



Annual Report

HMP Leeds

January 2015 to December 2015

SECTION 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

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 standards 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.

SECTION 2

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SECTION 3

DESCRIPTION OF HMP LEEDS

HMP Leeds is an inner city local prison serving the local courts of West Yorkshire. It is a Category B prison with an Operational Capacity of 1224. The establishment has four Victorian wings and two modern wings; one of the wings is dedicated to the vulnerable Rule 45 prisoners. Cells are either single or shared by two prisoners.

The prison has its own Healthcare Centre, commissioned during 2012 by the Leeds Primary Care Trust. The healthcare provider is due to change in spring 2016. Exercise and education facilities available to prisoners include a Gym, and Education provision which is contracted out to The Manchester College. There are approximately 30 Voluntary and Community Service organisations working within the prison. These include the Samaritans, West Yorkshire Chaplaincy Community Project, Prison Visitors, Bereavement Counselling and minority interest groups. The Jigsaw Visitors' Centre, an independent charity working closely with the prison, is a beacon project of many years standing.

Prisoners manage the Prisoner Information Desks and others act as Healthcare Representatives, Recovery Champions and Listeners, trained by the Samaritans, on each wing.

SECTION 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concerns

Policy

The overall quality of prison life became a serious concern for the Board. This year saw major changes in staffing levels and management structures. The challenges presented by these changes were further exacerbated by an unusually high level of staff sickness at times.

From reports and observations, members of the Board expressed their concerns throughout this period at the disturbance to many routines and programs of the prisoners. The recent appointment of the new governor during autumn 2015 has been instrumental in increasing the stability in the prison, improving attendance by the prisoners in purposeful activity and in the reduction in staff sickness rates.

HM Prison Inspectorate visited HMP Leeds in December 2015, concluding that whilst Education was of good quality, overall prisoner safety was poor and must be improved urgently.

The IMB welcomes the introduction of CCTV and body cameras in visits and in two wings in HMP Leeds in 2016. Recorded evidence should help to identify the perpetrators of all forms of violence within the establishment and support legal redress for the victims, working with internal and external agencies including the police.

The IMB has consistently experienced difficulties in obtaining accurate, comparative annual data relating to key areas including Use of Force, Violence Reduction, Security and Safer Custody both internally and externally for similar establishments. Meaningful trend analysis across the interfacing areas of Safer Custody, Healthcare and Security should enable the development of effective national and local management strategy.

Operational – not requiring a response

The observed areas causing concern to the Board were

- The cancellation and curtailment of regimes.
- frequent occurrence of serious incidents, often several each week.
- Inadequate 24 hour CCTV recording facilities throughout the prison estate impacting on Safer Custody, although the introduction of some cameras is now planned for 2016.
- Increased access to banned mobile telephones and drugs within the prison by prisoners.
- Increased Use of Force and Violence reduction reports.
- ROTL suspension.

Although there has been improvement in the percentage of prisoners attending Education, this remains lower than is desirable for effective rehabilitation, and there is room for improvement in the attendance at workshops for the same reason.

On a more positive note, the clinical environment in Healthcare has improved significantly. Patient information for prisoners in relation to their care is steadily improving with the introduction of care plans and daily handover between clinical staff and prison officers.

Overall judgement

It was inevitable that disruptions and disturbances to prison life would occur during this period of considerable national and local change.

The Board was concerned about the number and frequency of changes in higher level management and felt that this impacted on the stability within the prison.

Throughout the year, however, the care and respect shown to prisoners was of a high quality, with some exemplary cases. Also worthy of note is the dedication and commitment of the Senior Management Staff and many officers to achieve the challenging aims set before them.

The IMB strongly supports the investment in CCTV monitoring in the prison. CCTV monitoring in Visits and two wings is welcomed, however the IMB hopes that this will be extended throughout the prison.

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SECTION 5

AREAS WHICH MUST BE REPORTED

5.1 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

The ethos of the Diversity & Equality Action Team at HMP Leeds is to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation within the prison.

Under the direction of the Team, HMP Leeds aims to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in all areas.

Despite all the many changes in the Senior management team, and the continued problems with

staffing, the Diversity & Equality Action Team at HMP Leeds still manages to maintain the high standard of respect, fairness and equality of opportunities in the prison for both staff and prisoners.

THE DEAT PANEL

The Deat Panel have not been able to meet regularly; however the IMB was assured that the team will continue to function and maintain its links with the outside agencies including West Yorkshire police, Leeds City council and Victim Support.

DIVERSITY

The prison endeavors to ensure that diversity has a high profile in the prison.

Posters and multi-lingual information is displayed on the main corridors, highlighting events and meetings which are being held in the prison.

The Black History and The Traveling Community Month together with various other groups' annual celebrations were observed.

The GBT Group (Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) now in its sixth year still meets occasionally. However this year the death of a transgender prisoner has caused concern to the IMB and the prison as a whole. The investigation into this incident is ongoing.

The IMB has noted that the kitchen staff provide a variety of themed foods celebrating and marking occasions including The Chinese New Year, St Patrick's Day, St Georges Day, St Andrews Day, Christmas and many others.

ETHNICITY

The prison population break-down is as follows:

Asian 13%, Black 5%, Mixed 5%, White British 69%, and Other 8%.

AGED & DISABLED

At HMP Leeds most prisoners are between 25-40years of age. In December 2015, there were 80 prisoners over 70 year of age. Prisoners aged over 50 are classed as Older Prisoners.

Both disabled and older prisoners including wheel-chair bound prisoners reside on A wing and in the Healthcare wing. The IMB has received complaints from these prisoners relating to alleged intimidation and bullying by younger prisoners. The DEAT Panel meeting has noted these issues and will investigate.

HATE INCIDENT SCRUTINY PANEL

At least ten Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms are scrutinized by the Hate Incident Scrutiny Panel four times a year.

The panel is chaired by the Governor or his Deputy with representatives from across the prison, in addition to external agencies with an interest/background in Equality and Diversity from West Yorkshire.

5.2 HEALTHCARE INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH

Leeds Community Health, commissioned by NHS England, are the currently the primary healthcare provider. Specialist Mental Health services are provided by Leeds and York Partnerships NHS Trust. Care UK, the UK's leading independent provider of health services in prisons who currently provide healthcare in 12 other prisons, are to take over the running of healthcare (primary care and mental health) from April 2016. Staff from Leeds Community Health

have been offered TUPE but less than 50% have taken this up which is a source of concern. Also of concern is that the imminent changeover to Care UK has led to the inability of Leeds Community Health to appoint new staff so currently healthcare staff vacancies remain unfilled; this has led to reduced staffing levels despite the increased use of agency staff.

The Harbour, the mental health unit, is in a separate location from the main healthcare unit. Care UK will also run this unit from April 2016. The mental health outreach team are active throughout the prison and are present at GOOD Reviews. Their contribution is very positive but at times they have been frustrated by the delays in transferring extremely disturbed prisoners, who are beyond the ability of the in-house team to treat, into one of the national high security psychiatric units.

The healthcare needs of all new prisoners are assessed on entering the prison, so that particularly vulnerable individuals can be identified early, supported and closely observed, if necessary. Contact with the service is high and rising; 32,000 interactions per month in 2015, compared to 29,000 in 2014.

Further strain is being put on the healthcare service due to the continual rise in the number of emergency calls related to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) use. Prisoners often take NPS in addition to prescribed psychoactive medication supplied by Healthcare. The morbidity and mortality associated with the use of such drug combinations is unquantified. Audit using data analysis mapping the incidence of emergency red and blue calls against both the use of NPS plus prescribed medications would be helpful. The number of NPS drugs seized in UK prisons has increased more than 30 times over the course of the last five years.

The health care inpatient facilities are limited to a small number of individual rooms; prisoners requiring specialist treatment are transferred to NHS secondary care facilities if required. The treatment rooms, consulting rooms and waiting rooms were last refurbished in 2014. The clinical staff have some concerns for their personal safety during confidential clinical consultations and treatment, mainly with regard to the layout of the consulting rooms and the accessibility of the alarm buttons and single entry/exit door. The day room in the residential section was refurbished in 2015; this has resulted in many positive comments by both prisoners and staff. More activities are happening there e.g. yoga and education.

Prisoners residing in healthcare are assessed on admission, have agreed documented treatment/management plans with appropriate patient input. Prison officer/clinician handover meetings occur daily. The aim is to provide a similar standard of care and patient involvement as the NHS in the community.

One prison officer is now permanently allocated to work in the healthcare residential unit; this has led to more consistent prison officer staffing.

The lack of exercise opportunities for prisoners accommodated on the unit, which was noted in the 2014 report, has to some degree been improved with the refurbishment of the day room and more consistent staffing. It remains however less than perfect.

The prisoners on the wings are generally satisfied with the delivery of healthcare, but at times encounter difficulty in accessing the service in a timely manner; two reasons are given for this:

- Reduced wing staffing following benchmarking has, at times, led to difficulty escorting prisoners to their appointments and
- Prisoners miss appointments, claiming they didn't know appointments had been made for them. Plans which were being made to tackle this problem, with a system of reminders sent to the

wings the day before appointments were due, have had to be put on hold due to both the uncertainty of the Care UK takeover and the current lack of healthcare staff.

Healthcare is working with the prison around benchmarking to ensure medication is dispensed on the wings in a timely fashion. For example systems are being put in place to ensure that prisoners on morning work duty are first in the queue to have their medication dispensed so that they are free to attend work.

A new social care service has been running since October 2015 and operates in a similar fashion to social care in the community where staff help prisoners who have difficulties with the activities of daily living for example, getting into and out of bed, washing, shaving, showering etc. This service is primarily focused on the health care residential section but is available throughout the prison if required. It is anticipated that with the increasing number of elderly prisoners this service will be in greater demand in the future. Leeds City Council funds this service but worryingly there are concerns that when Care UK takes over this funding will no longer be available.

Overall, while not perfect, the health and social care provision within the prison has improved in the last twelve months despite the increased workload, the increase in problems with NPS and the staffing difficulties. The IMB is concerned however that these improvements are at risk if the staffing situation further deteriorates, a situation that could easily happen in April when Care UK takes over the provision of care. The IMB will continue to monitor this situation closely.

5.3 LEARNING, SKILLS AND EDUCATION

The prison offers 1277 activity places split between Education, Workshops and on wing employment. This means that every prisoner can attend one of the three at least once each day. Learning and Skills continues to provide an important element of the prison's resettlement agenda as well as being the main source of meaningful activity for the prison population.

2015 has seen a marked and impressive improvement in attendance rates for both Workshops and Education, reflecting the new Governor's explicit commitment to improving attendance in both areas. Education (OLASS) was 58% over the year (from Aug 14 – July 15) and 75% in November, figures that compare well with other comparator establishments.

The Governor is keen to give equal emphasis to both areas, and has introduced a range of measures to address these issues. Prisoners who refuse to attend on two occasions, are downgraded to Basic IEP status, resulting in reduced association and gym time. Regime changes to ensure that prisoners' appointments (healthcare, drug work, visits) do not coincide with work are also underway. VP education has been extended and is now delivered both on the wing and in other accessible learning environments.

Prison staff are currently exploring a method for retaining records, so that reconvicted prisoners can be more efficiently allocated suitable training or education linked with their previous learning record. The target for all prisoners to complete the induction within their first five working days of arrival at HMP Leeds is currently at acceptable levels.

The 2015 HMIP/ OFSTED inspection report HMP Leeds stated that "services delivered by the Education Department are some of the best ever seen for a local inner city prison". Many of the classes focus on skills and qualifications that are highly relevant to the employment market, including barbering and an introduction to Catering and Hospitality. Other classes include Mentoring, Healthcare and Diversity, aim to develop transferable skills.

There remains scope for extending partnership working with outside agencies, and to match learning with the demands of the local labour market.

The gym offers sessions to particular demographic groups, including prisoners from Segregation, the VP Wing, prisoners on ACCTs or in healthcare, and older and disabled prisoners in addition to the routine sessions. Attendance is currently very variable and would benefit from an analysis of non-attendance, as recommended by the HMIP.

The HMIP Report also highlighted the need to expand the range of nationally recognised qualifications in PE and healthy living. A new rolling programme of subjects is to be delivered over a four year period, to include: a bike workshop, First Aid at Work, Participation in Sport (basketball, football and weightlifting).

The Board would wish to pay tribute to all staff involved in the good practice and improvements highlighted above, mindful that many changes are either underway or planned for 2016.

5.4 PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

Workshop attendance averaged (Year to Date) 63%, and in October reached 83%; in excess of the Key Performance Target of 80%.

Concerns from both staff and prisoners were raised regarding the lack of opportunity for those in full time purposeful activity to also fit in personal domestic activities. The introduction of a dedicated slot between 5 – 6.30pm for domestic activities should help to address this.

Several workshops – (printing, packing and VP sewing) maintained that there is not enough work to keep prisoners fully occupied and one manager queried the relevance of teabag packing and sewing. In the printing unit currently, much of the work involves in-house designing and printing of menus and posters. There is scope in the print studio for developing the quality and quantity of IT skills, with improved pc programmes, the reintroduction of an NVQ, and more external orders.

An opportunity to review the scope of the Recycling Workshop, with the introduction of the recycling of prison clothing, and the retrieval of bowls and mugs from prison bins has been recognised. Instructors are seeking out tools that could be used in recycling prison furniture, following cell smash-ups.

The newly appointed Head of Reducing Reoffending is committed to a Strategic Vision which enables these developments. He plans to reintroduce Labour Boards, in order to maximise workshop numbers, establish E Wing as a Resettlement Wing, and reintroduce ROTL.

5.5 SAFER CUSTODY

During 2015 there were three deaths in custody, two of which were self - inflicted deaths, and ten serious attempted suicides referred to as “near misses” were recorded. A number of PPO reports have been received though these predominantly concerned deaths prior to 2015.

Monthly Safer Custody meetings have been held throughout 2015. Data collection in relation to key areas has improved compared with 2014 but remains unreliable and incomplete. Monthly statistics on ACCTS, Death in Custody, Self-harm, Use of Force, CSRA's and Violence Reduction are available. Trend analysis, and collaborative working with security to identify common trends has been proposed for 2016.

Risk assessment in relation to cell sharing, out of area prisoners and the impact of psychoactive substances on the stability in the prison is ongoing.

HMP Leeds was inspected by HM Prison Inspectorate in December 2015. The prisoner survey indicated that many men felt unsafe at times. Overall the Inspectorate rated HMP Leeds delivery of a Safe environment as poor, and in need of urgent improvement.

Violence Reduction report data and Use of Force data has been difficult to compare with previous years however on average 40 VR reports per month have been received. The data regarding violence demonstrates a significant number of assaults by prisoners on prisoners, a high level of Use of Force and numerous Serious Incidents. Vandalism in the prison cost £17,500 in a single month.

HMP Leeds is a nineteenth century building lacking many modern facilities available in newer prisons. CCTV monitoring on the wings and other areas is not routinely available. Assaults perpetrated by prisoners, or alleged assaults by staff are not always recorded on camera resulting in disputed evidence, legal challenge and frequent complaints to both the prison complaint system, the IMB and the Ombudsman. The pilot use of body cameras by prison officers and the introduction of CCTV cameras to two wings in the prison estate during 2016 should enable Security and Safer Prisons to work effectively together with outside agencies including the Police, to control this.

ACCT

On average, 100 ACCTs per month were opened totalling 1,176 during 2015. The majority were opened in the First Night Centre or Reception. The officers on the wings are well aware of which prisoners are on open ACCTs and monitoring appears to be robust.

However, the quality of the ACCT paperwork has been an area of concern recognised at all levels within the prison. There is currently a lack of data on the efficacy of the measures put in place to risk-manage self-harm. The ACCTs audit conducted mid-year was rated amber/red however following further training, improvement in the ACCT documentation has been noted with an improvement in the most recent audit rating. There remains a shortage of trained ACCT assessors. A training course aims to rectify this. The number of trained listeners has declined, but it is anticipated that a recent listener training course will address this.

SUMMARY

The Governor is aware of the risks carried by the function and the need for immediate action.

A Safety Intervention Meeting now takes place weekly. At this meeting structured care plans for those who present as complex in terms of behaviour, violence, isolation or other risks are developed.

Overall both the IMB and HM Prison Inspectorate have expressed significant concerns in relation to Prisoner Safety. Accurate, comparative data collection and trend analysis should enable the development of a robust and proactive strategy for dealing with violence within the prison.

5.6 SEGREGATION UNIT, CARE AND SEPARATION, CLOSE SUPERVISION

For most of the reporting year, the Segregation Unit has been functioning at full capacity and has had to deal with an increased number of vandalised cells; transfers from other prisons and increased numbers of younger prisoners have exacerbated the situation.

The prison is addressing the issues by holding a weekly meeting to discuss the length of prisoners' stays in the Segregation Unit for the former, and using IEP and GOOD review targets for the latter.

There have been a number of very busy periods including eight planned removals on one day, and it is on these occasions that some administrative details such as cell cards and Information Boards have not always been up to date. On all visits, however, the Board has noted that algorithms have been completed correctly.

Communication between the Segregation Unit and the IMB has improved, particularly regarding information concerning new arrivals; GOOD Review timing remained an issue for part of the year, but was improving towards the end of the reporting period.

The Board has been satisfied with the quality of the Reviews, and on more than one occasion has noted the professional approach of Governors.

Adjudication Standardisation meetings have been taken place regularly.

The Board has been able to carry out its weekly monitoring, and issues raised during these visits, such as adequate provision of blankets and availability of radios, have been addressed by Segregation staff.

The only difficulties encountered by the board have been in connection with communication with prison officers detailed to the Segregation Unit for a short period.

Despite the significant pressures on the unit, the Board commends the care shown to prisoners by the regular Segregation Unit staff, and reiterates last year's comment about the concern shown for men with mental health issues. In particular the Board has noted the professional approach towards one prisoner, who spent a long time in the Segregation Unit, whilst waiting for transfer to more suitable accommodation.

5.7 RESETTLEMENT

The ROTL programme has been suspended indefinitely pending national guidance. The IMB is concerned that currently prisoners do not participate in an adequate programme preparing them for release into society.

5.8 RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, CATERING, KITCHEN)

The national supply of work boots, towels, furniture, and clothing concerns the IMB. Prisoners require safety boots for work within the prison. The supply of cell furniture, soap, towels and warm bedding is inadequate on the wings. Radios and Television sets can be allocated to prisoners when appropriate, however these are also in short supply.

The prison kitchen is currently undergoing extensive planned refurbishment and meals are supplied from the temporary kitchen. The IMB is concerned about the projected timescale for this work. Equipment in the temporary kitchen fails intermittently, but repairs are frequently slow and expensive. Prisoners have complained about meal portion size, and of receiving frozen, inadequately cooked pies for lunch.

The NVQ in cooking is now delivered as a theoretical course as it has been too difficult to deliver the practical training in the temporary kitchen. Despite the challenges associated with the prolonged use of the temporary kitchen, the kitchen manager has maintained a positive attitude throughout, delivering themed meals to celebrate festivals.

HMP Leeds establishment has been fortunate in being able to recruit new members of staff who can bring new blood and ideas to their role. However, they do not possess the experience of those being sent away on DD. As the IMB reported last year, the result has been that the board has often found members of staff on a wing who do not have the in-depth knowledge of the prisoners on that wing.

The abolition of line route and the introduction of a new, common regime has improved the situation. During the year, however, the regime has been affected in various ways for example, not having enough staff to –

- allow the full association period stated
- accompany prisoners to the library
- do some of the essential administrative tasks

The total number of applications to the IMB has reduced compared with the previous year. Of the 203 applications to the IMB logged during 2015, 27%property, 15% healthcare, 12% applications relating to staff, 7%mail, were the main areas. The prison complaints system has been reviewed during this year and significant improvement has been noted.

The reduced staff numbers in all areas of the establishment is a concern, but this is particularly prevalent on the wings. With the lack of continuity and experience of staff, the IMB are worried that the prisoners will take advantage of the situation and that there will be an increase in serious incidents and criminal behaviour including the use of mobile phones, drug misuse and bullying.

SECTION 6 OTHER AREAS

6.1 DRUG STRATEGY AND SECURITY

Throughout 2015 the Drug Strategy and Security Committee within HMP Leeds continued to set monthly objectives with the aim of keeping both the public and the prison population safe.

A consistent focus after prevention of escapes is on disrupting the continuing flow into and around the prison of drugs, phones and other proscribed items.

In order to meet the security objectives an effective response to good quality intelligence and security finds is devised, put into operation, constantly monitored and reviewed. Security officers process intelligence from incident and serious incident reports, from evidential findings and through increasing collaboration with external regional and national security partners who advise on wider organised crime networks and their links to individuals within the prison.

Cell searches, close observation and monitoring of prisoners and their visitors, surveillance of activity in high risk areas of the prison and grounds and modifications to failing security vulnerabilities in the fabric of the prison including the repair of window grilles and netting over exercise areas, are all examples of responses to alerts raised by intelligence.

Constant vigilance, challenging procedures including covert testing, and security operations working in collaboration with YAST and searches of vehicles transporting visitors to the prison

carried out by West Yorkshire Police continue to disrupt trafficking, but as established routes are identified and disrupted, new means are constantly developed and exploited.

Throughout 2015, as in prisons throughout the UK, the main security challenge at HMP Leeds has been the prevalence of the supply and use of NPS (new psychoactive substances). Widespread use of synthetic drugs far outstrips abuse of 'traditional' drugs such as cannabis and caused almost daily incidents, including medical emergencies or violent assaults on prisoners and staff. Responding to these events has frequently disrupted the regular prison regime causing cancellation of workshops, education, exercise and religious activities.

The local mandatory drug testing target rate of 10% in HMP Leeds benchmarks the senior management team's determination to stop the misuse of drugs within the establishment. Having struggled to achieve this in 2014 despite sustained effort, the prison attained this target in seven months in 2015, including the last five, with an annual average of 10.03%.

The Zero Tolerance to Drugs policy continues to be used effectively and consistently throughout the prison.

Support for offenders with drug or alcohol issues continues to be delivered on both the recovery wing and post recovery wing through the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) provided by the charity Lifeline. Service users can access a wide range of interventions dependent on individual need and as reflected in their recovery plan.

6.2 RECEPTION AND FIRST NIGHT CENTRE (FNC)

FNC is experiencing overcrowding due to large numbers of vulnerable prisoners who should be accommodated on A Wing. Unfortunately A wing does not have the capacity to accommodate these men. This situation is far from ideal as prisoners are spending weeks on the first night centre instead of merely the first night. The IMB is concerned that this could disadvantage prisoners.

FNC cooperates closely with Reception and maintains good team work. The Induction and welcome pack are excellent now.

Reception

The prisoner flow through reception is consistently in excess of 1000 prisoners a month and is clearly a very busy department. Staffing levels in Reception have improved considerably compared with the Annual Report 2014. The main concern raised to the IMB is related to early 'cut off times' and "out of area" prisoners, particularly from the North West courts. Staff are often required to stay beyond their shift length in order to deal with new arrivals. New arrivals from courts in the north west, or other out of area locations are transferred to Leeds due to lack of accommodation capacity in other prisons. Poor communication with the transport company, GeoAmey can be a contributing factor. The IMB is concerned that such late admissions result in basic, hurried admission procedures for the newly arrived in addition to disruption at night on the FNC. Plans to improve the environment in reception have been accepted and a contract agreed to deliver the work during 2016.

6.6 VISITS and VISITORS CENTRE

During the past year some 25000 visits were arranged and of these approximately 80% were completed. There were various reasons for visits not being completed but in the main it was the non- arrival of the visitor.

The new Visitors Order form has been running for the last 14 months and after a few teething problems it is now running quite well. Also the visits booking office is now open 7 days a week instead of the 5 days a week previously. Most visits are booked online but there are still many visits booked by phone. Visitors have told the IMB that booking by phone can be quite frustrating as the number stops ringing after approximately 30 rings and then the caller has to redial. A number of visitors told the IMB that it is not unusual to spend around 30 minutes waiting to be connected.

Jigsaw continues to do excellent work in arranging Family Visits with one of the more popular visits being the “ homework club “ This is where children can visit with their father and carry out or discuss the homework. It appears to be beneficial to both child and father.

The IMB has also spoken with people who are visiting for the first time and discussed how they felt about coming to a prison for the first time. Most mention apprehension as they did not know what to expect however when the IMB spoke with them again after the visit they told the IMB that it had not been as bad as they expected.

It is still disconcerting that there is not regular CCTV coverage as visits are an obvious place to try to smuggle in contraband. However security in visits appears to have improved as a number of visitors have been arrested and charged whilst attempting to smuggle in goods.

All in all visits seem to work well with very few complaints from prisoners.

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

BOARD STATISTICS	2013	2014	2015
Recommended Complement of Board Members	20	20	20
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11	11	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12	9	12
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3	2	3
Number of members leaving within reporting period	2	4	0
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	48	35	24
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	459	343	385
Total number of applications received	242	252	203

SECTION 7

**Applications to
IMB**

			2013		2014		%
			Totals	By Code	Total	By Code	Inc/Dec
Accommodation	A1	Cell quality	3	5	1	5	
	A2	Wing/cell accommodation	2		4		
B adjudications & segregation	B1	Adjudications-internal	1	1	6	6	500
	B2	Adjudications-external					
	B3	Rule 45/49 segregation					
C diversity	C1	Racial issues referred to prison/IRC staff	2	10	3	6	-40
	C2	Racial issues not referred to prison/IRC staff	1				
	C3	Other Diversity issues e.g. disability	7		3		
D E/T/E and regimes	D1	Education/employment	8	11	12	17	55
	D2	IEP	3		5		
E Family/visits	E1	Visits	26	41	9	18	-56
	E2	Resettlement issues	4		1		
	E3	Mail/Pin phones	11		8		
F Food/kitchen related	F	Food/kitchen issues	6	6	3	3	-50
G Health related	G	Health issues	38	38	32	32	-16
H Property	H1	Property related to previous prison/IRC	19	32	16	46	44
	H2	Property related to current prison/IRC	10		26		
	H3	Canteen /Argos/facilities list	3		4		
I sentence related	I1	Basic sentence(inc.remand time)	7	17	9	27	59
	I2	HDC	1		6		
	I3	Immigration/deportation	1		3		
	I4	Categorisation	4		4		
	I5	Police days					
	I6	ROTL	3		3		
	I7	Parole Board	1		2		
J Staff/Prisoner/ detainee related	J1	Apps about staff	4	6	27	31	417
	J2	Apps about prisoners/detainees	2		4		
	J3	Apps from staff					
K Transfers	K	Transfers	13	13	17	17	31
L Miscellaneous	L	Miscellaneous	20	20	30	30	50
M Applications	N1	Not followed application procedures	36	42	14	14	-67
	N2	Those not deemed not be an IMB issue	6				
		TOTALS	242		252		4

Applications to IMB 2015

Code	Code	Subject	Total	Total per code	%of Total
A Accommodation	A1	Cell quality	5	8	4
	A2	Wing/cell allocation	3		
B Adjudications and Segregation	B1	Adjudications - internal	6	6	3
	B2	Adjudications - external			
	B3	Rule 45/49 segregation			
C Diversity	C1	Racial issues referred to prison/IRC staff	1	1	0
	C2	Racial issues not referred to staff			
	C3	Other diversity issues, e.g. disability			
D E/T/E and regimes	D1	Education/employment	3	6	3
	D2	IEP	3		
E Family/visits	E1	Visits	10	14	7
	E2	Resettlement issues			
	E3	Mail/Pin phones	4		
F Food/kitchen related		Food/kitchen issues	6	6	3
G Health related		Health issues	30	30	15
H Property	H1	Property related to previous prison/IRC	25	54	27
	H2	Property related to current prison/IRC	26		
	H3	Canteen/Argos/Facilities list	3		
I Sentence related	I1	Basic sentence (inc. remand time)	9	13	6
	I2	HDC	2		
	I3	Immigration/deportation			
	I4	Categorisation	2		
	I5	Police days			
	I6	ROTL			
	I7	Parole Board			
J Staff/Prisoner/detainee related	J1	Apps about staff	24	25	12
	J2	Apps about prisoners/detainees	1		
	J3	Apps from staff			
K Transfers		Transfers	12	12	6
L Miscellaneous		Miscellaneous	16	16	8
M Applications	N1	Not followed application procedures	12	12	6
	N2	Those not deemed not be an IMB issue			
WING TOTALS			203		