and conduct their duties with commitment and diligence.

Section 5

EQUALITY & INCLUSION

Throughout the year, Usk & Prescoed have quarterly Diversity and Equality Meetings. The committee monitors and manages issues related to equal treatment of prisoners and is made up of a Governor, other senior members of staff, the Decency Officer (Equalities Advisor), IMB member, prisoner representing minority groups in the prison and an admin officer.

Incidents which have occurred throughout the intervening period between meetings are discussed together with the management decisions taken, follow-up action points taken, any improvements which could be made, together with the results of any previous action points.

Accurate recording and monitoring of all Equality issues are monitored by the Decency Officer and the Equalities Officer. This structure is about to change therefore the new regime will be carefully observed by the IMB as any reduction of senior managers at the Meeting could diminish the quality and timeliness of any decisions taken.

Section 6

EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS

Both Prisons offer a range of education and learning skills, which include :- ICT, Welsh, Literacy & Numeracy, Bricklaying, Carpentry, Plastering, Art , Barbering & Cooking. At Prescoed there is a full time Learning & Skills option.

For Prescoed prisoners, there are a number of opportunities for working e.g. Charity retail outlets, Local Authority Voluntary work, etc. There are a limited number of opportunities to pursue training at local colleges.

Section 7

HEALTHCARE & MENTAL HEALTH

During the year, Health care has undergone a major period of change. Responsibility for the provision of health services passed from the prison service to the Local Health Board, which is answerable to The Welsh Assembly Government which has devolved power over Health provision.

Accepting the usual teething problems the transfer went well. The change has meant that there are no longer Primary Mental Health nurses and Forensic Health Heads in the prison. All services are now provided by an "in reach" basis by the Local Health Board (LHB).

Medication management has also changed to a similar procedure as experienced outside prison. Prisoners now have to take personal responsibility and place their own orders for repeat prescriptions. This has cut down waste and also prepares prisoners for life outside prison. The prescribing of strong pain killers and other medicines that could be susceptible to trading and misuse are now prescribed on a weekly rather than monthly basis. Whilst this resulted in more work for the pharmacy and nursing team it is proving to be effective.

The provision of doctors to the prison has also changed from a local GP, to a Practice who supply a rota of doctors. This has resulted in a more effective operation. A routine service for supporting chronic health conditions (e.g. diabetes, asthma, chronic heart disease etc) continues as well as screening programmes for bowel cancer and Flu vaccinations.

A recent HMCIP Inspection gave a positive report on the Healthcare at Usk & Prescoed and the few recommendations they made have been actioned. Prisoners are positive about the service offered by Healthcare and this is reflected in the low number of IMB applications received on Healthcare matters.

Section 8

PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

At Usk there is a range of indoor purposeful activity and this includes cleaning, catering, painting, & decorating and other roles. Outside activities include gardening and re-cycling and the prison prides itself on the high standard of its gardens.

At Prescoed prisoners can undertake a wider range of outdoor activities covering estates and farm work, animal husbandry and dairy duties.

The range of purposeful activity has changed very little in the past twelve months but, a new regime is due to be introduced in 2014.

Section 9

RESETTLEMENT

External work placements (Prescoed) are managed by the Community Placement Team who hold an employer vacancy list and a prisoner waiting list. Several placements may result in employment on release, particularly for prisoners on Stage 2 placements. Both prisoners and placements are subject to risk assessments. Several prisoners from Prescoed are placed at the Clinks Restaurant at Cardiff Prison; this provides a range of work experiences and provides a useful skill for immediate use on release.

At Usk, offender management focuses on reducing re-offending by using sentence planning to identify needs and provide appropriate interventions and / or treatment programmes. At Prescoed most interventions are closely connected with ROTL. The pathways for progression focus on identifying risks and needs and liaison with other agencies (e.g. MAPPA, Probation etc) with the objective of reducing the risk of re-offending.

Section 10

SAFER CUSTODY (Usk Prison)

During the reporting period, there have been no deaths in custody and consequently, no inquests.

During the reporting period, Safer Custody Meetings changed from monthly to quarterly. The IMB attends these meetings and is able to monitor the welfare issues that arise within the prison. A member of the Samaritans is also present and a "Listener" attends for most of the meeting. There are between nine and ten Listeners at Usk (depending on discharges etc) and they provide a valuable service to prisoners who require emotional support. The following represents three months during the reporting period.

No of Listening Hours	326.45
Hours Listener Cell used	170.05
Suicidal thoughts	14
Self-Harm thoughts / feelings	25
Considered in great distress	150
General Calls	82

The Board feels that Safer Custody is well monitored in Usk prison

SEGREGATION

Usk & Prescoed does not support a Segregation Unit

Section 11

INDUCTION / RECEPTION

All prisoners arriving at Usk and Prescoed have been transferred from another prison, none are admitted straight from the courts. The reception of new prisoners takes place at various times of the day and is administered by dedicated staff.

Induction tends to be about the regimes in either of the two prisons, as opposed to entering the prison system for the first time. At Prescoed, induction takes place over the first week of admission and is primarily given by other selected prisoners, with officer oversight. Board members often observe these sessions and report that they are undertaken with due regard to prison rules and willingness by prisoners to give a fair and accurate account of the required information.

Section 12

PROGRAMMES

Usk

The following Sex Offender Treatment Programmes (SOTP) are delivered at Usk Prison.

Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme (CSTOP) – two programmes are delivered each financial year for groups of nine men. Each programme is six months long and is a foundation programme for men who are medium risk and above.

Becoming New Me (BNM) – one programme is delivered annually and is an equivalent foundation level programme for men who are intellectually challenged. This programme is delivered to groups of eight men.

Living as New Me (LNM) – this programme is new this year and replaces the booster programme for intellectually challenged men. It is a rolling programme, with up to eight men involved at any one time.

Healthy Sex Programme (HSP) – this is an individual programme for men who have specific treatment needs with sexual interests. There are currently six places, with the intention that this number will rise in the future.

Extended Sex Offender Treatment Programme (ESOTP) – This is a six month programme targeted at men who have successfully completed the core programme. The men selected for this programme tend to be high or very high statistic risk and have outstanding treatment needs. There are nine men involved in each programme.

Prescoed

There are no longer any group based interventions at HMP Prescoed. There are limited resources available for other individual work at both sites and as such, it is only offered if it is Parole Board directed.

Section 13

TIME OUT OF CELL

USK

PRESCOED

08.00hrs - 18.00hrs

Free movement from 06.00hrs Roll Check
Return to own Unit by 22.00hrs

Section 14

EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE

1. There has been a major policy change concerning the governance and management of ROTL. These changes have been managed well with as little disruption as possible. The Governor's commitment to good communication with staff and prisoners went a long way to reducing rumours and misinformation therefore acceptance of the new rules was not challenged.
2. The quality of workmanship undertaken in the workshops at Usk (woodwork, bricklaying & plastering) is excellent. Prisoners are well engaged and their output is carefully monitored. It is good to see that the woodwork shop is able to take on commissions from outside the prison and because of the high quality of their work it enhances the reputation of the prison within the local community.
3. The prison(s) are working hard to promote and facilitate stronger family ties as part of preparing prisoners for release. The Prisoner Family Days continue at Prescoed, Usk has organised Lifer Family Days and both sites are engaging in "Storey Book Dads". These initiatives are having a positive effect on prisoners.
4. Maintaining high standards throughout a period of many changes is not easy and the progress achieved at both prisons is a testament to the management, staff and prisoners.

Section 15

AREAS OF CONCERN

1. Prisoners at Usk still have to eat their meals in their cells. The age and lay out of the prison makes this understandable but it remains unsatisfactory in a modern age.
2. The reduction in staffing levels leaves very little slack in the system to accommodate unforeseen incidents. For example, if a prisoner at Usk has to be admitted to hospital, providing a constant escort can seriously impact on other regimes back at the prison. Whilst everything is going well the current arrangements are sufficient, but there is a worry that a serious incident could have major consequences. (This comment illustrates the need for regular updates on Contingency planning and exercises.)
3. Overall, The Board has no serious concerns with the way that Usk and Prescoed functions.

Section 16

<u>BOARD STATISTICS</u>	
Recommended Complement of The Board	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	15
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	4
Number of Board Meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	414
Total number of Segregation Reviews	N/A
Total number of Segregation Reviews attended	N/A
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	18/06/13

Applications to the IMB during the reporting period

CODE	SUBJECT	YEAR
A	Accommodation	0
B	Adjudications	1
C	Equality & Diversity (inc. religion)	2
D	Education/ employment/training	2
E1	Family / Visits inc mail & phone	2
E2	Finance / Pay	6
F	Food / Kitchen related	3
G	Health related	4
H1	Property within current establishment	0
H2	Property during transfer in in other establishment	2
H3	Canteen, facilities, catalogue shopping, Argos	3
I	Sentence related. (ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc	2
J	Staff/ Prisoner concerns inc bullying	3
K	Transfers	1
L	Miscellaneous	4
	Total number of IMB Applications	35
	Of total – number of Confidential Access was	1