



HMP Sudbury

Annual Report

June 2015 – May 2016

Section 1

Statutory Role of the Independent monitoring Board:-

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre (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.

This Board known as the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) is specifically charged 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 preparing them for release.
- Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- 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.

In enabling the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner, every part of the prison and to prison records, with the exception of individual medical records unless specifically granted in writing by each individual.

Section 2

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Section 3

Description of HMP Sudbury

HMP Sudbury was originally built as a United States Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during World War II. It was converted to a prison during 1948 and is situated in a rural landscape of some 43 acres on the Derbyshire and Staffordshire border just off the A50 to the west of Derby.

Most of the original single story accommodation is still in use but has been converted and refurbished and in some instances replaced to provide single and double rooms. Additional accommodation has been provided in recent years. There is a small secure accommodation unit.

The wings were originally built as temporary structures not intended to last for more than 70 years and as a consequence are difficult and expensive to maintain.

HMP Sudbury is a designated category 'D' male establishment for sentenced prisoners with an operational capacity of some 581 including one foreign national prisoner.

The establishment caters for those who are in the latter stages of their sentence by specialising in the prisoners' rehabilitation and resettlement in preparation for their release into the community, and to reduce the likelihood of their re-offending. As part of this process on average **19%** work out within the community on a daily basis as part of their rehabilitation and resettlement programme, on a paid or unpaid basis

During 2016 HMP Sudbury has provided accommodation for a small group of Young Adult Offenders (18-21) - twenty four at the end of the period covered by this report. These bring with them differing challenges which is being well addressed.

Section 4

Executive Summary:-

In the opinion of the Board, HMP Sudbury is a well run prison providing a positive environment for most prisoners despite limited budget, limited staff numbers and the age and condition of its accommodation. New initiatives are in hand to improve the look and feel of the prison and work is planned – subject always to financial constraints – to address the areas most in need of refurbishment.

Equality and diversity are well supported and most prisoners feel safe at Sudbury though there has been an increase in bullying related to prison debt. This is being addressed by the prison management where protagonists can be identified and initiatives like providing resident-only door locks on wings (to stop others from using that wing for smuggling) are being adopted.

The importation of drugs, alcohol and mobile phones – generally by parcels being left at the perimeter – continues to be a challenge for prison staff. Where possible offenders are apprehended in the act, though the small number of staff on duty at night makes this difficult. Intelligence-led searches are effective and offenders are returned to secure accommodation. Until recently NPS has been the major problem and it remains to be seen how the new legislation will affect this.

Education is well provided for with a range of vocational courses providing routes into employment post release including bricklaying, plastering and railway track-work.

Healthcare has been patchy with unacceptable waiting lists for some services such as dentistry, and the use of agency nurses and locum doctors has further compromised provision. There has also been a lack of a healthcare provision at weekends and in the evenings to serve prisoner working out. These are issues are being effectively addressed by the new healthcare provider (since April 2016).

There is no facility for vulnerable prisoners or those with mental health problems at Sudbury and these prisoners have to be accommodated in the Secure Accommodation Unit which is unsuitable for this purpose despite the best efforts of its staff. The board remains concerned at the lack of mental health support, especially as the incidence of mental health problems appears to be increasing in the prison population.

Questions to the Minister:-

Will the Minister authorise a review of staffing levels at Sudbury with a view to providing adequate resources to address the import of contraband articles?

Questions to the Prison Service:-

The board believes that there needs to be additional investment in HMP Sudbury to enable prisoners who require support with mental health care to remain at the prison in an environment which is conducive to their well-being.

Section 5

5.1. Diversity:-

Diversity and Race Equality

5.1.1 HMP Sudbury is compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

5.1.2 The Discrimination Incident Reporting system is in place and ongoing progress is monitored. Complaints are dealt with at the lowest possible management level to speed up response times.

5.1.3 The Board have observed that very little general discrimination has taken place in Sudbury in relation to the protected factors and the few complaints that have been made have generally not been upheld. This area is actively monitored through the applications process and reviews.

5.1.4 There have been no reports to the board regarding diversity or race equality over the reporting period.

5.2. Learning & Skills:-

5.2.1 Milton Keynes College provides education and vocational training classes. They can only offer courses up to L2 because of funding, but prisoners can access higher levels through release to college or distance learning courses which they can access through the library.

5.2.2 Prisoners with literacy and numeracy skills below L1 are strongly encouraged to attend courses in reading and number as these are a prerequisite to accessing other training.

5.2.3 Many courses are over-subscribed but the department maintains a register of interest to ensure fairness of access when places become available. There is a good range of courses (14 at L1 and 17 at L2). Courses for the construction industry are particularly popular, and some courses (IT; Web Design; Furniture Restoration and Virtual Campus) are available in the evenings so that prisoners working outside the prison can attend.

5.2.4 Courses are integrated into prison life - for example, prisoners working in the mess are managed by a tutor who supports their learning and assessment. Prisoners working in the dining-room are given specialist classes in baking and bread-making to improve their skills. There is a clear progression route from L1 Catering in the Dining Room, to L2 which can be achieved through working in the mess.

5.2.5 The Railway Track Work course is very popular because it gives access to well-paid employment and has a good record for employing trained prisoners on

release – 27% of prisoners enrolled were subsequently employed in track work during the period.

5.2.6 The Library has a good range of books in a variety of languages as well as newspapers, periodicals and DVDs. It is well used for private study (using the IT provision) and reading, and offers a good range of children's books for use in the 'story books dads' scheme.

5.3. Healthcare:-

5.3.1 The board monitors the health care provision within the prison benchmarking it against that provided in the community to ensure equality of care to prisoners

5.3.2 Health care services for the majority of the reporting year were provided by Derbyshire Health United and Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, the latter providing mental health services. The health care contract was awarded to Care UK in April 2016.

5.3.3 The delivery of health care services has been challenged in this reporting year with only 2 full time employed nurses in post, supported by agency staff as well as the increased usage of locum doctors. Whilst no criticism is levelled at the quality of care and commitment provided by agency nurses and locum doctors, all would have required a workplace induction, training on local clinical pathways as well as the need to be escorted until they are given security clearance to draw keys, resulting in less time spent on care delivery. Despite these challenges health care staff have provided quality care and continued to implement changes and processes to improve delivery and access. There was limited health care provision at the weekend.

5.3.4 All prisoners are screened for physical and mental health needs as well as substance misuse within two hours of arrival at Sudbury.

5.3.5 Concern has been raised by the Board that the induction process for new prisoners may not be as robust for prisoners who are transferred to Sudbury late in the week. Failure by the transferring prison to send an adequate supply of medication to cover the weekend has been highlighted and is being monitored.

5.3.6 Health Care provides specialised clinics covering chronic disease management such as diabetes, cardio-vascular, respiratory etc. Prisoners also have access to podiatrists, optician and physiotherapy.

5.3.7 Access to mental health services for prisoners presenting with acute onset of symptoms or rapidly deteriorating mental health status concerns the board. Such prisoners are often cared for in the Secure Accommodation Unit which is not in the Board's opinion a suitable environment for someone who is suffering from an acute psychotic episode, but it is the only choice open to staff. There remains also a delay in being able to access psychiatric assessment and transfer to an appropriate hospital unit. However the Board wishes to commend the prison staff in the care that they have provided for several prisoners including one in an acute mental health crisis and a terminally ill prisoner. Their support with compassion and empathy was

recognized by fellow prisoners resulting in letters of praise of the staff from prisoners to the governor. The new provider plans to employ a full time mental health nurse.

5.3.8 Health staff report an overall reduction in “Did not attend” (DNA) appointments. This has been achieved by the implementation of health champions, buddies and the involvement of staff in notifying and reminding prisoners of their appointments in a timely manner. Currently DNA appointments with a GP average 7% whilst DNA appointments with the nurse average 9.3% per month. DNA hospital appointments occur very infrequently as a result of forward planning.

5.3.9 Like many prisons Sudbury has seen an increase in NPS (New Psychoactive Substances) usage resulting in the need for intervention by both health and operational staff. Prisoners who are not transferred directly to hospital are usually managed in the Secure Accommodation Unit for their own safety. Along with the increased usage of NPS is the use of steroids, which despite security surveillance has increased. Much work has been done to educate prisoners on the side effects of steroids which has been delivered in the main by staff and prisoners working within the gym setting.

5.3.10 The Board has attended two deaths in custody in this reporting year, both deaths were unexpected. Post mortem findings have yet to be released.

5.3.11 The Board is pleased to report that the new health providers “Care UK” have, within a month of securing the contract, commenced a recruitment campaign to fill vacant positions, and are actively addressing any shortcomings they have highlighted including working on improving waiting times and DNA rates as well as an improvement in medicine management and access to mental health services. Smoking cessation clinics have been planned by the new health provider and will be delivered by dedicated staff to ensure compliance following the publication by Public Health England on “Reducing Smoking in Prisons: Management of Tobacco Use and Nicotine Withdrawal”

5.4. Safer Custody:-

5.4.1 NPS is a problem in Sudbury with a number of worrying examples of prisoners’ health being severely affected. Sudbury has a long perimeter fence that cannot be effectively policed at night through lack of staff, and regular finds of NPS, alcohol, phones, etc. are made, often following intelligence received.

5.4.2 There is a worrying level of bullying of prisoners, understood to be related to prison debt, that drives often reluctant prisoners to “do the perimeter run” – collecting contraband thrown over the perimeter at night.

5.4.3 The Board notes that a small number of prisoners are moved into the Secure Accommodation Unit at their own request. These requests are often linked to bullying as a result of debt within the prison.

5.5. Secure Accommodation Unit

5.5.1 There is no segregation unit at Sudbury. There is a Secure Accommodation Unit with two cells, one short-time holding room and no exercise facility. It does not meet Category C technical specifications, but all secure accommodation in open prisons is currently subject to national review. It is unusual for a prisoner to be held in the SAU for a period in excess of 24 hours. Most prisoners who are found guilty on adjudication of a significant breach are returned to closed conditions as soon as is logistically possible.

5.5.2 There have only been 2 x 72hr reviews at Sudbury during the reporting year.

5.5.3 Where individuals have been kept in SAU for their own protection or for mental health problems, the SAU staff have been notable in the excellent way in which their charges are kept.

5.6 Use of Force

5.6.1 There were 57 incidents of Use of Force during the period with 54 requiring the use of cuffs. Where Use of Force has been witnessed by board members, the correct procedures have been followed and minimum force used to ensure compliance.

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

6.1.1 The site was built as a temporary structure in the 1940 and much of the original accommodation is still in use. A programme of improvements has included the provision of new double glazed windows but the Board continues to raise concerns regarding rooms in the accommodation blocks that are damp.

6.1.2 The age and condition of the accommodation often comes as a shock to prisoners newly arriving in Sudbury who generally expect their move to open conditions to be accompanied by an improvement in their accommodation experience. Prisoners have commented about this to board members and their morale and motivation are sometimes adversely affected.

6.1.3 Ongoing budgetary constraints show up in the communal areas such as showers and W.C.s which, whilst generally functioning, are in urgent need of refurbishment and re-decoration. Similarly the main corridor is depressingly scruffy despite the best efforts of prison staff. Work is now planned in these areas but will as always be subject to budgetary constraints.

6.1.4 Since 1st June 2015 maintenance for the prison has been undertaken by AMEY under its national contract. There appear to have been more and longer delays in getting issues dealt with compared with the previous in-house provision.

6.1.5 Vermin infestation has caused damage to the prison infrastructure. The age of the buildings and a habit of prisoners feeding them (throwing rubbish and waste food out of cell windows and general uncleanliness etc.) makes this difficult to address.

6.2 Induction

6.2.1 The Board has received complaints about the process of induction. Some newly arriving prisoners have felt that they were given inadequate information and often left to themselves to find out about things like visits, transfer of canteen, etc.

6.2.2 In fact each new arrival is given a printed booklet which strives to address these first-night questions - this is presently being reviewed for completeness. The introduction of a Prisoner Information Desk, staffed by prisoners, is likely to further mitigate this problem

6.2.3 There remains a stubborn perception that prisoners arriving late on Fridays have a worse outcome than those arriving earlier in the week. Hard data would appear to show that this is not so.

6.3 Prisoners

6.3.1 Approximately 6% of the current population are serving a life sentence. A further 9% are serving ISPP sentences. These long serving prisoners' behaviour tends to be a stable influence amongst the general population.

6.3.2 Young Adult Offenders are now being accommodated at HMP Sudbury.

6.4 Kitchen

6.4.1 The kitchen continues to provide a good standard of food and to cater sensitively for different religious and ethnic groups. A Comments/Complaints book is maintained in the dining hall and few complaints are registered. The Board has received no complaints in respect of food. Members regularly taste the food on offer and have found it to be good.

6.4.2 The Board particularly notes a recent development where, at times of celebration, groups of prisoners from the same group (e.g. Sikhs) are encouraged and allowed to cook their own festival foods. This is being trialled in 2016.

6.4.3 The main Dining Hall shows signs of ongoing vermin infestation despite eradication attempts. This is difficult to overcome given the age and condition of the building.

6.5 Chaplaincy

6.5.1 HMP Sudbury has a multi-purpose, multi-faith centre within the prison. It is open during the hours of unlock and is wheelchair accessible.

6.5.2 The Head of Chaplaincy is supported by permanent and sessional chaplains of other faiths. There is an ongoing vacancy for a CoE chaplain.

6.5.3 The department passed a recent audit with an Amber-Green reflecting a considerable improvement within the facility following a failure in the previous year.

6.5.4 Individual faiths and religious festivals are well catered for, with members of staff attending services and celebrations with the prisoners. Food is often a central point on these occasions and considerable effort is made by the catering and chapel staff to comply with religious requirements

6.6 Resettlement

6.6.1 Resettlement is a priority area for Sudbury as a Category D prison.

6.6.2 Many prisoners work outside the establishment, and training courses are geared to future employment prospects, with training courses for shortage skills areas such as construction proving a popular offer.

6.6.3 Courses leading to a track-working qualification are offered to prisoners nearing the end of their sentence with excellent prospects of well-paid employment on release.

6.6.4 The current contract with Whirlodale, involving pallet making, is due to expire but discussions are underway to negotiate a new contract with Widdowsons, which will offer enhanced possibilities to the prisoners and the prison. A contact with Marks & Spencer offers prisoners a range of skills. Boots employed a number of prisoners in the run up to Christmas, packing seasonal products.

6.6.5 The prison is proactive in building new relationships with prospective employers, and has undertaken exploratory work with a number of organisations to add to the existing range.

6.6.6 The prison is developing more engaging Family Days, to facilitate more contact between fathers and children by providing other activities for mothers.

6.6.7 Resettlement is working to introduce Sequencing so that a prisoner's Skills Action Plan is produced prior to their Sentence Plan and is taken into account when the latter is drawn up. This will ensure that prisoners are better prepared for release, and that their time improving their education and skills is optimised over what remains of their sentence. The current Resettlement Programme can only manage a maximum of 150 placements and these are targeted at prisoners with the poorest prospect of employment on release, meaning that prisoners with a good employment record pre-sentence and a job offer post-sentence can often not be catered for. A 'Pipeline for Employment' is to be introduced for each employment route to facilitate sentence planning in the run-up to release.

Section 7 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board

7.1. Board Statistics:-

Recommended Complement of Board Members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	5
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within reporting period	1
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	213
Total number of applications received	28

7.2 Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

Code	Subject	2015/16
A	Accommodation	1
B	Adjudications	0
C	Diversity related	0
D	Education/employment/training	2
E	Finance / Pay	3
F	Food/kitchen related	0
G	Health related	5
H	Property	5
H3	Canteen	2
I	Sentence related/HDC &home visits	5
J	Staff/Prisoner Related	1
K	Transfers	1
L	Miscellaneous *	3
	Total number of applications	28

* *Miscellaneous includes: - Home Detention Curfew, Home Visits, Prison Rules & External Probation Departments.*