



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **HMP BRINSFORD YOI**

**JUNE 2014 – JULY 2015**

## **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

The Prison Act 1952 Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 requires every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Monitoring Board Appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) 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.
- (2) inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority, as it judges appropriate any concern it has.
- (3) report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standard 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 and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

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### **3.0 Description of the Prison**

- 3.1 HMP Brinsford YOI is situated north of Wolverhampton in the West Midlands. The prison establishment holds both remand and sentenced young men between 18 and 21 years.

Prisoners are housed within five two-storey residential blocks comprised of 10 Wings. Each wing has some single and some double cells. All cells have in-cell sanitation, but shower facilities are provided separately (other than in Res 5) elsewhere on the wing hub.

There have been significant changes to the Residential Blocks in the last 18 months. The accommodation now consists of:

**First Night Centre** - A 15 bed facility for newly imprisoned YAs. On arrival into the unit their needs are identified, an integration programme is initiated, and consideration given to the best environment for the YA to be allocated to, once they have completed their induction programme. Also on this unit is a Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) of 4 beds.

**Residential Block 1** - Comprising of:

A Supportive Living Unit for prisoners who require extra help.

**Residential Block 3** - Comprising of Remand and Accommodation for new prisoners transferring from the First Night Centre undergoing assessment and an induction programme

**Residential Blocks 2 and 4** - Sentenced and Remand YAs

**Residential Block 5** - Enhanced YAs

**Care and Separation Unit** - 16 bed unit in a separate block.

**Health Care** - 11 beds.

The establishment, when fully operational, is able to accommodate 577 YAs.

- 3.2 Historically, the catchment area for HMP Brinsford YOI was generally the West Midlands, Staffordshire and surrounding counties. However, this is no longer the case and many YAs are transferred from other YOI establishments and courts from the whole of the East, West and North Midlands, North and South Wales, Bristol, Cheshire, South Yorkshire and as far south as Portsmouth.

Inevitably, because of the distance involved, some young adults have few or no visits from family and friends.

- 3.3 Healthcare is provided to a very high standard by the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust and South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

*Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody*

General Practitioner services are provided on a contract basis and include an out of hours service. Some YAs have serious mental and behavioural issues requiring both psychiatric and psychological support to be provided by the Health Care Trust.

3.4 Education and Training are provided by Milton Keynes College.

3.5 Many outside organisations continue to provide ongoing support and these include:

Alcohol Concern	Bromford Housing
DARS	Howard League
Trailblazers	Pertemps
Princes Trust	Shannon Trust
NACRO	Prospects

3.6 Since November 2014 there has been extensive renovation of the Prison. This has been largely confined to the accommodation blocks and the facilities available to YAs.

The Visits Hall has also been refurbished and this now looks much more welcoming.

#### **4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report sets out the changes which have taken place between August 2014 and July 2015.

4.1. Regrettably IMB Brinsford has, for a number of years, raised concerns about the appalling conditions present at HMP Brinsford directly to previous Governors and in previous IMB Annual Reports. These concerns have been largely disregarded, as have the concerns raised by previous Governors.

4.2. The IMB report of 2013/14 outlined a number of concerns both structurally and managerially. These related to the poor condition of the prison estate; the appalling communal and living accommodation; the ongoing issues related to 'out of cell' activity, including education; meaningful employment and resettlement, and the deteriorating staffing levels. The cells were dirty and dilapidated, with broken or missing windows open to the elements. At a strategic level, in recent years, it was thought these issues were not addressed because of the financial constraints imposed by 'Fair and Sustainable' and 'Bench Marking' initiatives. These resulted in staffing shortfalls and capital constraints evident by the poor state of the prison's infrastructure.

4.2.1 This financial shortfall was perceived to be the result of cost pressures imposed on the MOJ and resulted in the perception that the prison's management was either unable, or unsupported, in identifying the issues to take a proactive approach in introducing measures to combat the failings.

- 4.2.2 The HMP Minister's Inspectorate of Prisons damning report in November 2013 confirmed much that had been highlighted by the IMB. HMP Brinsford was effectively placed in 'Special Measures'.
- 4.3.0 Funding and dynamic management was the key and the remedy to the overall improvements necessary and instrumental to bring about the much needed changes.
- 4.3.1 These changes could not have taken place without the determination of the Governor, Mr. R Trent, who was appointed in January 2014. The Governor and his committed Senior Management Team (SMT) collectively identified the strategic direction required to improve the status of the prison for the YAs who live there and the staff who work there.
- 4.3.2 The Governor and his SMT were tasked in turning HMP Brinsford around, which to date has been successfully achieved in all essential areas.
- 4.3.3 Whilst the ongoing process of change continues to drive the prison forward, there have been numerous new initiatives introduced which have identified the issues necessary to meet the basic needs of the young men held within the prison. These are targeted at
- the provision of the prisoners' basic needs;
  - safety, security and respect ;
  - improved accommodation;
  - the need to develop a meaningful working relationship with prison staff;
  - proactive development of education and meaningful work;
  - resettlement programs.
- 4.4 Funding has been provided for the upgrading of the prison and accommodation.
- 4.5 This includes the replacement of all windows in cells and upgrades to improve sanitation facilities and the provision of privacy and dignity to those YAs sharing a cell.
- 4.6 First night accommodation, comprised of 15 beds, provides a safe and secure environment for those young men newly imprisoned.
- 4.7 The Drug, Alcohol and Recovery Service (DARS) of 4 beds is also on this wing.
- 4.8 The Supported Living Unit has been introduced in Residential Block 1 to support particularly vulnerable young men, with specific emotional and mental health needs, who may have previously been subject to bullying by other prisoners.
- 4.9 The refurbishment of the other wings continues and is due for completion in late 2015.

4.9.1 In conjunction with this process, the Governor and his Senior Management Team are actively involved in developing processes and procedures to embed the following:

- violence reduction measures;
- reducing bullying and self-harm;
- reducing re-offending;
- resettlement and the provision of supportive processes.

4.10 Staffing was a major issue for the provision of a safe and appropriate service.

Staff sickness, both long term and short term, and ad-hoc sickness was a major issue, but in the previous 12 months has been markedly reduced. This is to the credit of the Governor and the Senior Management Team, and staff in post who, despite the shortfalls, endeavour to maintain a safe service.

4.11 Successful recruitment has taken place, allowing for a much improved level of staffing across the prison estate. The major issues in relation to this are the levels of supervision, support and training required to ensure newly recruited officers develop the skills required. This is currently being satisfactorily provided by more experienced and senior officers and departmental management teams.

4.12 The Board is pleased to report that there is a positive working relationship with the Management Team. The Board is fully informed of all events and are invited to prison meetings which are appropriate for them to attend.

## **ISSUES**

### **Issues for the Minister**

1. The Board welcomed the change of leadership within the prison and the commitment and determination demonstrated by Governor Trent and the SMT to turn around this failing prison. They can be commended for their hard work and tenacity in bringing about the changes needed for the safety and security of the YAs and the quality of their management of the prison.
2. Regrettably, there continue to be one long standing issue, which is not easily resolved. This relates to the number of young men being transferred to HMP Brinsford from significant distances and results in many prisoners not having visits from their family and friends. It is recognised that this is by and large unavoidable.
3. Despite the work of the SMT there continues to be an ongoing concern about the lack of YA involvement in purposeful activity.

While there is a large range of educational based programmes available, there continues to be a large proportion of YAs who simply will not co-operate or participate in any form of educational courses, out-of cell-activity or work. The

result is that many YAs spend considerable time confined to their cells. To obviate this situation, considerable work is, and has been, done by members of the SMT to introduce and develop activity-based programmes and vocational training programmes which appear to be more attractive to the YAs.

### **Issues for the Prison Service**

1. The Board continues to have concerns about loss of prisoner belongings transferring from other prisons. This is often due to the lack of accurate hand written property records, a situation which would benefit from the introduction of national computerised record keeping. Notwithstanding this, it is also felt that there is a failure by the transport provider to accept the totality of the YA's belongings during inter-prison transfer.
- 2 The recent withdrawal of ROTL results in the loss and range of training opportunities for YAs who are considered more reliable and who are committed to improving their employment opportunities after release from prison.

Whilst it is fully understood that recent incidents have given cause for concern, particularly in relation to the safety of the public, it would seem that an enhanced risk assessment analysis could be introduced in relation to YAs, as happens within the women's estate.

3. There is still a significant delay in transferring prisoners with severe mental health issues to suitable outside facilities. They often remain in Healthcare for much longer than they should.

### **Issues for the Governor**

1. To continue and maintain the ongoing initiatives for change and improved conditions for the YAs.
2. To continue taking steps to extend the range of more meaningful employment programmes and training for YAs, particularly in practical and vocational skills.
3. To continue with the work being undertaken in the use of the IEP scheme, particularly in the area of YA refusal to attend education and other out-of-cell work.
4. To continue to monitor the relevance of education provision at HMP Brinsford, and establish if any new courses could be provided to enhance employment prospects for the YAs following release.
- 4.1 For a number of reasons there continues to be an ongoing issue in relation to MKC's continued failure to provide the courses for which they are contracted. It is therefore not unreasonable to take steps for MKC to be held accountable for the shortfall in their contractual obligations.

- 4.2 There appears to be a continued reliance upon the principal of 'higher education'. However, for young adults who, for whatever reason, refused to, or were unable to, attend education as a child, there is a reluctance to be seen as being expected to attend 'school'. It is acknowledged that the ability to read and write is essential for future employment prospects. However, it is surely more productive in enhancing vocational training and incorporating the academic requirements for that role.

When speaking with the YAs they find it more beneficial to have 'hands on' training which comes from this form of personal development.

5. To continue the development of a robust programme of Rehabilitation and Resettlement, which is complex and requires considerable ongoing work.
6. Bullying continues to be a major concern. Bullying Forums have taken place and a research project led by Birmingham University is due to report soon. As a result of this report other actions to reduce bullying can be considered.

## **5 AREAS WHICH MUST BE REPORTED ON**

### **5.1 Security and Drugs**

The Security department continues to improve and provides a quality service to HMP Brinsford.

This is a small department of experienced officers and civilian staff, but the department relies on the commitment of all personnel working within the prison.

The department continues to work well with the other functions in a facilitative role, providing information for them to make informed decisions. It also works very closely with Safer Custody and has been integral in evidence gathering for a research project around bullying, which is being undertaken by the University of Birmingham.

#### **Meetings**

Monthly meetings are held, and are well attended, by both prison staff and invited staff from outside agencies, such as GEOAmev. This is followed by the second part, which has restricted attendance.

The governance and provision of work around counter-terrorism has improved, with a special branch officer being based within the department and frequent pathfinder meetings take place.

Work has also improved around corruption prevention, and are continuing to work well around the governance, directive surveillance and covert intelligence systems. IR Submissions continue to improve with the intelligence received proving to be excellent with regard to illicit items and potential unrest.

There have been a number of initiatives carried out, including out of hours searching and full lock down searches.

During the reporting period over 200 mobile phones and SIM cards have been found and 7 prisoners arrested.

MDT is over target, but no positives have been reported in recent months. It is felt that this is due to prisoners moving from traditional drugs to NPS.

Links with the police have improved, with a CID officer based within the prison. This has resulted in over 34 court cases carrying convictions, and at present 19 cases are still pending. This also enables quicker prosecutions for a number of charges, including possession of a mobile phone, weapons and cases of assault.

During the reporting period there has been an IOCCO Inspection, security audit and an HMIP inspection, with good reports for each area and department arising from them.

Cell fires have historically been high at Brinsford, but due to the dedicated work of the Fire Officer and staff, these have reduced year on year, and during the reporting period have been at a low level.

## **5.2 Reducing Reoffending and Resettlement**

- 1 There had been little or no strategic management of reducing reoffending for some time but now there is a robust strategy in place.

During the year, a needs analysis was undertaken which helped inform an up to date Strategy, identifying pathways leads and giving clear strategic direction.

2. This strategic direction has led to improved outcomes in all the pathways. For example attendance at work and education has increased and the prison now delivers a Resolve Programme, which meets the needs of the population in terms of addressing violence. A comprehensive Peer Mentoring scheme has been introduced, and there are now young adults working with Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services (DSARS) as Health Champions and classroom mentors. Family visits take place bi-monthly and evening visits have been introduced, as has a pilot Parenting Programme which works through the gate with mothers as well as fathers inside.
3. The changes brought about by the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda have been managed well and the introduction of the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) into the prison has been smooth. Basic Custody Screening is effective and referrals are made to those who can assist with resettlement needs in a timely manner. In general, the prison embraces partnership working and has forged some constructive links with organisations such as the Princes Trust, Care Leavers Association, Shannon Trust and Prospects. These relationships have helped improve resettlement outcomes for young adults, both inside and outside, providing continued support through the gate.
- 4 Work opportunities have expanded and the prison have employment places in waste management, cleaning parties which attract qualifications and more basic

workshops for those who need more therapeutic activities.

5. Attendance at activities has improved, but there is a long way to go until all young men are occupied. Resettlement outcomes have also improved in terms of young adults going out to settled accommodation, employment and education, but, again, there is room for further improvement.

### **5.3 Safer Custody**

- 5.3.1 This department also incorporates Suicide Prevention and Safeguarding, and the process of monitoring these issues within the completion of ACCT documents. The monitoring of these documents continues to improve due to more training for the staff, which has produced a greater understanding of their importance.
- 5.3.2 Meetings are well attended by staff and are held monthly, with a good input from two YAs who are part of the listener group. This group also works closely with a local Samaritan group and meets with them regularly.
- 5.3.3 The use of listeners is very well established, and they are frequently drawn upon to assist YAs newly arrived in the First Night Centre.
- 5.3.4 Bullying continues to be of major concern and "Bullying forums" have taken place in order to understand the process. A research project is taking place in conjunction with the Law Department at the University of Birmingham.

### **5.4 Segregation**

The Care and Separation Unit is an extremely efficient unit.

The department has been refurbished in conjunction with the prison-wide refurbishment programme. The isolation room is no longer in use since it was felt that other more productive strategies should be adopted.

All prisoners are seen, and spoken to, by a Board member during weekly rounds or at GOOD reviews, which take place at least once a week and more often as the R49 provisions require.

Segregation Monitoring and Review (SMARG) meetings take place, and Adjudication Standardisation meetings, which include monitoring of adjudication records by peer reviewers, are in progress.

### **5.5 Race Equality and Disability**

- 5.5.1 The prison has a proactive equality team with a comprehensive equality policy and action plan covering all groups within protected characteristics. Considerable work has been undertaken in this area since the latter half of 2014 with the appointment of a full time lead officer and a highly

qualified and motivated team, in order to initiate and introduce a robust system and procedures.

5.5.2 In the latter half of 2014, 4 Equality Representatives were appointed and a qualities Outlook System introduced.

Training and development has been introduced for newly appointed officers, OSGs and training for civilian staff and administrators. There is also a Civil Service Learning Equalities Learning Package.

5.5.3 Prisoner Representatives are invited to join the meetings and are encouraged to join in the discussions; they are actively encouraged to identify problems on the wings and to prepare themselves to bring added value to the main meeting. They are able to report to their colleagues on the work that the prison staff are doing in this area.

5.5.4 There are comprehensive display boards identifying the systems and aims of the Equalities and Diversity Programme on each wing and the access corridors.

5.5.5 The meetings, observed by the IMB, have been chaired by the Deputy Governor and are well structured.

5.5.6 Discrimination Incident Reporting Form (DIRFS) are actively encouraged. Prior to the current officer being in post there had been a total of 30 DIRFs that covered a period of 9 months. This has increased due to the promotion of the scheme and the transparency of the DIRF system. Currently there are more than 90 DIRFs recorded for this calendar year. These complaints are dealt with fairly and without prejudice, with the result that prisoners are confident that the system is both fair and transparent, and that their views and concerns will be dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner.

5.5.7 The Equality and Needs Monitoring Form which includes self-reporting of disabilities continues to be used for new prisoners. The information from this form is passed to the Equality Department within the prison to ensure further support for the prisoner. Currently Brinsford does not hold any physically disabled prisoners. However, where prisoners are recognised to have acquired disability due to accidents, a personal emergency evacuation plan has been initiated.

5.5.8 The introduction of 'First Night Centre' is successful. This gives prisoners some degree of security and the feeling of safety until they are equipped for the move to a new prisoner wing.

5.5.9 Inevitably some bullying on the wings continues to be a problem within Brinsford. However, the incidence of racial disharmony is not apparent since the prison officers are more aware and active in identifying and combating such occurrences.

The Board is satisfied that the prison has made significant strides to improve this area of provision and continues to make positive moves to improve still further.

## **5.6 Learning and Education Skills**

Education, Learning and Skills continues to be provided by Milton Keynes College.

In the last reporting period, and in this one too, Milton Keynes College had significant difficulty in recruitment and retention of qualified staff. The issue of recruitment and retention appears to be an ongoing issue with high levels of sickness and absence resulting in frequent cancellation of classes.

In recent months there have been occasions when only 44% of classes take place due to staff sickness or inadequate staff cover.

Notwithstanding this, the relationships between tutors and YAs is generally good, but this will often depend upon the subject matter and the level of interest shown by the YAs.

Allocation of YAs to courses is a perennial problem. Some YAs decline to attend courses they have already attended on previous occasions or whilst confined in other prisons.

Generally, refusal to attend courses is based upon the YAs bias towards undertaking basic English and Maths teaching.

As mentioned previously, courses are not always relevant to the needs of YAs but some vocational courses have proved very successful.

### **Vocational Training**

Vocational training tends to be more attractive to the YAs. Vocational skills courses, including bricklaying and plastering, proved difficult to retain due to difficulty in recruiting suitably trained Vocational Tutors.

The Cleaning Course has been very successful and the results of their work around the prison are creditable. Good links have been created from that course with Inter-serve who will look at employing YAs who are qualified, on release.

Bricklaying has now been reinstated and the Course Tutor has been successful in gaining a good relationship with the YAs in training, which to date has produced good results.

Regrettably, Plastering courses proved to be significantly more difficult to provide. Suitably qualified tutors were both difficult to recruit and retain and the course is no longer provided.

### **Industrial Programmes**

New initiatives continue to be investigated. To implement planned programmes, the workshops were reconfigured and upgraded to initiate programmes of work. Industrial packing has been introduced, cycle maintenance and industrial waste management continues to be undertaken.

### **The Employment Academy**

The Employment Academy was launched in September 2014. The new innovation was developed in partnership with MKC the Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board (WANITAB) and a local Waste Management company.

This programme was initially very successful. However, the outside provider withdrew due to operational difficulties in the middle part of 2015. This service had the dual potential in providing vocational training for YAs, and potential for employment. MKC made the decision to continue and manage the programme using MKC employees.

### **Release on Temporary License (ROTL)**

Some ROTL has been suspended following directives from the MOJ.

Whilst there were only limited YAs included in this programme, it was hoped that more YAs could be recruited. For the time being ROTL is greatly restricted and the IMB feel that this should be reviewed.

### **5.7 Healthcare**

Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Partnership NHS Trust continues to provide healthcare services at Brinsford.

General Practitioner services are provided on a contract basis and include an out of hours service. Dentists, opticians, psychiatrists and psychologists are also provided by the Trust.

Nurse-led clinics are provided in the areas of sexual health, behavioural therapy and drug rehabilitation.

Every young adult is seen by a nurse on arrival at HMP Brinsford and this is followed by a more rigorous assessment of needs the following day.

At the start of the reporting period there were concerns about the poor condition of the cells in Healthcare, and the number of prisoners present as in-patients who were there for non-clinical reasons. The cells have now been refurbished and are looking a lot better.

The Health Care provision within HMP Brinsford is of a very high standard. Many of the YAs requiring care are very vulnerable and on some occasions require treatment which is best provided in Secondary Mental Healthcare facilities.

Regrettably, as on all previous occasions, it can be shown that, during the reporting period, despite every effort by the in-reach team, secondary services have failed to

accept a seriously ill patient in a timely manner. Despite the care provided within the prison this has been detrimental to the YA.

This is no reflection of the prison's Healthcare team, and is more a symptom of the increasing shortfall in health care provision within the wider Healthcare community. In the wider prison environment, self-harming continues to be a worrying situation. The management of this by the ACCT process continues to require careful scrutiny to ensure the safeguarding of these vulnerable young men.

In relation to vulnerable YAs a recent scheme to develop other suitable and well trained 'listeners' is being established. This has proven to be beneficial to the YAs

Healthcare at HMP Brinsford is well run by a dedicated team of staff. There is always a nurse on duty but it has caused some concern in the department that the service may be overstretched at night if an incident occurs.

A member of the Healthcare team attends GOOD reviews and provides good background information about the prisoner when appropriate.

### **5.8 Kitchen**

As with the remainder of HMP Brinsford estate, this area has had considerable funding released to purchase new, and upgrade existing, catering equipment and facilities.

The new Catering Manager has been instrumental in making a number of significant changes within the Catering department; he and the catering staff are to be particularly congratulated for the improved quality and range of food they provide, within very limited financial resources, for each young YA.

Whilst YAs still complain about the replacement of a cooked lunch by a cold lunch pack, the catering staff make every effort to provide nourishing, tasty and adequate provisions for this group of YAs.

The staff must also be praised for the supervision and training they give to YAs who undertake the NVQ training programmes.

### **5.9 Physical Education/Exercise**

The facilities consist of a multi-functional hall, weight and CV training rooms. Since the refurbishment programme was initiated, outside purpose-built static exercise equipment has been installed in the exercise yards.

Adjacent to the gym there is a grass pitch and also AstroTurf pitch.

For a number of years, annual reports have raised concern about the poor quality of the AstroTurf which is in a deteriorating condition. During 2015, some work was carried out by contractors. They removed the sand layer from beneath the AstroTurf and re-sanded the area. This very costly exercise will only be successful if maintained on a regular basis and if funding is specifically made available to maintain the quality of this area.

Staffing within the gym remains unchanged.

During the last reporting period, staff from the gym were often redeployed onto the wings to assist with the staff shortages. This has not been the case for some considerable time and they are now reallocated permanently to the gym.

Rugby and Football are played within a local league. Volleyball and five-a-side football are both popular and played regularly.

In athletics, a running challenge has been set up. Participating YAs receive certificates for each mile they run.

First Aid courses are in place, and IQ testing at various levels is a popular activity.

Since May 2014, kit was made the responsibility of the YAs attending the gym. Regrettably, this has recently reverted back to the gym storage facility because of the high level of losses.

**The Airborne Initiative** introduced in 2013/14 has been suspended because of the suspension of ROTL by MOJ. This is a very unfortunate situation since it proved to be very successful, both in terms of giving the YAs an insight into their own limitations and an opportunity to gain experiences leading to self-motivation and maturity.

The playing fields are in a poor state at present. However, a new initiative to improve this area has been introduced, and it is expected that the hard work being undertaken by the gym staff and YAs will result in recovery of this area.

During this reporting period a number of YAs have participated in charity appeals and have raised money for local charities. During 2015, £237 and £325 was raised for Victim Support. An initiative to sponsor an orphan in Pakistan was also supported.

### **5.9.1 Visits**

The Visits Centre has been running well during the last reporting period. As with the main Visits Hall, the centre has been redecorated and new furniture ordered, but not yet installed.

CCTV equipment is in place but needs updating.

### **5.9.2 Visits Hall**

#### **Reception**

During the reporting period, a number of new initiatives relating to visits have been successfully introduced.

This area is now fully staffed and visitors are processed and moved quickly.

Dog Handlers are now well supported by staff, and the process generally works well.

Funding was made available to upgrade and improve the facilities within the Visits Hall for YAs with young children. A purpose-built play station and adventure area was installed and this facilitated the introduction of very successful 'Family Days' which now take place every other month.

This enables YAs with children to enjoy time playing, initiating and retaining their relationships with their children and partners. The only disadvantage to this project is the level of supervision required by a staff member to ensure the safety of the children, and users of the equipment.

Evening visits have recently been introduced once a month. These allow family members, who work during the day, to visit the YA on a regular basis. Whilst these are very popular, there is considerable difficulty for some family members to reach the prison in time for a meaningful visit, because of the congestion on the local motorway system, which has been under repair for some considerable time.

In conclusion. The Visits Hall is very much brighter and very much friendlier in appearance.

## **6 ADDITIONAL AREAS TO REPORT ON**

### **Board Relationship with SMT and staff**

The Board commends the hard work of the Governor, SMT and staff at HMP Brinsford. It is recognised that there is still much to be done, but the IMB will provide support whilst remaining a critical friend.

The IMB has a good working relationship with the Governor (who will be replaced by a new appointee in January 2016) and the SMT.

There has always been a proactive approach taken to address any issues raised by the Board in a participative and collegiate manner.

Whilst the IMB Board congratulate Mr.Trent on his promotion, it is unfortunate that he is leaving at such an important time. Fortunately, the SMT are a cohesive and dynamic group, but it would be most regrettable if the new Governor was not cognisant of the need to allow the SMT to continue and follow the current successful strategic direction. This allowed HMP Brinsford to recover from its parlous state to a new vibrant well-run establishment in which YAs are treated with dignity and respect.

## **7.0 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

### **7.1 Board Structure, membership and activity.**

The IMB Board at HMP Brinsford has an allocation of 16 members. At the beginning of the reporting period there were 6 members.

The Board had the good fortune to recruit a new member, and to have a very experienced IMB member from another board. This brings the board to 8 members.

Whilst there is a significant shortfall in Board numbers, a recent recruitment drive has raised a small number of applicants which will be interviewed in the near future.

At the beginning of 2015 the Chair, Vice Chair and BDO were re-elected.

Rota visits occur weekly and two Board members share the weekly rota with visits taking place most days.

Applications are dealt with weekly, and during 2014/15 there were 109, a reduction from 2013/14 when there were 133.

There continues to be a significant number of complaints regarding the loss of property experienced by YAs. As indicated previously, many of these losses result from inter-prison transfers.

Board meetings take place monthly, and the Governor or Deputy attends each meeting giving a full briefing of progress within the prison, and information which is of assistance to the Board and its function. These discussions are frank and open and issues raised are listened to both courteously and in a productive and positive manner.

## **7.2 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board Members at start of the reporting period	6
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	8
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	0
Number of New members joining within the reporting period	2
Total Number of Board meetings within the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishments	415
Total number of segregation reviews attended	97
Date of Annual Performance review	Nov 2014

### **7.3 STATISTICS ON APPLICATIONS TO IMB HMP BRINSFORD YOI**

<b>Application</b>	<b>July 2012 June 2013</b>	<b>July 2013 June 2014</b>	<b>July 2014 June 2015</b>
Association	0	1	0
Canteen	13	12	3
Cell Conditions	1	5	2
Complaints/Staff	2	9	9
Disciplinary concerns	14	23	8
Education & Library	1	3	1
Haircuts	0	0	0
IEP	0	2	2
Lack of Gym	1	1	1
Miscellaneous	16	43	13
Missing mail/property	17	35	10
Personal Health	6	8	4
Race/Religion Problem	1	0	0
Relocation request	4	1	0
Reception	0	0	9
Telephone	2	4	1
Transfer out	5	8	9
Unfair Treatment	8	9	12
Visits/visitors	6	5	6
Employment issue	8	9	0
Sentenced Related HDC etc.	2	20	11
Catalogue purchase		3	2

<b>TOTAL</b>	107	199	103
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS</b>	3	6	1

Applications are made by either placing requests in any one of the eight application boxes, which are situated throughout the establishment and collected weekly by a Board member or verbally when prisoners see a Board member. All applications are dealt with weekly.

**END OF REPORT**

Josephine Chapman