



HMP Sudbury

Annual Report

June 2013 – May 2014

Section 1

Statutory Role of the Independent Monitoring Board :

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.

In enabling the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner, every part of the prison and to prison records, with the exception of individual medical records unless specifically granted in writing by each individual.

The IMB is of the opinion that as a Category 'D' prison, resettlement underpins the work for each prisoner. It is therefore considered of major importance that the establishment has good links in place to assist prisoners resettle into their community on release, with the assistance of a personal officer scheme; prisoners are encouraged to increase their community links.

The IMB endeavours to closely monitor this area of a prisoner's life.

Section 2

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Description of HMP Sudbury :-

HMP Sudbury was originally built as a United States Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during World War 11. It was converted to a prison during 1948 and is situated in a rural landscape of some 43 acres on the Derbyshire and Staffordshire border just off the A50 to the west of Derby.

At present it is a designated category 'D' male establishment for sentenced prisoners with a present operational capacity of some 600, with a total foreign population throughout the year of just over 2%. The establishment caters for those who are in the latter stages of their sentence by specialising in the prisoner's rehabilitation and resettlement in preparation for their release into the community, and to reduce the likelihood of their re-offending. As part of this process on average 80% work within the community on a daily basis as part of their rehabilitation and resettlement programme on a paid or unpaid basis.

Most of the original single story accommodation is still in use but has been converted and refurbished and in some instances replaced to provide single and double rooms. Additional accommodation, some of it two storey, has been provided in recent years. There is a small secure accommodation unit.

Section 4

Executive Summary:-

This report has been compiled by the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Sudbury and covers the period between 1st June 2013 and 31st May 2014.

- New changes have been introduced in the management of health care and catering. Both functions are now shared between HMP Sudbury and HMP Foston Hall with a single catering and healthcare manager working between the two establishments. What impact this has, if any is still be assessed as the change is still in its infancy. The changes in catering have not been well received by the catering staff at Sudbury and there has been a marked increase in the number of negative comments recorded in the dining room comments book.
- The Fair and Sustain programme has been completed, the Governor has given regular feedback to the Board on the programme to date. Changing to overall staffing at Sudbury have been minimal.
- The Board and the SMT regularly exchange views, the Governor or a member of SMT attend the Board's monthly meeting and the Chairman or Vice Chairman, meet with the Governor once a month.
- The Board notes that there has been an increased number of employers bringing work into the prison which extends the employment opportunities for the prison population.
- The Secure Accommodation is now in use and the Board continues to monitor it as required.
- At the beginning of the reporting period, five members have resigned from the board
- Throughout the first five months of the reporting period, the Board operated with only three members, one of whom subsequently left in the seventh month, not all of whom were always able to attend monthly meetings. This resulted in some meetings being cancelled. There are no minutes or other records of some of what transpired in the prison during that period due to this.
- This should be recognised as an explanation for possible omissions from this report.
- However, considerable credit is due to the previous chairman and the two members of the Board who did all they could to maintain the existence and activities of the Board throughout the second half of 2013
- In the sixth month of the reporting period, four experienced members from four other prisons were appointed members, in a dual capacity, of Sudbury IMB, becoming active in the seventh month. Their purpose being to work with the two remaining members to recruit and train new members

and restore the Board to its proper role within the prison community. Recognised again by prisoners, staff and senior management and there is considerable evidence that this is being achieved. This has and continues to be the main purpose of the present Board, sometimes to the exclusion of the gathering of information and statistics and the reporting of activities and situations in either 2013 or 2014.

- This should also be recognised as explanation for possible omissions from this report.

Questions to the Minister:-

None

Questions to the Prison Service:-

None

Section 5

5.1. Equality:-

Diversity and Race Equality

HMP Sudbury is compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and the Discrimination Incident Report Form process is in place.

It continues to be evident that an increasing number of prisoners come to the prison in need of particular support for physical and mental health issues.

The IMB is impressed with the support given to older prisoners, including the holding of successful over 55's monthly coffee mornings, which provide opportunities for socialising, discussion and raising of problems.

Also noted by the Board are the successful family days which enable parents and children to spend time together, thus contributing to preparation for them to be permanently reunited in the future.

There have been no issues raised with the Board relating to diversity or equality during the period covered by this report.

5.2. Learning & Skills and Library

Milton Keynes has the contract as the main external provider of educational and vocational training classes and also the delivery of qualifications in most of the workshops, gym, catering and library.

The workshops have a good roll on and roll off programme and this meets the need of the Sudbury short sentence prisoners. The prisoners are gaining good skills and qualification in NVQ levels, C&G level 1 and 2 in various vocational courses.

The Board is aware that the learning and skills department also monitor all the prisoners that come into Sudbury. All prisoners are given a prospectus of available activities on induction and have an assessment interview with CIAS (Careers Information and Advice Service) at an early stage, which is followed up in interim and exit reviews.

The Board recognises that the Sudbury library and, its facilities and learning activities offered, and the various projects that are carried out within the library are valued resources appreciated by prisoners

The Board members have reported positively on prisoners' experiences in various workshops and the opportunity to obtain qualifications.

5.3. Healthcare:-

There are no significant waiting times and the healthcare unit offers a broad spectrum of medical support. Healthcare in the prison is now provided by Derbyshire Health United. There remain issues in ensuring prisoners attend medical appointments. These stem from prisoners not being informed in time that they have an appointment or prisoners who choose not to attend their appointment. Both lead to wasted time for the medical staff in the establishment.

Before a prescription is issued a prisoner has to undertake a medical assessment to ensure that the medication is still required and that the dosage is still correct. Information regarding services offered by the healthcare team and how to access those services is displayed around the prison,

There has been bullying and threatening behaviour affecting prisoners and much of this is linked to drug debt and it is pleasing to note that overall level of drug use in HMP Sudbury is not rising. The drug team and CARAT (Counsellor, Assessment, Referral, Advise and through care) service is well used and the random drugs test carried out by the team is having an impact on the amount of people using drugs within prison.

There are plans to convert the existing reception unit into an end of life unit with the facilities needed to support this. There are no set dates for this work to begun at present.

5.4. Safer Custody

The Board expects those held in an Open Prison environment and therefore being prepared for their release and resettlement to be gaining confidence in themselves as people and be treated with respect from all charged with their care and safety.

Previously reported issues around prisoner induction and low level bullying of newly arrived prisoners have improved. The Board has not received any such reports from prisoners over this reporting period.

The board does note that a number of prisoners are moved into the SAU at their own request. These requests are often linked to bullying a result of debt within the prison.

5.5. Secure Accommodation Unit

There is no segregation unit at Sudbury. There is a Secure Accommodation Unit, this does not conform to the security standards to be deemed a Segregation unit. It is rare for a prisoner to be held in the SAU for a period in excess of 24hrs. The Governor has an agreement that those prisoners who need to be moved to closed conditions can be moved to HMP Dovegate if there is a delay in securing accommodation in other establishments.

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

The accommodation in general is in need of improvement. The prison was built as a temporary structure in the 1940's much of the original accommodation still exists. The board note that there has been a programme of improvements that have included the provision of new double glazed windows. The board have raised concerns regarding rooms in the accommodation blocks that are damp. This seems to be a growing problem and it is hard to see how this can be improved without significant investment.

6.5. Induction Process and Programme

The Board has not received any complaints regarding the induction process.

6.6. Life Sentenced Prisoners

Approximately 30% of the current population are classed as serving a life sentence. Their behaviour tends to be stable.

6.7 Kitchens

There have been issues regarding staffing and grading within the kitchens over the reporting period. There is a definite undercurrent in the kitchens with some staff members clearly unhappy. The changes that are taking place with the introduction of

a new catering manager have not been well received by some staff. The Board sees the kitchens and the provision of catering as a significant area of concern and continue to monitor.

6.8 Chaplaincy

Special religious festivals were marked during the year including Christmas, Eid and Sikh and Hindu festivals.

6.9 Resettlement

The Board recognises that Resettlement is a priority area for Sudbury as it contributes to the successful rehabilitation of prisoners into the community as preparation for release. In the past year more resettlement work has been brought into the prison introducing new work streams into the establishment. Prisoners also continue to gain work experience outside of the prison on a paid or unpaid basis.

Section 7

7.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board:- There has been a problem in recruitment of members.

7.2. Board Statistics:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Recommended Complement of Board Members | 12 |
| Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period | 6 |
| Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period | 6 |
| Number of new members joining within the reporting period | 4 |
| Number of members leaving within reporting period | 6 |
| Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings | 13 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings) | 163 |
| Total number of applications received | 15 |
| Total number of segregation reviews held | 2 |
| Total number of segregation reviews attended | 2 |

7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

| Code | Subject | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| A | Accommodation | 2 | | | |
| B | Adjudications | | | 1 | |
| C | Diversity related | 1 | | | |
| D | Education/employment/training | | | | |
| E | Family/visits | | | 1 | |
| F | Food/kitchen related | | | | |
| G | Health related | 3 | | 3 | |
| H | Property | | | | |
| I | Sentence related/HDC & home visits | 3 | | | |
| J | Staff/Prisoner Related | 1 | | 2 | |
| K | Transfers | | | 4 | |
| L | Miscellaneous * | 4 | | 4 | |
| | Total number of applications | 14 | | | |

* Miscellaneous covers those for which details of subjects were not recorded.