



HMP Whatton

Annual Report

June 2013 – May 2014

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. for part of the reporting period and Rushcliffe Council for Voluntary Services (RCVS) who run the Visits Centre. In addition, there are two externally commissioned services; Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which provides the healthcare service and Learning and Skills which 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 2013 and 31st May 2014.

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

The board enjoys a positive working relationship with the Governing Governor and her staff, which enables the board to effectively monitor the work of the prison. The Governor and her staff make themselves freely available to the board. The board therefore enjoys good working relationships with uniformed staff and support staff. The board entertains many visitors from other prisons and boards and they regularly remark on the positive and effective attitude prevalent in the prison at all levels.

The Board is still concerned about long waiting lists for programmes, the problems created by an ageing prison population, the makeup of the prison population and the accumulative effect of decreasing resources on the running of the prison. Together these generate tremendous levels of stress as changes have to be made in order to cope with demands on the system.

The whole prison estate is under stress and HMP Whatton is no exception. Continued working under this amount of pressure is un-sustainable.

Areas of concern for The Board

The number of indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPP) prisoners at Whatton continues to be a concern for the Board. Half of prisoners at HMP Whatton are either Lifers or IPPs.

The board is still very concerned about 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. There has been little change in the last year.

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, and 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 puts at risk the day to day running of the prison and services like offender management and re-settlement suffer badly at times.

The day to day work of the prison is constantly put at risk by the increasing demands made on decreasing resources. There is a reality gap between nationally imposed initiatives and running the prison on a day to day basis.

Questions to the Minister

1. The board welcomes the initiative to ensure that prisoners work a realistic day, have a short lunchtime and mirror work in the community. How can a prison achieve this without increased work opportunities?
2. Prisoners transfer to HMP Whatton in order to take part in the programmes as part of their sentence plan. The dynamic waiting lists are long and prisoners are frustrated by having to wait months and years for a suitable place. What can the minister do to change this unsatisfactory position?

3. Questions to the Prison Service

1. When are the guidelines for managing transgender prisoners going to be updated and made relevant to the risks and needs of this prisoner group?
2. The current staffing levels are barely sufficient even when nobody is absent, bed watches are at a minimum, hospital visits are at a manageable level and there are no incidents. Normal day to day tasks are being delayed because of staff being transferred to cover emergencies. Therefore complaints are constantly being delayed, investigations take a longer time and sessions are cancelled. The system is creaking causing stress for staff and prisoners alike. Staffing levels are consistently below levels needed to achieve the objectives of the prison. What is the service going to do about this situation?

Section 5

5.1. Equality and Inclusion

An excellent Whatton Conference was held recently covering issues including, Transgender, Race and Culture and profoundly deaf sex offenders. It was well attended by representatives of many different agencies and showcased the initiatives in care and provision for the prisoners.

Whatton has a huge number of elderly prisoners. This causes issues with additional social care and medical provision. Care for the older prisoners has been a focus for an IMB meeting this year. Whatton is constantly striving to improve the range of purposeful activities available to the elderly. The Older Prisoners Activities and Learning group (OPAL) meets 3 times a week. It is hoped to increase in the near future.

The Learning Disability Steering group meets regularly to review care across the prison. Easy read posters and lists have been implemented and recently reviewed. Disability Activity Co-ordinator, (DAC), representatives are located on every wing. They offer support to disabled prisoners helping them to clean their cells and to carry food trays. 45 trained wheelchair pushers work throughout the prison.

Equality reps are located on every wing and are identified by their red sweatshirts. They attend Bi-monthly Whatton Equality Action Team meetings and report on activities and bring issues to the meeting for discussion.

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

5.2. Learning & Skills

The current provider is Milton Keynes College and after an initial settling in period they are now serving the prison well and have the contract until 2016. After substantial cuts to the budget in previous years, this year they have received an extra £150,000 in funding, which has allowed more numbers in each class and ad hoc short courses in Art, IT and personal well-being. The painting and decorating course is now able to take on 2 cohorts of prisoners, returning to the numbers available before the latest cuts. The teaching hours remain the same at 11,000 as at August 2014.

5.3 Purposeful Activity

DHL is now well settled after the first year at Whatton after a quite fragile setting up process and gives a good experience of real work for the prisoners. It services the canteen needs of six prisons in the area. The garden section was the winner of the Windlesham trophy 2013 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, fork lift truck training, 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 wellbeing.

There remains some concern about the tedious nature of some work. 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 continue to be provided by the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and commissioned by the East Midlands Health Justice Unit (NHS England). A member of the board attends the HMP Whatton Strategic Partnership Board meetings, with prison management, healthcare providers, the commissioners and Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health department. Relationship with the Commissioners is excellent which allows robust debates at the Partnership meetings to resolve the many and complex issues that occur.

Weekly clinics are held catering for dental, physiotherapy, optical and podiatry needs as well as the New Leaf stop smoking facility and the services of visiting GPs. Significant work has been achieved as a partnership with the integrated mental health team and counselling psychology service to reduce duplication in work, to ensure that all prisoners receive the most appropriate care from healthcare professionals. An increase in staff has resulted in reducing waiting time for referrals to the appropriate specialist.

The substance misuse service is now an integral part of the healthcare team. There has been a significant impact on the number of prisoners on Methadone. Joint working with the Prison staff to reduce the diversion of prescribed medication is well embedded in practice. The board notes that a holistic approach is taken to manage individuals.

Fourteen prisoners are currently diagnosed with cancer, higher than the national population with three prisoners currently undergoing chemotherapy or radiology treatment. The healthcare team continues to manage an increasing number of prisoners who have limited mobility and require assistance with activities of daily living. Two members of staff deliver training to staff in dementia awareness. This has had a positive response and a business case is being prepared to increase resource for this service.

A large percentage of the population at HMP Whatton is elderly which results in that the prison has the highest number of deaths in custody by natural causes of any prison in the United Kingdom. To enable terminally ill prisoners to die in dignity in a tranquil setting a purpose built facility known as the Retreat has been created. Families are able to visit the Retreat. There have been four deaths in custody during the reporting period two of which were unexpected and were at an outside hospital. All reports and inquests have commended the care given by healthcare and the prison staff in relation to these deaths.

One particular issue which is currently relevant is the protocol to deal with transgender prisoners. There are currently three prisoners at Whatton who consider themselves to be transgender. The board has great concern about the progress and care of these prisoners to address their offending behaviour as well as the management of risk in the establishment and on release. The current NOMS Equality and Diversity policy is not aligned to the NHS England policy and does not address the issues for these prisoners who wish to undertake gender reassignment. The current position is not fit for purpose and is out of date.

A major area of concern is that during the reporting period there were an increasing number of bed watches that required six prison officers to attend various local hospitals over each 24 hour period. Additionally, prisoners requiring outpatient treatment require escorting by officers. The effect of this situation has a serious impact on the ability of the prison to maintain the high standard of regime. It has been necessary on occasions to curtail and terminate prisoner activities due to the shortage of staff. Which is, in the opinion of the board, an unacceptable situation? The total for escorts and bed watches during the reporting period was in excess of 12,000 hours.

Another major area of concern is the lack of provision surrounding accommodation required to transfer prisoners with mental health issues, cancer and dementia to facilities where they can be properly treated. The prison now has a two bed dementia care suite. Despite the many challenges and difficulties detailed in this report, the board is satisfied that the provision of healthcare at HMP Whatton is excellent and all staff work well to maintain a high standard of care.

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 CSU is comprised of 8 cells. During the period the unit has had to accommodate a number of prisoners with differing mental health problems. As a result it has on some occasions been full. During all this time the CSU staff has demonstrated exemplary professionalism and care in the handling of those prisoners.

No prisoner has been on the unit for more than two months. Board members visit the unit at least once a week and have on no occasion has cause for negative comment. Daily logs, record sheets, ACCT documents etc. are generally well maintained. IMB members are normally advised when prisoners are admitted to CSU and ensure that those prisoners are visited within 72 hours. Unit performance is monitored by the local Segregation & Monitoring Review Admissions to CSU have averaged 12.4 per month over the period. Staff training is up to date. There are presently 14 officers trained and certified to work in CSU. Adjudications are conducted on this unit with a goodly proportion of these resulting in cellular confinement. Use of Force has averaged 2.2 occasions per month over the period. Where the board has monitored or reviewed Use of Force it has noted that correct procedure has been followed with correct use of C&R techniques and no excessive force used. Staff training in C&R is up to date in 142 out of 169 – 84% of the total staff. The 21 Tornado staff have current training experience.

5.6 Programmes

HMP Whatton specialises in managing sex offenders. The purpose of sex offender treatment programmes (SOTPs) at HMP Whatton is to reduce offending behaviour and thereby, reduce recidivism on release.

HMP Whatton offers all of the National Offender Management Service's SOTPs. There were one-hundred-and-sixty-six SOTP completions at HMP Whatton over this last year comprising,

Healthy Sex Programme	10
Adapted Better Lives Booster	7
Core Better Lives Booster	45
Rolling SOTP	38 (Finished in January 2014)

Core SOTP	38
Becoming New Me	7
Extended SOTP	17
Deaf SOTP	4

HMP Whatton also offers Living Skills programmes, with ninety-nine completions for the preceding year,

Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage it	8
Resolve (reduction of violence)	10
Thinking Skills Programme	73
Healthy Relationship Programme (Domestic violence reduction)	8

The combined total of 265 completions is an increase compared to just fewer than 250 completions reported for 2012-13. The Programmes Department is now fully staffed, although some members are still undergoing training.

A sample of HMP Whatton prisoners provided their view of this rehabilitation in research published in the Prison Service Journal in July 2013. Sex offenders often feel threatened and anxious in prison. This affects their attitudes towards treatment. At HMP Whatton, prisoners felt that they were within a safe environment for them to address their offending behaviour. They believed that they could change that behaviour. In the same research, HMP Whatton staff also expressed a positive attitude towards their charges with the view that these prisoners could be rehabilitated.

An alternative approach to the use of cognitive behaviour programmes is anti-libidinal therapy at HMP Whatton. To date around 80 individuals have started this treatment. A recent study looked at 51 HMP Whatton prisoners on this therapy of whom, most had convictions for child contact sexual offences. Approximately half had intellectual disability (Intelligent Quotient <80), making them un-suitable for mainstream SOTPs. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors and anti-androgens were found to reduce hyper-sexuality, sexual preoccupation and sexual compulsivity. This effect began as soon as therapy was started and continued for up to 4 months after termination of medication. The evaluation continues and will extend into the community following up consenting adults to establish reconviction rates. The access to anti-libidinal therapy in the community will be examined.

The Fair and Sustainable organisational restructure resulted in a number of uniformed officers deciding not to opt for new terms and conditions and return to generic prison officer duties. We receive complaints from prisoners concerning the delay in participating in SOTPs. Parole board is unlikely to consider release of a prisoner without evidence of programme completion. Determinate sentenced prisoners with a mandatory release date are given priority on programmes. A National Audit Office report, published in December 2013, found that there were 148 HMP Whatton prisoners with a life-sentence or

indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection, whose minimum tariff had already expired. These particular prisoners may have to wait a number of years to complete SOTPs.

The report calculated a 14 months average wait for a SOTP for prisoners with any type of sentence plan. It emphasised that the custody cost for this average wait at Whatton is £23,000 per prisoner. The cost of providing additional programmes is approximately £4,000 per completed programme and £5,500 for SOTPs. Although a necessary proviso is that completion of SOTPs alone does not guarantee release. Two prisoners have appealed to the Supreme Court (Case ID: UKSC 2014/0030) claiming that they were arbitrarily detained in breach of article 5(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights, the right to liberty, by reason of a failure to provide essential coursework needed to demonstrate safety for release. Judgement is currently awaited.

The Board commends the very high quality work necessary to run these effective rehabilitation programmes. The unacceptable delay in treatment for prisoners whose minimum tariff has expired remains a major concern and a considerable ongoing cost.

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 closely monitored. Their work considers each prisoner in the light of the 'Safeguarding 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. They also deal with computer access as internet offences are on the increase.

6.4 Security.

The Board attends security meetings and are informed of any security exercises or desktop events. New CCTV has been installed which covers vulnerable parts of the prison.

6.5 Reception and Induction

The Reception block is located adjacent to the main entrance to the prison and processes all movements in and out of the establishment. During the reporting period there were in total 3860 movements. These activities can be categorised as follows:- Admissions, releases, court appearances, temporary absence/home leave, transfers and hospital visits.

Following the admission process, new arrivals are located in a dedicated wing of the establishment where they participate in a carefully structured induction process. When the induction course is completed, prisoners are then located in various wings in the main prison.

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.

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

Clerking services for the board have changed but are now working effectively with a very experienced and capable member of staff.

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.

Four members currently dual at HMP Leicester, including the BDO and Vice-chair acting as chair and vice-chair respectively while one member is dualling at HMP Sudbury. Their contribution to the work of the IMB is greatly appreciated.

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

During this period four members have left the board and the current recruitment campaign resulted in one person being put forward from interview. Recruiting new board members is an ongoing concern for the board.

7.2. Board Statistics

Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	14
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	10
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)	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 2013-14
A	Accommodation	17
B	Adjudications	7
C	Equality and Diversity	4
D	Education/employment/training	24
E1	Family/visits, inc mail & phone	19
E2	Finance/pay	4
F	Food/kitchen related	6
G	Health related	13
H1	Property, in current establishment	11
H2	Property during transfer/in another establishment	32
H3	Canteen, facilities, shopping	7
I	Sentence related HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat	13
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	20
K	Transfers	10
L	Miscellaneous	29
	Total number of IMB Applications	216