



HMP USK & PRESCOED

Annual Report

2015 / 2016

JUNE 2016

Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act of 1952 and Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent Board, appointed by the Home Secretary / Minister for Justice, 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 concerns 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 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 prison records.

Section 2

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Section 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.0 HMP Usk and Prescoed is located on three sites. HMP Usk is a Category C prison in the town of Usk, HMP Prescoed is a Category D prison in the area of Prescoed, and the Cilwrgi prison farm is a few miles away at Coed-y-paen. Some of the prisoners from Prescoed work on the farm. Prisoners at Usk and Prescoed are supported by Personnel Officers, Case workers, a Psychology Department, a Substance Misuse team, the Chaplaincy, a Healthcare Department and a Resettlement Team.

Healthcare offers a day care facility at Usk and Prescoed, but there are no beds for in-patients. HMP Usk and Prescoed have libraries and gymnasiums, and Prescoed also has a multi-faith chapel.

3.1 HMP Usk opened in 1844 and is an old-fashioned building with three main wings fanning out from a central control point. It last hanged a prisoner in 1961, and housed Rudolph Hess for part of the Second World War. It is now a male Category C prison holding vulnerable prisoners: the majority are sex offenders. The Certified Notional Accommodation (CNA) was raised from 266 to 276 in 2015. The Sex Offenders Treatment Programme (SOTP) is available to all inmates, and there is a thriving Education Department.

The objectives of the prison are to hold prisoners securely and safely, and to provide a well-ordered establishment where prisoners are treated humanely and with decency and respect. The structured regime is intended to prepare prisoners for a safe release, and reduce the risk of re-offending. There are carpentry, bricklaying and plastering workshops at HMP Usk.

3.2 HMP Prescoed is situated in open country on the site of a previous Young Offenders Institution which opened in 1939, about three miles from Usk. It is now a Category D resettlement prison and the CNA rose from 230 to 260 by 2015. The regime at Prescoed is designed to rehabilitate and educate through a structured sentence plan and resettlement plan; and to promote the reduction in risk of prisoners re-offending when they return to their communities. Opportunities exist for education, training and work placements, and resources are allocated to the resettlement of prisoners. The established regime at Prescoed has included a range of industries and activities and continues today as it looks to increase the number of suitable work placements.

The Board can report that during the period there were very few absconds and ROTL failures. This reflects a success rate of which the prison is naturally proud, particularly when considering how many temporary licences are issued each year. All prisoners who abscond are returned to closed conditions. Other unauthorised absences are subject to the adjudication process and robust action is taken (e.g. loss of privileges).

3.3 Cwilgiri farm consists of 460 acres, of which 160 acres are woodland, plus a variety of outbuildings. The farm has a thriving milk herd and a flock of chickens. There are a number of training opportunities for prisoners, e.g. milking parlour, herd management, animal husbandry, arable farming, sawmill activities, basic skills on farm machinery. On average there are between 15 and 25 prisoners working and training on the farm every day. Following the last reporting period

there have been changes in the management of the farm, a horticultural officer has been appointed and improvements in the greenhouses including poly tunnels have been put in place and the prospects for training at the farm are much improved. The farm is designated an area of Special Scientific Interest (SSI).

Section 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 4.1 The senior management changes and shortfall in some positions has been of concern both in communication with the board and in pushing forward planned developments within the prison.
- 4.2 The success of the Farm in both horticulture and training for employment has been a highlight this year.
- 4.3 Involvement in the Substance Misuse course by the prisoners, trainers and outside agencies seems to be resulting in positive outcomes. The board hope that any funding required for this project is given consideration.
- 4.4 The board are continuing to recruit new members. A successful campaign has been run with initially some 16 applicants. It is hoped that our agreed numbers will be in place by the autumn 2016.

Section 5

EQUALITY & INCLUSION

During this year an Equalities Officer has been employed. Covering both USK and PRESCOED. Quarterly diversity and equality meetings have taken place. The meetings have been chaired by various prison governors and prisoner representatives have attended from both USK and PRESCOED, the latter being accompanied by a governor grade from that establishment. It is unfortunate that the attendance of representatives of Healthcare, Catering and Learning and Skills are hardly ever present in spite of the Chair giving an assurance at every meeting of their future attendance.

The committee manages and monitors matters which relate to the equal treatment of prisoners and the equalities officer presents a report to each meeting. The IMB member is invited and prisoner reps. attend from minority groups within the population. Their reps. are relevant and constructive. Matters are discussed which have occurred during the intervening period between meetings. Management decisions and follow up action points are taken and, where possible improvements are agreed.

The equalities officer has organised a comprehensive and successful rolling programme of diversity forums at USK. Attempts have been made to offer Prescoed prisoners the opportunity of participation in 'drop in' forums but to little avail.

Equality issues are recorded and monitored by the equalities officer but where a discrimination incident reports [DIRF] has been received it has been dealt with by the equalities officer who refers the report to an investigating member of senior staff and responds findings their behalf. All such reports have been monitored and signed by the appropriate member of the IMB.

Section 6

EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS

1. The Manager was on secondment to NOMS in Wales HQ to explore the extent of the Welsh Language Scheme implementation in prisons and probation. July 2015 – February 2016. Reports and action plans were produced for each prison including Parc prison and the probation LDUs.
2. On return from secondment the department conducted a curriculum review taking into account the views of the learners and the staff. The curriculum has been refreshed to best meet the needs of the learners and the expertise of the staff.
3. The annual Self - Assessment Report (SAR) was completed in April 2016 and submitted to the Welsh Government as part of the quality assurance process.
4. A participatory management group has been formed comprising two staff members along with four learners. This is in the early stages but it is hoped that by involving learners in the management process we will better meet the needs of the prison population.
5. Shannon Trust Reading Scheme continues to be a success and the 121 maths charity which runs along similar lines to the Shannon Trust is also very successful in Usk.
6. We had a lovely St David's day art and craft competition.
7. Staff sickness has been high which impacts on the delivery as there are no spare staff to cover classes.
8. The barbering tutor has resigned so we are enabling a prisoner managed service to continue offering barbering at Prescoed. A meeting with Coleg Gwent staff to provide C&G qualifications for the prisoners will take place.
9. An assurance visit from NOMS in Wales was conducted recently and there will be a resulting action plan to rectify identified gaps.

Section 7

HEALTH CARE

The IMB is an active member of the Partnership Board between Anuerin Bevan Health Board and Usk & Prescoed Prisons. Whilst maintaining an observational role the IMB is often called upon to voice an independent perspective on topics under discussion. It has been noticeable that various elements of health care have developed over the past year in response to a changing prison population. In Usk, particularly, the prisoner population is ageing and with that goes associated health care needs i.e asthma, hyper tension, mobility issues and many more. Because there is no full time health care provision at the prison[s], hospital admissions are sometimes necessary. This requires an escort of two prison officers at all times, which has a significant impact on the general prison regime, often resulting in increased time in cell.

Considerable work is ongoing in the introduction of a no smoking policy within the prisons. Usk has been piloting the management of introducing the new policy within the Welsh estate. In addition,

there is a multi-agency approach being adopted to prepare the prisons for the new Social Care Legislation.

Considering there is such a climate of change within the prison, healthcare staff provide a very good service with the limited resources they have. During the year changes to the Physiotherapist service [brought in house], diabetes, blood bone scanning and a drive on MMR for those born after 1970 have been introduced.

The needs of outworkers and the possibility of a 7day service are anticipated in the future.

Section 8

PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

At the three sites the programme of purposeful activity has continued.

The training opportunities introduced by the farm manager have proven popular. Particularly JCB and fork lift training which are seen as very useful by prisoners in securing employment upon release. The chance to gain skills in animal husbandry and arable upkeep continues to make the farm a valuable training resource.

At Prescoed there will be further gardening opportunities now the poly tunnels have been erected. This sits alongside the work done in the kitchens and it's links to the Clinks restaurant in Cardiff.

As a result of the implementation of the core day at USK, activities now include: band, choir, one to one, walking football, veterans, turning pages [help with reading], and a religious group.

Section 9

RESETTLEMENT

During the last 12 months the prison has been involved in the successful introduction of the new ROTL regulations. This initially resulted in a reduction in numbers working out in the community due to a time lag with the increased length of initial 'lie down' when arriving at Prescoed. Numbers working out in the community have now risen back to the pre ROTL changes level with around 100 to 115 working out at any given time [77 unpaid/voluntary and 28 paid].

They continue to work successfully with the Clink restaurant in HMP Cardiff and there has been some success with prisoners moving on to paid work opportunities from this placement.

There are now have six sizeable employers taking prisoners for work trial which leads on to paid work if the outcome is successful and there is a large number of prisoners in one off paid jobs which they intend to continue on release. The figures for self-declared employment on release remains high

During the last 12 months the prison has engaged with several outside employers on a voluntary basis supporting Restorative Justice/Restorative Practice type placements including the police,

Kaleidoscope and Drug aid and there are now a number of prisoners working in this field on a voluntary and training basis.

Formal application procedures for paid work with the prison's company links have been introduced. This has been done in coordination with Learning and Skills who facilitate the prisoners completing CVs and applications and then forward them to the prison electronically so they can be sent out to employers.

Section 10

SECURITY

An IMB member attends security meetings at both Usk and Prescoed prisons. There are functional meetings with representatives from a range of departments within the establishments and considers the security implications of all activities that are undertaken. A recent security audit was satisfactory and showed no significant causes for concern regarding operational issues. Liaison with Gwent Police is an important part of these meetings and relevant information is exchanged. Close observation, by the IMB, would suggest that despite the different nature of both prisons, there are no significant causes for concern regarding security at Usk or Prescoed. The security objectives are

- 1] Escape/Abscond/ROTL issues
- 2] Disorder Control
- 3] Crime Reduction
- 4] Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco
- 5] Public Protection
- 6] Commodities
- 7] Terrorism/Extremism

CONTINGENCY PLANS

Both Usk and Prescoed hold a full range of contingency plans. Usk particularly have a well ordered system with up to date documentation which is exercised from time to time. The IMB is invited to attend the contingency exercisers.

SAFER CUSTODY (USK)

Monthly meetings are held to promote all issues related to safer custody. Representatives from the Samaritans, Listener Group, Buddy Scheme, the IMB and officers attend the meetings. The introduction of the Buddy Scheme is proving to be particularly helpful to older prisoners or those with disabilities. There are approx. 18/20 prisoners supported with a variety of tasks, e.g. assisted to health care, collect canteen deliveries, cells cleaned. help with mobility and meals delivery. All activities are recorded and monitored.

During the past 12 months' listeners have spent an average of 63 hours per month assisting prisoners. Their range of support is also extensive and includes prisoners experiencing suicidal thoughts, self-harming, bullying etc. due to other pressures within the prison there is no longer a listeners' suite at Usk which is a facility that is missed by listeners and prisoners alike.

Both the listeners group and the buddy scheme provide a valuable support for prisoners at Usk. The IMB commend the work they do but will continue to monitor that they do not assume any responsibilities that should be carried out by staff.

SEGREGATION

As a prison catering for Vulnerable Prisoners and Sex Offenders, Usk does not support a Segregation Unit.

Section 11

Residential Services.

Food. Food is prepared and cooked for both prison sites at Prescoed. Six staff members and up to 22 prisoners in the kitchen. Currently the prisoners are conscientious and attend but other groups have been less so and this can adversely affect service levels. Staff appear motivated to provide the best meals possible within the budget provided and integrate with the prisoners with respect and fairness. The board monitors the kitchen weekly.

There have been significant food quality issues in the past. In May 2015 the Governor made a point of addressing this and ordered:

A peer review from the catering manager at HMP Cardiff.

An internal review of catering management.

Since these evaluations have been actioned there has been a general improvement in the quality of the meals provided and complaints have decreased in both number and vigour. The new 'All Wales' 5 choice pre-ordered menu has been provided since May 2015.

There is still occasional lapse. Two examples:

Insufficient lunch time food being delivered to HMP Usk causing long delays. (June 2015). It was illuminating to note that this problem was overcome with humour by both Usk Prison staff and inmates - suggestive of the quality of relationships at this prison. (March 2016) Exceedingly small sausages provided a number of complaints. In fact, this appears to be a problem caused by purchasing directives outside the hands of local staff. The sausages were bought from a standard approved list but on cooking were found to contain large quantities of water and fat. This resulted in them shrinking significantly before they were served to prisoners.

Other points of note:

Prisoners are able to work for NVQs whilst working in the kitchen and staff are keen to help.

Regular tasting and feedback sessions involving five or six prisoners are being introduced.

Catering department conditions. The Prescoed kitchen is approximately two years old. There have been numerous teething problems which the installer Kier have been glacially slow in addressing. Whilst this has now (as of March 2016) been made good, corrective work was hindered by the contractor not accepting responsibility under warranty. For example:

A defective drain cover in the food preparation area that presented clear Health/Safety and Liability issues was only partly resolved following a site meeting. Several unsatisfactory but rapidly disintegrating “temporary repairs” were made.

Drain covers in front of hot ovens that could cause staff and prisoners to stumble.

The IMB will continue to monitor the condition of the kitchen and the repairs on a weekly basis.

Buildings: Usk is a 19th Century radial prison despite this it is generally well maintained, clean and tidy. It is unfortunate that its current utilisation does not permit prisoners to eat communally.

Buildings: Prescoed is a modern open prison. Overall the nine, single story units, are well maintained. The other, the double story Lester Unit, has a shabbier appearance and a limited number of showers (4 for 40 prisoners) which the Board are informed are often blocked and one of which often fails to work.

At the point of writing (5.5.2016) Ford unit has been without hot water for approximately four weeks. This results in prisoners needing to use the showers in other units.

Section 12

USK PROGRAMMES

The full range of sex offender programmes are delivered at USK.

A new programme aimed at those prisoners in denial or are on IPP sentences is being introduced called The Horizon Programme.

Prescoed Programmes

The continuation of the Substance Misuse programme at Prescoed leading to formal qualifications at level 3 city and guilds is proving to be a considerable success. So far the course has run twice with some 24 individuals taking part and 20 having completed the course and achieved a City and Guilds qualification. A further 5 completed a counselling course. Since completing the course 6 individuals have been released back into the community of which 5 are now in full time employment with 3 of them volunteering in local drug and alcohol services. To date there is no evidence of recidivism. Of those remaining 2 are on placement with the local YOT, 1 on placement with a youth project, 1 on placement with the local magistrates' court, 3 on placement with a local drug treatment centre, and others awaiting placement opportunity. A questionnaire completed by the course members was very complimentary in all aspects.

Section 13

TIME OUT OF CELL

This has reduced of late due to the number of escorts going out due to ill health concerns resulting in more lock ups.

USK

PRESCOED

08.00hrs - 18.00hrs

Free movement from 06.00hrs Roll Check
Return to own Unit by 22.00hrs

Section 14

EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE

- 1] The continuation of family days and visitor improvements has been welcomed and appreciated by the prisoners.
- 2] The completion of the poly tunnels has considerably enhanced the opportunities in the horticultural area both for prisoners and the running of the prison
- 3] The success of the Drug and Alcohol course at Prescoed has enhanced chances for the large amount of prisoners historically involved in substance misuse

Section 15

AREAS OF CONCERN

1. It is still of concern that prisoners at USK have to eat meals in their cells. No areas for communal dining can be identified
2. The involvement of all sections at the prison in issues of Equality and Inclusion will be actively encouraged in the next reporting year.
3. The development of a 7-day Health Care System within the prisons will become a priority with the Social Care Legislation being developed and the ageing population at Usk
4. Changes to reduce the frequency of 'lie downs' at Usk will be encouraged and monitored.
5. Overall, The Board has no serious concerns with the way that Usk and Prescoed functions.

Section 16

<u>BOARD STATISTICS</u>	
Recommended Complement of the Board	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	1
Number of Board Meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	344
Total number of Segregation Reviews	N/A
Total number of Segregation Reviews attended	N/A
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	Nov 2015

Applications to the IMB during the reporting period

CODE	SUBJECT	YEAR
A	Accommodation	0
B	Adjudications	0
C	Equality & Diversity (inc. religion)	0
D	Education/ employment/training	2
E1	Family / Visits inc mail & phone	0
E2	Finance / Pay	2
F	Food / Kitchen related	4
G	Health related	1
H1	Property within current establishment	2
H2	Property during transfer in in other establishment	2
H3	Canteen, facilities, catalogue shopping, Argos	0
I	Sentence related. (ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc	9
J	Staff/ Prisoner concerns inc bullying	4
K	Transfers	1
L	Miscellaneous	8
	Total number of IMB Applications	35
	Of total – number of Confidential Access was	12