



HMP Whatton

Annual Report

June 2015 – May 2016

Compiled and submitted by the full Board

IMB Chairman:

Janet Pavier

HMP Whatton

New Lane,

Whatton,

Notts.

NG13 9FQ

Section 1

Statutory Role of the IMB

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.

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

Section 2

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Section 3

Description of HMP Whatton

HMP Whatton, Nottinghamshire, is a Category C training prison for adult men convicted of sexual offences and offers a range of accredited sex offender treatment programmes (SOTP) and other learning and skills activities including education, vocational training, industrial workshops and manufacturing and gardens.

HMP Whatton's population of 841 prisoners comprises those who have offended against adults (30% of Whatton's prison population) and those who have offended against children (70% of the Whatton's prison population); those who have been convicted of a sex offence as their index offence and those convicted of a non-sexually motivated index offence but which comprises some sexual element. However, the prison takes steps to keep these numbers at levels that do not undermine the therapeutic nature of the prison.

The prison aims to accept only those offenders who accept responsibility for their offence and are willing to address their offending behaviour in order to successfully complete a SOTP as those in denial present a challenge to the treatment-centred ethos of the establishment. However, of late, the prison has been required to accept prisoners who are convicted of sex offences but maintain their denial.

At the end of this reporting year, well over 43% of Whatton's population comprised indeterminate sentenced prisoners (either serving a life sentence or an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection (IPP)).

The prison's residential accommodation consists of fourteen residential wings (A1-8; B1-3; and C1-3) and a Care and Separation Unit attached to A3 residential unit. Accommodation is comprised of a mixture of single and double cells and of which modern cells equipped with en-suite toilet, washing and showering facilities and older cells equipped with an in-cell toilet but shared shower facilities.

Much of the older B-wings are unfit for purpose in a modern prison and the conditions have been criticised previously by the IMB and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

The establishment has converted one dormitory on B wing into a double cell for prisoners with dementia and the Board continues to be impressed by such innovations implemented by the governor and staff.

Accommodation for purposeful activity includes a sports hall (including three badminton courts and a room for cardio vascular workouts); gymnasium with weight training facilities; several manufacturing workshops; a large education unit and a large kitchen facility, which includes a dedicated area and facilities for the use of prisoners undertaking the NVQ training in catering. The establishment also has a well-equipped healthcare centre, end of life suite, dementia care suite and well-resourced library.

Outside of the prison secure compound, there is a purpose built Visitor Centre which is currently managed under contract with PACT. There are external contracts with Inspire, a social enterprise, for the supply of library literature etc. (for part of the reporting period) and PACT (a charity that supports prisoners and their families). In addition, there are three externally commissioned services: Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which provides the healthcare service, Amey who provide facilities management services and Milton Keynes College which manages Learning and Skills provision. The prison also has a contract with Age UK and the Carers Federation and during the reporting year the prison has also built links with Age UK, Circles UK, The Safer Living Foundation, Workers' Educational Association and other Third Sector agencies in order to improve the resettlement process for older prisoners and those with learning difficulties.

Executive Summary:-

This report, compiled by the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Whatton, covers the reporting period between 1st June 2015 and 31st May 2016. The Board believes the prison has operated well during this period.

The board enjoys a positive working relationship with the Governor and her staff, which enables the board to effectively monitor the work of the prison.

The day to day work of the prison continues effectively. The life of HMP Whatton is typified by constant review and development of innovative practice. These initiatives include the work of the Safer Living Foundation, which provides a bridge between prison and the community and initiatives related to the care and management of transgender prisoners and those with personality disorders.

The whole prison estate is under stress and HMP Whatton is no exception. Over-worked Offender Management Units mean that there are some 5% of prisoners whose OASYS assessments are out of date, and some recording of important events shows signs of deterioration.

Staff shortages combined with the ever increasing demand for hospital escorts and bed watches has resulted in a reduction of time-out-of-cell, unscheduled closure of library and gym facilities, and a reduction in the quantity and quality of personal officer contact. The Board believes that the continued need to work under this amount of pressure is un-sustainable.

During this period Whatton accommodated eight trans-gender prisoners who are living 'in role' and present a unique challenge.

Pressure on the prison to accept prisoner's in-denial (currently 52) is questionable in that they consume spaces and training opportunities that could more profitably used by those who accept their offence. The Board judges that this policy is illogical and unjust whilst there are always IPP prisoners over tariff waiting to get onto programmes they need to undertake in order satisfy their sentence plans and seek parole board release.

Areas of concern for The Board

The number of IPP prisoners at Whatton continues to be a concern for the Board. Almost half of prisoners at HMP Whatton are either Lifers or IPPs and some IPP prisoners are well over tariff and still facing delays in securing places on an offending behaviour course necessary to comply with their sentence plans for a parole board hearing. Pressure to place prisoners in denial at Whatton further complicates these delays and undermines the rehabilitative ideal of the prison as these prisoners are, usually, not suitable to undertake offending behaviour programmes

The number of elderly prisoners being committed to prison is increasing. The elderly make up a growing proportion of the population of the prison (37%) and their increasing social, medical, mental health and resettlement needs are a severe drain on the resources of the prison.

Escorts for the increasing numbers of prisoners going to outside hospital appointments for specialist treatments and a higher frequency of bed-watches often requires staff to be taken from other areas of the prison leading to library closures, withdrawal of gym availability and reduction in association times just to address these growing age-related demands.

Questions to the Minister

The ageing profile of Whatton's prisoner cohort makes demands on staffing that cannot be met without compromising other important areas.

Will the minister allow additional funding to address this problem?

Because Whatton has not been designated a 'resettlement' prison, it does not receive any resources to undertake resettlement work and does not receive the support of any local Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). Therefore, the prison is currently funding (from its own budget) a resettlement worker from Lincolnshire Action Trust to work with prisoners prior to their release.

Why are CRCs not required to support prisoners at Whatton (and other prisons that hold sex offenders) and will the Minister review this?

Questions to the Prison Service

Healthcare struggles to work effectively in the prison caring for an increasingly older population with a variety of complaints and conditions. The Healthcare facilities are not fit for purpose and compare badly with those in the community. Over the previous year a business case to improve physical healthcare facilities was prepared, but turned down as the NHS/NOMS capital money is no longer available.

When will these facilities be replaced?

The care of prisoners with special educational needs and social care needs is putting severe pressure on the system which is already trying to cope with the needs of the elderly prison population.

What extra resources can be allocated to respond to this need?

Section 5

5.1 Equalities and Inclusion

The Whatton Equality Action Team (WEAT) meets bi-monthly. Whatton is undertaking significant work around good practice in managing deaf prisoners by, in particular, working towards the Deaf Aware prison quality mark, implementing a SOTP for deaf prisoners (completed in February of this year) and introducing advocacy booklets to help staff and prisoners communicate effectively with deaf prisoners. In addition, pocket-sized laminated visual cards have been introduced to help with self-advocacy.

Whatton continues to have a large population of older prisoners. Currently, there are 310 prisoners (of the prison population of 841) aged over 50 years. These older prisoners require additional social care and medical provision and Whatton has been striving to improve the provision of purposeful activities available to the elderly through The Older Prisoner Activities and Learning Group (OPAL), who now meet 5 times a week.

Social Care Advocates (SCA's) are located on every wing with additional SCA's on A7 and A8, where many older and disabled prisoners are located, and offer practical support to disabled prisoners and trained wheelchair pushers work throughout the prison. Equality reps are located on every wing and attend the WEAT meetings. The Black and Minority Ethnic group (BME) have reps who visit the wings weekly to offer support and advice on minor issues.

Prisoner Forums had been meeting infrequently due to regime changes but the forums were re-introduced during this year. They include the gypsy and traveller group, the BME group, Xpressions group, deaf prisoner group, transgender group, and a new young prisoner group for those aged 21-25. The Board welcomes the re-introduction of prisoner forums.

Whatton currently has 12 transgender prisoners living 'in role'. They have access to the female and male canteen lists and can

access catalogues selling female clothing and cosmetics. Some of the transgender prisoners have been referred to the Nottingham Gender Clinic. The number of transgender prisoners at Whatton is expected to increase and all such prisoners report they feel 'safe' at Whatton.

5.2. Learning & Skills

Milton Keynes College continues to provide Education, Learning and Skills at HMP Whatton and provides a wide range of opportunities for learning including basic education and employability.

The maximum number of places available to prisoners is 84% of the eligible population and the prisoner attendance rate is 87%, which the Board feels is disappointing but accepts that this is due largely to sickness.

Lessons usually last for three-and-half hours in the morning and three-and-a-quarter hours in the afternoon and there are varied ways of interaction between teacher and taught to maintain interest and focus. However the hours are reduced for prisoners who have learning difficulties or short attention span who, at times, require one-to-one teaching.

Group teaching of around 10 prisoners per staff member has freed up time to enable teachers to have more one-to-one teaching when necessary. Consequently there is better provision for prisoners with special educational needs, and ALAS (learning support staff) assist teachers in this area.

Opportunities to take part in courses such as teaching independent living skills, careers advice, establishing a business, book keeping and finance are valued by prisoners. Training and recognised qualifications in many areas inspires and motivates prisoners. Skills for painting and decorating and bricklaying are very well delivered and have been praised by the Board for the high standards of both teaching and prisoner achievement. Motivation is very high and prisoners often ask to continue through break times to complete their work. The Board was particularly impressed with the BBQ oven produced by prisoners in the Brickwork workshop and prisoners are proud to show it off.

The woodwork department entered a giant wooden snail in the Koestler Awards competition and won the David Astor platinum award of £100

The Board applauds the fact that teachers, instructors and support staff at HMP Whatton have achieved the highest national average score for Functional Skills teaching and achievement and they are currently sharing best practice with other prisons.

The prison undertakes and funds training and skills in many other areas and these too are of a high standard. The gardens and grounds are well kept and a joy to see, providing both work and pleasure to prisoners, who can enjoy the pleasant surroundings.

5.3 Purposeful Activity

The work programme continues to be well led and supported consistently by the management team at Whatton. It offers a wide and varied range of activities including recycling, painting and decorating, bricklaying, wood craft, textiles, fork lift truck training, catering, horticulture, DHL, laundry and a Ministry of Defence contract to make sandbags. Since last year the sandbag manufacturing process has become less challenging as the material has changed from Hessian to polycarbonate but the contract keeps two workshops extremely busy fulfilling demanding targets. DHL remains an extremely successful department serving nine prisons and handling 5400 canteen requests per week and has won numerous Health and Safety awards. The Textiles workshop is busy after many periods of being short of work in the past. The gardens department have been precluded from entering the Windlesham Trophy this year having won it so many times previously so the prison is instead focusing on wildlife and encouraging biodiversity and has recently won a MOJ/NOMS wildlife award. The craft workshop also recently won a platinum Koestler award for a large wooden snail. Amey have taken over the disposal of food waste from the recycling department but this department continues to do important work for the prison. The kitchen has just started to offer NVQ Level 2 in catering.

The staff remain dedicated and enthusiastic and support a large number of prisoners as they learn new skills and obtain qualifications to equip them upon release.

5.4 Healthcare and Mental Health

Healthcare

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust continues to provide primary healthcare, mental healthcare and substance misuse services with a contract extended for the coming year. Healthcare offers an outpatient service and opens from 07.30 to 17.00 (18.30 for emergency cases) on weekdays and from 08.30 to 13.00 for emergencies and dispensing at weekends and bank holidays. A nurse-led telephone triage service allows prisoners to directly contact Healthcare from their wings, which permits quicker appointments according to urgency. Additionally, wing-staff can make referrals on behalf of the prisoner.

Hospital referrals follow the same 2-week urgent and 18-week routine referral pathways as is available in the community. Patient responsibility is encouraged and failure to attend hospital appointments without valid reason can earn an Incentives and Earned Privilege warning. Emergencies are adequately dealt with by the code red or blue protocols.

Recent improvements are the introduction of bowel cancer screening on site. Patients with complaints are encouraged to attend a 10-minute discussion with the practice manager to try and nip any problem in the bud.

On the mental health side, autistic prisoners form a vulnerable group. Only one prison currently has autism accreditation from the National Autistic Society, but HMP Whatton is actively undertaking this accreditation, covering initial screening and health & education.

The Healthcare department along with the Physical Education department supports smoking cessation which is progressing well.

HMP Whatton currently has 12 transgender patients, 6 of whom are on the pathway for gender reassignment. A local policy has recently been developed for the management of transgender patients within the establishment and is available for all staff to read.

An issue remains with the healthcare support outside of the working hours stated above. Terminally or chronically ill patients rely on outside agency staff for their care but these staff do not always turn up which leaves prison officers to manage the best they can. The current consensus is that the Care Act 2014 is still not, as yet, benefiting the current 8 prisoners with complex needs.

Over the previous year a business case to improve physical healthcare facilities was prepared, but turned down as the NHS capital money is no longer available.

Healthcare related IMB applications form a very small percent indicating general prisoner satisfaction with Healthcare.

5.5 Care and Separation (CSU)

There is a discrete CSU unit at Whatton staffed by appropriately trained officers providing secure accommodation for those receiving punishment as well as those needing to be separated for their own protection. A total of eight prisoners can be accommodated at any one time and the unit has often been full in the last year (86 days)

The Board continues to be impressed by the high standard of professional and appropriately sympathetic manner in which prisoners (especially those with prisoners with complex mental health problems) are managed and cared for by staff.

Board members make frequent visits to the CSU and speak with all prisoners resident on the Unit. A protocol is in place to ensure IMB members are informed on each occasion a new prisoner is committed to CSU and ensures that they are visited within 72 hours (24 hours where use of force has been necessary).

It is notable that Board Members have had no complaints from prisoners about their treatment whilst in CSU.

Where prisoners are detailed in CSU for reasons other than punishment, Board members endeavour to attend all review meetings and ensure that correct record keeping is in place.

Use of Force

Use of Force is sometimes necessary to secure prisoner compliance (including assaults of other prisoners and staff). Where Use of Force has been witnessed by members, correct and appropriate restraint techniques have always been used.

The Use of Force register is not always fully completed but it appears that there have been approximately 46 incidents of Use of Force with cuffs being applied on 15 occasions.

5.6 Programmes

HMP Whatton remains the largest treatment centre for people convicted of sexual offences in the whole of Europe with a programmes team of 35 facilitators. Dr Kerensa Hocken, a Senior Psychologist and Clinical Lead for sex offender treatment programmes received a 2015-16 Butler Trust award for her work at Whatton.

HMP Whatton provides 37% of the offending behaviour programmes for people convicted of sexual offences in custody.

Prisoners completing sex offender treatment programmes (SOTP) over the previous year were 205 (target 198). Those completing living skills were 71 (target 68). The quality of the programmes is acknowledged nationally. HMP Whatton's Offending Behaviour Programmes Team initiated the first SOTP for deaf offenders in custody and were commendees in the 2014-15 Butler Trust awards for their work.

The Board had been concerned about the delay in Extended SOTP (ESTOP) for prisoners with indeterminate prison sentences who are in post-tariff detention but the ESTOP and the Health Sex Programme are now managed nationally and it is our understanding that efforts are being made for these programmes to be completed by a prisoner's tariff date.

Running parallel to accredited programmes is research into sexual offending by the Psychology Department of Nottingham Trent University

The Safer Living Foundation is a registered charity based at HMP Whatton and aims to reduce sexual re-offending in older men and those with intellectual disability. The charity also involves Nottingham Trent University, National Probation Service (East Midlands) and Nottinghamshire Police. The project aims to substantially reduce the risk of re-offending that can arise through social isolation and emotional loneliness after release from prison.

The Safer Living Foundation won the first prize at the Robin Corbett Award for Prisoner Rehabilitation 2015 for their work and

the Guardian Education Award for Social and Community Involvement in 2016.

The Board once again praises the impressive therapeutic work carried out at HMP Whatton.

Section 6

6.1. Accommodation

The standard of accommodation in the establishment on A-Wings is reasonably good. Four of the eight Wings have cells with en-suite shower, washbasin and toilet. Other A-wings have in-cell toilets and shared facilities for showers.

The standard of accommodation on B-wing remains a concern to the Board with some areas well below the standard expected of a modern prison.

C wings 1&2 are somewhat better and accommodate prisoners of all ages. There are 13 Category D prisoners' resident there awaiting transfer to open prison.

C3 Wing accommodates prisoners in the senior age group with the atmosphere being more relaxed than on other Wings and comments received from prisoners by the Board regarding day to day life on the unit appears very positive.

As part of its monitoring responsibilities, the Board monitors the quality and provision of food delivered to prisoners and Board members regularly sample the food on offer and have found it to be of an acceptable standard. Catering staff continue to provide as high quality meals as possible given the cost reduction in the food budget. Very few prisoners raise concerns with the Board about either the quality or quantity of food. In the kitchen, prisoners are able to work towards an NVQ in catering under the supervision of prison staff.

The day-to-day maintenance of the estate under the national contract with Amey is slow and causes considerable tension and concern. At the end of the reporting period two banks of showers were out of action because of problems with poor design and subsequent difficulty with repairing faults.

6.2. Adjudications

The Board monitors adjudication hearings on a regular basis and records its observations. The Board finds that hearings are conducted in a highly professional manner with the correct procedures adopted and sentencing guidelines followed. The Board also monitors the work of the Adjudications Standardisation committee that provides quality assurance and equality of treatment.

6.3 Inter-departmental Risk Management Team. (IRMT)

One of the issues the Board has to deal with is complaints and applications from prisoners requesting access to their children. This is managed and set by the IRMT

The work of the IRMT considers each prisoner in the light of the 'Safeguarding of Children Act' and Public Protection. Board members attend these twice monthly meetings and are satisfied that each prisoner is fairly and comprehensively discussed and that the decisions made are justified.

6.4 Security.

The Board continues to monitor all security issues and attend multi department security meetings. The security department have had to deal with over 6,000 Intelligence Reports (IR's) during the year. In May 2016 the New Security Baselines were audited with Intelligence, Visits and Categorisation all given a Green Marking

6.5 Reception and Induction

The Reception block is located adjacent to the main entrance to the prison and processes all movements in and out of the establishment. During the reporting period there were, in total, nearly 4000 movements of prisoners for admissions, releases, court appearances, transfers and hospital visits.

Following the admission process, new arrivals are located in a dedicated Wing of the establishment where they participate in a carefully structured induction process. When the induction course

is completed, prisoners are then located in various wings in the main prison. The Board monitors the induction processes and, where possible, seeks to present the IMB induction to new prisoners and staff.

6.6 Resettlement

Resettlement provision at HMP Whatton is wide-ranging and impressive. Some 200 prisoners are released into the community from Whatton each year but the Board has serious concerns about the capacity of the prison to resettle prisoners. Because Whatton has not been designated a 'resettlement' prison, it does not receive any resources to undertake resettlement work and does not receive the support of any local Community Rehabilitation Company. Therefore, the prison is currently funding (from its own budget) a resettlement worker from Lincolnshire Action Trust to work with prisoners prior to their release. The Board understands that this problem does not only affect Whatton but also all other prisons that hold sex offenders.

HMP Whatton offers Educational skills, nine specific forms of vocational training and other contract workshops as well as a range of offending behaviour programmes.

During this reporting year, HMP Whatton achieved three key resettlement targets: to have 92% of prisoners in secure accommodation on release, to have 8.5% of prisoners enrolled in education and training on release, and to have 5.3% of prisoners in employment on release.

All prisoners are allocated to a careers and employment advisor up to 12 months prior to their release and prisoners have access to Virtual Campus to search for jobs. Representatives from Job Centre Plus visit the prison once a month and run a comprehensive benefits surgery providing prisoners with information such as types of benefits, savings and job seekers interviews.

The Resettlement Department and the Education Department run a Preparation for Work course for prisoners who are near to release.

The prison runs a series of lifer days and family days to help prisoners stay in touch with families whilst serving their sentence.

It is a concern to the Board that a very large proportion of prisoners at Whatton receive no visits at all.

Section 7

7.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board:-

The Board works well as a team, maintains good relations with prison staff, and monitors the establishment effectively.

A new Chair, Vice-Chair and Board Development Officer were elected to begin tenure at the beginning of 2016. The Board would like to place on record its thanks to the previous Chair who has now retired from Board duties.

Clerking services for the board are working effectively with an experienced and capable member of staff who is well respected across the prison undertaking clerking duties.

Members are encouraged to involve themselves with national, local and in-house training opportunities. The Board Development Officer arranges bi-monthly training sessions prior to the board meeting.

Dual Board membership

Where neighbouring boards are struggling to recruit members or have other problems, experienced members from one board sometimes spend a period as a member of both boards (Dual-Boarding) to provide expertise and support. Currently, there is one member of the Whatton board dual-boarding at HMP Leicester (until the end of this calendar year) and two members are dual - boarding at HMP Sudbury.

7.2. Board Statistics

Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within reporting period	1
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	Completed by individual members on a regular basis.
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	385
Total number of applications received	215
Total number of segregation reviews held	No record for this year
Total number of segregation reviews attended	No record for this year

7.3. Prisoner Applications to the Board:-

Code	Subject	Year 15 - 16
A	Accommodation	18
B	Adjudications	2
C	Equality and Diversity	4
D	Education/employment/training	7
E1	Family/visits,inc mail & phone	14
E2	Finance/pay	3
F	Food/kitchen related	2
G	Health related	18
H1	Property, in current establishment	23
H2	Property during transfer/in another establishment	50
H3	Canteen, facilities, shopping	8
I	Sentence related HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat	8
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	15
K	Transfers	5
L	Miscellaneous	46
	Total number of IMB Applications	215