



# **HMP Whatton**

## **Annual Report**

**June 2010 – May 2011**

*Compiled and submitted by the full Board*

*IMB Chairman:*

*Dr Ed Pollock*

*HMP Whatton.*

*New Lane,*

*Whatton,*

*Notts.*

*NG13 9FQ*

## 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.

To enable 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.

## Section 2

---

### Contents

<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Description of HMP Whatton	4
<b>Section 4</b>	
Executive Summary	5
Questions for the Minister	8
Questions for the Prison Service	9
<b>Section 5</b>	
Areas that require a report:-	
Diversity	10
Learning & Skills	12
Healthcare	13
Safer Custody	14
Care & Separation (CSU)	14
<b>Section 6</b>	
Other Areas:-	
Accommodation	15
Adjudications	15
Chaplaincy	15
Foreign Nationals	16
Induction	16
Information Officer	19
IRMT	16
Psychology	16
Kitchens	17
Health and safety	17
<b>Section 7</b>	
Work of the IMB	18
IMB Statistics	20
Prisoner Applications to the IMB	21

## Section 3

---

### Description of HMP Whatton

HMP Whatton, Nottinghamshire, is a category 'C' training prison for adult male sex offenders and offers a range of accredited sex offender treatment programmes (SOTP) and other learning and skills activities including education, vocational training, industrial workshops and manufacturing, farms and gardens.

HMP Whatton's population of 840 prisoners comprises those who have offended against adults, those who have offended against children, those who have been convicted of a sex offence as their index offence and those convicted of a non-sexually motivated index offence but which comprised some form of sexual element. The prison is continuing to accept only those offenders who accept responsibility for their offence as those in denial present a challenge to the treatment-centred ethos of the establishment. Offenders are required to accept responsibility for their offending. They must be willing to address their offending behaviour in order to successfully complete a SOTP.

The residential accommodation consists of fourteen residential wings (A1-8; B1-3; and C1-3) and a Care and Separation Unit attached to A3 residential unit. Accommodation comprised a mixture of single and double; and modern and older cells with some of the more modern cells comprising en-suite toilet, washing and showering facilities. The establishment also includes some dormitories (primarily located on B1 & B2). Accommodation for purposeful activity includes a sports hall (including three badminton courts and a room for cardio vascular workouts); gymnasium with weight training facilities; several manufacturing workshops; a large education unit and a large kitchen facility, which includes a dedicated area and facilities for the use of prisoners undertaking the NVQ training in catering. The establishment also has a well-equipped healthcare centre, End of life suite and well-resourced library.

Outside of the prison secure compound is a purpose built Visitor Centre which is currently managed under contract with the Rushcliffe Council for Voluntary Services. There are external contracts placed with *Nottinghamshire County Council* for the supply of library literature etc and *Rushcliffe Council for Voluntary Services (RCVS)* who run the Visits Centre. In addition, there are two externally commissioned services *Nottinghamshire Health Trust*, which provides the healthcare service and The Learning & Skills Council commission an offender learning & skills service provided by *Lincoln College*. The prison also has a contract with *Age Concern*.

## Section 4

---

### **Executive Summary:-**

This report, compiled by The Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Whatton, covers the reporting period between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

The prison has continued operating well during this reporting year despite uncertainty and concerns around operating budgets and staffing levels. The Board is pleased to report that the number of purposeful activity and prisoner unlock hours have been maintained at between 25 and 27 hours per week (purposeful activity) and between 9 and 10 hours per day (prisoner unlock) respectively throughout the reporting year. Following a reduction in the prisoner population during the reporting year 2009/10 due to a project to replace the heating system, the population has risen steadily during this reporting year and is again nearing its Certified Normal Accommodation figure of 840.

The Board considers that HMP Whatton still provides a safe environment where all prisoners are treated with respect and dignity and are provided with many opportunities to engage in purposeful activity to improve their life chances and address their offending behaviour. The Board at HMP Whatton is aware of the important work undertaken at the prison in providing offending behaviour programmes, which aim to encourage sex offenders to recognise and address the causes of their offending behaviour. Psychology has always been a very important aspect of the work of the Prison, as a much higher proportion of prisoners are engaged in offending behaviour treatment programmes than is the case in other prisons. Psychologists undertake their work to a high standard and the overwhelming majority of inmates hold positive views of the service. Earlier this year, a review of psychology provision took place resulting in all qualified psychologists working under a central management structure rather than being under prison management. The IMB will monitor the impact of this change on the psychology unit and provision of offending behaviour programmes.

In previous Annual Reports, the Board stated that it would welcome single cell accommodation for all sex offenders and expressed our doubts and concerns about the sufficiency of the Cell Share Risk Assessment in its present form. Therefore, the Board is pleased that the revised Cell Share Risk Assessment guidance, which recommends that a prisoner cannot share a cell if he or she has been convicted of a sexual assault with the same sex adult victim, has been issued for implementation in all prison and young offender establishments.

The Board remains critical of prisoners being housed in 3 and 4 bed dormitories, in which prisoners eat, sleep and use washing and toilet facilities with minimum privacy (save for a curtain) in one confined space. However, only two 4-bed dormitories are now used to house prisoners and we are pleased that some improvements (such as better lighting) have been made to them to make them a little more comfortable for prisoners. The Board is also pleased to report that the Governing Governor is considering options for alternative accommodation for prisoners in order to limit further the use of dormitories. We will support her in this.

During the reporting year, the new Coroner for Nottinghamshire opened the new Palliative Care Suite, named as The Retreat, at the prison. This was funded by a King's Fund Grant and provides a specialist room within the healthcare unit in which terminally ill prisoners can reside until death.

The Board is pleased that the current healthcare provider (Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust) won the contract to provide healthcare to the prison following a tendering process.

Two external audits (security and safer custody) have been carried out during the reporting year, for which the prison received a very high scores.

## **Areas of concern for the Board**

- The rising number of indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) prisoners at Whatton continues to be a concern for the Board.
- The Board is concerned that the Prison Service and/or Escort Agencies appear incapable of looking after prisoners' property properly. The IMB and complaints clerk at Whatton receive numerous complaints from prisoners that their property has not arrived at Whatton from their previous prison. In many cases, the property is never returned to the prisoner. This is leading to prisoners submitting complaints to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman's office and also to prisoners taking legal action to recover compensation for their lost property.
- Prison staff and the IMB frequently report that complaints sent to other prisons are not answered. It appears that as soon as a prisoner leaves an establishment, he is out of sight and out of mind, despite the fact that some complaints relate to previous prisons.
- Only two category D prisons (HMP's North Sea Camp and Leyhill) appear prepared to accept Category D sex offenders. This is resulting in many sex offenders being categorised as suitable for open conditions but then being unable to move out of Whatton due to Cat D prisons not wanting to accept them. This also results in a lack of space at Whatton for prisoners who could move here from other prisons to undertake sex offender treatment programmes. Whilst we appreciate that places at Category D prisons might not be readily available, Category D sex offenders are experiencing more of a disadvantage and there are currently 23 prisoners at Whatton awaiting a move to open conditions.

## **Questions to the Minister**

1. Is it satisfactory that all but four Category D prisons will not accept sex offenders?

## Questions to the Prison Service

- 1 The Board is concerned that the Prison Service and/or Escort Agencies still appear incapable of looking after prisoners' property. The IMB and complaints clerk at Whatton receive numerous complaints from prisoners that their property has not arrived at Whatton from their previous prison. In many cases, the property is never returned to the prisoner. This is leading to prisoners submitting complaints to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman's office and also to prisoners taking legal action to recover compensation for their lost property.

Why is the current system of property management not effective enough to ensure prisoners' property is looked after properly?

- 2 Prison staff and IMB members frequently report that complaints sent to other prisons are not answered. It appears that as soon as a prisoner leaves an establishment, he is out of sight and out of mind, despite the fact that some complaints relate to previous prisons.

The Board notes that there are several instances when responses from other prisons are not responded to at all.

Is this a satisfactory situation and what can the IMB and prison complaints staff do to ensure that prisons' co-operate to answer complaints?

## Section 5

---

### 5.1. Diversity:-

HMP Whatton Equality Action Team (WEAT) meetings have been held regularly during 2010-2011, ethnic monitoring (SMART) and racist incident information and REAP (race equality action plan) information have been thoroughly discussed.

The wing representatives attend the WEAT meetings where they are able to contribute fully to the discussions and bring concerns from the wings. Representatives include prisoners from the Older Persons group, Race Equality, and the X-pressions group.

The prison population at HMP Whatton has

86%	Prisoners White British
13%	Prisoners BME
3.49%	BME staff within the establishment
22.8%	Prisoners residing in CSU were BME
34	Foreign National prisoners
17	Languages spoken
70	IEP enhanced BME prisoners
97	Prisoners serving life sentences
545	Prisoners aged over 40 years
142	Prisoners aged over 60 years

During the reporting year, prisoners spent 986 days in the Care and Separation Unit, 225 days by BME prisoners, (22.8% BME).

Age UK (Nottinghamshire) has a presence in the prison with the provision of an activity organiser, regular meetings are held. The prison has jointly funded the continuation of the project with Age UK until June 2012 Modified gym sessions for older prisoners remain popular, a walking group, who use the football pitches for their walks, is well attended.

The X-pressions group provides support to GBT prisoners and has 42 registered members, with a committee of 5 members.

## Racist incidents

There were 75 reported racist incidents at the establishment between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, compared with 66 reported incidents during 2009-2010.

## Disability

Copies of the Disability Policy are available on each wing; A Wings 1- 8 each have two cells designed for wheelchair access, and C Wings 1-3 have wheelchair access. On the cell doors it is clearly identified if a prisoner is hard of hearing, has a visual impairment or is infirm in any way. Wing A8 has a new care suite for the use of terminally ill prisoners who prefer to receive their nursing care within the prison not in hospital. The Retreat, referred to earlier, is situated in Healthcare for the use of terminally ill prisoners in the last few days of life.

### Prisoners with disabilities, April 2011

Dyslexia	50
Hearing Difficulty	105
Learning difficulties	76
Mental Illness	82
Progressive condition	48
Reduced mobility	112
Reduced physical capacity	45
Severe disfigurement	1
Speech impediment	16
Visual impairment	55
Other	54
No disability	487
No disability recorded	5
Refused to disclose	3

835 offenders

337 with disability (40% of prisoners)

117 with more than one disability (14% of prisoners)

The Disability Policy was updated in 2010 to ensure it continues to meet the needs of disabled prisoners at HMP Whatton.

## **5.2. Learning & Skills**

Lincoln College is now established as the provider for Learning and Skills and together with the Education manager, who has been in post a year, the department is developing and taking on fresh challenges, involving new departments with the budget determined by outcomes achieved.

The department has good purpose built accommodation although some of the smaller and detached rooms provide interesting challenges to staff and prisoners. The main classroom block is well used and displays are effective with rather cramped office and staff spaces. There is an identified shortage of teaching areas. The department has a welcoming and involving attitude.

This department provides for prisoners from their induction to the achievement of work related qualifications. Assessments are carried out on induction to quantify the needs of prisoners from basic literacy and numeracy to Open University provision. There is a range of academic and work related courses and a variety of strategies for supporting prisoners who need learning support. This might mean an outreach worker with a prisoner at work in a manufacturing unit to a tutor supporting the more complex needs of a prisoner in a job related workshop like Cleaning, where prisoners need support to complete modules. This area of work is low key, effective and integral to the well being of prisoners with previously little academic success.

National prison radio is in operation. A local prison radio service has been shelved due to funding pressures. A multiscreen service was successfully introduced to improve communications and to develop the creative interests of many staff and prisoners. The new service hopes to provide accreditation and skills for prisoners who will be involved in the national prison radio service and within prison effectively communicate information and celebrate success in the prison community. Also the next few weeks will see the establishment of a music department which will offer prisoners the opportunity to explore and develop their interest in music.

### **Deaf prisoners**

The Board's Annual Report for 2010 highlighted the problem that deaf prisoners were disadvantaged in completing sex offender programmes due to the lack of staff trained to deliver programmes using sign language to British Sign Language (BSL) standards.

The current position is that there are currently four members of the prison staff being trained in the use of BSL to level 3. Additionally one psychologist has completed the level 3 training.

There are currently three profoundly deaf prisoners at HMP Whatton waiting to access courses. All of whom are of IPP status. There are no accredited sex offender programmes for deaf prisoners, which is a concern to the Board. There is no data on any other profoundly deaf prisoners in the system.

The Board is pleased to note that staff are undertaking the training required but at the present time there are insufficient trained staff to deliver the programmes which are an essential ingredient of the rehabilitation process.

St Andrews Healthcare in Northampton provides a service for males with substantial hearing impairment. The prison has opened discussions with St Andrews to develop the use of sign language to BSL standards but at the present time there are no firm proposals in place. The Board welcomes this first step towards improving the situation and will continue to monitor the situation.

### **5.3. Healthcare and Mental Health**

All aspects of healthcare continue to be managed through the NHS Nottinghamshire County by Nottinghamshire Health. Regular Commissioning Group meetings are held at HMP Whatton with both the prison management and IMB in attendance.

The Board continues to be impressed with the monthly performance monitoring which covers new receptions, long term health needs, consultations covering some sixteen areas, access and waiting times, health promotion aspects, staffing issues covering training, sickness and vacancy hours and the monthly bed watch analysis with its financial implications. The financial implications to cover escorts and bed watches is a major drain on the overall budget (£550,000 pa.) especially at a time when the financial pressures on the public sector are acute.

At any one time some 40% of the prisoners are over 50 years of age. This provides an extra burden upon the staff with the on going treatment of men who have not often been afforded, for various reasons, the opportunity of good healthcare throughout their life.

During the reporting year, a new Palliative Care Suite, named as The Retreat, at the prison was opened. This was part of a wider scheme, funded by a grant from The Kings Fund, to improve care for terminally ill and end-of-life prisoners and includes a special cell on A8 and a specialist room within the healthcare unit in

which terminally ill prisoners can reside until death. Prison managers in conjunction with healthcare managers made the application for funding and established the project team. The IMB wishes to record its thanks to the Project Team without whose hard work and dedication over a long period of time this would never have materialised. Hence the care for those who are near to their end of life has been made as comfortable and dignified as possible and also provides day facilities for their family and close friends during visits.

The IMB continues to monitor the all aspects of healthcare throughout the year and realised the importance of their vigilance in ensuring the level of care is not compromised during the current economic situation.

#### **5.4. Safer Custody**

The Board monitors all areas of the safer custody programme by attending all scheduled Safer Custody meetings (previously Suicide Prevention/Violence Reduction). These meetings are open and constructive and involve “Insiders” and “Listeners” in a positive and inclusive manner.

IMB members endeavour to speak to all prisoners on Assessment Care in Custody teamwork (ACCT) each week and make appropriate entries in their ACCT documentation. ACCT and Violence Reduction Strategy documentation are generally well managed and completed by staff, and in the majority of cases travel with the prisoner when at work.

#### **5.5. Care and Separation (CSU)**

The IMB continues to have a good relationship with CSU staff that manage the unit in a professional and sympathetic manner and are generally open and helpful.

Prisoners are visited daily by governors, healthcare and chaplaincy staff. The protocol that requires IMB members to be notified when a prisoner is received onto the unit, and of their subsequent review times, is broadly observed. Board members make frequent visits to CSU and speak with all prisoners. Members endeavour to attend most reviews and complete monitoring sheets. The Board has received no complaints from prisoners regarding their treatment in CSU.

## Section 6

---

### 6.1. Accommodation

The standard of accommodation in the establishment is generally very good, particularly on A-Wing, where four of the eight Wings have cells with en-suite shower, washbasin and toilet. However, the establishment still has a 4-bed and a 3-bed dormitory; each containing only one toilet only concealed by a curtain. The Board still thinks this is a wholly unacceptable situation given that the prison service apparently strives to uphold the dignity and humanity of those in its care. The Board reported in last years annual report that cells on B-Wing were undergoing significant refurbishment in order to improve the standard of accommodation for prisoners and an 18-month project to rebuild the heating system on B-Wing is in progress to improve health and safety concerns identified by The Crown Premises Inspection Group and HM Fire Service Inspectorate during 2006.

C wing Units 1-2-3 C2 contains prisoners of all ages and has 13 Category D prisoners resident there. The units accommodate prisoners of a senior age group with the atmosphere being very relaxed and comments received from prisoners by The Board regarding day to day life on the units appears very positive.

### 6.2. Adjudications

The Board monitors adjudications on a random basis and records its observations. The Board has found them to be conducted in a highly professional manner with the correct procedures followed. The Board also monitors the work of the Adjudications Standardisation committee.

### 6.3. Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy continues to be a hive of activity and the Chaplain reports good attendances in respect of the main Faiths. The average attendance being as follows:

Church of England	90
Catholic	50
Muslim	35
Buddhist	25

A Faith Fair took place during May this year which proved very successful. Nine different Faiths took part with a total attendance of 120 men.

The Chaplain also reported a 16% cut in the budget for the forthcoming year. The chaplain is sensitive to issues surrounding those who belong to faith groups.

#### **6.4. Foreign Nationals**

HMP Whatton currently holds 47 Foreign Nationals at the Establishment, currently nil of which are IS91 time served. A surgery is held every week to give prisoners the opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns that they may have. The U.K. Border Agency visit HMP Whatton every month and the management report that communication with them at present is very good.

#### **6.5. Induction**

The Board is mindful that contributing to the induction process is not a statutory function of boards and has therefore in the light of the need to reduce the Board's expenditure has sadly withdrawn from the induction programme.

#### **6.7 IRMT /Public Protection**

These meetings are held fortnightly and are attended by various departments within the prison. The purpose of the meetings are to assess each prisoner entering Whatton Prison and those who are about to be released.

The format is to look at the public's protection from these prisoners and the prisoner's vulnerability within the prison establishment. They also deal with applications from the prisoners to have access children etc. The Board judges that they are run professionally with sensitivity to all the needs of the prisoner and the public.

#### **6.8 Offending Behaviour Programmes (Psychology)**

Psychology is a very important aspect of the work of HMP Whatton, as a much higher proportion of inmates are engaged in offending behaviour treatment programmes than is the case in other prisons. Programmes are facilitated by multi-disciplinary teams and are regarded as of a high standard, and the overwhelming majority of inmates spoken to have positive views of the service.

Typically prisoners often are transferred here to take part in a course but have to wait some months before a place is granted. Prisoners continue to raise with the Board issues to do with allocation of places on courses and the perception that some prisoners jump the queue. It is true that some categories of prisoners take precedence for treatment because of their treatment plans, but this is not especially true of foreign nationals. Prisoners need help in understanding the order in which course places are allocated. Prisoners are provided with

information and a monthly newsletter outlining the criteria and waiting lists for programmes

Shortly the Department will move to a regional management model for chartered and trainee psychologists. The management of group workers, psychological assistants and prison officers will remain with the prison.

## **6.9 Kitchens and Food**

The prison main kitchen and serveries are visited weekly as part of the Board's members' duty week. The quality of the food continues to be of a very acceptable standard, and as a matter of course is often sampled by the members. The food preparation areas continue to be well supervised, and the hygiene standards are very high. Members have no concerns about the provision of food to the wings, which is a well organised system which involves the assistance of wing servery personnel both in the loading and delivery of the food to the wings.

The wing serveries are visited on a regular basis as part of the Board's duty week. The standard of cleanliness and hygiene is of an acceptable standard with spot checks being the norm. Serveries personnel are frequently congratulated about their "housekeeping" checks on the wing server comments books, which are easily available to prisoners indicate that there are very few negative comments. The Board has not experienced any reports from the Main Kitchen staff about the shortage of prisoners, or the willingness of prisoners to carry out their duties.

## **6.10 Health and safety**

The Board continues to monitor the work of the Health and Safety committee. It is a well organised and constructed committee with meetings being conducted in a professional manner. Business and concerns are discussed in an open and frank manner and it is obvious that the concerns of the committee members are serious and practical. Unannounced inspections are carried out to maintain the high standards that are applied in all areas. Discrepancies are immediately followed through and rectified as required.

It is pleasing to find that all persons in the establishment are required to know the responsibilities and duties in respect of health and safety and to implement them. A near miss policy reporting procedure is in operation and is adequately monitored.

## Section 7

---

### 7.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board:-

During the reporting year, the complement of the Board has been 11 members (5 members below our recommended complement of 16, although following a successful recruitment campaign during the reporting year, five new members received ministerial appointment shortly after the end of this reporting year and we have now welcomed them to our board).

The Board is pleased to report that its statutory work remains consistently good and it continues to monitor the establishment effectively despite having to decide carefully our monitoring priorities in the light of tight budget restraints. Members continue to work exceptionally well as a team and maintain a good relationship with staff and prisoners.

During the reporting period, the Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Board Development Officer were re-elected to serve in their roles for a further year. The Chair wishes to record his personal thanks to all Board members for their support and dedication to the Board at Whatton and for the exceptional manner in which each one works as a member of the team.

The Board also acknowledges the dedicated and continued hard work and support of the Secretariat department at the prison and would like to give particular thanks to the clerk for her support, dedication and hard work throughout the reporting year. The Board would also like to acknowledge the support and advice received from the IMB Secretariat and the National Council representative for the East Midlands

Board members are encouraged to attend appropriate national training. In addition, training sessions, organised by the Board Development Officer, are held before Board meetings and are designed to keep members abreast with changes in the prison and the various departments.

Some Board members are assigned with areas of special responsibility within the prison and regularly attend meetings as observers for:

- Safer Custody
- Adjudications Standardisation
- WEAT
- Health and Safety
- Security and Public/Protection.

The Board has an Information Officer, who also acts as Media Officer and liaises with the local media as appropriate which results in articles in local newspapers, radio and television stations.

Three members also undertake wider IMB responsibilities with two members on the Communications Working Group, one member on the Recruitment Working group. One member is also an Independent Interviewer.

## 7.2. Board Statistics

---

Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
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	0
Number of members leaving within reporting period	4
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	Completed by individual members on a regular basis.
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	Individuals attend on a daily basis
Total number of applications received	195
Total number of segregation reviews held	No record for this year
Total number of segregation reviews attended	8

### 7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
Accommodation	70	43	48	9
Diversity related	41	24	11	8
Education/employment/training	23	41	11	20
Family/visits	14	17	6	11
Food/kitchen related	16	10	7	5
Health related	30	19	17	17
Property	53	31	17	43
Sentence related	22	22	15	14
Discipline / Security	22	35	36	12
Transfers	18	15	10	11
Miscellaneous	2	16	34	36
Treatment programmes	38	22	23	9
<b>Total number of applications</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>195</b>