

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

HMP FULL SUTTON 2014

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report covers the 12 months ending 31 October 2014. It highlights issues of note identified by members of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), as they have undertaken their daily duties this year. It is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all aspects of HMP Full Sutton.

1. THE ROLE OF THE IMB

1.1 The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison to be monitored by an Independent Board, appointed by the Ministry of Justice from members of the community, in which the prison is situated.

1.2 The Board is required to satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison, and the range and adequacy of the programmes in reducing their risk to the general public and preparing them for release. The Board is expected to inform, promptly, the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority, as it judges appropriate, any concern it has. The Board reports 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 custody.

1.3 To enable the Board to meet these requirements effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

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3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 HMP Full Sutton is a High Security Prison for Category A and Category B male offenders, situated 11 miles from the city of York. The prison has a Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) of 607 (596 -2013), an in-use CNA total of 607 (609 - 2013) and an Operational Capacity of 627 (616 -2013). Main Wing prisoners are accommodated on Wings A, E and F. Wings B, C and D are for Vulnerable Prisoners (VPs). In addition prisoners are located in the Segregation Unit when circumstances warrant this. There are also a small number of cells in the Healthcare Unit for in-patients.

3.2 The Induction wing (G Wing) has a dual purpose as a drug recovery and treatment unit for 16 prisoners undergoing rehabilitation programmes and a residential wing. Six cells have been retained for use of reception and Inductions for prisoners transferring into Full Sutton. The drug recovery and treatment element of this wing was re-roled on the 30 September 2014, as a normal residential unit. The Board await the outcome of a full review in relation to the final use of G Wing. The Board have raised various concerns to the Governor during the period under review.

3.3 The prison also has a Closed Supervision Centre (CSC), which opened in January 2014. It currently holds 6 prisoners.

3.4 The primary purpose of HMP Full Sutton is, at all times, to contribute to the Prison Service objectives which are to protect the public by holding those committed by the courts in a safe, decent and healthy environment, to reduce crime by providing constructive regimes which address offending behaviour, improve educational and working skills, and promote law abiding behaviour in custody and after release.

3.5 Prison Population:

On the 31 October 2014 601 (609 - 2013) prisoners were accommodated at the prison.

There were 12 (14 - 2013) Category A High Risk prisoners.

There were 169 (166 - 2013) Category A Standard Risk prisoners.

There were 420 (429 - 2013) Category B prisoners.

There were 8 (11 - 2013) TACT prisoners (this is a prisoner sentenced under the Terrorism Act 2000)

The ages of prisoners ranged from 21 to 81 years and the breakdown was as follows:

- 21 – 29 years = 18% (20%- 2013)
- 30 – 39 years = 29% (31%- 2013)
- 40 – 49 years = 25% (23%- 2013)
- 50 – 59 years = 16% (17%- 2013)
- Over 60 years = 12% (9%- 2013)

3.6 Agencies in support of HMP Full Sutton:

Security:

- Humberside Police (Police Liaison Officer)
- Humberside Special Branch

Learning and Skills Providers:

- Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) comprising The Manchester College (the Education contractor with subcontractor for Construction - East Riding College),
- East Riding Library Service for the Library Contract
- Prospects Services Ltd
- Writer in Residence (Writers in Prison Network)

Healthcare

- York Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust
- Macmillan Nurses
- East Riding Safer Communities

Provisions and Canteen

- DHL

Diversity

- Humberside Diversity Panel

Offender Management

- New bridge – working on prisoner contact, visits and correspondence

Charities

- Shannon Trust – supports the Toe by Toe reading scheme
- York Community Furniture Store – supplies furniture for recycling
- Prison Fellowship – assists in provision of courses and provides presents for prisoners' children
- Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) – Braille Workshop
- Samaritans – support to vulnerable prisoners and Listeners
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- Age Concern
- Muaz Trust
- The Gideons
- The Phoenix Trust
- Ummah Welfare Trust

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 Particular Issues Requiring a Response

4.1.1 Policy matters on which a reply from the Minister is sought.

4.1.1.1 As in previous reporting periods the IMB Board remain concerned that the continued drive for cost improvement may lead to a break down in good order and discipline and an unacceptable reduction in the quality of prison life. Despite the similar trends across the whole prison system as noted by such significant bodies as the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMCIP) and the Prisoner Governors Association (PGA); the IMB feels that Full Sutton has so far avoided any serious impact from the drive to reduce prison costs. This in part is down to the Senior Management Team (SMT), management team, staff of all grades and good staff/prisoners relationships.

4.1.2 Other matters that require the attention of the Minister.

4.1.2.1 Paragraph 5.7.3 below records the IMB's concerns about the number of prisoners who remain segregated for longer than 6 months. The Board feels this is unacceptable and asks the Minister to note its view that the problem of overcrowding of the prison service is contributing, significantly, to this issue. The Board are also concerned about the high number of prisoners held in the Segregation unit at any one time and the consequential impact on the Segregations regime.

4.2 Operational matters requiring a response from the Prison Service.

4.2.1 The IMB have drawn to the attention of the Senior Management Team the requirement for ventilation in the gymnasium. This still remains an outstanding item. (5.4.5 Purposeful Activity)

4.2.2 The IMB would draw the attention of the Senior Management Team to, the under resourced Safer Prisons and Equalities Team at Full Sutton, as observed by the Regional Safer Custody Lead, in comparison to other comparator prisons. (5.6.3 Safer Custody)

4.2.3 The IMB would again draw attention to the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process. Upon a recent audit by the Regional Safer Custody lead it was noted that 51% of staff were trained in the ACCT procedures. (5.6.7 Safer Custody)

4.3 Progress on issues of concern in the last report

4.3.1 Business Development Group

The Board notes the Minister's response in a letter dated 13 May 2014. HMP Full Sutton has completed the Mobilisation, Transition and Transformation plan to assist with the implementation of "New Ways of Working". The Board

however would further draw attention to its comment in paragraph 4.1.1.1. above and in the Overall Summary Judgement 4.4.2 & 4.4.3

4.3.2 Prisoners Segregated for more than 6 months

The Board notes the Minister's response in a letter dated 13 May 2014. The Board remains concerned in relation to this issue, as set out in paragraph 5.7.3 and 5.7.4.

4.3.3 Serious Incident

The Board has noted the response from NOMS in a letter dated 13 May 2014.

4.3.4 Energy Centre at Full Sutton

The Board has noted the response from NOMS in a letter dated 13 May 2014.

4.3.5 Progressive Moves

The Board has noted the response from NOMS in a letter dated 13th May 2014.

4.3.6 IPP Sentences

The Board has noted the response from NOMS in a letter dated 13 May 2014.

4.3.7 Education Budget

The Board has noted the response from NOMS in a letter dated 13 May 2014.

4.4 The Board's Overall Judgement

4.4.1 The Board would like to thank both the previous Governor, the current Governor, the Senior Management Team (SMT), all staff grades and the agencies that work alongside the IMB for their support in the year under review.

4.4.2 The last Annual Report expressed concern that the national pressure to reduce the cost of the prison service might heighten risk to safety for prisoners. This concern remains.

4.4.3 HMP Full Sutton has not yet suffered any serious consequence (loss of order and discipline) because of the cuts in the prison service. Nevertheless the Board is concerned that many aspects of the regime are being affected as implementation begins (visits and time in cells) despite the best efforts of the Governor and his staff to manage the difficult circumstances forced upon the prison. Through the maintenance of good order and discipline, through the development of appropriate professional relationships between staff and prisoners, through constant vigilance and monitoring, control has thus far been maintained. (Ref 5.6.1 Safer Custody).

4.4.4 The Board has serious concerns relating to the regime of a residential wing during the period. This has been drawn to the attention of both the