



INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

Of

HMP Manchester

Annual Report

1st March 2014 – 28th February 2015

Section One

The Statutory Role of the Independent Monitoring Board

1.1

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre to be monitored by an independent board, appointed by the Minister for Justice, from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

1.2 The Board is specifically charged to:-

1.2.a 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

1.2.b inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has

1.2.c **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.**

1.3

To enable the board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison, and also to the prison's records.

Section Two

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Section Three

Description of the Prison

3.1

Manchester Prison is predominantly a local prison holding up to 1,200 adult males sentenced and remanded from courts in the Greater Manchester area. Up to 40 Category A prisoners are also held at HMP Manchester, in addition to up to 4 centrally managed prisoners who are resident in the Specialist Interventions Unit (SIU).

3.2

The residential accommodation comprises two Victorian radial blocks known as the Top and Bottom jails. Both these have five wings where the population is housed in single or double cells, all having integral sanitation and in-cell power points.

3.3

There is a separate Health Care Centre (HCC) which incorporates both in- and out-patients. All facilities available in the community including dentistry, optical, podiatry and pharmacy facilities are also available at the centre. The healthcare provider is Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust..

3.4

The main education provider is Manchester College. Classes offered include Functional Skills, Information Technology, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Numeracy, Literacy, Flexible Learning, Art, Life Skills, Parent Craft and Victim Awareness. Some classes are held in the Education Department which is situated in the Bottom jail, whilst others are wing-based for those who are unable to attend and some education classes are situated on the Croft area. There is also educational support for prisoners who work in the workshops on a full-time basis. More than 400 prisoners attend education classes. There is also a well stocked Library in the education department provided by Manchester City Library Services. Prisoners resident in the HCC, the Segregation Unit, SIU and on the Category A wing have wing based access to reading material.

3.5

The workshops, sited separately from the main buildings, include a laundry, 3 textiles workshops, 2 printing workshops, and a bakery. Also there is a waste management unit and an industrial cleaning course running for suitable prisoners.

The Crofters Restaurant and the main kitchen give prisoners an opportunity to practise their cooking and serving skills. All courses offer nationally recognised certificates and are linked to employment opportunities, or alternatively they contain functional skills support.

3.6

There is a large sports hall and several gymnasiums on some wings. Recreational gym takes place every day. Accredited courses are available. Most wings have cardio-vascular suites.

3.7

The Psychology/Programme Department offers courses to prisoners who apply and are considered to be suitable candidates as required by their sentence.

3.8

The Chapel is situated between the two accommodation blocks where services for different denominations take place every week. A World Faith Centre is situated in the Education centre. There are several volunteer workers who help the Chaplaincy team.

3.9

Transport for Category B and C prisoners is provided by Geo-Amey, whilst the prison service is responsible for that of Category A prisoners.

3.10

The Samaritans attend the prison each Thursday. They train the Listeners in one to one skills.

3.11

Certified normal accommodation is 948; operational capacity is 1355, whilst the population at the time of writing this report is 1117.

Section Four

Executive Summary

Particular issues requiring a response

Each item is cross referenced to the relevant section of the report.

4.1 Issues for the Minister

4.1.1.

The Minister is requested to instigate an urgent review of staffing levels in prisons. The recent reduction in front line operational staff has caused a number of problems, many of which are highlighted in this report.

The lack of staff available in the healthcare unit to allow high risk prisoners the recommended period of exercise and time out of cell can only be counter productive to the patients well-being and recovery. (5.3.9.)

Reductions in staffing levels on Residential Wings have created a number of tensions and unease, not least of which is the lack of confidence in being “safe” expressed by members of the Independent Monitoring Board. Prisoner’s access to Association time has also been affected by the reductions in staffing levels. Association time is vital to the smooth running of the Wings, allowing time for prisoners to socialise with fellow inmates and officers thus building essential working relationships.(5.4.5.)

Access to the Library has also been affected by a lack of escort officers, we have on occasion visited the Library to find it completely devoid of customers.(5.6.3)

The number of staff available on the Segregation Unit is in our opinion far from sufficient to ensure a safe and stable environment. We have witnessed staff being unable to unlock high risk prisoners due to the lack of available staff, we contend that in a state of emergency this situation could be highly dangerous and possibly life-threatening. (5.8.3.)

As detailed in Section One of this report the IMB is charged with reporting to The Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements on it, together with the impact these have on those in custody. IMB at HMP Manchester wishes to report that the decisions taken by The Minister regarding such standards and requirements applied to staffing levels have crossed the threshold of safety resulting in a less safe environment for all concerned. (5.9.3.) (7.2.6.)

4.1.2.

The Minister is requested to undertake a review of the practical implications of the recently amended Core Day. The changes made have created problems for the safe and secure distribution of medication to prisoners, a result of which is an increase in the variety of drugs held “in possession”. The Board is concerned that this change in practice could lead to an increase in bullying, indebtedness and more self harm caused by the ready availability of a cocktail of drugs. (5.3.12)

4.1.3.

The Minister is requested to review the implications of the changes made to the Incentive and Earned Privileges Scheme. There is evidence to link increases in self harm to the introduction of the IEP Entry Level. (5.7.2.)

4.1.4.

The Board continues to be concerned at the lack of appropriate Dining facilities on the Residential Wings. This is a point which has been raised in several of our Annual Reports, the answers to which have been far from satisfactory. In our opinion the necessity to consume food in the vicinity of an open toilet fails to meet any levels of decency and respect. The Minister is therefore requested to undertake an urgent review of the facilities at HMP Manchester and to make provision for the upgrading of the establishment to meet 21st Century expectations. (5.6.1.)

4.2 Issues for the Prison Service

4.2.1.

Population Management Unit are requested, as a matter of urgency, to review the allocation of prisoners with physical disabilities to HMP Manchester and similar establishments where facilities are totally unsuitable, not meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts.

In cases where an individual's needs cannot be met their transfer to more suitable accommodation should be facilitated immediately by the Population Management Unit. Transfers should not be left to chance or the goodwill of the Governors involved. (5.1.1.)

4.3 Issues for the Governor

4.3.1.

The level of cleanliness of communal areas is not always up to the high standard expected by, and common to HMP Manchester. Shower areas in particular can be prone to litter and discarded toiletries.(5.9.2.)

4.3.2.

A number of cells are in need of more attention to cleanliness, particularly those occupied by prisoners with mobility problems. These prisoners cannot be responsible for maintaining the usual high standards common to HMP Manchester. We request that some assistance be offered to such individuals. (5.6.2.)

Section Five

Specific Areas

5.1 Equality and Inclusion

5.1.1.

Throughout the year the Board received a number of Applications from a prisoner who as a wheelchair user was encountering a number of problems with his daily routine. His location on a Residential Wing offered him no easy access to shower facilities and other issues of personal care. His infrequent showers were only achieved via the good auspices of the Wing staff moving him to a separate part of the prison where suitable facilities were available. With reductions in staff during this period this practice became more and more infrequent.

Although equipped with the basics required for life on the Wing, his cell was not suitable for full wheelchair access, resulting in him being confined to extremely limited activity.

Although during the year the prisoner was re-categorised to Cat D status, his transfer to a more suitable establishment was repeatedly refused by the suggested prisons in the North West. In the absence of supporting evidence, the reasons for not accepting him appear to the Board to be spurious in the extreme.

At this point we should report that staff in the Equality Department continually attempted an agreed transfer but to no avail.

The situation became extremely disturbing when after being refused transfer on the grounds that the receiving prison could not oversee his healthcare needs and his medication, he decided to refuse his medication in order to satisfy the demands being placed on him.

Finally, a transfer was agreed following the intervention of the new Governing Governor at HMP Manchester with a heartfelt plea for assistance from a colleague in December 2014.

From the Board's point of view such situations should not rely on the negotiating skills of the staff concerned. The onus surely must lie with the central Population Management Section with full oversight of individual needs. This prisoner's dilemma is not an isolated case, HMP Manchester has a number of wheelchair users, up to 14 at one instance, all of whom require accommodation more suitable to their physical capabilities. We believe that such issues should be addressed at the point of sentencing and allocation to establishments be according to the needs of the individuals concerned. (4.2.1.) The Care Act coming into force in April 2015 will undoubtedly raise more challenges for the care and well being of this particularly vulnerable group.

5.1.2.

The prison organised a very interesting agenda for Black History Month held in October 2014.

5.1.3.

Support arrangements for prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) are being continuously developed.

5.1.4.

Manchester was represented along with HMP Risley and HMP Hindley in the annual Manchester Pride event held in August.

5.1.5.

An Elderly Prisoners Forum is held regularly throughout the year, often attended by the IMB.

5.1.6.

HMP Manchester is working in partnership with the British Deaf Association, Elsmore Trust and Calderstones NHS Trust to develop a good practice toolkit for staff working with offenders with communication difficulties. This work, which is due for completion in March 2015 will be presented for use in all prisons.

5.2 Education Learning and Skills

5.2.1.

Education and Skills continue to be provided under contract by Manchester College. The prison regards the education of prisoners as a high priority, and through a Service Level Agreement the partnership works effectively.

5.2.2.

The teaching staff is a stable workforce and this undoubtedly impacts positively on the learners, and if a member of staff is absent, sessions are not cancelled but a replacement steps in.

5.2.3.

The curriculum is broad based and balanced, although influenced by changes in national funding.

5.2.4.

Where possible every effort is made to meet the educational needs of prisoners. All prisoners entering education are initially assessed and then allocated to an appropriate course. Anyone whose Functional Skills are below Level 2 will be allocated to English, Mathematics and Improving Own Learning.

5.2.5.

Since January 2015 individual learner support has not been delivered by withdrawal from classes, but is offered through inclusive methodology on the courses.

5.2.6.

Vocational Skills are available based on interest expressed by prisoners, identification of need and the level of work opportunities in the outside world. As jobs on the outside are available in hospitality this is a popular option and the newly opened bakery which has the ongoing support of a large local employer is providing relevant skills training.

5.2.7.

An accredited Business and Enterprise class is being offered alongside a non-accredited drop-in to support prisoners with business planning, spreadsheets, financial packages and general business support. This has proved popular and has offered a good functional route to success on the outside.

5.2.8.

A drop-in session is provided on Saturdays for informal non-accredited activity.

5.2.9.

A weekly Learner Forum provides an opportunity to receive feedback from prisoners and to elicit views on existing or potential courses.

5.2.10.

Vulnerable Prisoners, Category A prisoners and those on Healthcare receive their education through visiting teaching staff on the wings.

5.2.11.

A Learning Community has been implemented to drive up quality in the classroom. The first to be involved were all Functional Skills staff and then it was extended to include all teaching staff. Original resources are shared and methodology is discussed to influence lesson quality. The number of observed lessons achieving grades 1 and 2 significantly increased.

5.2.12.

With the co-operation of prison staff the level of prisoner attendance reached 75% through the year. In November 2014 OFSTED inspectors recognised the 93% achievement rate and awarded 90% of teaching and learning sessions grade 2 or above. The whole provision was awarded a Grade 2.

5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health.

5.3.1.

The health and welfare of prisoners is given high priority.

5.3.2.

The commissioning of services is undertaken by NHS England on a regional basis.

5.3.3.

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust (MMHSCT) is the main provider of services, including the mental health needs.

5.3.4.

The service to mental health patients is improved by the introduction of twice weekly visits to the prison by psychiatric consultants from Ashworth Hospital. A psychologist also visits one day per week both to the Wings and In-patients. The Mental Health Day Centre operates daily from Monday to Friday.

5.3.5.

Appointments are available within primary care situated in the Healthcare Centre. Treatment clinics are also operational in the out-patient area of the Healthcare Centre. Appointments can be booked by the prisoner directly using the Unilink system.

5.3.6.

The Board is pleased to report that the number of non-attendances for healthcare appointments is closely monitored and acted upon. Non-attendees are required to submit their reason for missing the appointment and may lose pay or privileges, however movement of prisoners to their appointments remains a problem and late arrivals are not infrequent.

5.3.7.

The X-Ray machine continues to be of benefit, thus reducing the need for prisoners to go to outside hospital, thus in turn reducing the need for prison escort staff.

5.3.8.

Healthcare staff have to regularly provide a constant watch over prisoners in gated cells, this together with the security protocol required for some prisoners for whom special unlock procedures are in place quite regularly creates problems. The Healthcare Staff and Uniformed officers are to be applauded for the manner in which they approach such difficult situations.

5.3.9.

The Board is concerned that high risk patients can be disadvantaged at weekends due to the lack of sufficient discipline staff being available to facilitate the recommended exercise time and time in the open air. These prisoners are quite often not offered any time out of cell

during the whole of the weekend period and therefore remain in quite a stark environment with poor ventilation. This is a direct result of the general reductions in staffing levels and is discriminatory towards this category of prisoner.(4.1.1)

5.3.10.

All new prisoners are interviewed by medical staff within 24 hours of reception to identify any ongoing problems. If mental health issues are indicated the prisoner will then have a further early assessment with a member from the Mental Health In-reach Team.

5.3.11.

Dentistry services are provided by a local practice under a Service Level Agreement. Clinics are held daily with no waiting list for first appointments. Follow up appointments for ongoing treatments are within similar timescales to those encountered in the wider community. This service is well used by the prisoners.

5.3.12.

The introduction of the new Core Day has had an impact on the distribution of medication, necessitating a review of permitted in-possession drugs. Such changes require careful managing and constant scrutiny in order to avoid an increase in the quantity of drugs being used as “currency” within the establishment. (4.1.2.)

We believe that this once again highlights a complete disregard for the practical effects of implementing changes which impinge on the daily routine of prisons.

5.4. Purposeful Activity.

5.4.1.

The term Purposeful Activity encompasses all work, education, gymnasium activity, visits to the Library and Legal Visits.

5.4.2.

The implementation of Fair and Sustainable and the Benchmarking process have caused degree of upheaval to workshop activity. The Print Shop for example unfortunately lost some contracts due to changes in the workforce and the subsequent fall in productivity, we are however, able to report that since the original workforce was reinstated efforts are being made to recover those losses.

5.4.3.

The staff shortage situation has had an impact on prisoner access to the Library, Board members have witnessed this excellent, well attended, facility being completely devoid of any users. This is, in the main, a result of lack of escort staff rather than lack of interest on the part of prisoners.(4.1.1.)

5.4.4.

The Bakery has unfortunately not yet achieved the anticipated success. This is an excellent facility from both a training and a product provision point of view and should not be devalued in any way.

5.4.5.

Reductions in staff have also impacted on prisoner's access to Association Time. The benefits gained from time to socialise with fellow prisoners and staff should not be undervalued or reduced in favour of economy.(4.1.1.)

5.5 Resettlement

5.5.1.

In cooperation with the Visits Centre a great deal of work has been undertaken to improve links with families, an essential part of a resettlement programme. A Family Forum Group has organised several Open days throughout the year with representatives from various aspects of the prison in attendance.

5.5.2.

The Board recommend the proposal from the Family Forum Group to facilitate a Parenting Programme organised in conjunction with mothers who attend the Visits Centre and their partners who are housed at HMP Manchester.

5.5.3.

The "Out There" project run by an independent charity organisation provides care information and support for families of prisoners held at HMP Manchester.

5.5.4.

Staff are continuously looking at new ways of working to support prisoner/family relationships. The work being undertaken can only be applauded. Such links have been further improved by closer working relations with the POPS Team.

5.6 Residential Services

5.6.1.

For several consecutive years the Board has expressed concern about the lack of dining facilities on the Wings, as a consequence of which prisoners are required to eat their meals in their cells in close proximity to an open toilet.

The Board's point of view over the years has been that this practice is far from satisfactory and by no means meets the demands of a "decency and hygiene agenda."

Unfortunately, the response received on each and every occasion has been that the structure of the prison itself restricts any improvements being made due to the “listed” nature of the Victorian building.

The Board believes that if there is no alternative to current practice and that prisoners will continue to be expected to eat their meals in such circumstances then the continuation of HMP Manchester as a prison should be questioned. The Board expects there to be a viable solution to the problems posed by a Victorian prison in the 21st Century and is disappointed that there seems very little appetite to explore such options readily to bring the premises up to an acceptable standard.(4.1.4.)

5.6.2.

As a result of the thematic monitoring of the residential wings conducted throughout the year the Board has found that the previously reported prevailing standards of cleanliness are not always maintained. At the time of our visits a number of communal shower areas required further attention to remove washing items, towels and packaging left there by individual prisoners. (4.3.1.)

We have also found a number of cells in need of more attention to cleanliness, particularly in cases where the resident(s) are not the most mobile and cannot be responsible for maintaining the usual high standards achieved by others. Some assistance needs to be offered to such individuals. (4.3.2.)

5.7 Safer Custody

5.7.1.

In past reports the Board has been pleased to state that HMP Manchester offered a safe environment for prisoners and staff alike. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the current situation. The levels of uncertainty and insecurity prevalent in the establishment during this year have created a tense atmosphere in which the previous general feeling of “being safe” is now, not so readily apparent.

The number of assaults by prisoners on prisoners doubled in the first six months of the year whilst the period from July to September, saw a 50% increase in the number of open ACCT Plans. Although both of these factors can be viewed as indicators of the general decline in the confidence of safety in the establishment, it is interesting to note that in almost the same period the levels of self harm decreased by almost half.

The Board are also pleased to report that the number of open ACCT Plans has decreased in the latter half of the reporting year to an average of 49 being open at any one time during the final month of February, 2015.

5.7.2.

The Board recognises the excellent work of the Safer Custody Team in monitoring the effects of the new Core Day, the scheduled periods of “lock-up time”, and the changes in the

IEP Scheme, all of which can create added tension to an already potentially less stable situation.

There is strong evidence that the changes in the IEP Scheme with the introduction of an Entry Level can be linked to a rise in self harm during the early months of implementation. The Board request that any future changes to the expected normal day to day routine of a prisoner's life be introduced following a period of information exchange and full explanation of the new system rather than a mere "Notice to Prisoners" being issued. Loss of liberty is not a password for bad man-management practice. (4.1.3.)

5.7.3.

As a Board we are of the opinion that the reductions in the staffing levels have had a detrimental effect on the general air of safety which was a byword of HMP Manchester.

As highlighted elsewhere in this report (7.2.6.) Board members feel less safe when faced with certain situations encountered whilst undertaking their normal monitoring duties. We believe that the aspect of our role allowing us (by Statute) open and free access to all parts of the prison, is being eroded by the almost non-presence of staff at certain times on the Wings. Whilst our presence should not be any cause for anxiety on the part of prisoners, our members are concerned that they could be at times in a melee of prisoners out of sight of any Officers.

Indeed, it is not uncommon for our Board members to visit a Wing on Rota Duty and have to pass through significant numbers of prisoners in order to notify the one Officer on duty of our presence, the Officer being locked in the Wing office. (4.1.1.)

5.7.4.

There have been three Deaths in Custody during the reporting year, all of which were from Natural Causes. The fact that HMP Manchester has been free from self-inflicted deaths for over twelve months is a significant improvement and is due to the stringent efforts of the Safer Custody Team and the safeguards they have put in place.

5.7.5.

The number of Listeners is a cause for concern. In pite of rigorous efforts on the part of prison staff and the Samaritans the number of Listeners is below half of the recommended total. There are several reasons for this reduction, namely, lack of interest from prisoners and the transfer of suitable individuals to other establishments during and following their training. Prison staff and The Samaritans are continuing in their efforts to remedy the situation and are to be praised for their perseverance in the provision of this much needed aspect of prison life.

5.8 Segregation, Care and Separation Unit.

5.8.1.

Board members have made regular weekly visits to the Segregation Unit and have participated in 99% of Segregation Reviews.

5.8.2.

Adjudications are monitored on a sampling basis with 39 separate adjudications having been observed during the year.

5.8.3.

Staff levels on the Segregation Unit remain a concern with the capacity to respond to emergency situations and provide the best care for this difficult group of prisoners being hampered by lack of the relevant numbers of officers present. The Board once again request that this matter be reviewed. (4.1.1.)

5.8.4.

The number of Segregation Reviews has increased over the year by some 33% from 212 to 282. This can be either as a result of increased use of segregation or that individuals are being held in segregation for longer periods. Although at the present time we are not able to comment on such hypothesis we will be monitoring this situation closely over the coming months.

Section 6

Other Areas of the Prison

6.1 Respect and Decency

6.1.1.

HMP Manchester has provided a high level of professionalism between prisoner and discipline staff. This has been a part of moving prisoners forward in their rehabilitation. Officers have rightly been proud of this. With reduced staffing levels the role of personal officers has been eroded and all officers have little or no time to get to know the prisoners in their charge. The Wings have become noisier and there is more bad language being used. Over the period of the report increased ad hoc periods behind the door have generated resentment from the prisoners which has affected the previous good relationship between officers and the men in their care.

6.2 Foreign Nationals.

6.2.1.

Changes to the Immigration Laws which came into effect in July 2014 have resulted in a potential increase in tension as they make the deportation of foreign nationals more likely and subsequent appeals more difficult. The most significant difference is the appeal being heard outside of the country. This in essence means that deportation can happen without appeal in the UK and the individual concerned then lodging an appeal from their country of origin.

Potential consequences of these changes are a significant increase in vulnerability and self harm amongst the foreign national population. This is an issue which will be closely monitored in future months.

6.2.2..

The longest serving sentence expired foreign national being held on an IS91 awaiting deportation has been in HMP Manchester awaiting deportation/appeal result since August 2012. The Board is of the opinion that this is far too long a period of incarceration beyond the end of the original sentence.

6.2.3.

Family contact is important for foreign national prisoners and the Board appreciates the work of the Manchester Immigration and Detention Support Team (MIDST), a voluntary organisation who visit foreign national prisoners and provide some social contact and support. They are also able to liaise with outside agencies to help prisoners with specific issues

Section Seven

The Work of the Board.

7.1. Board Membership:

7.1.1.

Recruitment has once again been high on the agenda with a successful campaign being held in late summer. This campaign initially produced eleven interested candidates, three of whom were not progressed due to conflict of interest and distance away from home issues. Two more candidates withdrew upon the receipt of the invitation to visit the prison, the visit then being attended by the remaining six. Following the visit, two of the six candidates withdrew their application citing time commitment as their reason for doing so.

7.1.2.

Interviews were held in late February and the subsequent submissions made to the Minister for consideration. It is perhaps unfortunate that the suggested appointments were not made prior to the period of purdah before the General Election. Whilst recognising the need for such cessation of Ministerial activity we are concerned that the final decision and confirmation of appointments will now not be progressed until after the General Election and a new Minister is appointed, at least an additional three months away from the time of interview.

7.1.3.

The year has also been marked by the resignation of four experienced members, all of whom have resigned for understandable, personal reasons. Their contribution to the work of the Board will definitely be missed and their departure has once again decreased the active, operational capacity of experienced members on the Board. The delay in the appointments of new members as outlined only exacerbates the problems faced by the remaining Board members in effectively monitoring the complex nature of HMP Manchester.

7.1.4.

The combination of the factors outlined above necessitated a second recruitment drive which is due to close on the 19th April, the results of which will obviously not be known for some time. There is however, some probability that the appointments delayed by the period of purdah, will, when combined with any new candidates from the most recent campaign, result in an extraordinary number of newly appointed members all of whom will require training and mentoring by the reduced number of experienced members over the subsequent months. This will be no mean task and will need to be managed extremely carefully in order that we comply with the demands placed upon us with the aim of producing effective, professional monitors, equipped to join the team at HMP Manchester.

7.2. Board Activity:

The Board has throughout the year continued to be fully represented at Area Chair's Meetings, High Security Estate Meetings, Category "A" review Panels and Managing Challenging Behaviour panel Meetings (dealing with individuals resident in Close Supervision Centres).

7.2.1.

The Board hosted a visit by colleagues from the IMB at HMP Long Lartin in September 2014. We view such visits as an integral part of Board Development for both parties involved and hope that resources will continue to be found to enable this valuable, relatively low cost element of training to be maintained.

7.2.2.

Three members of the Board attended the IMB National Conference held in March 2014.

7.2.3.

In addition to the normal Rota and Prisoner Application duties, members have visited the prison at various time of day and at weekends in order to achieve a balanced view of the establishment.

7.2.4.

Continuing the Board's commitment to attend all Segregation Reviews we can report that 99% attendance was achieved in the reporting year. A total of 279 out of 282 Reviews were attended with Board members present on 99 out of the 100 review sessions held during the year, this is an increase in the total number of Segregation Reviews held of some 33% over the year.

It is perhaps worth reporting that the missed session was due to the attending Board member being delayed by a road traffic accident en route to the prison.

7.2.5.

Adjudications have been monitored at irregular intervals during the year with Board members attending a cross-section of hearings led by either the visiting District Judge, or the Duty Governor for the day. From our observations we believe that the adjudications are conducted in a fair and open manner, with full participation of the individual concerned and with parity of outcome across the sample monitored.

7.2.6.

The Board undertook a thematic review of the Residential Wings this year. All of the Wings were visited simultaneously on two occasions, the first visit being in March with a follow up visit in November. The information gathered on both occasions gave an insight into the day to day working of each Wing together with factual assessments of the facilities and conditions on the wing.

An important issue for the Board was an assessment of the environment from the point of view of “feeling safe” on the Wing. We noted a deterioration in the general feeling of being safe over the eight month period of our survey.

It is our belief that the implementation of savings efficiencies brought in as part of the “Fair and Sustainable” exercise has played a part in this change. The re-profiling of staff duties and reductions in staffing levels have both had an influence on the generally safe environment of the Wings.

Such changes to routine, coupled with the first steps to “New Ways of Working” under the Benchmarking process are creating tensions and feelings of insecurity for prisoners and staff alike. From the Board’s point of view it is not uncommon for members to access a Wing and find themselves amongst relatively large numbers of prisoners, totally out of sight of any staff members.

It is also not uncommon for us to find only one member of staff available amidst a general melee of prisoners, with the member of staff being locked in the Wing Office.

Although our presence is not generally a cause of concern for prisoners, we can ourselves often feel less safe when faced with such circumstances.

We believe that these matters require further investigation for all concerned and urge the Minister to reconsider the current changes in staffing levels in light of their adverse effects upon the prison environment and standards of safety, and their detrimental effect on moving towards rehabilitation for the prisoners within the complex environment of HMP Manchester.(4.1.1.)

7.2.7.

The Annual Team Performance Review took place in October 2014, with 12 members taking part.

7.2.8.

The Board has expressed concerns in past reports about the Hub system introduced during the Fair and Sustainable project. Although the disappearance of a designated person to act as IMB Clerk has been an ongoing issue, we are pleased that we now have a single point of contact within the Business Hub and appreciate the efforts of all of the administrative staff who, in spite of their heavy workload continue to endeavour to assist when and where possible.

7.2.9.

The following Table outlines the work of the Board throughout the reporting period.

IMB Manchester Board Statistics	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Recommended Complement of Board Members	24	24	24	24
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting year	22	12	11	16
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting year	12	11	16	13
Number of new members joining within the reporting year	0	0	6	1
Number of members leaving within the reporting year	10	1	1	4
Total number of Board Meetings during the reporting year	12	12	12	12
Average attendance at Board Meetings during the reporting year	13	8	10	11
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board Meetings during the reporting year	19	27	25	34
Total number of visits to the prison, including meetings during the reporting year	590	528	599	660
Total number of Applications received	113	125	135	123
Total number of Segregation reviews held	204	210	212	282
Total number of Segregation Reviews attended	197	204	212	279
Total number of adjudication sessions attended	6	9	9	10
Total number of Call Out attendances	10	19	3	8
Total attendances at Training Sessions	13	32	29	23
Total Training visits for new members with Mentors	44	0	47	69
Board attendance at Annual Team Performance Review	15	12	9	12

7.2.10.

The following Table shows the number and category of Applications received by the Board from prisoners during the reporting period, together with four previous year's figures for comparison.

IMB Manchester Prisoner Applications 2014 – 2015

Code	Category	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
A	Accommodation	22	3	2	2	6
B	Adjudications	3	2	4	0	2
C	Equality/Diversity related inc: Religion	2	0	2	0	2
D	Education/employment/training Inc: IEP	12	3	5	2	6
E1	Family/visits inc: mail and phone	59	10	28	41	14
E2	Finance and pay	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
F	Food/kitchen related	0	1	3	0	2
G	Health related	42	20	15	11	11
H1	Property (within current establishment)	105	18	22	34	29
H2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10
H3	Canteen facilities, catalogue shopping, Argos.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15
I	Sentence related inc: HDC, Parole, release dates, re- categorisation	22	16	10	17	25
J	Staff/prisoner related inc: bullying	46	17	16	12	8
K	Transfer	34	2	4	3	3
L	Miscellaneous	3	21	14	13	10
	Total number of Applications	350	113	125	135	123

7.2.11.

A number of applications received were submitted under the auspices of Confidential Access to the Chair of the IMB. None of these were considered to be appropriate as Confidential Access requests and all were returned to the individual concerned with a written explanation for their return. Some were then resubmitted as basic Applications and were dealt with in the normal manner. The Board maintains its stance in not condoning the misuse of the Confidential Access process.

7.2.12.

The Board has continued to encourage prisoners to use the procedures for complaint within the prison in the first instance. During the year some 39 Applications were returned to prisoners who were attempting to circumvent the prison's official complaint procedures.

7.2.13.

Almost all of the Applications received were processed within the Board's agreed time limit for doing so, however, the increasing complexity of certain Applications has resulted in the Board agreeing to extend the agreed time limit for processing to 14 days from receipt of the Application. This change resulted in an amendment to the Board's Constitution being agreed at the Board Meeting in January 2015.

7.2.14.

The members of IMB Manchester are to be congratulated on their achievements throughout the year, their commitment and dedication have ensured that fairness and respect continue to be watchwords for those in held in custody at HMP Manchester.

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