



Her Majesty's Prison

Kennet

The Eighth Annual Report

Of the

Independent Monitoring Board

2015

1. Statutory Role of the IMB

The prisons act 1952 and the immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- 1) Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- 2) Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- 3) Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the 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.

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Section 3

Description of the prison.

1. HMP Kennet was converted from part of the Ashworth Hospital complex and opened, as a prison, in June 2007. The original, single storey buildings were built soon after the Second World War and were originally used as hospital accommodation. It is situated close to junction 1 of the M58 and is an open and airy site. The land is leased from Mersey Care Trust.
2. It was built as a category C establishment with accommodation for some 342 offenders. Accommodation for offenders consists of seven single storey buildings holding between 30 and 69 offenders generally 2 to a cell. It was re rolled to a category D in 2014 and then reverted to category C status in 2015
- 2.1 Each cell has a washbasin and toilet and the toilet area is generally screened by ceiling high curtains. The sleeping arrangements, in each cell, are standard two bunk beds with storage space for each offender's belongings including a small security safe for personal items. Television sets are available for offenders on Standard or Enhanced Status. Cell locking incorporates protection of property with each occupant having his own cell key, which can be overridden by the staff keys.
3. There are showers in each unit which are available during each association period.
4. In addition to the cell blocks described above, there are two administration buildings in close proximity to each other. One contains offices for the Governor, Deputy Governor, Security, the Performance Monitoring Unit and the Staff Training Unit. The other has the remaining Administration work staff including, amongst others, Complaints and Safer Security staff and the office provided for use by the IMB members assigned to this establishment.
5. Reception, Healthcare, Prison Chaplaincy, Library and a number of workshops are located in a complex in the centre of the Prison site. The Gymnasium which incorporates an all weather football pitch is situated nearby.
6. At present visits take place in a dedicated single story building which has been furnished for this purpose. The facilities are limited but comfortable, well lit and warm. Refreshments are available as are facilities to engage small children but supervision is sometimes limited by staff shortages.
7. Healthcare is provided by Liverpool Community Healthcare Trust.
8. Education and training is provided by The Manchester College.

4. Executive summary

4.1 Issues for the Minister

4.1.1 Transferring of Category D Offenders

The transfer of cat D offenders continues to be an issue. This is due to lack of places in the open estate. The majority of cat D offenders were transferred out in 2015 but there remains a handful of cat D working in the Kitchen which uniquely is situated outside the Prison.

4.1.2 Loss of property

The Loss of property when transferring between establishments remains an Issue. This can cause the offender unnecessary stress and can be very time consuming to both staff and IMB members.

4.1.3 Support from the IMB Secretariat at the Ministry of Justice

During 2013, The IMB at Kennet lost 4 members. 1 due to the tenure. This impacted the boards duties immensely as it only left 4 IMB members. This put huge strain on the board which left the members struggling to maintain sufficient rota duties as well as trying to recruit new members. The Chair Mr Paul Large instigated a succession plan and recruited heavily through several recruitment campaigns.

In the Ministers letter to the Chair dated 30th November 2015 at para 5 the Minister kindly acknowledged the difficulty the Board faced and said,

"I was sorry to hear about the loss of Board members, and the strain that this has placed on remaining members. The IMB Secretariat will write to you separately on this issue, as this is the approach that has been agreed with them. "

It is very disappointing to note that despite the written assurance contained therein nobody from the Secretariat has followed it up as the Board were promised.

5. Equality and Inclusion

HMP Kennet is on one level and due to this the only necessity it has to comply to within the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) is 'reasonable adjustment' for any offender/employee that may require specific needs.

An offender with any disability should have information on his needs recorded in the records which transfer with him from the previous establishments, these would then be used by the staff at HMP Kennet to fulfil any requirements that are needed to be met. Should anything not be recorded by a previous establishment, this would then be picked up by the staff within Kennet and recorded, as well as the offenders needs being met.

The Race Equality Action Team (REAT) meets regularly and offender representatives attend these meetings. Regular KPI's and numbers are collated and then forwarded to the Governor to be viewed and then escalated should the need arrive.

HMP Kennet Team are very proactive and within the Chaplaincy Team they work really well together and support each other, showing a great team environment and also a relationship within different cultures and religions that shows no animosity or resentment. This is an area that truly deserves to be recognised within the Establishment.

5.1 Education, Learning and Skills

The Manchester College Group provides the vast majority of offender learning at HMP Kennet. The college is a large scale social enterprise which specialises in delivering learning, skills, development and transitional services to offenders. Their mission is to deliver a comprehensive package of services for learners in custody and the community enabling progression into education, training and employment once released. At Kennet HMP they work collaboratively with Edge Hill University, the National Careers Service and Sefton library. The college offer the following courses:

- Maths and English- Entry level to level 2
- Art- level 1 and 2
- Business -level 2
- IT- level 1 and 2
- Horticulture -level 2
- Catering level 1 (level 2 to be introduced later this year)
- Bricks-level 2 Diploma
- Joinery-level 2 Diploma
- Plastering -level 2 Diploma
- Health and Safety- level 2
- Industrial Cleaning -level 1 (level 2 will be introduced later this year)
- Personal Employability, Achievement and Reflection for Learning -level 1 and 2
- Mentoring - level 1 and 2

Offender Assessment & Performance Overview

Each offender on arrival to the prison will be asked to participate in an induction. As well as introducing them to the facilities, an assessment of the offender's learning needs is undertaken. Staff evaluate the current competences of the individuals, potential and future development needs. This is then used to formulate a personal development plan. Accordingly, offenders are screened and receive appropriate development on the basis of their needs and potential.

The above courses fall into three strands

- 1) Functional Skills (Maths and English) - retention for 2014/15 is 96% and the success rate forecast is currently 84%
- 2) Employment and ICT- retention for 2014/15 is currently 96%. Success rate forecast at 81%
- 3) Personal and Social Development-Retention is 99%. Success rate forecast at 98%

Achievement by Disability- currently at 84%, forecast for year 90%

Achievement by Ethnicity- currently at 84%, forecast for year 91%

Responsibility and accountability

The governor has responsibility and is accountable for ensuring robust learning opportunities exist within the prison. This appears to be working well and the prison is able to provide documentation to substantiate that this is reviewed by him on a monthly basis during the performance meetings.

Quality Assurance Arrangements

Robust quality assurance methods are in place to ensure the training staff, courses provided and the Manchester College itself provide high quality services to offenders. The facilities and outcomes are regularly monitored and measured. They are benchmarked against national standards and must produce an annual improvement plan.

The college only provides courses that have achieved a verifiable quality standard by a recognised accrediting body. The courses are certified by the City and Guilds Institute, OCR and C Skills.

OFSTED provides clear guidance for the prison and are arguably the most important assessors of quality. In its last review of the services provided, HMP Kennet received an overall good rating.

Level 1 and 2 course fell just short of the mark to be given outstanding. The areas of good practice were:

- Excellent partnership working
- Excellent vocational work opportunities
- Excellent feedback from employers
- Good use of data

Areas requiring development were:

- Learner target objectives need clarifying
- Some teachers needed to be more interactive

The organization currently anticipates a further OFSTED review due to the changes from category D to C

Other quality assistance arrangements in place are as follows:

- the college has established close links with Edge Hill University who contribute toward the development of some of the courses
- quarterly surveys of prisoners is undertaken by the use of multiple choice questions
- Prisoner learner forums run throughout the year
- 1:1 meetings and collective group discussion
- Staff are subjected to regular teaching observations
- Monitoring of non runs - extremely low only two courses this year

The main internal quality verification is achieved via the Quality Improvement Group (QIP). QIP's remit is to manage and maintain the range and quality of development throughout the establishment. The group meets monthly and the membership consists of the head of reducing reoffending, head of learning and skills, head of education, employment strand leader, senior curriculum lead, education manager. The findings of the group is fed back to the governor who will act on recommendations.

5.2 HealthCare and Mental Health.

During 2015 Healthcare was supplied by "Liverpool Community care" and although we understand changes are planned with a move to another service provider this will not be reported until the next annual report.

On arrival prisoners have an initial screening and a secondary screening, both physical and mental, is arranged to take place within 48 hours of arrival.

Healthcare is organised on the lines of Community Care. There is a Nurse on site every day who performs triage and can either dispense prescribed medicine or have it brought in. There are 3 Dental sessions per week.

There is no impatient care at Kennet but there is the ability to take prisoners to a local hospital twice a day.

NHS standards are maintained.

A minimal number of Prisoners have been seen by the mental health nurse and a psychiatrist is available but has not been utilised. No prisoner has been transferred out under the Mental Health Act.

This is one of the prisons targets, an event was held in June 14 led by Chris Baker to broadcast the message.

In terms of access to information they are briefed during Induction and have access to NHS PALS.

5.3 Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy at HMP Kennet continues to do a magnificent job. The enthusiasm of the whole team is very obvious on every occasion they are called upon to attend a Review or when they are on the rounds of the prison Wings. It is very clear that

the offenders appreciate the pastoral care they receive at HMP Kennet and that is obvious from observing the relationship that they have with the Chaplaincy staff. The very experienced on site team of three clergy provides for Church of England, Roman Catholic and Muslim faiths, together with visiting clergy catering for a wide range of other denominations. It continues to be a particular feature that any offender who wishes to see a Chaplain will see one on the day of the request. As necessary, the Offender will also be able to see a Chaplain of their own faith as soon as possible should it be requested.

The HMP Kennet Church of England Chaplain had previously been shared with HMP Liverpool, but that arrangement finished in April 2014.

In 2015 the Chaplaincy recorded 144 incidents of Pastoral Care covering a wide range of issues during the period, 51 of which related to bereavement counselling. Other activities included the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with 12 Prisoners achieving Bronze awards. Placements outside the prison included one Prisoner working with St Helens Mosque. The Chaplaincy also increased its number of helpers from different faiths.

The Chaplaincy continues to be a centre of excellence.

5.4 Safer Custody

There are three safer custody cells on wings. The staff are magnificently trained and equipped with the knowledge that makes the ACCT and TAB system a success. This is one of the many strengths at HMP Kennet.

5.5 Segregation, Care and Separation, Close Supervision Units

The segregation unit consists of 10 cells and is purpose built. Two cells have observation facilities and CCTV should any offender be brought into the unit being disruptive or displaying cause for concern that they may harm themselves.

Care is taken to observe the strict criteria for using cameras to monitor the offender when he is located in these cells to ensure the requirements of the prison rule 5OA and PSI22/12 and PSI 64/2011 are adhered to.

The cells are of good decorative state and kept to a clean standard.

Education is available on the unit as is the use of a telephone and showers.

Care staff attend whenever an offender is resident. There is adequate outdoor exercise area which can be utilised by three offenders at any given time, with views of trees and greenery.

5.6 Adjudications

Adjudications are held on the segregation unit in a dedicated room. Offenders accused of offences against prison discipline are held in two rooms adjacent to the adjudication room.

Adjudications are generally held in the morning and are regularly attended and monitored, those witnessed by the board have not been cause for concern as the awards seem fair.

5.7 Catering & Kitchens

The Kitchen at HMP Kennet is outside the secure perimeter of the prison. Its location is immediately adjacent to the main vehicle access. It is staffed by industrial grade staff and a catering manager. During 2014& 2015' Category D prisoners based at HMP Kennet have formed the main workforce.

However, with the re categorisation of the Establishment in April 2015 to a Cat C the majority of Cat D Prisoners have been relocated to other establishments, although approximately 15 remain to assist in the kitchen.

The management of the kitchen provides for a smooth running operation with levels of preparation, cold storage for pre prepped and other food and frozen facilities being well organised and properly monitored.

The Board has observed a well-run establishment during 2015. Menus are checked for quality and dietary balance by a dietician. The trend in 2015 has been towards a single hot meal each day in the evening, with lunch being sandwiches and similar although this is not necessarily the case at weekends when hot meals are served. There is a good selection and rotation of menus as well as menus for special occasions and religious festivals. The Catering Manager has continued with regular surveys of offenders by regular meetings

Food is loaded into insulated trolleys and then transported by van into the prison. The trolleys are then used to transport the food to the servery kitchens in each wing. Trolleys are subsequently loaded with used containers which are returned to the main kitchen for cleaning. Records of quality and temperature are recorded on each wing and these are checked weekly by the Catering Management.

During 2015 the kitchen has received a Performance Recognition Award of Excellence (Investors in People) by the Area Catering Manager, together with a Five Star Award (the highest) from Sefton Council Environmental Health.

5.8 Personal Protection Training for IMB

The establishment has offered the IMB PPT as an option which several members have availed themselves of .The Board wish to commend the Security Governor and SMT for extending this to IMB and is a testament to the high regard each enjoy. Further, the Governor has provided as part of an ongoing program of safety and security each IMB member with a Personal Protection Alarm to carry on their key belt.

5.9 Serious Incidents

On 29 December 2015 HMP Kennet had its first Serious Incident since the establishment was opened.

The IMB where notified and immediately attended, and the incident was brought to a satisfactory conclusion with the intervention of the National Tornado team. At all times the IMB where kept informed by both Silver and Bronze Command and before

the intervention the Tornado team leader separately briefed the IMB members present and asked if they had any questions.

5.10. Maintenance and Repairs

The IMB have advised that several shower areas are in need of urgent repair and maintenance to bring them up to a satisfactory standard but we are advised that there are no funds available to effect repairs. This needs addressing urgently and we would urge the Minister to use his good Offices to assist the establishment in this respect.

5.11 IMB Application boxes

There has been an ongoing problem throughout October 2015 -February 2016 with regard to the IMB being able to access the IMB application box on H wing. When the IMB boxes were relocated following re-categorisation of the establishment in April 2015 the wrong key was given to the IMB by external maintenance contractors to whom the work is sub contracted. This resulted in several months of delay when IMB could not access the box.

6. Reception & Induction

Reception at HMP Kennet is a smooth and well managed process. During 2015 reception has seen an increased amount of business with the establishment re categorisation.

A PowerPoint presentation is used for the induction process and is presented by an offender who has learnt his computer skills whilst at HMP Kennet. The presentation takes new inmates through each step of the process.

On induction the Prisoner is also given an IMB information leaflet.

The Reception area where property is stored has been subject to property going missing so that the key/lock to the reception area has been changed resulting in the IMB being unable to have unfettered and unrestricted access. The IMB can only have access by requesting entry.

This is unsatisfactory and directly impacts upon the IMB's operational capabilities to make unannounced visits.

6.1 Programmes

HMP Kennet runs several programmes aimed to help the rehabilitation of Offenders. Including

- AARO** Addressing alcohol related offending
- LRP** Lifeline recovery programme
- Healthy Lifestyles**
- Parenting 2000**

All programmes proved to be very successful.

6.2 Time out of the cell

Currently Offenders spend an average of 9.55 hours out of cell daily. 6.50 hrs at weekends, with an average of 33.5 hours being purposeful activity i.e work.

Section 7. THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

7.1 Membership and workload

In January 2015 there were 11 members on the Board at Kennet. During the year ending 31 December 2015, the Board lost 5 members.

We instigated a recruitment campaign in September which resulted in 5 new members being appointed, but not until February and March 2016 so are out of the scope and ambit of this report.

The departures where due to a combination of:

- 1) resignations due to changing work circumstances;
- 2) resignations caused by the members moving away from the area because of family circumstances;
- 3) End of Tenure for a number of members.
- 4) Dis -Interest.

7.2. A further recruitment exercise was held towards the end of the year at which a further 5 new members were recommended for appointment. The date of appointment, for these new members, is February and March 2016.

7.3 The membership position for the period commencing 1/1/15 is as stated in the following table.

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended complement of Board Members	12
Number of Board members at start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board Members at end of the reporting period	6
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within reporting period	5
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	11
Total number of visits to the Establishment	247
Total number of segregation reviews held	This information is not captured at KENNET
Total number of segregation reviews attended by IMB	As above

Section 7.(cont.) Applications to IMB

Code	Subject	2012	2013	2014	2015
A	Accommodation	0	0	0	7
B	Adjudications	2	1	0	5
C	Equality & Diversity (inc religion)	4	0	0	0
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	6	3	2	5
E1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	7	1	0	6
E2	Finance/pay	0	2	2	7

F	Food/kitchen related	1	0	0	3
G	Health related	4	4	2	6
H1	Property (within current establishment)	22	1	1	27
H2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	0	22	1	13
H3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	0	0	0	2
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc)	11	11	12	11
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	2	2	0	5
K	Transfers	2	3	2	6
L	Miscellaneous	7	10	5	5