



**HMP Sudbury
Annual Report**

June 2014 – May 2015

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 the 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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Section 3

Description of HMP Sudbury :-

HMP Sudbury was originally built as a United States Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during World War II. 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 581, with a total foreign National 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 15% work within the community on a daily basis as part of their rehabilitation and resettlement programme on a paid or unpaid basis. There is an operational capacity of 581, down from 600 and a foreign population of just over 2%.

Most of the original single storey accommodation is still in use but has been converted and refurbished and in some instances replaced to provide single and double rooms which at times exceeds capacity. 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 2014 and 31st May 2015.

- At the beginning of the reporting period, there were six members of the Board.
- HMP Sudbury no longer share catering responsibilities with HMP Foston Hall. Healthcare continues to be a shared facility with HMP Foston Hall. There has been a marked improvement in the Catering for the Prison.
- The Fair and Sustainable programme has been completed, the Governor has given regular feedback to the Board on the programme to date. There has been considerable increase in staffing the OMU which was most certainly required.
- The Board and the SMT regularly exchange views, the Governor or a member of SMT attend the Board's monthly meeting. Meetings between the Governor and the Chair are on a needed basis. Any member of the Board can speak to the Governor at any time.
- The Board notes that there has been an increased number of external employers bringing work into the prison which extends the employment opportunities for the prison population as well as providing longer-term opportunities upon release. Of particular note is the increase of outworkers in the Boots warehouse area.
- The Secure Accommodation area is monitored by the Board as required.
- There is a regular quarterly EAT (Equality Action Team) meeting.
- The new Governor (Adrian Turner) has now been running the establishment for 12 months. The Board notes that there has been a marked improvement under his regime.
- There are also quarterly staff briefing meetings which are held in the Chapel
- and visits Hall.

Questions to the Minister:-

Can the Minister assure the Board that the future of HMP Sudbury as a facility is secure?

Questions to the Prison Service:-

None

Section 5

5.1. Equality:-

Diversity and Race Equality

HMP Sudbury is compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

The DIRF process is in place and ongoing progress is monitored. This is actively monitored through the application and reviews.

There have been no complaints to the Board regarding diversity or race equality over the reporting period.

The number of prisoners who come to Sudbury requiring help in rehabilitation appears to be rising in relation to physical and mental health.

5.2. Learning & Skills and Library

Milton Keynes College 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, 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 NCS (National Careers Service) at an early stage, which is followed up in interim and exit reviews.

The Board recognises that the facilities, learning activities and various projects that are carried out within the Sudbury Library are valued resources appreciated by prisoners. There are now also video facilities for storybook dads to record stories for their children.

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

5.3. Healthcare:-

Dental waiting times are now down from 22 weeks to 14 weeks which is a significant drop but it is still a long waiting period for dental appointments. NHS England do plan to make one extra session per week to cut this waiting time down further.

There are no other 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.

Information regarding services offered by the healthcare team and how to access those services is displayed around the prison.

There continue to be issues surrounding bullying and the use of NPS within Sudbury. There are no stats to suggest a rise in the usual drug use, but NPS are a big issue currently which is a cause of concern for the Board.

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 individuals 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 small number of prisoners are moved into the SAU at their own request. These requests are often linked to bullying as 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, which does not conform to the security standards to be deemed a segregation unit. It is unusual for a prisoner to be held in the SAU for a period in excess of 24hours.

The Governor has an agreement that those prisoners who need to be moved to closed conditions can be moved to another local establishment if there is a delay in securing accommodation in other establishments. There have been no 72hr reviews at Sudbury during the reporting year. The Board is concerned that on more than one occasion the SAU has had to accommodate more than 3 prisoners in 2 cells overnight.

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

The accommodation in general continues to be in need of repairs and redecoration, although there has been some significant improvements. Vermin infestation has caused damage to the prison infrastructure. This is exacerbated by prisoners littering. The prison was built as a temporary structure in 1940 and much of the original accommodation still exists. The Board notes that there has been a

programme of improvement that has included the provision of new double glazed windows. The Board continues to raise concerns regarding damp cells in the accommodation blocks. This appears to be a growing problem and it is hard to see how this can be improved without significant investment. We understand there are negotiations in progress in line with the national policy to transfer maintenance contracts to AMEY.

6.5. Induction Process and Programme

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

6.6. Prisoners

Approximately 12% of the current population are serving a life sentence. Their behaviour tends to be a stable influence amongst the general population.

6.7 Kitchens

Previous issues have now been resolved regarding staffing. A new manager has been appointed and will start on June 1st 2015. The acting manager and staff have done a superb job in the absence of a full time manager and they created stability and amazing improvements within the kitchens. They produced excellent food over the 2014 festive period and continued this excellence and dedication into 2015.

This is underlined by absence of complaints, together with supportive comments from prisoners and by regular taste testing by IMB members.

The Board has noted that there has been meaningful stability throughout the prison brought on by consistent and positive staffing in all areas.

6.8 Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy unfortunately weren't fully compliant due to having no Anglican Chaplain since December 2014. There has been an attempt to recruit another for a long time but at the end of this reporting period one has not been recruited. Despite these setbacks earlier in the year the Christian and other Denominations Festivals were well catered for by sessional staff. The Chaplaincy department on the whole delivers excellent care for both prisoners and staff.

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 amongst others introducing new work streams into the establishment.

Prisoners also continue to gain work experience outside of the prison on a paid or unpaid basis.

Boots Warehouse have been giving prisoners job prospects on release and have worked extensively with the prison staff to facilitate this.

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	4
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within reporting period (Due to Tenure)	2
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	34
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	186
Total number of applications received	37
Total number of segregation reviews held	2

Total number of segregation reviews attended
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0

7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

Code	Subject	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
A	Accommodation	2				
B	Adjudications			1		
C	Diversity related	1				
D	Education/employment/training					
E	Family/visits			1		3
F	Food/kitchen related					2
G	Health related	3		3		2
H	Property					2
I	Sentence related/HDC &home visits	3				5
J	Staff/Prisoner Related	1		2		3
K	Transfers			4		8
L	Miscellaneous *	4		4		12
	Total number of applications	14		15		37

* Miscellaneous includes: - Prison Rules & External Probation Departments.