



HMP Whatton

Annual Report

June 2012 – May 2013

Compiled and submitted by the full Board

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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

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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 and gardens.

HMP Whatton's population of 841 prisoners comprises those who have offended against adults (30% of Whatton's prison population), those who have offended against children (70% of the Whatton's prison population), those who have been convicted of a sex offence as their index offence, prisoners with sex offences at a previous conviction 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 Sex Offenders Treatment Programme, SOTP. At the end of this reporting year, well over 50% of Whatton's population comprised indeterminate sentenced prisoners (either serving a life sentence or Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection, IPP).

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 is comprised of 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 still retains one dormitory on B wing. 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, dementia care 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. Learning and Skills is currently provided by Milton Keynes College. The prison also has a contract with Age UK and during the reporting year the prison has also built links with Age UK, Circles UK, WEA and other Third Sector agencies in order to improve the resettlement process for older prisoners and those with learning difficulties.

Executive Summary:-

This report, compiled by The Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Whatton, covers the reporting period between 1st June 2012 and 31st May 2013.

The Board is pleased to report that the prison has operated well during this period and the Board continues to examine how it can effectively monitor the work of the whole prison.

Externally imposed changes on the prison service are continual and incessant. The process of management of the prison is subject to continual change of policy, staffing and priorities. When one initiative is in the process of being assimilated, the next two priorities are being expected of the service. In the midst of this turmoil of perpetual change, the effective work of the prison continues in spite of the pressures. The management and workforce left to deliver the service can become stressed, undervalued and focussed on their own survival rather than contributing to an effective team.

The Board is deeply concerned about the effect of budgetary cuts on the service, the changes in the population of the prison and the pressures that constantly deflect the work of the prison from its main focus.

Despite these external and internal factors, staff are still proud of their work with prisoners and show exceptional skill and professionalism in dealing with challenging situations. The Board has several visitors to see the work of the prison. Their comments about the management and staff, who always give generously of their time to visitors, underline the effectiveness of the relationships within the prison.

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 majority of prisoners at HMP Whatton are either Lifers or IPPs (50.41%).

The unacceptable delays in engaging prisoners in programmes to address offending behaviour which are designed to reduce the possibility of re-offending on release. Many prisoners are transferred to HMP Whatton and have to wait over two years before they are allocated an SOTP place.

Prisoners with long sentences become old in prison. The number of elderly prisoners committed to prison is increasing. The elderly make up a significant proportion of the population of the prison. (37%) Their increasing social, medical, mental and resettlement needs are a severe drain on the resources of the prison.

Escorting increasing numbers of prisoners to hospital and subsequent stays in hospital tie up decreasing staff resources. The re-deployment of such staff put at risk the day to day running of the prison and services like re-settlement suffer badly at times.

Fair and Sustainable, Benchmarking are but two schemes that have re-aligned and cut resources for the prison. HMP Whatton is a specialist entity and does not fit the funding formulae for Category C prisons. When these stringent algorithms are applied without understanding of the work of the prison to HMP Whatton then large areas of the service become under resourced, morale and good will are further eroded and certain services are at risk.

Questions to the Minister

- 1 In what way does the service recognise the special nature of the work at HMP Whatton in allocating funding and resources?

- 2 Given the specialist and unique nature of HMP Whatton, can the Minister
 - (a) Require the Prison Service to increase funding and resources to overcome the unacceptable delays in engaging prisoners in programmes to address offending behaviour designed to reduce the possibility of re-offending on release. Many prisoners have to wait over two years before being allocated a place on the Sex Offenders Treatment Programme and other courses.
 - (b) Assist in pressing the NHS Commissioners to increase the funding for the provision of nursing and specialist consultants for the growing number of prisoners with learning disabilities, Asperger's syndrome and mental health issues?

Questions to the Prison Service

1. In what way does the service recognise the special nature of the work at HMP Whatton in allocating funding and resources?
2. Has any consideration been given to graduate the Fitness Test Requirements for serving staff in view of the retirement age now being moved to 67 years?

Section 5

5.1. Equality and Inclusion

The current Equality and Inclusion team started a year ago. It has helped prisoners set up a Gypsy Romany Travellers Group and have held a cultural awareness day to raise the profile of the GRT's in the prison. The group offers support and ensures GRT interests are represented.

A Black and Minority Ethnic groups, BME, group has been set up and has a membership of 40. BME reps offer support to BME prisoners and visit the wings weekly where they offer advice on minor issues. The group has had input into the selection of items on the canteen list.

The Xpressions group has a membership of 50+, some of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, LGBT group played a match against a visiting team the Village Spartans RUFC—Manchester and the North West's gay and inclusive rugby team.

Disability Activity Co-ordinator, DAC, reps are located on every wing, 4 of whom work full time as DAC's reps, they offer support to disabled prisoners helping them clean their cells and carrying food trays, 45 trained wheelchair pushers work throughout the prison.

Equality reps are located on every wing and are easily identified by their red sweatshirts.

Reps attend Bi-monthly Whatton Equality Action Team meetings and report on activities and bring issues to the meeting for discussion.

Older Prisoners Activities and Learning (OPAL) has introduced activity exercises for prisoners as well as big space activities such as carpet bowls. The very supportive gym staff offer gym exercise for prisoners on C3.

Easy read posters and easy read facilities list for prisoners with learning disabilities have been successfully introduced throughout the prison, easy read Notices are being explored.

The first deaf SOTP course has been successfully completed; a further course for 4 prisoners is planned subject to funding.

The Learning Disability, Deaf and Asperger's Steering Group led by the No. 1 Governor has been running for a year.

5.2. Learning & Skills

Initially the new provider Milton Keynes College was slow to establish a structure to cope with more prison contracts but after a period of development of the management structure, it is now serving the prison well.

The OLASS funding has been cut by 50% in two years:

August 2011 22000 teaching hours

August 2012 18000 teaching hours

August 2013 11000 teaching hours

despite these massive cuts, the department is well managed and delivering courses which are in high demand. Whatton prison is now delivering 160% over budget. Some courses which address the social, communication skills, self-esteem and living needs of prisoners have been cut. These affect prisoners directly, as they were preparative to treatment programmes and resettlement. The Workers Education Association, WEA, is coming in to provide similar courses on a different funding basis. Staff redundancies are inevitable.

Purposeful Activity

DHL is now well settled after the first year at Whatton after a quite fragile setting up process. The garden section was the winner of the Windlesham trophy 2012 and is making good progress in this year's competition. The work programme is extensive and includes Painting and decoration, bricklaying, wood crafts, Textiles, footwear, NVQ catering, Horticulture, DHL and Laundry. The staff mess gives good practical experience of catering to a high standard for many prisoners.

Education offers a variety of courses including Maths, English, IT, Business studies, Book Keeping, Art, Personal and social development and Personal well being. It is sad to report that Art lessons have been cut by a third, IT cut by half, literacy and numeracy numbers cut and music has gone completely.

There remains some concern about the tedious nature of some tasks e.g. Butane gas cap fitting. There is still an urgent need for more purposeful activity and employment experience at Whatton.

5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

All aspects of healthcare are provided by the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and commissioned by the East Midlands Health and Justice Commissioning Unit which is part of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team of NHS England. The Board attends the HMP Whatton Strategic Partnership Board with prison management, healthcare providers and commissioners.

The Board is required to statutorily monitor healthcare weekly. This is achieved as part of the Board's rota visit arrangements and the results of the monitoring are reported monthly to the full Board. The Board is satisfied that the clinical needs of the 841 prisoners are properly met. Approximately 40% of these prisoners are over the age of 50 years of age; approximately 15% are over the age of 65 which inevitably impacts on the service that the healthcare department is required to provide.

The provision is managed by the equivalent of 16.625 fulltime healthcare staff; there are two vacancies which the Head of Healthcare hopes to fill during the

summer of 2013. Weekday clinics cater for dental needs, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, optician, podiatry, New Leaf stop smoking service and the service of visiting GP's and pharmacists.

Mental Health services and Counselling Psychology have recently developed a joint service where all referrals are received through one single point of access. These referrals are then reviewed and a clinical allocation meeting takes place to ensure that patients are seen by the right people with the right skills at the right time. This has reduced waiting lists for the service as it has reduced duplication. There is a peer group for the staff involved. The Board considers this new joint service to be an excellent scheme. Despite this excellent initiative, there is a shortage of funding for the development of preventative work which is considered necessary with respect to prisoners with learning and mental health disabilities. The Commissioning Unit is aware of this shortfall and the Board would urge the Commissioners to take the shortfall forward to ensure funding is provided to supplement the excellent work in place, with a view to assisting the overall ethos of reducing re-offending by prisoners on release.

The Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust have recently been awarded the contract for delivering substance misuse services within the prison and are working closely with the other prisons within the East Midlands to develop cohesive transferable service across the prison estate. This initiative is also welcomed by the Board.

HMP Whatton has one of the highest rates of death by natural causes of any prison in England and Wales. The need to provide accommodation for the terminally ill prisoners to die with dignity and in surroundings catering for their needs is crucial. Cellular accommodation has been converted to provide such facilities on wings. Also an end of life suite, known as The Retreat has been created alongside the Health care facility. It is equipped to accommodate one prisoner at a time in tranquil setting allowing him to spend his last few days in dignity. His family are also able to visit if they wish.

5.4 Safer Custody

The Board monitors all areas of the Safer Custody programme by attending the scheduled Safer Custody meetings. These meetings are open and constructive and involve "Insiders" and "Listeners" in a positive and inclusive manner.

HMP Whatton maintains a regular review of prisoners' safety through a monthly Safer Custody meeting which is regularly monitored by the Board. The Board have found Safer Custody meetings continue to be positive and constructive and involve "Insiders" and "Listeners" to an appropriate degree.

Board members endeavour to speak to all prisoners on Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork. (ACCT) documentation and make appropriate quality entries in their ACCT documentation. ACCT and Violence Reduction Strategy documentation are generally fully completed and well managed by staff.

Board members include specific visits to prisoners on Assessment Care in Custody (ACCTS) during their routine visits and make appropriate entries in

their ACCT documentation. VRS (Violence Reduction Strategy) and ACCT documentation are generally well completed by staff.

5.5 Care and Separation (CSU)

The Board 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.

The Board continues to be impressed by the high standards of management of prisoners detained in the Care and Separation Unit (CSU). The levels of professionalism care and appropriate sympathy shown by staff to inmates is exemplary.

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

5.6 Programmes

HMP Whatton specialises in the treatment of sex offenders and offers a range of offending behaviour programmes with particular focus on cognitive treatment, such as the Sex Offenders Treatment Programme (SOTP), Thinking Skills Programme, TSP and Controlling Anger and learning to manage it, CALM.

Staff concerned with delivering offending behaviour programmes to prisoners (a key aspect of the reducing offending work at HMP Whatton), continue to conduct their work well despite the problems of delivering programmes in the midst of the budgetary constraints. The Board is still of the view (put forward by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons after its 2012 inspection) that due to these budgetary constraints (and some problems about the availability of Chartered Psychologists to oversee and manage additional programmes), the prison is still not able to deliver to meet the need (delivering offending programmes to sex offenders to try and reduce their risk of reoffending).

Almost 250 prisoners completed sex offender treatment programmes during the reporting year, but prisoners have to wait many months (if not years) to be assessed for their suitability to engage in a programme and inadequate resourcing for sex offender behavioural treatment programmes mean that a higher number of prisoners are being denied the opportunity to address their offending behaviour in a timely fashion. Treatment Managers and the Governing Governor are taking steps (such as diverting resources) to improve the situation. But better resourcing from the NOMS Commissioners might make for more speedy improvements in availability and deliver services.

The prison continues to work closely with a number of academic institutions and experts to further develop its understanding of the causes, treatment and management of and its effectiveness of its work with sex offenders. Over the reporting year, the pilot anti-libidinal programme (whereby anti-libidinal medication is given to prisoners to support their cognitive behavioural treatment) has undergone evaluation and is producing positive results. The prison has piloted the Thinking Skills Programme for prisoners with learning and intellectual disability and the first deaf sex offender programme has also been completed.

Over the next reporting year, the Board will monitor closely the impact of Fair and Sustainable and other policy decisions on the prisons capacity to deliver cognitive behavioural programmes to prisoners throughout the establishment.

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

The standard of accommodation in the establishment is generally good, particularly on A-Wing, where four of the eight Wings have cells with en-suite shower, washbasin and toilet.

The poor standard of accommodation on B-wing remains a concern to the Board with some areas well below the standard expected of a modern prison.

C wings 1&2 are somewhat better and accommodate prisoners of all ages. There are 13 Category D prisoners' resident there waiting transfer to open prison.

C3 Wing accommodates 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 unit appears very positive.

As part of its monitoring responsibilities, The Board monitors the quality and provision of food delivered to prisoners. Members regularly sample the food on offer and have found it to be of an acceptable standard. Catering staff continue to provide as high quality meals as possible, given the cost reduction in the food budget. Very few prisoners raise concerns with the Board about either the quality or quantity of food. In the kitchen, prisoners are able to work towards an NVQ in catering under the supervision of prison staff.

6.2. Adjudications

The Board monitors adjudications on a regular 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 Inter-departmental Risk Management Team. (IRMT)

IRMT meetings are classed as one of the most important held at Whatton. Taking into consideration the 'Safe Guarding of Children Act' and Public Protection. Board members attend these twice monthly meetings and are satisfied that each prisoner is discussed with dignity and their needs met. One of the issues the IRMT have to deal with is the application from prisoners to have access to their children, either by letters, telephone calls or photographs.

Another is the access to IT by the prisoners. As internet offences are on the increase, this has to be considered when prisoners are applying for the use of computers.

6.4 Security.

The Board attends security meetings and are informed of any security exercises or desktop events.

The new Traka Key system has been installed and very soon new radios will be used. HMP Whatton has secured funding for more CCTV to be installed. This was used for B wing and the Chapel. About 65% of the prison is now covered by CCTV.

6.5 Resettlement

The department consists of two officer posts working on resettlement regarding, education, training, employment and accommodation. (One post being part job share).

The department is meeting all of its key performance indicators to date. Unfortunately this situation will not continue. The officers in the department are now on shift pattern which means that on some days no officers are on duty. In addition officers of the department are on first call to be transferred to other duties at short notice. Care and Separation. Education, bed watches and wing duties are all being undertaken on a very regular basis. The duties are essential within the prison, but it must be anticipated that the performance of the department is being reduced.

Section 7

7.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board:-

The Board is pleased to report that its statutory work has remained consistently good during the reporting year and it has continued to monitor the establishment effectively, has worked exceptionally well as a team and maintained good relationships with staff and prisoners. The excellent working relationship between the Governor and her staff with the members of the Board is key to the effective working of the Board.

The recruitment campaign of November 2012 has yielded three new members plus a transfer of an experienced member taking the Board's complement to 15, one seat below complement.

During the reporting period a new Board Chair, a new Vice-Chair and Board Development Officer were elected. The chair is indebted to the previous chair and office holders for their support and advice.

The Board records its thanks to the outstanding support it has received from the retiring clerk and looks forward to working effectively with the new team of support people. The Board would also acknowledge the support and advice received from the IMB Secretariat and the National Council representative for the East Midlands. The chair is committed to improving communications with the IMB Secretariat.

Training and development are important priorities for the Board and members are encouraged to involve themselves with national, local and in-house training opportunities. The Board is currently reviewing the individual responsibilities of each member and the Board's involvement with the committees and working groups of the prison so that our day to day monitoring of the prison is more effective.

Four members currently dual at HMP Leicester, including the BDO and Vice-chair acting as chair and vice-chair respectively

The Board has an Information Officer, who also acts as Media Officer and liaises with the local media organisations as appropriate.

7.2. Board Statistics

Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
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	0
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)	490
Total number of applications received	252
Total number of segregation reviews held	No record for this year
Total number of segregation reviews attended	No record for this year

7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

Code	Subject	Year 2012-13
A	Accommodation	12
B	Adjudications	5
C	Equality and Diversity	4
D	Education/employment/training	27
E1	Family/visits,inc mail & phone	17
E2	Finance/pay	3
F	Food/kitchen related	2
G	Health related	8
H1	Property, in current establishment	19
H2	Property during transfer/in another establishment	4
H3	Canteen, facilities, shopping	4
I	Sentence related HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat	4
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	30
K	Transfers	6
L	Miscellaneous	39
	Total number of IMB Applications	252