



HER MAJESTY'S PRISON
SWANSEA

ANNUAL REPORT
2015 – 2016

Covering period end May 2015 – end May 2016

Section 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 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.

SECTION 2

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SECTION 3 Description of the Prison

3.1 Her Majesty's Prison Swansea is a Category B local Prison, holding adult males and young adults. It is a traditional Victorian prison in an inner city location. Adult prisoners have either been remanded into custody from the courts while they await trial, or are convicted prisoners generally serving less than two years. The young adults are all remand prisoners.

3.2 HMP. Swansea was built in 1861 to accommodate 219 prisoners and the residential block is structurally unchanged although modernisation and upgrading has taken place. A new Wing, G Wing was opened in September 2015, adding another 60 places. However, due to the ever increasing prison population, the current operational capacity of Swansea is 515. Most cells accommodate two prisoners, however there are a few cells accommodating three along with a small number of single cells.

3.3 Respect for individuals is paramount. Relationships between staff and prisoners are central to the wellbeing of the prison. All members of staff play a vital role in maintaining a stable and above all, safe environment. The aim of the prison, through the varied and positive programmes and activities available, is to enable prisoners to address and thus reduce their offending and to assist with resettlement. This is achieved through effective partnerships with a wide range of statutory, private and voluntary organisations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

4.1.1 The Board is pleased to note that progress has been maintained over the year by the Equalities Team.

4.1.2 It is pleasing that attendance at meetings continues to improve and that all areas and disciplines within the establishment are represented. .

4.1.3 The appointment of a Case Manager has had a positive effect on the wellbeing of the increasing number of prisoners with disabilities in the prison.

4.1.4 Unfortunately, the lack of an independent immigration officer in the establishment has led to problems with the release of foreign nationals.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

4.2.1 The Department has had a good year in terms of performance, with all Welsh Government targets being achieved.

4.2.2 The Department continues to be an integral and valuable part of the prison regime with a number of innovative and stimulating initiatives being introduced during the year. The men are acquiring a range of skills which will be useful in the outside workplace.

4.2.3 It is very pleasing that the Virtual Learning Campus is now fully operational and delivering computer based initial literacy and numeracy assessments.

HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

4.3.1. Swansea Prison became a smoke free establishment from March 2016. The implementation was well planned and organised. However, the maintenance of the policy will be a considerable challenge.

4.3.2 Whilst the men have access to dentists, podiatrists, opticians and psychiatric services, it is disappointing to report once again that there can be lengthy waiting periods for dental and eye care. The Board again must express its concerns about access to optician and dental services..

4.3.3 Access to health care remains a source of many applications to the Board, second only to loss of property. These are usually quickly resolved with the assistance of the Head of Health Care and her team.

4.3.4 It is pleasing to report that excellent links have been established with the Homeless Nurse, the Mental Health and Vulnerable Housed Persons Outreach and local GPs.

4.3.5The Health Care Department has again been subject to a period of change which will result in the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg ULHB taking responsibility for the provision of these service.

PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

4.4.1 Continuous effort are being made to ensure there is gainful and purposeful activity for men and the efforts made by the prison is recognised by the Board.

RESETTLEMENT

4.5.1 The Board is very pleased that PACT Cymru continues to provide courses and to introduce a number of innovative and beneficial projects. The Board is concerned that the funding for PACT is due to cease in August 2017 and is very supportive of any initiative to find alternative sources of funding. The loss of these services would have a detrimental effect on the current model of delivery.

4.5.2 The Board is very pleased with the performance of the Community Rehabilitation Company programme and the service provided. The Board is concerned that one key element of the Reducing Reoffending Pathway may be adversely effected by new Welsh Government legislation on priority housing assessment.

SAFER CUSTODY

4.6.1. Last year the Board expressed concern around the processing of ACCT documents. It is pleasing therefore to report that increased training along with consistent quality assurance checks is bringing about positive change.

4.6.2 The Safer Custody Team has introduced a Smart Recovery course for men with mental health issues and are developing stronger links with a range of mental health agencies.

4.6.3 The Board continues to be concerned about the lack of suitable private interviewing space in the Induction Wing. It is unacceptable for men to be asked personal questions whilst sitting at a table on the wing landing where other men are milling about.

SEGREGATION SEPARATION AND CARE

4.7.1 In the last Annual Report, the Board highlighted issues where members were not being regularly informed about reviews. Although there has been some improvement, this has not been consistent. Consequently, the Board will continue to monitor accordingly. We feel it is vital in our role as truly Independent Monitors of this Establishment that we are informed about reviews.

4.7.2 The Board is always informed within 24 hours of moves to segregation. Board members are able to see and speak to each prisoner freely.

4.7.3 The number of adjudications continues to rise with the greatest increase being in drug related offences.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

4.8.1 The Board continues to be concerned about the overcrowding of the prison and the standard of basic facilities in the majority of cells, which include decoration and the lack of privacy curtains around toilets.

4.8.2 The Catering Department is well organised and well run, providing varied and appropriate selections of food, as evidenced by inspections carried out by NOMs Operational Services & Intervention Group and the City & County of Swansea Environmental Department, receiving the five star food hygiene rating.

4.8.3 The Catering Department continues to explore new ideas and respond to suggestions received from prisoner surveys and through the Wing Consultation Committee prisoner forum.

SECTION 5- THE REPORT

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

5.1.1 Equalities meetings are held every eight weeks and attendance at meetings continues to improve, with representation from all wings, Senior Management, Chaplain and Imam.

5.1.2 Discrimination Incident Report Forms (DIRF`S)/Complaints applications are available on all prison wings and the representatives of the men have been made aware of procedures. It has been noted that the number of DIRF`s have increased recently, although more could be done to promote them. Posters have been produced with the help of the Learning and Skills Department and are available on all wings. Equality questionnaires are being completed as part of the induction process.

5.1.3 There are Equality Representatives on all wings.

5.1.4 The Catering Department continues to provide facilities and food for Muslim prisoners during Ramadan. Feedback from prisoners about catering has been positive. The Catering Department has organised theme meals with a variety of Chinese and Indian food. Serving spoons and utensils have been kept in accordance with the religious beliefs of those who eat Halal food.

5.1.5 Equalities information/data is regularly published which includes the numbers men with learning difficulties, dyslexia, visual impairment and hearing difficulties

5.1.6 The men are being encouraged to use the library although attendance is variable mainly due to staff shortages and lack of motivation. Disabled men are given help with wheelchairs to attend the library.

5.1.7 Good progress continues to be made with the Smoking Cessation Policy. Advice on LGBT and condom use is available in the Health Care Department.

5.1.8 Foreign nationals and other prisoners who need assistance have been visited on two occasions by immigration officers and officers from UK Border Agency and are available at other times on email. However, there is no independent immigration officer in the establishment and this has led to significant problems with the release/transfer of a foreign national from this prison.

5.1.9 Welsh language provision is being organised and the use of Welsh encouraged.

5.1.10 In conclusion, the Case Manager and Officers have made considerable progress in maintaining a good quality of life for the men.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

5.2.1 Targets set down by the Welsh Government for 2015 -16 were all achieved and in some cases exceeded. The number of courses started during that year amounted to 3,636 which was 771 above the target. Two assurance visits by the Senior Commissioning Manager NOMS Wales and Welsh Government representatives overall were successful.

5.2.2 The Learning and Skills initial assessment process was moved to the main education department from workshop 5. This has proved a much more integrative experience as the men can join the library and gives the men a 'taste' of what education provision can offer them. The main department is a much more supportive environment especially for those who have just been received into the prison.

5.2.3 The Virtual Campus system is now being used to deliver the BKSB computer based initial literacy and numeracy assessments. Logging onto the VC system is still time consuming but this is being monitored. Careers Wales information for college and training courses are now accessible on the VC site. The computer based assessment the 'Do It Profiler' which will support the needs of those men with learning difficulties and disabilities is due to be installed by the end of August. This will assist staff in all areas to understand individual difficulties and how to help them.

5.2.4 Representatives from the National Prison Radio staff and the National Literacy Trust visited the department to record a book review of 'The Life of Pi' for the 'Books Unlocked' programme which goes out on prison radio each month. The men were given a copy of the book to read and then entered into a lively discussion on the merits of the text. It is hoped that this can be done again in the near future.

5.2.5 A community group of poets calling themselves 'Poets on the Hill' from Swansea, held a poetry workshop. One of the highlights of the event was a DVD recording specially made for Swansea from the renowned 'Dub' reggae poet Benjamin Zephaniah. A subsequent poetry competition after the event was judged by Benjamin himself.

5.2.6 Staffing in the department is not up to the benchmark of 8 teachers. A recruitment campaign is in place along with agency cover for maternity leave. To support the staffing issues a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) student is joining the department on a placement in September.

5.2.7 The library have set up a 'Work to Learn' pod which includes information on education/training course in the community. The uptake of the 'Reading Ahead Challenge' which requires the men to read six books and give reviews on each has increased in the last year. 132 men undertook the challenge and 83 completed and were awarded certificates and prizes.

5.2.8 The department is supporting a project through the Prisoners Education Trust (PET) which is looking at ways to enhance the experience of distance learning in prisons. This includes increasing the access to distance learning through providing support materials, increasing individual support and ultimately supporting the learner 'through the gate' after release. There are currently 5 men engaged in distance learning studying Interior Design, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Drug Counselling. One of the ex- distance learners has just been accepted as an undergraduate at Kent University.

5.2.9 There has been a great deal of collaborative work in the department in supporting the Smoke Free implementation. The Media Workshop produced leaflets, posters and displayed information on notice boards across the prison. The library staff were integral to the project and ensured there was a range of suitable texts accessible to all level of readers. Displays in the library were prominent to encourage the men during the introduction of the smoke free in March.

5.2.10 The Media Workshop continues to be innovative and creative. New learning packages include Digital Photography, Animation and Video Production. The applications for the prison are exciting.

5.2.11 The Shannon Trust Reading Plan continues to give good service to those men with reading difficulties. There are 10 accredited Shannon Trust peer mentors and a Mentor Co-ordinator.

5.2.12 The department continues to be an integral and valuable part of the prison regime.

HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

5.3.1 Swansea Prison became smoke free, in accordance with Government policy in March 2016 and in so doing became one of the first prisons in the

country to do so. The introduction of this policy was the subject of considerable apprehension. However, the implementation was well planned and organised, with the organisation of Smoking Cessation Classes, introduction of smoking alternatives such as patches and “vaping”, identification of “champions”, together with a positive education and information campaign involving the men and their families. There have been a number of issues with this introduction and one such issue involved men transferred to Swansea from other establishments that were not part of the smoke free regime and who had not been informed that they would be transferring to a non-smoking environment. There is no doubt that the introduction and maintenance of the policy remains a significant challenge to the establishment.

5.3.2 At the time of this report the Health Care Department has been again going through a period of change with the Local University Health Board, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg ULHB, due to take responsibility for the prison health care service as of 01 July 2016.

5.3.3 It must be noted that there is no inpatient facility at H.M.P. Swansea. Should the need arise the prison has the benefit of two local Health Board Hospitals, Morriston and Singleton. There is also a prisoner inpatient facility at H.M.P. Cardiff. There is a daily visit by a general practitioner.

5.3.4 Although prisoners have access to dentists, podiatrists, opticians and psychiatric services, there can be lengthy waiting periods for dental and eye care. The optician’s visits seem to be somewhat ad hoc, this has been the case for several years now, and appear to be determined by the number of prisoners on the waiting list.

5.3.5 Recently due to the unfortunate death of the prison Dentist waiting times slightly increased, but the prison made every effort to rectify this as soon as possible.

5.3.6 The health care team are kept very busy with a large part of the prison population on medication, as well as being involved with health care screening on arrival and involving themselves with ACCT documents and responding to medical emergencies within the prison.

5.3.7 Waiting times are not noted to be excessive in comparison to those in the community generally, however there are exceptions where people may have become a little lost in the referral system. This again is not unusual in the surrounding community health care provision, and not confined to health care in the prison solely.

5.3.8 Access to health care however is still a source of many applications to the Board, second only to loss of property. These are usually quickly resolved with explanation of where people are in the referral chain, and what they can expect. Health Care particularly the Head of Health Care are very helpful in resolving issues brought to them by the Board.

5.3.9 There are excellent links with the Homeless Nurse, and the Mental Health and Vulnerable Housed Persons Outreach, and to the doctors at the High St Surgery, Swansea where prisoners of NFA can attend on release.

5.3.10 The Prison also has its one in –reach mental health nurses, providing the link between psychiatric & forensic psychiatric services to those whom need this service. Regular attendance at the prison by forensic psychiatrists is arranged through them.

5.3.11 The Mental Health Homeless and Vulnerable Housed Persons Outreach Nurse also sits on the Prison Health Partnership Board. Health Care staff will liaise with the homeless team prior to release, informing them of treatments, and medication of the released prisoner, this has proven to be a very positive step in the majority of cases.

5.3.12 There is also access to the GP out of hour's service. There are regular visits from sexual health specialists. Waiting list times are similar to those in the community, arguably better at times to access GP, but can vary in time depending on the referral speciality.

PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

5.4.1 To complement the learning and skills initiatives, men are presented with the opportunity to carry out purposeful work in various areas. 22 men currently work in the Kitchen. After a two week basic hygiene course, they can not only work but can also gain a Level 1 and 2 NVQ. The Kitchen at HMP Swansea has consistently achieved a 5 star hygiene rating certificate.

5.4.2 The men are employed in a number of areas, as follows:-

- Clothing Exchange – 12 men
- Shop 1 Bicycles - 15 to 18 men
- Shop 2 Textiles - 15 men
- Shop 3 Textiles - 30 men
- Shop 4 BICS - 12 men
- CES Laundry - 15 men
- Recycling - 15 men

5.4.3 Performance NVQ's are being delivered within Shops 1, 3, 4 and CES with Hospitality NVQ's being delivered within CES and Recycling.

5.4.4 Two activities have ceased operations, firstly the stripping of wooden pallets and "plumbing".

5.4.5 Continuous efforts are being made by H.M.P. Swansea to ensure gainful and purposeful activity but, unfortunately and as previously highlighted, the prison continues to operate with three major drawbacks:-

1. Gateway is restricted to 7.5 tonne lorries (impacts transport cost)
2. Extremely limited storage space for storage of bulk and/or large items.
3. It's distant location to the West of Cardiff and Bridgend.

5.4.6 The Board we recognise the efforts made by the prison to ensure prisoners are gainfully and purposefully employed.

RESETTLEMENT

5.5.1 The aim of the resettlement team is to ensure all prisoners are prepared appropriately for their release and in doing so reduce offending behaviour. They play a vital part in obtaining employment for prisoners on release as well as providing practical support for those who request it.

5.5.2 With the introduction of the CRC programme , Community Rehabilitation Company taking over the Resettlement needs of the men, Performance targets have been changed and these are recorded against the Resettlement Performance matrix which is cascaded to the Head of Reducing Reoffending and the Governing Governor monthly. One key element of the Reducing Reoffending Pathway which has caused concern throughout the Region is the Welsh Governments new legislation on priority housing assessment. This having an adverse effect on the support the men can receive

5.5.3 PACT Cymru continue to provide a number of courses including one aimed at helping prisoners whose offences are related to domestic violence. There is also a baby group course aimed at providing fathers with practical parenting skills, and a course entitled Time for Families. A new initiative called “Every Visit Counts” is to be introduced, the aim of which is to ensure that visits are positive experiences for both prisoner and visitor. Officers will be trained to offer advice and support to those who wish to engage with them. They will also be trained to underpin the Safe Guard Programme for children. Funding for PACT is due to cease in August of 2017, and consideration is being given to alternative sources of funding. The loss of these services would have a detrimental effect on the current model of delivery.

5.5.4 The Community Rehabilitation Company, Working Links began working in the prison early in May 2015 with St Giles Trust commencing service provision in July 2015. At the time of reporting, there has been a seamless transition from HMPS staff managing the Resettlement Pathways to the CRC team managing them. They have integrated exceptionally well with both staff and the men.

SAFER CUSTODY

5.6.1 Since the last reporting period the profile of the Safer Custody Team has been raised considerably. Since January 2016 monthly meetings have been held and significant progress has been made. Credit must be given to the governor who took over responsibility for the team at the start of the year.

5.6.2 The quality of observations and recordings in ACCT documents has been a cause for concern but increased training along with consistent quality assurance checks is bringing about positive change. Closer monitoring of ACCT reviews by the Safer Custody Team is helping to ensure that all documentation is of the required standard. ACCT documents are now managed by a named supervising officer with cases being allocated to

supervising officers according to their availability. This ensures continuity of care throughout the period the document is open.

5.6.3 An IMB representative does not attend all the meetings but does monitor the minutes and data and so is able to identify trends and issues. During the latter part of 2015 it was noted that action points raised in meetings were rarely resolved. Attendance at the meetings was variable with only a few meetings being well attended. It is very pleasing to note that since January 2016 there has been an improvement both in the way issues are resolved and in attendance.

5.6.4 There is now a consistent clearly defined approach taken by staff in dealing with complex cases. A case manager is assigned to see cases through to conclusion and the Governor responsible for Safer Custody will, on occasions manage complex constant watch cases personally. Where that is not practical a Custodial Manager or a Governor grade will manage the document.

5.6.5 It has been a difficult and very sad year for HMP Swansea with two deaths in custody during this reporting period. Both occurred during the first 48 hours in custody. Neither man was on an ACCT document however, identifying vulnerable prisoners and those at risk of self harm and suicide must remain a priority. Two other men died in the community shortly after release and there were two other suicide attempts which resulted in life changing injuries. All deaths in custody cause great sadness and concern for all involved and raise questions for the Prison Service. Prison and Probation Ombudsman Action Plans are fully discussed in the Safer Custody meetings with recommendations being implemented.

5.6.6 During the year there was one significant act of violence perpetrated by one man on another which resulted in a lengthy hospital stay and a police investigation.

5.6.7 The Safer Custody Team is currently running a Smart Recovery course to help men with mental health issues. Men are generally identified as part of the ACCT process. The team are developing stronger links with a range of mental health agencies such as Hafal. A psychologist is now working with identified men and reports are produced for staff to assist them in their interaction and management of the men.

5.6.8 There are currently 10 trained Listeners available however, the transient nature of the population means that Listeners are frequently transferred shortly after training. The Board recognises the valuable contribution they make often having to carry out their work in challenging circumstances. Financial constraints have prevented the setting up of a much needed dedicated Listener Suite. There is no doubting the impact of financial cuts and economic stringency. With appropriate financial resources many of the initiatives the team want to put in place would be possible.

5.6.9 As reported previously the lack of private interviewing space on the Induction Wing remains an issue. It is unacceptable for men to be asked personal questions about their health, their tendencies to self harm and their

sexuality whilst sitting at a table on the wing landing where other men are milling about.

5.6.10 Although the Board notes there has been considerable progress over the last six months there is still much room for improvement. With Safer Custody a high priority in the prison, the IMB anticipates continued sustained improvement in the near future.

SEGREGATION, SEPARATION AND CARE

5.7.1 The Care and Segregation Unit continues to be the part of the establishment that is most visited and monitored by Board members. Each Board member will make a visit to this area of the Prison on each occasion that they attend HMP Swansea.

5.7.2 The staff are highly experienced and ensure that Board members have access to segregated prisoners upon demand. The paperwork and prisoner records are readily available to Board members upon request.

5.7.3 In the last Annual Report, the Board highlighted issues where members were not being regularly informed about reviews. Although there has been some improvement, this has not been consistent. Consequently, the Board will continue to monitor accordingly. We feel it is vital in our role as truly Independent Monitors of this Establishment that we are informed about reviews.

5.7.5 Adjudications are also heard in this area of the establishment and it is noted that there has sadly been another increase in the number of adjudications, use of force and use of the segregation cells. In part, this could be down to better intelligence being utilised within the establishment which is leading to more offences being detected.

ADJUDICATIONS

5.8.1 All Board Members take the opportunity to sit in and observe Governors' Adjudications during their rota visits whenever possible. The Board monitors and verifies that the hearings are carried out in a fair and concise manner with the offender understanding all aspects of the proceedings and that hearings are conducted by Governor Grades.

5.8.2 A total of 1285 charges were brought against prisoners during the year, an increase of 349. In 181 (14%) of all cases the charges were considered not to be established on further review and subsequently dismissed. In 102 (8%) cases the prisoner had been released, did not return from court, or was transferred to another prison. In 384 (30%) of the more serious cases the adjudication was referred to an Outside Independent Adjudicator/District Judge.

5.8.3 Approximately 80% of heard adjudications were dealt with by the Prison Governors and 20% by an external judge with the awards involving a range of punishments from the loss of prison privileges and earnings for lesser

demeanours, to the loss of association and additional days being added to the sentence for more serious demeanours.

5.8.4 A detailed examination of adjudication records reveals the following apportionment of offences.

- Assault 14%
- Refusal to Comply 16%
- Drugs Related 10%
- Property Damage 12%
- Breach PSO 12%
- 4400/Harassment
- Unauthorised Possession 6%
- Mobile / Pin Phone Related 2%
- Alcohol Related 2%
- In Unauthorised Place 10%
- Miscellaneous 16%

A breakdown of the offences by ethnicity shows that it is generally proportionate to the ethnic distribution of the prison population.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

5.9.1 Swansea continues to be one of the most overcrowded prisons in the country. This unfortunate fact has been highlighted in previous Annual Reports and we are disappointed that we have to report that this remains the case. The prison was designed to hold 219 prisoners, with the new G wing coming on line this has risen to 279, however it currently holds up to 515.

5.9.2 The majority of cells are double occupied and the lack of privacy curtains screening the toilets has been raised many times.

5.9.3 The upgrading of shower facilities has commenced and the associated challenges of organising alternative showering arrangements has been well managed.

5.9.4 The Catering Manager at HMP Swansea, runs a well organised and efficient operation. This fact is evidenced by the inspections by NOMS and the City & County of Swansea Environmental Department. The Department provide a varied and appropriate selection of food, conduct regular Catering Surveys and run monthly Themed Menus.

5.9.5 A planned visit was made to HMP Swansea, by NOMS Operational Services & Intervention Group, on 23 February 2016 to provide continuous

catering specialist guidance and assistance to the establishment. The aim of this visit was to conduct a Menu Planning and Meal Provision Assessment.

5.9.6 The menu and meal assessment covered an inspection of a number of key processes and practices such as:

- Menu construction
- Maintaining & developing a well-balanced diet
- Religious, cultural & conscious diets
- Consumer surveys, and
- Budgetary controls

All areas received a rating of Green and no issues were noted

5.9.7 The kitchen floor project commenced on May 23rd 2016 and is due to finish early December and will be a very challenging times ahead, this will done in 4 phases, issues will be discussed before each new phase to ensure a full service is maintained with no loss of quality.

5.9.8 The Department has successfully employed a band 3 Catering Officer, taking the staffing level to -
Band 6 Catering Manager
2 x Band 4 Catering Supervising Officers
3 x Band 3 Catering Officers

5.9.9 The City & County of Swansea Environmental Health Department did an annual inspection of the kitchen & catering facilities and the operation at HMP Swansea was awarded a score of FIVE, which is the highest score.

5.9.10 During the reporting period the maintenance and works function has been outsourced to an external contractor AMEY. Although at an early stage in the contract problems have been reported with work and repairs taking longer than under the previous regime. The Board will continue to monitor the situation.

5.9.11 All fire alarms are tested weekly by the Fire Officer. However, during the year problems with fire alarms were consistently being reported by Board members. These Problems have now been rectified.

5.9.12 The illegal use of drugs and other banned substances continues to present a considerable challenge to the management of the establishment. The “Drug Dogs” are shared by three prisons which fails to provide constant cover for detection and deterrent.

5.9.13 Although Health and Safety is of paramount concern and all necessary training is being provided, the Board was disappointed that during the early part of the year the frequency of meetings had not improved, with meetings being cancelled at short notice. However, in the latter part of the year the meetings began to be chaired by the Governor and significant improvements have been noted in the frequency of meetings, in attendance and also in the effectiveness of the Committee.

SECTION 6 - OTHER AREAS OF THE PRISON

RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

6.1.1 On arrival the men are seen by a member of the Healthcare Team prior to leaving the Reception Area. Healthcare staff complete all relevant documentation and risk areas are identified and addressed through a first night in custody screening tool, CSRA and ACCT, if necessary. Shower facilities are available, as well as drinks and hot meals for those who come in during the evening period.

6.1.2 The Reception Area has a wide range of posters available, in a variety of languages to help prisoners understand the system. Telephone translation facilities are also available. In addition, Listeners are available in the Reception Area from 1630 and during the evenings who informally “mingle” with new arrivals to address any concerns. The men who arrive before this time have to request the services of a Listener and this would be accommodated as far as practicable.

6.1.3 In previous years the Board has raised concerns in relation to the late arrival of men from distant Courts, due to the inability of closer establishments to take them. Although, this situation has improved it still continues to be an issue.

6.1.5 After leaving Reception, the men are initially located on the First Night Unit, which are located on B Wing. Unfortunately, the lack of dedicated Interview Rooms remains an issue. Consequently there is still little privacy to allow staff to interface with the men. Officers and men appear to have an excellent working relationship and officers will spend time with new arrivals until they are settled into prison life.

6.1.6 The men are provided with an introduction document concerning elements of prison life. They are also asked to complete the Equality Questionnaire and the DIRF process is explained to them. “Easy Read” Booklets are available for men with learning difficulties. The men are also allocated to ITC on the next working day following their reception, which is delivered by operational members of staff, alongside a Listener, who give details on all aspects of prison life, and include documentation such as Applications, Complaints and DIRFs.

6.1.7 G Wing was opened in September 2015 and has been running as part of the Enabling Environment Project. It started running drug recovery courses in January 2016, with a high level of achievement, evidenced through use of voluntary drug testing. It is currently in the process of changing function to a Resettlement Wing, still under the enabling Environments Project and is working towards achievement of the award during the year.

SECTION 7 - WORK OF THE IMB

Applications have been analysed by category

| Category | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Accommodation | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Adjudications | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| Canteen facilities/Catalogue shopping/Argos | Not recorded | 0 | 8 |
| Education/ Employment/Training | Not recorded | 7 | 8 |
| Equality/ Diversity | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 11 |
| Finance/Pay | Not recorded | 2 | 2 |
| Food | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Mail | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| Medical | 13 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 43 | 35 |
| Property/transfer | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 11 |
| Property/current establishment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 11 |
| Sentence related inc HDC, parole, ROTL, recat, release date * | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 37 |
| Bullying, Staff/prisoner concerns | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 14 |
| Transfer | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 |
| Visits | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 14 |
| Miscellaneous | 11 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 29 | 27 |
| TOTAL | 43 | 22 | 33 | 31 | 52 | 169 | 194 |

- HDC –Home Detention Curfew
- ROTL – Release on Temporary Licence
- Recat – Recategorisation

During the period of reporting the Board received 11 Standard Complaints, 27 Confidential Access Complaints and 1 Healthcare Complaint.

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| BOARD STATISTICS | |
| Recommended Complement of Board Members | 12 |
| Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period | 11 |
| Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period | 8 |
| Number of new members joining within the reporting period | 0 |
| Number of members leaving within the reporting period | 3 |
| Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period | 12 |
| Total number of visits to the establishment | 249 |
| Total number of applications received [inc Confidential Access Complaints] | 233 |