



HMP Wakefield

Annual Report

by

**Independent Monitoring Board
Wakefield**

01 May 2012 – 30 April 2013

**Monitoring Fairness and Respect
for People in Custody**

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1. STATUTORY ROLE of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB)

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 required every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent board appointed by the Secretary of State 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 a 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.

2. HMP WAKEFIELD – DESCRIPTION

HMP Wakefield is a High Security Prison of which there are only eight. It is located between the city centre and a residential district, with a Certified Normal Accommodation of 750 prisoners of Category A, B, and High Security Remand. There are four residential wings, A, B, C, D, of which B wing houses Remand prisoners in a separate unit. All cells are of single occupancy. Prisoners are also held in the Health Care (HCC), the Segregation Unit and the Exceptional Risk Unit (Closed Supervision Centre - CSC), both located in F Wing.

The CSC operates under a national co-ordinated management strategy to provide secure isolated location for those prisoners who are assessed as consistently and violently disruptive

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the period 1st May 2012 to 30 April 2013. It is presented in the standardised national format. As in previous years, we again acknowledge the continuing good work and the improvements achieved in many areas of the prison while identifying and highlighting any areas of concerns.

This year has seen the continued process of change and renewal of the Board resulting in a number of new members wishing to join in its work. By the end of the reporting year, the Board had engaged in an extensive recruitment exercise which had resulted in up to half a dozen new members awaiting appointment. This allied to a number of experienced members who had indicated that they might stand down, led the Board to recognise the significant responsibilities it would face of induction, training and support, and it put systems in place to make sure that this happened effectively.

3.1 Issues requiring a response from the Director

As reported over several years, the Board remains concerned about the continuing problems with the aging fabric of the Segregation Unit. It understands the difficulties of decisions about the practical use of available resources given the high security implications of any remedial work; however, in the meantime, the state of the building remains poor with a direct effect on the living and working conditions of prisoners and staff. The recent HMIP inspection, carried out during this reporting period, described the environment in segregation as poor and the living conditions in the CSC as inadequate, part of which at least is to do with the state of the physical environment. The IMB would endorse these conclusions vigorously and look to the Prison Service for finding a practical and safe solution to these longstanding and ongoing problems.

Once again, the Board needs to express its concerns about the continuing restrictions on the use of the workshops caused by dilapidation of the fabric of the buildings. This has potentially a direct effect on moves by the Prison Service to more fully occupy prisoners in gainful employment. This is also true of the staffing arrangements which can lead to loss of work in the case of absence and lack of cover.

The Board has been as bemused and frustrated as staff and managers during the course of the year by the continuing delays in successfully implementing the long awaited and much needed new kitchen facilities. It would appear that many of the delays are outwith the direct control of local prison management and are the result of contractual management difficulties and quality assurance. The Board would look to the Director to take urgent steps to enable this project to be completed as soon as possible.

3.2 Issues requiring a response from the Prison

The Board recognises the challenges faced by prison service management in managing a significantly reduced budget and the difficulties in implementing the staffing and the other changes that this has necessitated. It has been concerned however during the year about the potential service delivery implications of the introduction of the Fair and Sustainable initiative, as well as the personal challenges it has posed for individual members of staff, some of whom have left after many years of service and experience. It will continue to monitor and discuss with management the practical effects it observes on standards of service, training and skills and staff morale.

4. Reports

4.1 Equality and Inclusion

The diversity function has now been renamed Equality. The new Deputy Governor took over the chair of the DEAT in July 2012 and this was followed with a name change to PEAG (Prisoner Equality Action Group) with a new agenda and membership. The Diversity Reps chose to be renamed Equality Representatives.

During the year there have been 81 DIRF's (Diversity Incident Reporting Forms) submitted, 57 of which were not substantiated, 20 were substantiated and 3 led to formal investigation. 1 was not applicable

The Equality reps choose 10% of the DIRF's to scrutinise and DDC scrutinised a further 10%.

HMP Wakefield is in the process of arranging a new scrutiny panel, which will be in place by September 2013, with the last external scrutiny taking place in October 2012. The new panel hopes to make use of skills from Nottinghamshire Mental Health.

The custodial manager and his Governor attend the regional safer custody meeting each quarter; however the safer custody and equality team have not been resource rich with often only a few hours of Officer complement being afforded each week, this in spite of having an excellent administrative team. An ongoing re profiling exercise should result in a complement of two staff per week.

The board also attends these meetings regularly and has noted that its own applications from prisoners have been low in numbers i.e. 4% of the total number of applications received in the year.

4.2 Education, Learning and Skills

The Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) at Wakefield offer a number of programmes to approximately a third of the prison population.

Employment, learning and skills are integral to the offender management process. There has continued to be a focus on embedding additional learning opportunities in all workshops throughout the year and the provision of functional skills for all offenders in workshops. All learning and skills work is directed towards each department to ensure that they continue to support the work being done in other areas. An example of this successful partnership is PE supporting the work of the Health Care Centre and Offender behaviour Programme. Problems do occur, however, when prisoners apply for education, as there are not enough places available to meet the assessed demand. IMB applications in this area have increased by 2% from previous year.

Currently there is one full time teacher and the rest are part-time, this has had an impact on what courses can be provided. They continue to use the data recording system across all Learning and Skills areas in order to report accurately to the Offender Management department on individuals' progress on each course. Wakefield is a registered centre for City and Guilds and runs NVQs, and prison staff deliver, assess and verify all qualifications. Staff and offenders are supported through Matthew Bolton College to attain BICSc assessor status and Clear Tec continues to be contracted to support the waste management qualification.

Learning and Skills and Education have continued to provide support in all areas of the prison, including the Segregation Unit, HCC and CSC. Support has included outreach from the gym for offenders with identified health problems and additional support for CSC including high level IT opportunities. There are additional courses which are offered to allow the kitchen staff to enhance their qualifications. HCC has continued to provide a range of additional stimulating activities for the growing number of elderly offenders and those with mental health problems, including PE for gentle exercise, and individual programmes/ physiotherapy, a well attended over 60s club, and most workshops having volunteers who support in-cell work and fine –cell work producing high quality textiles. Education provides offenders with learning difficulties and disabilities low level courses.

Education is now offered on a part –time basis with few full time opportunities. Most courses are now fixed term of eight weeks to ensure that the learners plan for progression. Cost is said

to be a major limiting factor in the numbers currently following the programme the Open University programme.

Art is well established and offenders continue to produce work of a very high standard and enter the Koestler Awards most years. The PE department are also delivering L2 NOCN courses to enhance provision. The workshops continue to provide a range of high quality programmes to develop offenders practical skills and to engage in constructive rehabilitation. Printing shop 4 opened, currently closed but there are plans to re-open. The recycling workshop continues to support the prisons environmental concerns and save money. Workshop 15 (woodwork) continues to enhance its sales; they have widened their range of high quality goods.

4.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

The Primary Care Centre, integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) and GP Service continue to be operated by Spectrum Community Health. However, there has been growing integration and liaison with the Health Care Unit particularly in the area of drug administration

Drug strategy is an area of constant evaluation particularly from January 2013 onwards.

There has been, during the report period, a greater emphasis on drug supply reduction and medicine management, particularly in the area of tradable medicines.

Regularly SPAD clinic meetings are held whereby prisoners on long term medication are assessed to see if the medication continues to be appropriate or if it can be reduced. Thus for example, some drugs are now served in liquid form and overseen.

There are now 3400 less tablets in circulation. Tramadol is now served in a slow release form, requiring only a single dosage per day.

Nottinghamshire Health Trust continues to supply mental health services. This service performs very well. HDP learning and SEN problems are prevalent in the Healthcare sector. The opening of the Tele Medic Care has had a significant improvement on the overall Healthcare. Visits to hospitals, which has had a major impact on officer duties and a negative impact on inmates have been reduced by 60/65%. The Service allows senior staff to access medical advice during the night and at weekends. On average 10 inmates per week use the facility

The new PAIR suite gymnasium sited in Healthcare was opened during the period and has had a very positive impact on mobility of certain inmates within the unit.

Other services such as dental, optical and x-ray screening are carried out and meet targets set by overall NHS standards.

Ultra-sound is provided on a rolling 6/8 weeks programme.

The chronic heart care continues to be funded by the British Heart Care Foundation

Diabetes presents a significant problem, but a Diabetes Consultant is now available via the Wakefield Hospital Trust.

During the course of the year Healthcare has been running with staff shortages of 3/4 although, when necessary, staff has been detailed from main wings.

Staff are aware that the In-patient Care Service has been re- allocated to Humberside and as a consequence the above situation will be remedied from April 2013.

Board members continue to monitor the changes which have recently improved the quality of healthcare for prisoners. There has been a slight increase of 2% in applications to the Board in this area, from last year.

4.4 Purposeful Activity (includes work)

No 1 Workshop - Contract Services

This workshop has a number of roles for provision of work.

All prisoners receive individual risk assessment prior to acceptance into the workshop.

Continuity is an ongoing problem because of the nature of contract work.

Work schedules are difficult to plan

There are 44 prisoners on the allocated list but, because of supervisory staffing, only thirty can be accommodated at any one time

Staffing ratios are one supervisor per 15 inmates.

There has also to be one security staff member per 20 inmates

Work on the workshop roof has recently been carried out but, this has led to an unacceptable reduction in ventilation which needs to be addressed.

No2 Cutting Workshop

This provides cut materials for the OESS contracts in both Workshops 3 and 8

There is a problem in this Workshop is rain water leaking from No5 Workshop which is situated above

This problem is worsening.

There is one supervisor staff, one security officer and a full complement of ten prisoners

No 3 Textile Workshop

All work carried out in this Workshop is contracted by a central body which places orders for prisoners' clothing.

Again due to rain leaking into the workshop has, on occasions, had to close

There are 48 prisoners on role but the average number employed is 30

There is only two supervisory staff

No 4 Textile Workshop

This Workshop is closed due to the poor condition of the roof deemed unsafe and to rain water leaking into the electricity supply

This is a large workshop which, if utilised, could employ a significant number of prisoners

No5 Braille Workshop

This is regarded as an area of excellence and has been acclaimed for the work carried out.

The workshop provides items for the blind in schools and in the wider community

The Braille facility has a classroom, in education, to provide for a small number of Category A prisoners.

There is a complement of 25 prisoners. However, here too, there is a problem with roof leakage due to rain and staff are worried that this leakage is where there is electrical equipment.

For 'Health and Safety' reasons the room has had to be abandoned on occasions and prisoners returned to Wing location or not allowed to commence work at all.

As previously reported this leakage has also affected No 2 Workshop.

No 6 Charity Workshop

This Workshop has an excellent reputation for providing work based placement for prisoners with a range of ages and skills.

No 7 Kitchen and Dining Areas

Prisoners are taught cooking and food serving, up to NVQ standard
8 prisoners on average.

No 8 Textile Workshop

Work is contracted centrally by Prison Service and produces prisoners' clothing.
There are 50 prisoners allocated to this workshop but, with only an instructor staff of 2, only 30 prisoners can be employed at any one time.

No 9, 10 and 11 Workshops are closed and are used for storage.

No 12 BICS Cleaning Workshop

This Workshop provides specific training for prisoners who are employed as wing based cleaners. Structured accreditation in cleaning is offered.

No13 PICTA

NO 15 Woodwork Workshop

Recognised as delivering excellent work, high quality products are sold to members of staff or donated to charitable organisations.

The Workshop has a full complement of 16 prisoners. Again there is a problem with the roof rain ingress and poor ventilation.

No16 Re-cycling Workshop

There has been a year on year increase in throughput and this unit now recycles 95% of all rubbish produced in the prison. There are 40 prisoners on allocation but because of staffing 30 are employed at any given time

Conclusion

There have been occasions of workshop closure due to the absence of supervisory officers. There is no workshop where there are more than two supervisors at any one time. Therefore, in the case of absence, 15 prisoners are recalled to wings or prevented from work attendance Buildings continue to dilapidate and there are an increasing number of occasions where prisoners cannot be employed due to 'Health and Safety' issues.

For the future, serious consideration should be given as to how budget allocation is delivered to maintain valuable assets.

All buildings cost money to maintain and investment in refurbishment to preserve the building for the purpose they were designed is imperative.

It is evident that the point has been reached where major refurbishment of the infrastructure is required, not just a repair.

4.5 Resettlement

This year saw the preparation for the new sentence planning process under PSI 41/2012: essentially this means that only those prisoners fully complying with their sentence planning targets would be eligible for a full sentence planning review meeting, with the exception of new receptions and determinate prisoners within the last 12 months of their release date. Those prisoners not meeting the criteria will have an offender supervisor review, where their categorisation and allocation will be reviewed as before, and where the prisoner can discuss the progress of his sentence. June 2013 is the planned date for the initial implementation of these changes and it is anticipated that there will be some challenges to the new sentence planning process. The IMB will monitor this area with particular care, noting that at present the number of applications related to sentence issues is relatively small.

A further audit was carried out in February on the categorisation and assessment of prisoners, and, as with the previous one referred to in last year's report, the IMB was pleased to note that 100% was once again achieved in this module. The Board also noted that as a result of considerable work within the Offender Management Unit, the electronic parole dossier system for indeterminate prisoners is now fully up and running and the determinate cases are being transferred to the new database once details are updated.

As with other parts of the prison, the Board has watched carefully the implementation of the Fair and Sustainable initiative in the OMU. The scheme has meant major and unsettling changes to both operational and clerical staff, with some departing, some taking on new roles and responsibilities, and a steep learning curve for many. The Board will continue to monitor carefully the impact of the initiative on the effective running of the organisation and the level of service delivery.

4.6 Safer Custody

The IMB has attended the Safer Prisons meetings on a regular basis, however, on occasion the meetings have been postponed for operational reasons and this has meant the IMB member has not been able to attend them all. The meetings are well attended by prison staff, Samaritans, Listeners and Safer Prisons prisoner representatives. All people attending the meetings are given opportunity to raise matters of concern. A 10% sample of ACCT documents are brought to the meetings and perused during the staff element of the meetings. The ACCT documents are not without error and improvement in practice is work in progress, although completion has improved during the reporting period. Custodial managers on night duty are now responsible for checking the documents and reporting on a weekly basis to Safer Prisons. Minutes of the meetings are accurate and circulated very promptly.

A concern arising from the Safer Prisons meetings has been that a form of call bell had been requested to be put in the Listener rooms; this has been ongoing without being resolved at the end of the reporting period.

A Samaritan has attended an IMB Board Meeting to give an overview of the work done by that organisation. The talk was informative and much appreciated.

Deaths in Custody during the reporting period have been 6 in total, the Board being notified of the involvement of the Ombudsman. A record of deaths in custody is kept by the IMB. No

inquests have been completed within the reporting period relating to those deaths occurring, all of which remain outstanding.

4.7 Segregation, Care & Supervision, Close Supervision

The Segregation Unit and the Close Supervision Centre are both housed on the same wing, in an older part of the prison, where the concerns of the IMB and other inspection bodies about the fabric and the state of repair of the building and the overall environment, remain of considerable concern. While the unit generally presents as clean and orderly, this does not disguise the poor state of repair and the need not just for patch repairs, but a longer term solution which will bring the physical environment for both staff and prisoners up to reasonable standards. As a part of the prison which is visited very regularly by the IMB, the Board is well aware of the considerable efforts of managers and staff to provide at least a satisfactory regime for prisoners in this environment. It shared the concerns of the Inspectorate which reported in 2012, about the limitations of the regime for prisoners kept in segregation for longer periods, and the continuing inadequate nature of the living conditions for those few, and very high risk, prisoners in the CSC. In order to improve its effective monitoring of this unit the Board has given a single member particular responsibility for the oversight of the CSC, with regular contact with management and staff, and attendance at review meetings for prisoners.

As in previous reports, the Board again expresses concerns about the challenges posed by the significant number of prisoners with mental health and behavioural problems who are housed in segregation, often facing staff with considerable difficulties in ensuring satisfactory relocation arrangements. This contributes to an imbalance of the population on the wing, overt behavioural problems and additional pressures in the management of the wing.

4.8 Residential Services includes accommodation, food, catering and kitchen

There are 4 main residential wings at HMP Wakefield including a remand unit, which is a spur from one of the main wings. Separate units house CSC, Segregation and Healthcare prisoners.

In addition to rota visits, IMB members make further regular visits to the wings. On each occasion the cleanliness of the wings is noted. The cleaner grade prisoners are constantly on duty and work efficiently. The atmosphere appears very calm in the main.

As mentioned in the previous reports, notice boards are still not up to date.

Recently prisoners have been issued with all weather cagoules to wear when going to outside areas.

Meetings held by the prison which specifically refer to residential areas include Lifestyle and Lifer meetings. The Board has experienced difficulty when any meetings throughout the prison have been cancelled or postponed, sometimes without prior warning to the IMB. It is encouraging that the format of the Lifestyle meetings has changed and they now have a more positive structure. Lifer meetings are one of the few meetings which are not chaired by a Governor or Custodial manager grade. However, the meetings are not regular and despite frequent requests from the prisoners, there has not been a lifer day for about three years.

The kitchen provides 750 meals three times a day, all of which are of good quality and provides variety. It is staffed by one senior officers, two disciplinary staff and six civilian staff two of whom support the Mulberry Diner which caters for staff meals and snacks. The IMB are aware of on-going staffing issues and we continue to be impressed by how this has been managed. Currently 25-30 Offenders work in the kitchen, all successfully achieve their health and hygiene certification supported through liaison with the Education Department.

A new spring and summer menu covering twenty six weeks is currently available. It offers seven lunch and seven teatime choices plus three desserts weekly. A recent survey of current practices has highlighted a number of areas for consideration prior to the new kitchen going into production.

On going initiatives include:-

- Revised feedback documentation.
- New menu specification which is continually monitored to ensure quality.
- Representatives from wings to give regular feedback on the quality of the options.
- New Ramadan format which is available to all offenders offering twenty eight choices over the twenty eight day religious festival.
- Rieber insulated food boxes enabling offenders to eat in accordance with religious timings continuing.

The ‘bakery’ continues to be a great success and offers a range of healthier bread and teacakes. All baking equipment will be transferred to the new kitchen, as this initiative has proved very cost effective and popular.

When the move to the new kitchen is confirmed, a planned move will be implemented allowing the movement of equipment to take place and a probable new ordering system to be started.

The new kitchen should be completed by late summer 2013, a development welcomed by all within the prison, after considerable delays in completion and handover. It will have state of the art equipment which will hopefully be reliable and will include full bakery facilities. All staff and offenders will receive additional training hopefully prior to moving in to new facilities.

A new lift system has been installed to enable the food to be moved more effectively, however, there continues to be concerns over the reduced size of them linked to health and safety. The IMB has expressed its disappointment that the new kitchen has taken so long to complete due to contractual issues. For the future, serious consideration should be given as to how contract negotiations are procured and delivered on new build projects for such valuable assets.

The Visits Centre is situated in a building 100 yards from the prison entrance. Volunteers welcome the visitors and provide light refreshments. Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group (POPS) have been active over the last 18 months and continue to keep a calm atmosphere at the centre, which could have contributed to the fewer complaints from prisoners. “Email a Prisoner” has been introduced and has been well used.

Family Days are well attended and enjoyed and, recently, coffee mornings for discussions with visitors representatives and prison staff .

The Visits room has been redecorated and refurbished; after a few problems with chairs for the disabled, there have been few complaints. Refreshments in the Visits room continue to be served by prison staff and we await the possible co-operation with POPS.

Monthly meetings with representatives from the visitors are chaired by the Board together with staff from the prison.

The comments box contains the usual requests: healthy snacks, improved booking system, the delay in prisoners arriving for visits, delay in visitors arriving for visits.

5. BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended complement of Board members	20
Number of Board members at start of the reporting period	14
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	3
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendance at Board meetings during period	11
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	285
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	423
Total number of applications received	171
Total number of segregation reviews held	38
Total number of segregation reviews attended	38

APPLICATIONS TO THE BOARD BY NUMBER SUBJECT

CODE	SUBJECT	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
A	Accommodation	3	3	4	21
B	Adjudications	1	5	3	5
C	Diversity related	5	0	5	7
D	Education/employment/training	14	16	32	29
E	Family/visits	4	3	12	7
F	Food/kitchen related	4	3	5	1
G	Health related	8	4	14	15
H	Property	19	13	33	17
I	Sentence related	4	1	13	7
J	Staff/prisoner/related	14	24	37	21
K	Transfers	7	3	2	11
L	Miscellaneous	46	36	55	30
Total number of applications		129	111	215	171

APPLICATIONS TO THE BOARD BY % SUBJECT

CODE	SUBJECT	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
A	Accommodation	2.3	2.70	1.86	12.28
B	Adjudications	0.77	4.50	1.39	2.92
C	Diversity related	3.80	0	2.33	4.09
D	Education/employment/training	10.85	14.41	14.88	16.96
E	Family/visits	3.10	2.70	5.58	4.09
F	Food/kitchen related	3.10	2.70	2.33	0.58
G	Health related	6.20	3.60	6.51	8.77
H	Property	14.73	11.71	15.35	9.94
I	Sentence related	3.10	0.90	6.05	4.09
J	Staff/prisoner/related	10.85	21.62	17.21	12.28
K	Transfers	5.42	2.70	0.93	6.43
L	Miscellaneous	35.66	32.43	25.58	17.54
Total number of applications		129	111	215	171

END OF REPORT