



HMP & YOI KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE
INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT
1st January 2015 – 31st December 2015

1 Statutory Role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC 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, 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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3 Description of the Prison

3.1 Kirklevington Grange is an open prison catering for both Category D adult male prisoners and, since the middle of 2015, young male offenders. The operational capacity of the prison is 283. It has often operated at some twenty prisoners below this level, with around twelve to fifteen young offenders on roll.

3.2 Although no longer formally designated a resettlement prison, Kirklevington Grange still concentrates on its resettlement role in preparing prisoners, many coming towards the end of their sentence, for life back in the community.

3.3 On arrival prisoners undergo a rigorous risk assessment, which may take up to three months. Then, if appropriate, prisoners are eligible for release on temporary licence (ROTL). Initially they undertake unpaid community work and then may be able to get paid work or further education and training outside the prison, if this is available and part of their sentence plan.

3.4 Prisoners are accommodated within the main building and in four units situated in the grounds. Three of these were originally accommodation units on oil platforms, while the fourth and most recent was purpose built. Further facilities within the establishment include an education centre, gymnasium, workshops for welding, woodwork and white goods repair and maintenance, recycling facilities and extensive greenhouses and gardening areas.

3.5 Education was provided in 2015 by Novus, formerly The Manchester College. Until 31st March 2015 Care UK ran healthcare services. From 1st April, new contracts came into force with nursing and administration provided by G4S, GP services by Spectrum, dental services by Burgess and Hyder and non-clinical drugs and alcohol support by Lifeline. The Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and the charity MIND provide care and support on mental health issues. Durham Tees Valley Probation has continued to run a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes. Volunteers from NEPACS (North East Prisoners After Care Society) run a tea bar in the visits room and shop facilities are provided by DHL.

4 Executive Summary

4.1 During 2015 HMP & YOI Kirklevington Grange consistently operated at the highest level within the national prison performance regime. This success is corroborated by the Board's monitoring activity and more informal observations over the year.

4.2 The prison experienced another year of considerable flux and uncertainty, including a change of governor and deputy governor within the space of a week and significant changes to contractors in healthcare and property maintenance. These challenges were managed without any observed ill effects on prisoners.

4.3 A tension exists between Kirklevington's longstanding focus on resettlement and its comparatively recent re-designation as an open prison taking any Category D prisoner who wishes to come and for whom there is room, unless there are very good reasons for the prison to refuse. More prisoners are now short term, often having less than six months left to serve, and are consequently not fully engaged with the prison's ethos. This has meant more prisoners sent back to closed conditions.

4.4 Despite this, Kirklevington continues to have considerable success in its resettlement work. An impressive range of purposeful activity is on offer. The prison's coffee shops and car valeting service are more in demand than ever. A consistently high number of prisoners found work outside the prison.

4.5 On the basic measures Kirklevington does well. Prisoners have access to healthcare that is generally just as good as the service available to the public outside. Prisoners are generally safe and violence is extremely unusual. Illicit drug taking remains a concern but this is being tackled with renewed vigour and drug testing failure rates have reduced.

4.6 In the Board's view, the prison regime at Kirklevington Grange is fair and reasonable in its operation. Prisoners are mostly very positive about their experience of the prison. Although there were slightly more applications to the Board in 2015 than in the previous year, the overall number was still very low.

5 Equality and Inclusion

5.1 The prison works hard to promote equality and inclusion under the 2010 Act. The Single Equality Plan, revised in 2014, still provides the basis of the prison's work, which was described in detail in our 2014 report.

5.2 Equality Representatives of both prisoners and staff meet monthly. Each quarter the meeting is divided into two parts, one covering prisoner issues and the other staff issues. This works well allowing everyone to participate and be heard.

5.3 The chaplaincy team changed its personnel in 2015 but has continued to give help and guidance to prisoners.

5.4 A wide range of events promoting equality and inclusion took place during 2015, including those related to, for example, Holocaust Memorial Day and Black History Month. These were publicised on the notice boards with the library providing additional relevant information.

5.5 The catering manager has continued to do a fine job providing menus for all appropriate festivals and celebrations.

5.6 During 2015 there were very few reported incidents of discrimination, with those that were reported dealt with immediately. Little graffiti of a racist or discriminatory nature was found in the prison.

6 Education, Learning and Skills

6.1 The Board is, for another year, pleased to report favourably on both the uptake and quality of the education provision in the prison.

6.2 Employability is the driver for work in the education department, with the stated main aim of up-skilling the prisoners ready for employment outside the prison. However, there has been some concern about the low standard of educational levels of some prisoners who have been transferred to this prison. This puts extra pressure on the staff and prisoners to achieve the levels required to go into life free from crime

on release. Prisoners who are transferred to Kirklevington with only a short time remaining of their sentence add to this concern of perhaps non-achievement of the standards expected.

6.3 There is a staff of nine (only one full-time) working in the Education department, two of whom have qualifications in the teaching of adults with learning difficulties.

6.4 Every prisoner who transfers to the prison is assessed for levels of numeracy and literacy. The overall expectation is that prisoners on release should have achieved Level 2 in numeracy and literacy. To this aim the education department works closely with the National Careers Service within the prison to match and provide a sentence action plan incorporating past qualifications and career experiences and expectations.

6.5 The Board has found that prisoners in the classrooms are polite and engaged on task and that the provision is good, interesting and relevant to prisoner needs. Staff members are friendly and offer encouragement and understanding. Learners are praised for their achievements. Pass rates for examinations remain high, at about 90 per cent, and compare favourably with results in the outside world.

6.6 Attendance at education sessions can be affected by conflicts with other areas of the resettlement regime (compulsory thirty days community work, paid work commitments, home leave) but positive steps are taken to accommodate these conflicts by late sessions and individual advice. An appointment system remains in place where prisoners can find out about their educational progress and needs.

6.7 Failure to attend classes is managed in a positive way and the staff are careful to record and report non-attendance.

6.8 The Virtual Campus provision continues to be an underused resource mainly due to its technological unreliability. This is disappointing.

6.9 Corridor wall displays outside the classrooms give prisoners clear and well presented information about the provision and expectations of the educational opportunities presented in the prison.

7 Healthcare and Mental Health

7.1 The healthcare available to prisoners at Kirklevington Grange is generally good and certainly no worse than most people experience in the community outside. This is despite the fact that many prisoners have quite demanding healthcare needs.

7.2 Waiting times for an appointment with the doctor or dentist varied over the year but have usually been reasonable. The unsatisfactory dental arrangements noted last year have been resolved.

7.3 Delivery of prescriptions continues to be efficient with medication prescribed one day available the next or on the same day, if urgent. In June 2015, the medicine cabinet was broken into and the medication stolen. This was handled as a serious incident. No prisoner's medical needs were compromised and security arrangements were immediately tightened.

7.4 Access to in-patient care, either at HMP Holme House or in hospital, has been satisfactory. Prisoners whose risk assessment does not allow them to make their own way are escorted to external appointments if this is deemed necessary on clinical grounds.

7.5 The relatively small number of prisoners who have mental health problems have reasonable access to appropriate care and support. This continues to be provided by Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and the charity Mind.

7.6 Drug abuse, particularly involving new psychoactive substances, continues to be a problem, though failure rates after mandatory drug testing are much improved. Illegal drug use demanding an immediate medical response has been comparatively rare. The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team has provided good support to those prisoners wanting to rehabilitate themselves. Towards the end of the year a number of mentors were appointed from within the ranks of the prisoners, so strengthening the resources available to the team.

7.7 Kirklevington Grange was one of the first prisons to implement the smoking ban at the end of October 2015. This appears to have caused surprisingly few problems, given the high number of smokers and the tension inevitably associated with their situation in prison. The healthcare team have made available aids to stop smoking, such as nicotine patches.

7.8 The accommodation for healthcare is basically satisfactory in terms of space but, as last year, staff continue to find it unreasonably cold in winter. The IT system has been unreliable but this has caused frustration for staff rather than any difficulties for prisoners.

7.9 Prisoners hardly ever complained to the Board about healthcare provision during 2015. Indeed they usually spoke positively about their experience. Staff were put under particular pressure with major changes in contractual arrangements and considerable uncertainty in the weeks leading up to reorganization. It is a tribute to their professionalism that prisoners appeared to be unaffected by all the organisational changes.

8 Purposeful Activity

8.1 The Board is again able to report positively on the purposeful activities that are available in the prison. Prisoner engagement in purposeful activity is a very important part of the prison regime with its ethos of equipping prisoners for a future crime free life and being part of the world of work outside the gates.

8.2 The steps that each prisoner must take, from arrival to finding employment or training, are clearly set out to prisoners and reinforced by the staff involved. An appointment system for prisoners to seek advice from staff is working well. There are prominent clear wall displays, with relevant information available for prisoners to consult.

8.3 Careful staff monitoring of attendance and engagement by prisoners is carried out in all departments. Failure to engage can result in transfer back to closed conditions, changes to their IEP (Incentives and Earned Privileges) status or other sanctions.

8.4 In the initial twelve week period when prisoners settle into the prison and familiarise themselves with the regime, prisoners are interviewed and decisions are made about their future needs for training and engagement. In this reporting year it was decided to take a more formal approach to these decisions and to try and match the skills sets needed for the expectations of each prisoner for their future employment on release. This has resulted in a closer working between Education and the Careers Service based in the prison. This combined approach is in its early stages but would seem to the Board to be a good approach.

8.5 Each prisoner is required to complete thirty days of unpaid work in the local community. For some prisoners this is the first time that they have been involved with legitimate employment. For most prisoners this will be an important step in returning to a life outside prison. It is an excellent introduction, or reminder, of how to manage time, transport to and from work, working with other people and self-responsibilities in general. The work available is varied. The prison also runs a task force working on community projects. This is a popular choice for prisoners.

8.6 Purposeful activities inside the prison are varied. An excellent booklet produced for prisoners' information called "Learning Skills and Employment Prospectus" lists 19 employment opportunities to be found in the prison. It also lists the qualifications to be earned that match these opportunities. Very importantly the qualifications gained are equivalent to those outside the prison gates.

8.7 The large outdoor area where certificated work opportunities are available for prisoners in horticulture, welding, woodworking and recycling, has been a very successful venture both financially and in gaining skills recognised by outside employers. Products from these purposeful activities are sold at a specially constructed area near the outside coffee shop and open to the public.

8.8 There are two coffee shops in the prison, one inside the walls for prisoners and staff and one outside the gates, which is open to the public. The prisoners involved in these successful ventures receive qualifications in Food Safety, Barista Skills, and Food Preparation. However, the success of these ventures has led to a rethink by the prison to ensure that the commercial success does not overtake the training purposes of the regime. To address this concern the outside coffee shop is closed on one day each week for concentrated prisoner training. The welding and woodwork shops do not now take orders from the public but only sell goods that are produced in the training process. A similar step was taken to increase the training of prisoners working in the very successful car wash facility, also open to the public.

8.9 Other purposeful activities available to prisoners include the use of a well-stocked library, used on average by 95% of prisoners. They have the opportunity to participate in a reading discussion group, one to one peer mentoring to help reading levels improve and a chess club. The two gym areas are well used. The reintroduction of public usage by bowls players and special needs people is successful and the prisoners enjoy these contacts with the public.

9 Resettlement

9.1 The Board has been impressed by the prison's work to promote the resettlement of prisoners. Prisoners are individually managed and their needs addressed. All staff in the prison know how they feed into the offender management system and everyone has a role in it.

9.2 As a Category D open prison, Kirklevington is no longer able to select prisoners who have at least six months of their sentence left and actively wish to take advantage of the resettlement regime on offer. More prisoners are now short term, often having less than six months left to serve, and are consequently not fully engaged with the prison's ethos. This has meant more prisoners sent back to closed conditions.

9.3 There were 108 prisoners returned to closed conditions in 2015. 69% of these had served less than six months at Kirklevington (40% under three months); of those 69%, 44% were drug related and 21% risk related. The illicit use of drugs in prison has a negative effect on existing prisoners; short-term prisoners are more likely to flout the rules.

9.4 OASys documentation accompanying prisoners from other prisons is still not always correctly completed resulting in an initial OASys being completed by prison staff. The extra time taken to do these reduces their contact time with prisoners.

9.5 Advice and assistance is available to all prisoners through a variety of activities and agencies to provide support and reduce re-offending. These include the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DART), Novus, NEPACS, Probation, Pertemps, Psychology Services, Chaplaincy (all faiths), library services, employers and prison staff.

9.6 Although the number of prisoners in paid work at Kirklevington remains one of the highest in the country, more and more job vacancies require applications to be completed online as soon as they become available and require email addresses of applicants. This is becoming more problematic now due to lack of internet access for prisoners and was highlighted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) during the last inspection in early 2015.

9.7 HMIP judged Kirklevington Grange's offender management to be the best they had ever seen and highlighted it as outstanding, providing a professional and individual service. This continues to be the case. Kirklevington has few ROTL failures and recently received a Green Health check for their ROTL arrangements.

9.8 Kirklevington continues to have 100% success rate for post release accommodation.

10 Safer Custody

10.1 The prison takes positive and proactive measures to deal with safer custody issues. A training programme is in place for staff; it is well attended and the material is treated seriously.

10.2 A clear anti-bullying policy is in place and, once a problem is identified, support plans are drawn up for both victim and perpetrator. There were 85 intelligence reports submitted during 2015, which related to suspected violence/bullying, although some of these would relate to the same issue. Of these 85, fifteen were deemed serious enough to open violence reduction plans, although again some of these will relate to the same incident in relation to victim/perpetrator.

10.3 The prison has established policies and procedures to ensure safety and order. The Safer Custody/Violence Reduction Group meets every quarter and includes prisoner representation and a member of the Samaritans.

10.4 There are currently seven trained prisoner listeners, who provide a valuable resource in promoting safer custody. Their method of working has changed slightly to accommodate the introduction of young offenders to the prison in 2015. One listener is now designated as young offender mentor for the first few weeks. The listeners have monthly meetings with Samaritans, staff and the Samaritans coordinator. Their availability is clearly publicised on the corridors.

10.5 Six cases were dealt with under Assessment, Care, Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures in 2015, a reduction on last year. There was one recorded incident of self harm in 2015. There were no suicides or deaths in custody.

11 Segregation

11.1 Within the Segregation Unit a holding room is used for prisoners awaiting adjudication and for those who, following adjudication, are awaiting transfer to another prison. For these prisoners, rules and procedures relating to segregation do not apply.

11.2 Only very rarely is a prisoner held in the Segregation Unit for more than twenty-four hours. In these circumstances the Board is satisfied that appropriate procedures are followed to safeguard the prisoner's well being.

12 Residential services

12.1 Prisoners' accommodation continues to be maintained to a high standard. It is in single rooms, with prisoners having their own keys. A rolling programme of repainting has ensured that wings generally look clean and smart. In 2015, along with other prisons, property maintenance was outsourced to Geo Amey. There are clear systems for both staff and prisoners to report faults.

12.2 The kitchen and two coffee shops contribute successfully to the prison's resettlement programme. A pool of around 25 to 30 prisoners is available for work. Prisoners can train for National Vocational Qualifications level 1 and level 2 in either of the coffee shops. The standard of cleanliness in the kitchen is high and the food served is often complimented on by the prisoners.

12.4 There are regular Food Consultative Meetings, which are attended by staff and prisoner representatives. The menus operate on a "pre-selection" basis and are refreshed on a four-week cycle. There is a modern bakery, which provides a wide variety of products to the canteen, and also to the interior and exterior coffee shops.

12.5 A member of the Board visits the kitchen each week, where they have the opportunity to inspect and taste the food. They have generally found the choice to be good and the food appetizing and of good quality. There have been few complaints from the prisoners.

13 Work of the Board

BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended Complement of Board Members	8
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	7
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within reporting period	2
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Prison	176
Total number of Segregation reviews held	0
Total number of segregation reviews attended	0
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	1/10/2015

IMB APPLICATIONS

Code	Subject	Jan – Dec 2013	Jan – Dec 2014	Jan – Dec 2015
A	Accommodation			
B	Adjudications			
C	Equality & Diversity (inc Religion)			
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	1	1	1
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	2		1
E 2	Finance/pay			
F	Food/Kitchen related			
G	Health related			
H 1	Property (within current prison)			2
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another prison)		5	
H 3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue Shopping, Argos			
I	Sentence Related (inc HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re cat etc	2	2	5
J	Staff/prisoner concerns inc bullying			
K	Transfers			
L	Miscellaneous		1	2

Total number of IMB applications	5	9	11
Of total the number of IMB Confidential Access was:	0	0	0

In addition to the above, the Board dealt with verbal “on the hoof” applications. These numbered 25 during the year and covered the following topics:

Accommodation	2
Equality/Diversity	1
Education/employment/training	5
Family visits	1
Food/Kitchen	1
Healthcare	2
Property in prison	2
Sentence related, ROTL etc	4
Prisoner concerns	2
Miscellaneous	5

Relationships between Board members and prison staff have been invariably positive and constructive at all levels. The Board is very grateful for the accommodation and clerical support, particularly from two very helpful job-sharing clerks, which enables the Board to operate effectively.

This report is the work of the Board as a whole with different sections drafted by different members of the Board.

For and on behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Kirklevington Grange

Nick Flight
Chair
March 2016