



**HMP Dovegate  
Independent Monitoring Board  
Annual Report  
For the period  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

## **Section 1**

### **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Minister of Justice from members of the community in which the prison 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 prisons 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 Standards and Requirements placed upon it, and what impact these have on those in 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.

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

The Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Dovegate is committed to treating all with whom members interact with respect and fairness, regardless of race, colour, ethnicity, religion, belief, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

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### **3 Description of HMP Dovegate**

- 3.1 HMP Dovegate is a male Category B training prison holding male prisoners aged 21 and over. The main prison consists of convicted prisoners, mainly determinate but with a substantial number of indeterminate prisoners, a remand facility and about 130 local prison places. There is also a purpose-built Therapeutic Community that takes repeat and mainly violent offenders who voluntarily come from any prison in the country in order to address their offending behaviour through group therapy. All prisoners go through a careful assessment of their suitability both before and after their arrival in HMP Dovegate.
- 3.2 The Certified Normal Accommodation of the main prison is 860 and that of the Therapeutic Community 200, giving a combined total of 1060. In February 2014 the Operational Capacity in the main prison was increased by 73 to 933 raising the combined total to 1133.
- 3.3 The number of prisoners held in the main prison over the reporting year has been very close to the Operational Capacity, and has at times been operating at its maximum of 933.
- 3.4 During the last three months of the reporting year the number of prisoners in the TC reduced and on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 had fallen to 166 well below its Certified Normal Allocation of 200. (see para. 6.4.2, 6.4.8).
- 3.5 The main prison consists of three house blocks. The two original house blocks 1 & 2 each have five wings built around a central “bubble”. Each wing has two floors, each floor having 30 cells, 4 showers, and a servery and laundry downstairs. There are tables and chairs, a pool table and exercise machines in the recreation area, plus an outside exercise area. Cells in these two house blocks (with the exception of some 20 cells which are larger and can accommodate two prisoners), were designed for single occupancy and have in-cell wash basin and toilet. Approximately 60 of these cells have had a second bunk bed fitted and are being used for overcrowding. (see para. 4.2.4, 5.8.2)
- 3.6 The newer house block 3, has 4 wings built round a control “bubble”. This house block has a dedicated drug treatment wing, and holds trial and remand prisoners The cells are larger, complying with European standards, and have integral showers. All wings have the same facilities as in house blocks 1 & 2.
- 3.7 The Therapeutic Community is separated from the main prison by an internal fence (see para. 6.4)
- 3.8 The Therapeutic Community has three house blocks, all having single occupancy cells with in-cell toilets and showers. The Therapeutic Community shares some of the Main Prison facilities e.g. Healthcare and gymnasium. (see para 6.4).
- 3.9 Telephones are installed in every cell in the residential areas of the main and therapeutic prisons.
- 3.10 ATM's (Automated Teller Machines) are installed in all the residential areas, allowing prisoners to check their accounts, order meals, canteen, and many other functions.
- 3.11 HMP Dovegate has its own kitchen and laundry.

- 3.12 This is the first year that Care UK has provided healthcare in HMP Dovegate. The Healthcare Centre has cells for 12 prisoners and the usual range of outpatient clinics. There is an integrated substance misuse (ISMT) unit in house block 3.

Mental Health Services are subcontracted by Care UK to South Staffordshire & Shropshire Foundation Trust.

- 3.13 HMP Dovegate has a large Education and Training facility, Dovegate College, which is run mostly by Serco, four workshops, a recycling centre, a gymnasium, and a multi-faith centre.

The Provision of Library Services is provided by Serco, who work in partnership with the Staffordshire Library Services.

Vocational Training is run by two subcontractors Construction & Skills Solutions (CSS) and n-ergy. (see para. 5.4.9).

- 3.14 HMP Dovegate has a contract with Serco Integrated Services for facilities. (see para 5.8.10).

- 3.15 HMP Dovegate has well maintained and attractive gardens and productive vegetable growing areas.

## **4 Executive Summary**

### **4.1 Overall judgement**

- 4.1.2 There was an unannounced inspection of HMP Dovegate by HM Inspector of Prisons 5 – 16 January 2015, and the prison is in the process of implementing the various recommendations which followed from this report.

- 4.1.3 Some of the items mentioned in the Inspector's report are also raised in this IMB Annual Report.

- 4.1.4 It has been a difficult year for HMP Dovegate. The arrival of more Category B prisoners reported last year, many of whom were not from the area, and nearly all of whom were convicted of serious violent offences, gave the prison a much more challenging population, and had a destabilising effect upon the prison.

- 4.1.5 The challenge presented by the new psychoactive substances across the prison estate, HMP Dovegate being no exception, led to widespread debt and associated bullying on the wings and could well have been a major contributing factor for the incident which occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup> March when the NOM's Tornado team were called out to the prison (see para. 5.6.7).

- 4.1.6 Violent incidents in the prison continue to be a concern. In February there was a marked increase in violent incidents towards staff. Violent incidents then fell for a while, but increased again in July which could have been caused as the result of the new psychoactive substances (see para.5.6.6).

- 4.1.7 There was a prisoner escape from the prison on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. (see para. 5.6.11)

- 4.1.8 An item which was mentioned repeatedly over the year in the Board's Rota Reports called attention to the deplorable state of the waiting rooms in the Healthcare Unit. (see para 5.3.4).
- 4.1.9 Staff shortages have again caused some cross deployment of staff during the year. (see para.5.7.4, 6.4.10).
- 4.1.10 During the earlier part of the calendar year an increase in the level of violence was seen in the prison causing some unease on the residential wings.(see para. 5.6.6).
- 4.1.11 The Board has expressed concern at the quality of the Segregation Reviews when Prisoners on R45OI have been segregated on normal wings rather than in the CSU. There was a qualitative difference in the conduct of these Reviews, often conducted in the cell. The Board is pleased that steps have been taken to improve these reviews.
- 4.1.12 The prison implemented a revised Violence Reduction Strategy from May for both prisoners and staff. (see para.5.6.7).
- 4.1.13 The prison experienced some difficulty in moving prisoners from first night accommodation. (see para.4.4.1).
- 4.1.14 In June H wing was full so VP prisoners were being held on other wings which was not desirable.(see para. 4.2.3).
- 4.1.15 The Board continues to be impressed by the dedication of the prison staff in looking after, and caring for, a large prison population, some of whom are very difficult to manage.
- 4.1.16 The Board is grateful for the open and approachable style of management, which together with the courteous co-operation of staff, enables it to carry out its monitoring role throughout the year. The Board is supported by a Clerk, provided by Serco.
- 4.1.17 The Board wishes to commend HMP Dovegate for:-
- Five of the staff have achieved degrees in Offender Management from the University of Staffordshire, and graduated in July.
  - In the Therapeutic Community nine prisoners achieved GCSE passes in English, and six prisoners achieved GCSE passes in mathematics.
  - Fourteen Awards from the Koestler Trust including two platinum awards.
  - The introduction of the Violence Reduction Cycle a more robust approach to violence Reduction. (see para. (5.6.8)
- 4.1.18 The Board has raised the following concerns with HMP Dovegate during the year:-
- As was reported last year the Board has concerns about the number of staff on duty, and of low morale.
  - Attendance at prison meetings has at times been poor and needs to be addressed.

#### 4.2. Issues for the Minister:-

- 4.2.1 At the present time there are two foreign nationals who remain incarcerated in HMP Dovegate after completing their sentences whilst the deportation process takes place. Is it possible for the process to be started earlier to avoid this delay? As has been stated in previous years the Board reiterates its condemnation of this process.
- 4.2.2 The Operational Capacity of HMP Dovegate was due to be reduced from 1133 to its Certified Normal Allocation of 1060 in August 2014, but this reduction in numbers was cancelled. Will the Minister confirm that the next change in Operational Capacity of the prison will be reduced and not increased?
- 4.2.3 Does the Minister agree with the Board that the conversion of single cells into double cells on the VP wing, while legal, is deplorable, as space is the limited, and it is not decent. (see para 3.5, 5.8.2)
- 4.2.4 There is now only one VP wing, and tensions on the wing, especially between some of the older and younger prisoners are difficult to resolve as there is no alternative accommodation to which prisoners can be moved. Does the Minister have a view on this unsatisfactory situation?
- 4.2.5 The Board continues to be concerned about the number of prisoners with mental health problems whose needs are not adequately met, and the lack of secure places for those needing them. Will the Minister detail what is being done across the prison estate to try and resolve this problem? (see para. 5.3.5, 5.3.6, 5.3.13)
- 4.2.6 The Board has queried with the Minister the problem of prisoners' property not being transferred with the prisoner from one establishment to another. The Minister's response last year was that NOMS was currently reviewing arrangements for property transportation with contractors as part of an on-going process contractual improvement. Is the Minister satisfied that satisfactory progress in this respect has been achieved by NOMS, as the Board remains unconvinced that this is the case?(see para. 4.3.1, 4.5.3,)

#### 4.3 Issues for NOMS:-

- 4.3.1 The Board deplores the overcrowding and inadequate accommodation for sex offenders. NOMS fails to acknowledge the limited space available in the prison for Vulnerable Prisoners ( VP sex offenders), with the prison having no control over the number of VP prisoners arriving from the courts. Consequently, sex offenders are being accommodated on normal wings which constitutes a real threat to their safety. (see para. 4.1.2, 5.6.8)
- 4.3.2 The problem of prisoners' property not being transferred with prisoners will not go away; many other prisons contact the Board regarding property problems. Are NOMs any nearer resolving this problem, as the Board at HMP Dovegate, suspects that it and many other Boards are spending valuable time on this issue at the expense of other board responsibilities? (see para. 4.2.7, 4.5.3,).

#### 4.4 Issues for HMP Dovegate:-

- 4.4.1 The prison has experienced difficulty in removing prisoners from first night accommodation, as the first night accommodation has integral showers, and those on other wings only have communal showers. What is being done to get over this problem?
- 4.4.2 The Board is concerned that prisoners who should be housed on M wing (for those with drug and alcohol issues) on reception are accommodated elsewhere on their first night. This constitutes a real health risk, especially when they are placed in another house block where medical staff are not immediately available. The Management Team say they have addressed this problem. Does the prison intend to monitor the situation to see if this in fact the case?
- 4.4.3 Unemployment in the prison is a large concern, the figures are very high. What is being done to ease this problem?.(see para. 5.4.6, 5.4.7).
- 4.4.4 The loss of property within the establishment and, in particular, the failure to always investigate promptly when property does go missing continues to be a cause of frustration to both prisoners and the Board. All too frequently, compensation is offered. This is not what the prisoner wants, as the sum he will receive is very small and does not compensate for personal items of sentimental value. Does the prison appreciate both these problems, and if so, what is being done to rectify this? (see para 4.5.2).
- 4.4.5 The number of prisoners on ACCT's that progressed into the CSU during the year was 74. This number seemed rather high, although the Board could not compare it with last year when the figures produced were unreliable. Is the prison taking the necessary action to reduce the number of prisoners on ACCT's who progress into the CSU?(see para. 5.7.9)
- 4.4.6 In September 2015 the last month of the Board's reporting year, the paperwork for segregation was revised. The Board accepts that the paperwork had only been available to the prison for a short time, and that there would be teething problems, but the Board asks what checks are in place to ensure that the new forms and procedures are being correctly adhered too? (see para. 5.7.12)
- 4.4.7 The facility department concentrated on its contractual obligations and had difficulty to find time for refurbishments which are urgently needed especially in the residential accommodation . What is being done to alleviate this problem?(See para.5.8.9).
- 4.4.8 The attendance at prison meetings has sometimes been low. Are actions being taken to try and overcome this problem?

#### 4.5 Previous year's concerns:-

- 4.5.1 The Board repeats its request for steps to be taken to increase the time out of cell for those prisoners who spend fewer than 10.5 hours per day out of their cells. (see para. 5.4.8, 5.8.3)
- 4.5.2 Internal property problems are still giving the Board cause for concern (see para.4.4.3)

4.5.3 The transfer of property from one establishment to another is still a problem. (see para. 4.2.7,4.3.1).

## **5 Reports**

### **5.1 Equality and Inclusion**

5.1.1 Equality and Inclusion at HMP Dovegate follows the national policy as expressed in the 2010 Equalities Act and subsequent NOMS policy. The Act requires the prison to have due regard to advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

5.1.2 The characteristic groups in HMP Dovegate are divided into forums which are Disability, Age, Race, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Belief, and Foreign Nationals.

5.1.3 In addition three new forums were introduced in this reporting year, Veterans in Custody in January, and Vulnerable Prisoners' and Staff Equality in February.

5.1.4 The Forums report each month to the Equality Governance Meetings attended by senior managers and prisoner representatives.

5.1.5 Towards the end of the year the "Equality Governance Meetings was changed to a bi-monthly meeting.

5.1.6 It was reported last year that attendance at these meetings had been poor, this resulted in an action plan being produced in October 2014, in which it was stated that the forum meetings were not fully meeting the criteria, and that the main priority would be for the monthly forum meetings to be held with full staff attendance.

5.1.7 However the monthly forum meetings with the exception of the Disability and the Foreign National forums have tended to be sporadic, or in some cases very sporadic, with no minutes being submitted to the monthly Equality Governance Meetings.

5.1.8 Attendance at the monthly Equality Governance Meetings has at times been less than would have been desired, and this needs to be improved.

5.1.9 The forum meetings which have been held have produced some excellent debate and discussions on aspects of equalities in the prison, resulting in positive changes taking place. This is particularly so with respect to the Disability Forum..

5.1.10 HMP Dovegate hosted an Equalities Fair on the 27<sup>th</sup> February which was well attended by prisoners, and names were taken of those prisoners who showed an interest in attending the forums. However, staff lead presence was low.

5.1.11 Prisoners were able to celebrate major religious festivities and these were actively promoted. (see para.6.1.3)

5.1.12 Foreign Nationals held in HMP Dovegate as last year make up about 7% of the population, and come from 31 countries.

5.1.13 Statistics relating to equalities in the prison are produced by the SMARG Meetings and shared with the Equalities Governance Meetings.

5.1.14 The Board has become depleted over the past two years, and the current members are mindful that the Board lacks representation from all groups identified in the Act, but the prison is located in a very rural area and it is becoming very difficult to attract new members.

## 5.2 Education, Learning and Skills

5.2.1 Prisoners educational needs are assessed during the Induction Process and they are allocated places accordingly, including offending behaviour courses.

5.2.2 Education is split into three separate colleges:-  
North College – commonly referred to as “the main”, is the largest of the three colleges, and is for sentenced and remand prisoners.

South College – commonly known as “VP” (Vulnerable Prisoners) is the smallest of the three colleges and provides for vulnerable learners who are unable to mix with the main population for a variety of complex reasons.

Trinity College – commonly referred to as TC (Therapeutic Community) and is for prisoners who have voluntarily chosen to engage in a two year therapy programme.

5.2.3 North College includes the following classes:-  
Entry Level Numeracy, L1/L3 Numeracy, “Stepping up”, Health and Fitness, Education and Training Level 3, L1/L2 Family Relationships, Entry Level literacy, L1/L2 English, Information Technology L1/L3, Art, L1/L3 Business studies, ESOL, Barbering Salon, Money Management, Drugs and Alcohol, Book Keeping, Drama and Health and Safety Courses.

South College includes the following classes:-  
Entry Level Numeracy, L1/L2 Numeracy, Entry Level Literacy, L1/L2 English, Information Technology L1/L3, L1/L3 Art, L3 Education and Learning, OU/ Distance Learning, and Industrial Cleaning. (situated within the Workshops).

5.2.4 Top achieving courses above 90%:-  
North College – Industrial Cleaning, Barbering, Drugs and Alcohol, English Level 1 & 2, Business Enterprise.  
South College – Education and training level 3, Industrial Cleaning, Maths Level 1 & 2.  
Bottom achieving courses below 70%:-  
North College – Maths Level 1 & 2, Book Keeping, Information technology, Maths Entry level,  
South College – English Entry Level, English Level 1 & 2.

5.2.5 In addition there is the following provision:-  
Outreach – wing based education, functional skills and Health & Safety within Industry workshops, Welcome to Education classes and Induction and Initial Assessment classes.

5.2.6 The North and South Colleges together have on average 153 spaces across the provision in the morning and 130 spaces in the afternoon.

- 5.2.7 The average attendance during the calendar year in the North and South College was 81%. Changes to prisoner movement to activity has improved timeliness in arriving in education, and all non- attendance at activity is challenged.
- 5.2.8 During 2014 there was a change in HMP Dovegate's population, due to the reduction of vulnerable prisoners from two wings to one. This impacted greatly on the vulnerable prisoner education provision which was reduced from approximately 45 prisoners to 17 prisoners.
- 5.2.9 Education provision has links with additional colleges, charities, national organisations, and training providers which enhances the curriculum.
- 5.2.10 Prisoners tend to put down their names on the ATM for everything that is available so waiting lists are unrealistic.
- 5.2.11 However, all prisoners are assessed for Maths and English and all have the opportunity to progress if they so desire.
- 5.2.12 There is a full complement of tutors, and a good pool of Learning Support Assistants, with the exception of ESOL.
- 5.2.13 To support those workers who wish to gain full time employment in industry, tutors deliver Maths and English and Health and Safety alongside their employment.
- 5.2.14 Vocational training is available in the following subjects:-  
Carpentry and Joinery, Painting and Decorating and Bricklaying, Industrial Cleaning, Performance Manufacturing Operations L1/L2, Team Leading L2, Food Preparation and Cooking L1/L2, Recycling L2 and Warehouse and Storage L1/L2.
- 5.2.15 Trinity College offers the following courses:-  
Maths GCSE, English GCSE, Maths L1/L2, English L1/L2, Art L1/L2, Ceramics, Peer Mentoring L2, Education and Training L3, Book Keeping L1/L2, Information Technology L1/L3, and Industrial cleaning. In addition there is a separate unique set of qualifications for those with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) in the Venture Community.
- 5.2.16 The average attendance during the calendar year in the Trinity College was 80%.
- 5.2.17 Library – This is open 6 days a week, and works in partnership with the Staffordshire Library Service. The following library services are currently being run:-  
Story Books Dads, Adult Literacy Week/National Literacy, Seasonal Reads, Film Club (DVD/Read), Reading Groups, Project work and Open days (general knowledge quiz for staff, to generate the importance of this resource. (see para. 5.4.10)
- 5.2.18 Gymnasium – the gymnasium has a large series of facilities located in a separate building so that it is accessible to the whole population. It is currently going through a transformational change in three of its areas, namely the Sports Hall, the Cardio --vascular room and Weights room. (see para. 5.4.11)

- 5.2.19 Although OFSTED and the Inspection team in January suggested that a decent standard had been achieved in Education and Learning and Skills, the prison is of the opinion that the provision deserved a better result, and there were areas of the inspection that were less than fair. However, the prison engaged fully with the support that Ofsted offered and have made progress through a robust action plan.
- 5.2.20 Midway through the calendar year, due to the retirement of the head of the provision, the prison welcomed a new head of Learning and Skills.
- 5.2.21 Following the recent Ofsted report in September the Inspector stated that there had been significant improvements and there was progress being made in educational provision.
- 5.2.22 In July 2015 the High Sheriff of Staffordshire visited the prison and was impressed with the exceptional Art Work produced by the prisoners, which has resulted in twelve pieces of Art being commissioned by the High Sheriff for display throughout the Staffordshire Courts. The prison currently has links with the art gallery at The Brew House Arts Centre, Burton-on-Trent, where prisoners work will be on display for various exhibitions and for purchase by the public.
- 5.2.23 Football League Management Association August 2015 – HMP Dovegate alongside the Premier League Management Association hosted a one day coaching event with 15 prisoners. This event was taught by ex-England player/manager Stuart Pearce and ex player and manager Greg Abbott.

### 5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

- 5.3.1 The prison has a population that is challenging from a healthcare perspective, with a level of substance abuse, mental illness, personality disorders and lifestyle related physical conditions far higher than in the general population.
- 5.3.2 Coinciding with the beginning of the reporting year, Care UK took over as provider from Serco Health. The transition has been well managed and there is evidence of improvements and a real positive desire to develop services further. Care UK sub-contract to South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust to deliver mental health services. New posts have been created in line with the Healthcare Manager's analysis of the skills mix in the healthcare team. There is a much clearer strategic vision.
- 5.3.3 Healthcare is delivered by 2 permanent G.P's, 11 general nurses, 5 mental health nurses and 11 healthcare assistants, 2 agency nurses work on a regular basis and are familiar with the prison. The GP is available on Saturday mornings as well as normal daily hours. In addition an optician, chiropodist, physiotherapist, dentist and dental nurse are contracted for a number of sessions per month. A new pharmacist has taken up post this year assisted by two pharmacy assistants.

- 5.3.4 The healthcare in-patient unit, consisting of 8 normal beds and 2 for constant watches is an inadequate facility; it is neither large enough for the prison's population (which has had four additional wings added since the prison was built – it was inadequate then) nor does it comply with infection control standards. Though the main part of the unit is clean and repainted, throughout much of the year the Board has commented on the deplorable state of the waiting rooms in this unit; no hand-drying facility, dirty and sometimes non-flushing toilets, washbasins covered in paint splatters. At the time of writing, the problem still has not been resolved.  
The medical administration rooms in the houseblocks, from which medication is issued to prisoners, have not been refurbished for a long time and do not conform to infection control standards. Care UK managers feel they will be criticised by external bodies for something over which they have little control.
- 5.3.5 The officers in the in-patient unit, often housing prisoners with mental health problems are to be commended; they demonstrate admirable care and compassion towards the in-patients who often have complex health conditions. The officers are made aware of mental health issues and given regular support by members of the South Staffs mental health team.
- 5.3.6 Most of the inpatients are in this unit for mental health reasons rather than for general medical conditions, despite the unit not being a designated mental health unit. There is now a clear policy to reintegrate prisoners from the in-patient facility back onto the wing as soon as possible which the Board welcomes. Too many prisoners hitherto were housed there for long periods with no clear plan to reintegrate them.
- 5.3.7 Problems with the NOC (Notice of Change) has meant that there continues to be a significant delay in the building of a new pharmacy, a badly needed facility. The delay is a source of frustration to all concerned.
- 5.3.8 DNA (Did Not Attend) rates to outside hospital appointments continue to be a concern, though the Board is pleased that these appear to be going down. There are 5 escorts allocated per day which is often insufficient to meet demand. This does not include bed-watches so for each bed-watch, there is a corresponding loss of an escort. The DNA rate for hospital attendance peaked in December 2014 at 59% but had reduced in August this year to 15%. Prisoners may have their appointments cancelled because of more urgent priorities, usually other prisoners who have already suffered a cancellation. It has not been unusual for prisoners to breach NHS waiting times (40 in each of January and February, 15 in both April and May though this was down to 9 in August this year). Apart from the health implications, missing an appointment can place the prisoner in an awkward position as he finds himself before a consultant having to explain himself when he was wholly unaware that he has missed appointments through cancellation.
- 5.3.9 Since June there have been efforts made to lower the DNA rates, with closer liaison between the Prison and Care UK to try to identify how these can be reduced. The hospital is also contacted if a prisoner refuses attendance to see if another patient can go instead. Trying to identify and prevent prisoners from cancelling is more problematic but commendable efforts to do so continue.
- 5.3.10 The introduction of tele-medicine and mobile diagnostics – X-rays and ultrasound scanning – has helped to take some pressure off escorts for external hospital visits.

- 5.3.11 The DNA rates for internal appointments (optician, dentist, etc) remain persistently high, typically over 25% during the year. This is something that still requires every effort to improve. Mental Health DNAs are especially high (between 20% and 46%); the mental health team is now routinely seeing mental health patients who fail to make the appointed contact.
- 5.3.12 Waiting times to see a GP for a routine appointment remains high, on average just over 14 working days between March and August this year, the absence of one of the GP's earlier in the year creating particular difficulties. The number of mental health patients on the waiting list reached 39 in April this year, the maximum number of days waited for a new assessment reaching 73 in May. Though these figures have now gone down they reflect the pressure on the mental health team of so many prisoners with mental health problems. The mental health pathway is in place and recognised across the region as being best practice.
- 5.3.13 The Board remains concerned about the lack of appropriate secure places for prisoners with serious mental health conditions; on average there is a 5 month wait for a bed in a secure unit. The Board is disturbed that a prisoner who has a personality disorder is still (end of September) being housed in the CSU (he feels safe and looked after there) since the end of June.
- 5.3.14 Dedicated Healthcare complaint boxes (separate from the prison complaints system) have been placed in the houseblocks. A member of the healthcare team now has a face-to-face meeting with prisoners over some concerns/complaints which has improved communication. However, some prisoners remain sceptical of the complaints procedure as they feel that those being complained about are investigating the complaint. However, there is a feeling that the change to Care UK from Serco Health has been a positive one and compliments have been received by the Healthcare team. Healthcare has seen the number of complaints/concerns reduce. The IMB has also seen a reduction in the number of healthcare related complaints reduce from 69 in the last reporting year to 37 this year. The Board feels that Healthcare must not lose sight of the importance of good communication between themselves, officers and prisoners.
- 5.3.15 On reception all prisoners receive an initial healthcare screening, sometimes attended by a mental health nurse. Referral to a GP is made if necessary, except on a Monday evening when the Advanced Nurse Practitioner is available. This is followed up by a second screening the following day on the wing. Care UK have leaflets informing prisoners about healthcare in the prison that are issued to all new arrivals. Healthcare also does a presentation during induction.
- 5.3.16 M wing is a dedicated wing for those who are alcohol and drug users. All prisoners identified as such in reception should be housed there on their first and subsequent nights for appropriate healthcare monitoring and detoxification regime. In this houseblock a nurse is on duty all night. Because of the shortage of beds, a number of eligible prisoners have been housed elsewhere on their first night, occasionally in another houseblock. This clearly constitutes a real danger to those prisoners especially as regular observation of those prisoners at night is very difficult. There was a noticeable improvement in August but this continues to be a serious concern. The situation is being monitored by ISMT nurses.

Only Healthcare staff may authorise the removal of a prisoner from M wing. Prisoners who refuse to move when asked have been forcibly moved to free up needed places. Prisoners are usually placed on the adjacent wing if no space is immediately available on M wing and transferred at the earliest opportunity.

- 5.3.17 The number of NPS (New Psychoactive Substances) incidents requiring medical attention continues to be a serious concern. The impact of a range of awareness-raising strategies appeared to have had a positive impact at first but since April 2015 there has been a dramatic increase in NPS responses with nearly 20 in July. Healthcare staff are managing many of these within the prison, rather than having to send prisoners to outside hospital. The IMB considers that the reasons for the increase should be investigated.
- 5.3.18 The IMB attends the monthly Clinical Governance meetings, and the Prison Health and Social Care Partnership meetings, held quarterly as observer. The Clinical Governance meetings are not always sufficiently well attended. There was no mental health representative for three consecutive months, no representative from the prison for the last two. This means that issues that should be reported on from previous meetings are postponed yet again for future meetings. The Board feels that this matter should be addressed.
- 5.3.19 Two other developments that the Board welcomes: Well Man clinics are now held daily on the houseblocks and weekly in the Healthcare unit. An Autism Strategy, was prepared and developed at Dovegate in April by one of the Healthcare nurses in conjunction with a Forensic Psychologist and Psychiatrist and presented at a national conference where it was well received. The Healthcare team are raising awareness amongst prison staff of learning difficulties generally and autism in particular as it is a condition often not diagnosed or recognised in the prison population.
- 5.3.20 There is on-going discussion with Macmillan nurses as to the services they might offer the prison in relation to end of life/palliative care.
- 5.3.21 The Healthcare team is now more settled after a number of changes following Care UK's taking on the contract and has responded positively to the recommendations following the Health and Justice Clinical Quality visit in July 2015. From what the Board has seen the team is continually reviewing its practice to improve the delivery of healthcare in the prison

#### 5.4 Purposeful Activity

- 5.4.1 There are 4 workshops covering 2 main activities, 2 workshops assemble lighting products and 2 produce wooden pallets.
- 5.4.2 During the year there were occasional slack periods due to parts being late in arriving, and towards the end of the reporting year one of the workshops producing lighting products was temporarily shut down.
- 5.4.3 There is also a recycling facility employing between 10 -20 prisoners.
- 5.4.4 A minimum of 12 weeks must be spent in each job before a change in labour will be granted.

- 5.4.5 Looking at the first full working week in the reporting year:-  
On Monday October 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 there were 58 prisoners unemployed for one working session, and there were 39 prisoners unemployed for both working sessions.  
On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015 there were 259 prisoners unemployed for one working session, and 192 prisoners were unemployed for both working sessions.
- 5.4.6 The data from which the unemployment figures were taken show a large increase in unemployment over the year. Senior Management believe that the data from which the figures were taken is far more reliable now than it was, and the actual increase in unemployment is therefore uncertain.
- 5.4.7 Time out of cell for fully employed prisoners was 10.5 hours, but for those who were unemployed it was as little as 3 hours, and this problem needs to be addressed.
- 5.4.8 Accredited Vocational Qualifications are available and are subcontracted to:-  
Construction Skills Solutions (CSS) who run the Painting and Decorating, Carpentry and Brick Workshops.  
n-ergy who deliver the following qualifications PMO (Performance Manufacturing Operations), Customer Service, Team Leading, Food Preparation and Cooking, Recycling and Warehouse & Storage.
- 5.4.9 The library was open for 6 days per week, but prisoners were limited to 20 minutes per visit. The Board found that that there were many occasions when prisoners were unable to visit the library because of the lack of staff to take them. (see para.5.2.17)
- 5.4.10 The Gymnasium is well resourced with a range of accredited courses and achievements were high. (see para.5.2.18)
- 5.5 Resettlement (Through the Gate)
- 5.5.1 The Resettlement Team operated by Serco closed the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 having met all the key performance targets.
- 5.5.2 As from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 responsibility for Resettlement in the prison passed to the prison and Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), which is a Reducing Reoffending Partnership between three providers (RRP)
- 5.5.3 The Serco Resettlement Team transferred responsibility for offenders accommodation, employment, education and training on release, and all pre-release planning to the CRC.
- 5.5.4 The Accommodation Target is 90%, but in September the CRC only achieved 69% which is a concern as accommodation is a major factor in a prisoner's risk of reoffending.
- 5.5.5 There are three people working in the CRC, were there should be five, and the additional two people are being actively sought.
- 5.5.6 The Serco resettlement Team (now known as the Throughcare Team), will start the Through the Gate process by using the new Basic Custody Screening Tool (BCST) part 1 for all offenders received into custody, including remands and recalls, and must be completed within 72 hours of reception into custody.

- 5.5.7 BCST part 1 is a screen that identifies any immediate needs and signpost them to the appropriate services. The target for this is set by NOMS at 90% and has been achieved by the team every month.
- 5.5.8 The Throughcare Team are also responsible for a number of other areas including Family Work, Inductions and case work of remand prisoners to name a few.
- 5.5.9 The CRC will then complete part 2 of the BCST based on the needs identified in BCST part 1, the CRC completes part 2 which sets out how the CRC will meet those Resettlement needs and creates an individual plan that must be completed within 5 business days of receiving the completed BCST part 1.
- 5.5.10 The target for completing BCST part 2 is again 90% and is being achieved every month.
- 5.5.11 No sooner than 12 weeks prior to the release date of an offender, the CRC will help offenders to prepare for their release, delivering the following services as a minimum:-
- Helping offenders to find somewhere to live and a job, as well as providing advice on money and debt.
  - Provide help and advice for sex offenders and victims of domestic violence.
- 5.5.12 The CRC Team is now embedded into HMP Dovegate and while the transition has been challenging the relationships between the two teams has been consistently strong and the communication pathways are well defined.
- 5.5.13 A monthly Resettlement Review Meeting has been implemented that allows communication and joint working between the Throughcare Team, CRC, Chaplaincy, Education and OMU, which is seen as a critical meeting and benefits are already being seen from its implementation.
- 5.5.14 The main problem the CRC Team at the moment is lack of hardware. They only have one computer between them, and they also need a Quantum/pnomis computer for themselves. They have to borrow the computer from the Throughcare Team when it is available.  
The CRC Team is currently negotiating with NOMS on their hardware problem

## 5.6 Safer Custody

- 5.6.1 As was noted in the IMB's Annual Report 2014, the meeting dealing with safety in custody is named the Safer Dovegate Meeting and as such comprises all aspects of keeping prisoners and staff safe, and encompasses diversity and violence reduction. These meetings are held regularly every month and are generally well attended, although there are months when attendance dips. An IMB member attends when possible. Whatever the attendance, what is striking is the committed involvement of staff and the level of detail in which cases are discussed.
- 5.6.2 A welcome development during the year was the re-appearance of Listeners at the meeting. The Listeners' scheme is by and large running well, with a steady number on the rota, and the Samaritans are to be congratulated for their continued, valuable involvement. (see section 6.2)

- 5.6.3 Following the recommendation from HMIP there has been talk of a Care Suite for the Samaritans, but this is unlikely to happen as there simply is not room for such a facility, a matter of some regret.
- 5.6.4 Levels of self-harm are high (often over 50 a month) but this should be considered against the population of the prison (operational capacity 1133) and the fact that there have throughout the year been some prisoners who have self-harmed repeatedly and very seriously.
- 5.6.5 The number of ACCT's opened during the year is also high (at least 40 per month, sometimes more), but the Board considers that it is better to open an ACCT and close it after only a short while than not to open one when there is any perceived risk. There have been several cases of prisoners on constant supervision for periods of time, which places great demands on the staff teams managing them. After much delay, there are now more trained ACCT assessors, and ACCT case-manager training and refresher training has been undertaken. Serious attention has been paid to getting staff to make more meaningful entries on ACCT documents. Towards the end of the reporting period, an ACCT staff forum was set up to provide mutual support.
- 5.6.6 Assaults and weapon finds still give rise for concern. In 9 months to the end of September 2015 there were 38 prisoner on staff assaults, and 106 prisoner on prisoner assaults. There were 45 fights and 136 weapon finds.
- 5.6.7 On March 26<sup>th</sup> 6 prisoners under an act of concerted indiscipline took over and caused superficial damage to one of the residential wings. This caused significant interruption to the prison regime and necessitated the support of the NOM's Tornado team.
- 5.6.8 The Violence Reduction Strategy has been re-launched in a much more robust fashion. The Violence Reduction Cycle (red for the most intense, through amber to green) is displayed on identity cards which the prisoners subject to this monitoring must wear visibly at all times, thereby, for instance, ensuring that none slip through the net and attend the gym, from which they are temporarily barred. This scheme is working well, and the Board congratulates HMP Dovegate for this pro-active, innovative approach.
- 5.6.9 At times during the year H wing was full and sex offenders were being held on other wings which was not desirable.
- 5.6.10 On occasions prisoners who should be housed on M wing (for those with drug and alcohol issues) on reception are accommodated elsewhere on their first night which is a cause for concern. (see para.5.3.16)
- 5.6.11 On the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015 there was a catastrophic failure of basic security procedure which allowed a prisoner to exit the Visits Hall with a visitor through the gatehouse. The incident attracted intense Ministerial, NOM's and media attention.

5.7 Reintegration, Care and Separation, Close Supervision.

- 5.7.1 The Care and Separation Unit is a separate building away from the main prison and contains 20 cells, 17 of which are normal cells 1 special accommodation cell, 1 gated cell and 1 cell which has been converted into a fitness suite.
- 5.7.2 The CSU Team consists of a manager and 10 officers.
- 5.7.3 There are normally 3 staff in the CSU plus the manager, but whereas last year there were an additional 2 staff on duty to ease the pressure on the staff during the core hours between 9am – 11.30am and 1.30 – 4pm, this year this is not the case.
- 5.7.4 During the year there has been some cross deployment of staff particularly at the weekends, which has increased the pressure on staff in the unit when this has occurred.
- 5.7.5 The Board is notified promptly of all prisoners being segregated and the officers in the CSU welcome and assist the Board when they do a round of visiting the prisoners.
- 5.7.6 The performance of the CSU is monitored by the Segregation and Review Board (SMARG), which is held quarterly.
- 5.7.7 At the first SMARG meeting of the reporting year the statistics given were reviewed with the view of making them more compatible with understanding and requirements.
- 5.7.8 During the year 2 prisoners failed the initial ISSS checks, all CSU reviews were held within the specified time, C & R was used 45 times, body belt and special accommodation 4 times, and there were also 19 Dirty protests in the CSU during the year.
- 5.7.9 There were 74 prisoners in the CSU on Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT's). 16 in the first quarter, 24 in the second quarter, 22 in the third quarter and 12 in the last quarter of the year.
- 5.7.10 The officers in the CSU are to be commended for the way they treat and help the prisoners in any way they can, some of whom are extremely challenging with serious problems. Prisoners coming from other establishments have commented very favourably on the staff in the CSU.
- 5.7.11 From April 2014 prisoners on R45OI were segregated on the wings instead of in the CSU. This initially caused some confusion as wing staff had to follow a different regime, and nurses were not always available. However, once the procedure became established on the wings the situation became much more controllable.
- 5.7.12 In early September the segregation paperwork changed, and at the end of the month the last in the Board's reporting year, the new segregation paperwork did not appear to have been fully implemented into the segregation procedures. The Board accepts that in this short period of time teething problems could easily occur. The Board will monitor this over the next 12 months.

## 5.8 Residential Services

### 5.8.1 Residential Units:-

House Block 1	A – E General wings
House Block 2	F and J General wings G General wing for long term prisoners H Vulnerable Prisoner wing. K Cellular Confinement wing and accommodation for Prisoners aged 50 and over.
House Block 3	L and P General wings M Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) and first night centre. N Remand prisoners and first night centre.

- 5.8.2 Approximately 30 cells on H wing accommodate two prisoners in cells designed for one prisoner, causing problems with inadequate toilet screening and insufficient room for two prisoners. The Board has always considered these cells as unfit for dual occupancy, and repeats their concern on this matter every year.
- 5.8.3 As mentioned last year, and also under Purposeful Activity, there are a large number of prisoners locked up during the day on the Residential wings mainly due to unemployment and those prisoners who will not engage with the prison system.
- 5.8.4 In November the serveries began to suffer from a lack of supervision from the wing staff. Temperature probes on some wings were not being routinely used, and the correct use of hats and gloves was not always followed. To overcome this problem the kitchen began a training programme for servery workers and wing officers. (see para. 6.7.5, 6.7.8)
- 5.8.5 The quality of food served during the year was good with a varied menu, but there have been difficulties with the cleanliness of the food trollies which appears to be an on-going problem.
- 5.8.6 Canteen provision was good and the prisoners were able to bring up any concerns about what should be available for them at the weekly PRIAC meetings.
- 5.8.7 The Board received numerous complaints from prisoners about the personal hygiene packs which were supplied at set intervals, and the difficulty of obtaining individual items when needed. The Board understands that individual items are now available on demand. There was also an issue with the lack of cleaning materials available.
- 5.8.8 As was reported last year the Board has visited wings where the officers on duty were not familiar with the wing as they have been moved from their normal location to provide cover during times of staff absence.
- 5.8.9 Again the situation has not improved with the problem of the long time it takes between the reporting of faults and maintenance requirements, and the work being done or items replaced.

5.8.10 The prison Facility Provision seems to have difficulty with refurbishment requirements as their first priority is with contractual requirements. In May it was seen that the continuing failure of facilities to address simple repairs was having a massive impact on the prison.

In July it was seen that the management of hard FM on site remained a concern with significant effort required on a daily basis to meet the minimum reactive and PPM requirements.

The difficulty in tackling any other repairs is having an impact on the décor and condition of some of the residential sites.

## **6 Additional Reports**

### **6.1 Multi –Faith**

6.1.1 2015 has seen some significant improvements in the Multi Faith Services at HMP Dovegate, and this was formally recognised by the Chaplaincy Audit that graded the prison as Amber/Green at 85%.

6.1.2 Staffing resources have continued to be an issue, and recruitment into key roles has been problematic. However, this has now been resolved and there is now a full Multi Faith Team that will represent all the faiths required for the current prison population.

6.1.3 A number of faith events have taken place throughout the year and these include a successful Ramadan, faith awareness events and Easter celebrations.

6.1.4 The Multi Faith Team has continued to make community connections and their involvement with the Community Rehabilitation Company in Resettlement is part of this work.

6.1.5 Over the past 12 months there has been a considered effort to make the chaplains more visible on the wings and this has improved and will continue to be a focus for the Team into 2016

### **6.2 The Samaritans Listener Scheme**

6.2.1 The scheme was set up by the Samaritans of Stoke and Newcastle in 2013.

6.2.2 The scheme went live with its first ten Listeners at the end of 2013

6.2.3 Early in 2014 a further ten listeners were trained, and brought the number of Listeners up to 20 which is about right for the size of HMP Dovegate. The guide is to have a Listener for every 50 prisoners.

6.2.4 Losses of Listeners over the past year have required the training of a further group of Listeners and the current number is 15.

6.2.5 All Listeners are Cat B prisoners, and they cannot be transferred for 6 months once they become a Listener.

- 6.2.6 The Samaritans have been impressed with the quality of Listeners recruited, who have shown real commitment and a desire to support their colleagues in the prison.
- 6.2.7 Samaritans attend support meetings for the Listeners every three weeks, and also attend the Safer Custody meetings.
- 6.2.8 Many Listeners have reported few contacts and sometimes feel undervalued by the officers on the wings, who are occasionally reluctant to allow contact between Listeners and the prisoners who ask for them, or limit the time allowed for a contact.
- 6.2.9 The Samaritans feel that it will take time before all officers fully appreciate the value of the Listener scheme.
- 6.2.10 The Safer Custody Team are trying to emphasize how valuable it can be and ensure that all newcomers to the prison are informed that it is available.
- 6.2.11 The Listener Team have found that having a separate rota for each house block has increased the chances of a prisoner being able to access a Listener after lock up.
- 6.2.12 More recently there is a concern that prisoners will not be able to access Listeners at all after lock up. This is currently being looked into and discussed.
- 6.2.13 In addition to the Listener scheme prisoners are able to phone the Samaritans at no cost from their cells. Many prisoners have preferred to call the Samaritans by phone, although on occasions some prisoners have abused this service by making excessive numbers of inappropriate calls, and action has had to be taken. Most prisoners, however, use the service in an appropriate way.

### 6.3 Deaths in Custody

There were 3 deaths in custody in the reporting year, 2 of which were as a result of natural causes. Last year there was 1.

### 6.4 Therapeutic Community

- 6.4.1 The Board is of course aware that HMIP visit and report separately on HMP Dovegate's Therapeutic Community and is therefore conscious that a few paragraphs in the Annual Report do not represent more than an overview of activities.
- 6.4.2 The number of residents held during the year fell from about 190 to a low of 167. (see para. 3.3)
- 6.4.3 Issues relating from drug use and bullying in the TP necessitated the transfer of a number of individuals which in turn has seen a drop in the number of residents below the contractual numbers to a low of 167. (see para. 3.4)
- 6.4.4 However, the Board makes weekly rota visits to the communities, always finding them clean and tidy, the serveries well maintained and well run, and above all the residents and staff polite and welcoming.
- 6.4.5 The grounds are a picture whatever the season and the extensive vegetable growing areas produce vast crops.

- 6.4.6 Details of the Education, Learning and skills in the TC are covered under (para.. 5.2.2, 5.2.15, 5.2.16, and under Executive Summary 4.1.14.).
- 6.4.7 The Board in its current depleted number concentrates on its core duties, and as such has little interaction with the TC, whose residents make few applications to the IMB. (see para.
- 6.4.8 Residents are rarely to be found segregated, either on Rule 45 or Rule 55.
- 6.4.9 The essence of the democratic therapeutic process is for the communities to solve their problems amongst themselves and by themselves. Nowhere has this been more evident than the way they have tackled an upsurge of drug-taking in their midst and here it should be emphasised that this is a growing problem throughout the entire prison estate..  
However a central tenet of the TC regime is that to engage meaningfully in therapy, residents must be free of any mind-altering substances. It is to the immense credit of the TC leadership – where the therapeutic regime is sensitively but robustly supported by operational managers, the staff and residents, that this problem has been tackled and the communities strengthened as a result.(see para. 3.4,6.4.2)
- 6.4.10 The TC holds regular monthly meetings: an Operations Meeting for staff, and a Governance meeting, which residents from across the TC attend. An IMB member attends when possible, and has been particularly struck by the quality of contributions from the residents who raise matters on behalf of their peers at the latter. Men who are some of the most difficult and damaged in the prison population, serving long sentences – often life – for serious, possibly violent, crimes, but who have chosen to engage in therapy and pursue the difficult journey through it, being able to take part in such a forum is truly impressive.
- 6.4.11 The staff in the TC at all levels consistently display a high degree of commitment, which undoubtedly contributes to the success of the communities. It is particularly regrettable when dedicated TC staff are required for operational reasons to be redeployed to the main site. At the worst this can result in therapy groups being cancelled, but the Board understands that fewer cancellations have occurred towards the end of this reporting period, However, shortage of staff on the main site at weekends still result in TC officers being redeployed.
- 6.4.12 With the prison estate full to capacity, one of the problems the TC has faced this year has been the difficulty of moving on those who have completed or left therapy. But active recruitment campaigns for new arrivals continue and the Assessment unit is kept full.
- 6.4.13 TC Venture, a pilot initiative to provide therapy to prisoners with learning difficulties, is going well.  
Whilst not completely full, its resident group has been seen to mature.
- 6.4.14 Dovegate TC is the only TC run in a contracted out prison and as such is bound by the contract set up when the prison was opened in 2001. In this time, the Board understands that the TC's in the public sector have received increased investment. In the light of this, the good work done in the TC at Dovegate is particularly impressive. Whilst it is not within the remit of the Board to comment on contractual arrangements, it does seem that there should be equal opportunity for the provision of therapy in the prison estate

## 6.5 Prisoner Complaints Procedure

- 6.5.1 Last year the Complaints System in operation at HMP Dovegate was modified to make the functional head (AD grade) responsible for each complaint, to try and improve on the previous system which often led to late and/or inadequate responses.
- 6.5.2 In the IMB report last year the Board stated that it would monitor the new process over the coming year to check on its effectiveness.
- 6.5.3 The Board can report that the number of Applications it has received from prisoners in HMP Dovegate has dropped from 452 in 2013-2014 to 258 in 2014-2015. This drop of 43% in the number of applications indicates that the new complaints procedure has gone well during its first year of implementation.

## 6.6 Prisoner Property (in House)

- 6.6.1 Last year it was reported that lost property complaints in HMP Dovegate had worsened during the year. Although the total number of applications to the Board has gone down, the number of applications regarding in house property has not reduced. It has remained exactly the same at 66.
- 6.6.2 In order to try and reduce the number of internal property complaints HMP Dovegate has recently introduced an wing surgery for property issues where an officer from reception notifies in advance to a wing that an officer will be available at a particular time to deal with any property issues prisoners on that particular wing may have.
- 6.6.3 Personal items are stored effectively although there are many occasions in which prisoners have become frustrated and angry because they fail to understand arrangements for personal property storage and are unsure which items can be sent into the prison for their own use. Sometimes a brief explanation, which is not always given would defuse the frustration to the great advantage of all concerned. The Board will continue to monitor this situation during the coming year.

## 6.7 Kitchen

- 6.7.1 The kitchen has experienced problems with staffing during the year. At the beginning of the year many applicants were rejected by security and some of the Cat C prisoners had been moved out .In early November it was reported that the kitchen had never been so short of prisoner workers. However, by March the kitchen had reached its full complement of workers, and at the end of the year there were no staffing problems.
- 6.7.2 In October there were two kitchen inspections from Environmental health and NOMS.
- 6.7.3 As has been reported in previous years there continued to be a problem with kitchen equipment which was highlighted as one of the failings in the catering audit in May. (other failures being lack of temperature checking and the washing of hands). However, in June and July new equipment was fitted which was recognised as a contributing factor to the green rating achieved almost across the board after a re-audit of catering by NOMS.

- 6.7.4 Towards the end of the calendar year it was reported that servery workers were not wearing hats and gloves and not using the utensils correctly, and the kitchen was to arrange for suitable training on the wings.
- 6.7.5 The Catering Manager's position became vacant in mid -May and the position was not filled until the start of September.
- 6.7.6 However, despite the problems experienced by the kitchen during the year the Board has been impressed with the quality and variety of the food produced, and this has been, in general, the opinion of the prisoners the Board has spoken to regarding the provision of food by the kitchen during the year.

## **7 Work of the Board**

- 7.1 This year the Board had 3 resignations, and during the year one new member was appointed. There was 1 recruiting campaign which attracted 2 possible members, neither of which has yet been appointed.
- 7.2 The Board, therefore, started the year with 8 members and finished the year with 6 members.
- 7.3 Each week Board members attend the prison to conduct rota visits and attend Segregation Rule 45 Reviews. They also respond to prisoner applications and observe prison meetings. They also observe adjudications.
- 7.4 As last year members have spent considerable time in dialogue with other Boards, about property which has not been transferred with prisoners, both those transferring into and out of HMP Dovegate.
- 7.5 The Board holds a monthly meeting and normally a member of the Senior Management Team attends in order to brief the Board on prison matters and to discuss issues from the Rota reports.
- 7.6 The Chair has attended the bi-annual meetings of Area Chairs, and two members attended the IMB Annual Conference.

## Appendix A

### BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended Compliment of Board Members	20
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	6
Number of new Members joining within the reporting period	1
Number of Members leaving within the reporting period	3
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	466
Total number of segregation reviews held	
Total number of segregation reviews attended	472
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	17/09/2015

**Appendix B**

**APPLICATIONS**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
A	Accommodation	0	12	16
B	Adjudications	4	5	10
C	Equality & Diversity (including religion)	0	6	8
D	Education/employment training including IEP	10	57	39
E1	Family/visits including mail & phone	16	26	36
E2	Finance/pay	21	31	45
F	Food/kitchen related	4	11	5
G	Health related	37	69	66
H1	Property (within current establishment)	56	56	31
H2	Property (during transit/in another establishment)	45	75	44
H3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	4	7	5
I	Sentence related (including HDC, ROTL, Parole, release dates, re-cat etc.)	5	20	35
J	Staff/Prisoner/Detainee concerns including Bullying	15	13	21
K	Transfers	10	5	14
L	Miscellaneous	17	33	17
	<b>Total Number of IMB Applications</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>392</b>

Signed:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.E.D.', with a horizontal line underneath.

J. E. Dawson (Chair)

Date:-

06/01/2016