



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **HMP BRINSFORD YOI**

**JUNE 2015 – JULY 2016.**

## **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

The Prison Act 1952 Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 requires every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Monitoring 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 standard and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

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### **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

3.1 HMP Brinsford YOI is situated north of Wolverhampton in the West Midlands. The prison establishment holds both remand and sentenced young men aged between 18 and 21 years. From July 2016 Brinsford will be taking in adult male Category C prisoners, who are being transferred from other local prisons. These will not be put on a dedicated wing but will be housed with the young adults, YAs, on the general wings. Plenty of notice was given for the change in role and so planning was able to be carried out.

Prisoners are housed within five, two-storey residential blocks with two wings on each block. Each wing has some single and some double cells. All cells have in-cell sanitation, but shower facilities are provided separately (other than in Res 5) elsewhere on the wing hub.

There have been significant changes to the residential blocks in the last two years and the accommodation now consists of:

#### **First Night Centre**

This is a 15-bed facility for newly imprisoned YAs. On arrival into the unit their needs are identified, an integration programme is initiated, and consideration given to the best environment for the YA to be allocated to, once they have completed their induction programme. Also on this unit is a Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) comprised of 4 beds.

#### **Residential Block 1**

One wing of this is a Supportive Living Unit for prisoners who require extra help.

#### **Residential Block 3**

This is comprised of those on remand and accommodation for new prisoners transferring from the First Night Centre who are undergoing assessment and an induction programme.

#### **Residential Blocks 2 and 4**

These are for Sentenced and Remand prisoners.

#### **Residential Block 5**

This is for Enhanced prisoners.

#### **Care and Separation Unit**

This is a 16-bed unit in a separate block.

#### **Health Care**

This has 11 beds.

The establishment, when fully operational, will be able to accommodate 577 inmates, but that will be reduced to 455 in the short term at least.

- 3.2 Historically, the catchment area for HMP Brinsford YOI was generally the West Midlands, Staffordshire and surrounding counties. However, this is no longer the case and many YAs are transferred from other YO establishments and courts from across England and Wales. Inevitably, because of the distances involved, some YAs have few, or no, visits from family and friends.
- 3.3 Healthcare was provided to a very high standard by the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust and South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.  
General Practitioner services are provided on a contract basis and include an out-of-hours service. Some YAs have serious mental and behavioural issues requiring both psychiatric and psychological support, which is provided by the Health Care Trust.  
The contract for supplying Healthcare, however, was subsequently given to another provider (Care UK) towards the end of the reporting period.
- 3.4 Education and Training are provided by Milton Keynes College.
- 3.5 Many outside organisations continue to provide ongoing support and these include:
- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Alcohol Concern | Bromford Housing |
| DARS            | Howard League    |
| Trailblazers    | Pertemps         |
| Princes Trust   | Shannon Trust    |
| NACRO           | Prospects        |
- 3.6 Since November 2014 there has been extensive renovation of the prison. This has been largely confined to the accommodation blocks and the facilities available to YAs. The final block to be completed was Residential Block 4 and one wing of that was reopened shortly after completion.
- 3.7 Maintenance is now contracted out to GeoAMEY and this has caused some issues. These are mentioned later in the report.

#### **4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report highlights the issues that have come to the attention of the Board between August 2015 and July 2016, and also indicates how the issues raised last year have been addressed.

- 4.1 At the start of the reporting period the refurbishment of the accommodation was continuing and was due for completion by the end of 2015.
- 4.1.1 It was very quickly becoming clear that the standard of the work undertaken was, on the surface, very good, but that it was not going to survive the wear and tear of everyday life for long. Even after a few weeks the paint on the gates and doors was starting to wear and peel. It seemed such a shame that so much money had been spent on this work when the quality of the paintwork was not fit for purpose.

- 4.1.2 The laundry rooms were by far the worst of the areas seen. Tiles had been painted and looked satisfactory to start with but, in a matter of weeks, with all the steam from the washing machines and driers, the paint just peeled away. Also, the ventilation in the laundry rooms was inadequate and the Board raised concerns about possible health hazards which might arise from the poor ventilation. Plans were produced later to address these concerns but nothing has happened yet.
- 4.1.3 Residential block 4 completed the refurbishment early in 2016. Shortly after this an open weekend was arranged for staff and their families to inspect the work, during which some very useful displays were put on to show the work of the drugs dogs. That block was partly opened shortly afterwards offering, to those prisoners who wanted it, a no-smoking environment.
- 4.2 There have been significant changes in management over the year. First of all, the Governor moved on to the new prison in Wrexham and an acting Governor was in post until the start of February, when the new, substantive Governor started in her post.
- 4.2.1 The excellent work that was started by Governor Trent was continued by both the acting Governor and the new Governor, so that Brinsford remains a much better prison than it was when it received a poor inspection report in 2013. Initiatives, such as the Supported Living Unit and the First Night Centre, still provide very good service to vulnerable young men.
- 4.2.2 The loss of other, experienced, governor grades has been a concern to the Board and it is a great pity that a stable senior management team cannot be sustained for long. Many of those who have moved have been promoted or have chosen to take up posts elsewhere - the new HMP Berwyn seems to have benefitted most from Brinsford's losses.
- 4.2.3 The provision of resettlement and support to those being released continues to improve.
- 4.2.4 Bullying is still a problem but the management team is endeavouring to deal with this where possible, but staffing shortages can make this difficult.
- 4.2.5 Violence remains a problem, with instances of violence between young adults and against staff taking place. The actual number of incidents has not increased but the serious nature of some of them has been a concern. Board members have had the opportunity to witness a number of incidents where the Tornado Team has been needed, either to enter an area to restore order or to remove a prisoner for his own safety. The Board has always been impressed with the professionalism and skill used by the team in achieving their objectives efficiently and safely.
- 4.3 Healthcare remains a strength at Brinsford, but the Board is still worried about the amount of time it takes to transfer patients with severe mental health problems to another specialist hospital for the treatment they need. They can remain in Inpatient Cells for many months before such a place can be found,

and by that time their condition can deteriorate.

- 4.4 Maintenance of the establishment is now the responsibility of the contractor, GeoAmev, and staff were transferred to them at the start of the contract. This has caused a number of difficulties, sometimes resulting in cells being out of action for a considerable amount of time while the issue of who pays for the work is decided. This has not been satisfactory and there are issues that need addressing.
- 4.5 Education and meaningful activity for YAs remains a problem and the Board has many concerns about the number who remain in their cells during the day.
- 4.6 The issue of drugs continues to be a problem at Brinsford, but is maybe not as big a problem as it is at some other prisons. The staff are doing all they can to tackle the smuggling of drugs into the prison.
  - 4.6.1 The number of drug finds has increased and it is still a worry that drugs can get in by increasingly clever methods, such as impregnation into paper. Visits may still be the most vulnerable area for contraband. Drugs dogs are used to monitor visitor entry and have been successful in finding some substances.
  - 4.6.2 The Board welcomes the legislation that will make “legal highs” and other NPS illegal soon as they have caused a number of severe reactions in young adults in prison.
  - 4.6.3 It is rather sad to have to report that there was a death in custody at Brinsford last December. The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has produced a draft report of the tragic incident and the Coroner’s Inquest is due to look at the case early in 2017. Board members will attend the inquest and will discuss any issues that arise from the verdict.
- 4.7 We are pleased to say that the Board continues to have a very positive working relationship with the staff at Brinsford.

## **ISSUES**

### **Issues for the Minister**

- 1. The issuing of a contract for the maintenance of the establishment has not had a beneficial effect on ongoing repairs, so that accommodation is out of use until a cost for repair has been established, which can take some time.
- 2. The Board has welcomed the refurbishment of accommodation at Brinsford but is very disappointed with the quality of some of the work. It is such a shame to see some of the paintwork wearing so badly after a few weeks of use. The materials used and poor preparation seem to have provided poor value for money.
- 3. For the second year running there continues to be an ongoing concern about the lack of prisoner involvement in purposeful activity. Although there is a range of

educational based programmes available, there remains a large proportion of YAs who simply will not co-operate or participate in any form of educational courses, out-of cell activity or work. This results in many of the YAs spending a considerable amount of time confined to their cells. To obviate this situation, considerable work is being, and has already been, done by members of the SMT to introduce and develop activity-based programmes, together with vocational training programmes, which appear to be more attractive to the prisoners.

4. Monitor the contract for the maintenance of prisons to ensure that repairs are done in a reasonable amount of time.

### **Issues for the Prison Service**

1. The Board continues to have concerns about the loss of, or failure to transfer, prisoner belongings to and from other prisons. This is often due to transport not having the capacity to carry all of their belongings on the vans.
2. The number of prisoners who move between establishments seems very high. This is, in some instances, detrimental to the individual, who may need support rather than another transfer.
3. Staffing levels are becoming a great concern, and the Board feels that this can impact on the regime offered to prisoners. Staff sickness levels are a concern and this may be due, in part, to the shortage of staff by putting pressure on those still in post. The time it takes new staff to be trained means there is no easy answer to the shortages.
4. As the Board reported last year, there is still a significant delay in transferring prisoners with severe mental health issues to suitable outside facilities. They often remain in Healthcare much longer than they should and, even with the best care Brinsford can provide, their condition deteriorates.

### **Issues for the Governor**

1. To work with outside agencies to improve the condition of laundry rooms that need ventilation and repair, and replace equipment that is not in working order.
2. To take steps to extend the range of employment and training programmes, to make them more meaningful for the prisoners, particularly in practical and vocational skills. Now adults are in residence they will need training courses that are not currently provided.
3. To continue with the work being undertaken in the use of the IEP scheme, particularly in the area of YA refusal to attend education and other out-of-cell work.
4. To continue to monitor the relevance of education provision at HMP Brinsford, and establish if any new courses could be provided to enhance employment prospects for the YAs, following release. The education provider needs to be

challenged when the program of courses that it is contracted to provide is not delivered.

5. To continue such developments as the Catering Academy which would provide meaningful employment and qualifications and make full use of facilities which are currently underused.
6. To continue the development of a robust programme of Rehabilitation and Resettlement, which is complex. There have been significant improvements in this area but more can still be done.
7. Relationships between staff and prisoners are generally very good at Brinsford and this can be difficult to sustain when there are many new, and sometimes inexperienced, staff. This good practice can be developed in good, meaningful staff training. However, although this is very important, the Board would not want it to impact too much on the everyday regime of activities that prisoners need. If prisoners spend too much time locked up in their cells this seems to cause more indiscipline.
8. To continue to monitor the maintenance contract and to put pressure, where possible, on the contractor to fulfil their responsibility to keep the building in good repair.

## **5 . AREAS WHICH MUST BE REPORTED ON**

### **5. 1 Security and Drugs**

The Security Department at HMP Brinsford continues to provide a quality service. This small department is led by the Head of Security and Intelligence and is split to provide an intelligence and physical security lead.

The department is resourced by an analyst and two collators and together the team works to provide intelligence and information to all departments within the prison. This enables other areas to make their own risk assessments from the information received, and enables the security department to continue to be facilitative and proportionate in its delivery. The department relies on the commitment of all the personnel working within the prison.

The role has key priorities, one of which is to work in collaboration with the safety team to provide a safer environment within the establishment. In conjunction with this, bi-weekly Disruption to Prisoner Meetings are held, filling the gap between prisoners being disruptive and those deemed as normal status prisoners. Another key priority is to challenge and prevent any extreme radical activity. The team works closely with the Intelligence Service and has a special branch officer based within the prison. There are regular Pathfinder Meetings, and these are well attended.

Contraband is also an area of concern and the team has held meetings to find ways of preventing the route of ingress. Out of hours searching has taken place and checks are made to find any throw overs, although these have been very low during the reporting period. There has been no intelligence relating to drones so far, but this will have to be constantly monitored, especially as Brinsford is now taking in Category C adult prisoners.

Finds of mobile phones have averaged seven per month and drug finds six per month.

During the reporting period, assaults on staff were high at Brinsford and this was addressed at the time. The submission of Intelligence Reports (IRs) continues to improve, with an average of 450 reports being received and analysed each month. The Mandatory Drugs Testing target has been a challenge, but there have been no positive results for NPS. Links with the local policing team and CID remain good, resulting in many criminal convictions for possession of illicit articles and violence. Security meetings are held monthly and are well attended.

Cell fires, which historically have been high at Brinsford, have been reducing year on year and are now at an all-time low, although false alarms remain high.

A recent IOCCO inspection highlighted some remedial action, which has led to a review of phone and mail monitoring, with the deficiencies being addressed.

## **5.2 Reducing Reoffending and Resettlement**

### Reducing Reoffending April 2015 – March 2016

1. The biggest challenge remains getting our young adults to attend activities and, whilst there has been some progress in this area, there is still some way to go to get most prisoners off the wings during the day. Recruitment into vacant Industry Posts has improved the number of prison based work places and the Catering Academy is due to open in the next few months. Closer ties with Milton Keynes College have been formed and they are more committed than ever to deliver a curriculum that is flexible to the needs of the population and delivers courses that provide real employment prospects on release. There are two small contracts in Industries but more substantial contracts are required to develop more links with employers in the community.
2. The CRC continues to embed into the prison and their work is now expanding. Anger Management, Building Bridges and other relevant interventions are planned to start in the next financial year. Staff in the Resettlement Services Team are being trained to provide more information, advice and guidance to those individuals who are in need of assistance with Finance Benefit, Debt, Accommodation and various other resettlement needs.
3. Other partners include PACT and SOVA, and these relationships have also developed to include courses for increasing confidence in those who are frightened to come off the unit, as well as support for those individuals who are disruptive or do not want to engage.
4. The Care Leavers Strategy has grown immensely and there is now a monthly meeting attended by various partners, such as OMU, Reducing Reoffending and Operational Managers. The main focus has been to identify care leavers, focussing on providing support in terms of a self-support group and linking OMU Offender Supervisors with Leaving Care Advisors to dovetail Pathway Plans with Sentence Plans.
5. The Chaplaincy has had a challenging time this year but, despite this, has continued to provide excellent pastoral services. The focus in the next year will be to increase the number of volunteers working in the prison and to recruit a new Managing Chaplain.

6. "Programmes" failed to achieve the target for Resolve by one, but achieved for TSP. This was mainly due to the challenging nature of the YAs on the course.

### **5.3 Safer Custody**

- 5.3.1 Anti-bullying and Suicide & Self-harm Meetings are held regularly, and a member of the Board attends whenever possible. The meetings are thorough and are attended by prisoner unit representatives as well as the Healthcare manager, governors and security staff. In-depth minutes are produced and any issues that arise are followed up swiftly, with feedback being given at the next meeting.
- 5.3.2 Prisoners with complex needs at Brinsford are housed in a Supported Living Unit and receive outstanding care and consideration by the staff. The Board is always very pleased to note the attention given to prisoners on an Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork plan (ACCT) by unit staff, as well as Healthcare staff. The number of self-harm incidents peaked in April to thirty-three on the SLU, but within the prison as a whole are usually around fifty-eight per month.
- 5.3.3 Self-harm numbers within the prison are generally consistent at between fifty and seventy per month, but Mental Health problems continue to be a concern, with one prisoner attending outside hospital after attempting to hang himself in July, owing to outside issues. There was one death at Brinsford during the year. The inquest has yet to be held, but the recommendations identified by the PPO have been actioned and new practices put into place.
- 5.3.4 Members of the Board attended some of the ACCT reviews during the year and always found them to be thorough and sympathetic to the prisoner's state of mind.
- 5.3.5 The prison puts great emphasis on its care of any vulnerable prisoners and always endeavours to keep all of its ACCT paperwork correct and up to date. Communication is strong between reception and induction staff and all of the prisoners are screened by Healthcare on reception, to identify those prisoners with mental health issues, or ACCT history, on arrival.  
  
The average monthly number of ACCTs opened was forty and the average monthly number closed during the year was also forty; this was considered high but some of these ACCTs were opened and closed on the same person.
- 5.3.6 Anti-bullying policies are being developed. Perpetrators are routinely removed from normal regime when necessary, and as a last resort. The Board does not believe that there is a major, hidden problem with bullying and knows that the prison takes a zero tolerance approach. Violence Reduction reps (VRs) are used wisely and effectively to resolve issues.
- 5.3.7 Since January there has been an increase in prisoners being placed in CSU and this is for a variety of reasons. Cell Confinement is now only being used in exceptional circumstances for prisoners who are repeat offenders or serious offenders.

5.3.8 There is an effective Listener Scheme in place which is well advertised on all units and is working extensively throughout the establishment. In 2015/6 there were, on average, five listeners. On-going training ensures that prisoners are being replaced and this takes place within the prison by Samaritan trainers.

5.3.9 Posts no longer exist for Safety/VR Officers or Equalities Officers, as this role is the responsibility of all staff.

The last three months have seen a reduction in assaults on staff but, over the year, there were an average of seven per month. Although punishments are given to offenders through adjudications or a visiting judge, the Board feels that all assaults on staff should be sent to the outside judge for prosecution. This might then result in harsher penalties being given and show prisoners how seriously assault on staff is taken.

The Board does not have any concerns regarding the safety of prisoners in Brinsford.

## **5.4 Segregation**

The Care and Separation Unit is an extremely efficient unit.

It has been refurbished in conjunction with the refurbishment programme across the prison. The isolation room is no longer in use since it was felt that other, more productive, strategies should be adopted.

All prisoners are seen, and spoken to, by a Board member during weekly rounds or at GOOD reviews, which take place at least once a week and more often as the R49 provisions require.

Segregation Monitoring and Review (SMARG) meetings take place; Adjudication Standardisation meetings, which include monitoring of adjudication records by peer reviewers, are in progress.

Special accommodation in the CSU was taken out of action about two years ago and remains unusable. This has not caused any difficulty.

## **5.5 Equality and Diversity**

5.5.1 Equality and Diversity Meetings are held monthly, and are now, largely, well attended. At the beginning of the reporting year (2015) many meetings failed to occur due to the following stated reasons:

- lack of time
- availability of staff
- prison needs.

However, during the second part of the reporting period, the group has been led by a very competent and dynamic Deputy Governor, who has encouraged

the team to take a proactive approach and has also strengthened strategic direction. This has resulted in each team member contributing to the provision of revised and reconfigured, robust equality policies. The Governor now chairs this meeting.

- 5.5.2 Because of the complex issues resulting from the safeguarding interests of all groups with protected characteristics, policy development is protracted and has to interface across a number of other policies and procedures.

\*Notwithstanding the good progress being made, there is clear understanding by the group that there remains much to be done, and all new and reviewed policies need to 'bed in'. This will inevitably become a rolling programme of assessment, re-evaluation and development.

- 5.5.3 The group is joined by designated Equality Representatives. These enhanced YAs are an intrinsic part of the team. Regrettably, there are only three listeners now in post, as a number of them have recently been released and, therefore, further appointments and training are to be implemented.

The attendance of prisoners allows for a two-way discussion of issues, and the opportunity for listeners to discuss, identify and share problems on the wings.

- 5.5.4 The general consensus is that the listeners add value to the group and provide a different perspective on issues they have noted, or been party to, during their visits to the wings whilst acting as listeners.

Although not legally required, the addition of prisoner representatives being involved in the committee has proven to be very beneficial to all concerned.

- 5.5.5 The meetings are observed by members of the Board and, whilst not actively involved with individual working groups, views and observations of the Board member is easily accessible.

- 5.5.6 Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRFS) continue to be the subject of careful scrutiny, to ensure appropriate completion and investigation in a timely manner.

- 5.5.7 The Learning Disability Screening Questionnaire (LDSQ) is constantly under consideration and continues to be used for new prisoners. The information from the LDSQ is passed to the relevant areas within the prison, to ensure that further support is available for the prisoner.

Currently HMP Brinsford holds one significantly disabled prisoner. His physical and emotional needs have been well catered for, such that he is receiving support and treatment to enable him to become more physically independent.

- 5.5.8 The introduction of First Night Centre has proved to be very successful. This gives prisoners some degree of security and the feeling of safety until they are equipped for the move to a new wing.

5.5.9 It should be noted that bullying on the wings, in the main, continues to be a problem within Brinsford. The incidence of racial disharmony is not apparent but the prison officers do seem to be aware and active in identifying and combating such occurrences.

The Board is satisfied that the prison is aware of the shortcomings highlighted above and are making some positive moves to make improvements.

The recent introduction of Category C prisoners is being carefully included in the process.

## **5.6 Learning and Education Skills**

5.6.1 For much of this year, the problems that were outlined in last year's report have remained.

The recruitment and retention of staff has proved difficult, either due to lack of ability of recruits, who often struggle in the non-traditional class environment of a prison, or those who see greater opportunities and more competitive pay rates elsewhere. Further, important gaps in the programme are caused by the absence of cover for staff who are absent on sick leave. A significant number of the courses offered also seem to be unattractive to the vast majority of Brinsford inmates, many of whom have either left school at the first opportunity or have had very limited British education in the first place.

5.6.2 Nevertheless, despite all this, teaching staff do a good job and many of the classes are doing fine work, with a strong bond evident between student and teacher. Many courses are completed successfully with barbering, the barista, and, much more recently, the introduction of a working cafe is proving most popular and successful. In addition, the traditional cleaning course continues to be purposeful, with the results continuing to be seen around the prison. The recent introduction of Category C prisoners into Brinsford has further confused the issue. The prison is not traditionally 'geared up' to this age group, and many of the new arrivals complain that there is little for them to do.

5.6.3 However, despite this introduction, the future does look far more rosy for the following reasons:

a) The appointment of a new Governor, who has stated her intention to deliver 28 hours of positive activity to every prisoner. While this may not be entirely in the form of education it should, if delivered, see a massive improvement in Brinsford learning.

b) Perhaps by far the most significant development has been the appointment of a new managerial team for the main provider of Educational and Learning Skills, Milton Keynes College.

5.6.4 This team has new, positive initiatives as to how education at Brinsford can be developed.

- a) They are addressing, head-on, the problem of staff shortages, sickness cover for class cancellation and, indeed, staff reluctance to change. A scheme to link up with staff in neighbouring prisons is also being investigated.
- b) They are producing a differentiated set of courses to try to cater for those who are staying less than 12 weeks, as well as those with longer sentences. With this in mind, course content is being addressed, with a view to adapting courses to individual needs rather than removing them altogether.
- c) There will be an early concentration on the learning difficulties of new prisoners, with a view to screening these before they reach the classroom, rather than waiting until they are discovered within a course. In addition, an introductory analysis of all new prisoners is now being conducted in education areas rather than in the blocks, to create a more suitable, and immediate, atmosphere.
- d) Aided by a proposed questionnaire to the prisoners, there will be a new drive to produce innovative and more relevant courses to suit all at Brinsford, with incentives (largely linked with greater gym use) for those who are willing to concentrate on Maths and English, subjects which, despite the demand for more vocational courses, will not disappear.
- e) Monitoring and logging of all attendance (or lack of it) is now being actively pursued.
- f) All courses will have a structure and grading which, it is hoped, will lead to an Employment Options course, with a view to successful resettlement.
- g) It is hoped that more vocational courses, to run alongside existing ones, which include horticulture, recycling and construction and cycle mechanics, could be introduced. An obvious example of this might be 'Railtrack', given the reasonable proximity of the proposed route of HS2.

However, none of the above has had a chance to develop as yet. These changes will require patience, determination, careful management and, above all else, adequate funding to succeed. The Board has been, consistently, disillusioned and anxious about the standard of education at Brinsford throughout the year, but the new initiatives give us hope. The coming year will be critical and will be monitored carefully.

## **5.7 Healthcare**

- 5.7.1 Until April 1st 2016 health care services were provided by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Trust, which include General Practice, Dentistry, Psychiatry, Optician and Physiology.  
Nurse led clinics are in operation for smoking cessation, drug rehabilitation and therapy.
- 5.7.2 Each prisoner is seen on arrival at Brinsford by a member of the nursing team, with a follow up assessment the next day.  
The care team continues to be of a high standard, with excellent mental health care for the vulnerable YAs, as self-harming continues to be a big concern, with the ACCT process in place as a safeguard.
- 5.7.3 All cells have recently been refurbished to a good standard, giving a better living and working environment .

At each segregation review for “good order or discipline” (GOOD) a nurse is present with any mental health issues made available.

5.7.4 On April 1st 2016 the contract for Healthcare was taken over by Care UK. Sadly this meant that many of the existing staff left to take up posts elsewhere and, at present, the department is relying heavily on agency staff. It is hoped That new staff will be available in the near future.

5.7.5 Regrettably, as on all previous occasions, it has been shown that, during the reporting period, despite every effort by the in-reach team, secondary services have failed to accept a seriously ill patient in a timely manner. Despite the care provided within the prison, this has been detrimental to the YA.

This is no reflection on the prison’s Healthcare team, and is more a symptom of the increasing shortfall in health care provision within the wider Healthcare community.

In the wider prison environment, self-harming continues to be a worrying situation. The management of this by the ACCT process continues to require careful scrutiny, to ensure the safeguarding of these vulnerable young men.

5.7.6 Brinsford Healthcare does take in sick prisoners from other prisons that do not have an Inpatient facility. This has caused some problems, when it has been difficult to return the prisoner after treatment has been completed.

## **5.8 Kitchen**

As with the remainder of HMP Brinsford estate, this area has had considerable funding released to purchase new, and upgrade existing, catering equipment and facilities.

The Catering Manager has been instrumental in making a number of significant changes within the Catering Department and he and the catering staff are to be particularly congratulated for the improved quality and range of food they provide, within very limited financial resources, for each young YA.

During this period the cold lunch Monday to Friday was replaced with a hot meal, as happens at the weekend. This has proved popular and does give the YAs more time out of cell during the lunch break. This was done as an experiment and it may revert to the cold lunch and hot evening meal in the future, if it is not popular.

The catering staff make every effort to provide nourishing, tasty and adequate provisions for this group of YAs. The only significant number of complaints received were about the small portion size and not the quality of the food.

The staff must also be praised for the supervision and training they give to YAs who undertake the NVQ training programmes.

## **5.9 Physical Education/Exercise**

The facilities consist of a multi-functional hall, weights and cardio vascular training rooms. Outside there is a grass pitch and an Astro Turf pitch, which was renovated in early 2015, but lack of maintenance, due to staff and equipment shortages, has taken its toll. We have been informed that equipment has been ordered to rectify this.

Staffing levels have dropped by one and that post will not to be replaced.

Rugby has been dropped due to lack of interest from the YAs.

Education in this area is ongoing, with various first aid courses and also gym related training. Classes also take place to encourage healthy lifestyles.

With the intake of Category C prisoners, more use should be made of the gym with circuit training and various sports. We hope this will encourage the YAs to move away from just weight training.

With the restart of ROTL the airborne initiative is now available and inter-wing activities take place to encourage team work.

### **5.9.1 Visits**

The Visits Centre has been running well during the last reporting period. However, CCTV in this area needs to be updated. New furniture has been installed in the Centre which was assembled by YAs.

The main Visits Hall works well. It is bright, friendly and welcoming for any young children. Monday evening visits have been scheduled, but these can be difficult for families to attend. It is understandable that those who travel some distance would not find it a good use of time, when they only have an hour visit and have to travel through rush hour traffic on the motorways.

Visitors are welcomed and well looked after, but the Board feel that more checks for contraband would deter those who may think of bringing in banned materials. Two listeners, who can give help and support to prisoners if needed, are generally present.

The refreshment facility provided in the Visits Hall is good value and well supported by the volunteers who run it.

A purpose-built play station and adventure area has been installed, which has helped to facilitate the introduction of very successful 'Family Days' which now take place every other month. This enables YAs with children to enjoy this time playing, initiating and retaining their relationships with their children and partners. The only disadvantage to this project is the level of supervision required by a staff member to ensure the safety of the children and users of the equipment.

**6 ADDITIONAL AREAS TO REPORT ON**

Board Relationship with SMT and staff

The Board commends the hard work of the Governor, SMT and all staff at HMP Brinsford. It is recognised that there is still much work to be done, but the Board will provide support whilst remaining a critical friend.

The Board has a good working relationship with the Governor and there always has been a proactive approach taken to address any issues raised by the Board in a participative and collegiate manner

**7.0 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

**7.1 Board Structure, membership and activity.**

The IMB at HMP Brinsford has an allocation of 16 members. At the beginning of the reporting period there were 8 members. One member joined us at the start of 2016 but he had to resign due to work commitments.

At the start of 2016 a new Chair, Vice Chair and Board Development Officer were elected.

Rota visits occur weekly and two Board members share the weekly rota with visits taking place most days. Applications are dealt with weekly and, during 2015/16, there were 57 in total, a reduction from 2014/15 when there were 109.

There continues to be a number of complaints regarding the loss of YAs property. As indicated previously, many of these losses result from prison transfers.

Board meetings take place monthly and the Governor or Deputy Governor attends each meeting, giving a full briefing of progress within the prison together with any information which is of assistance to the Board and its function. These discussions are frank and open; any issues raised are listened to both courteously and in a productive and positive manner.

**7.2 Board Statistics**

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board Members at start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	8

Number of members leaving within the reporting period	1
Number of New members joining within the reporting period	1
Total Number of Board meetings within the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishments	355
Total number of segregation reviews attended	178
Date of Annual Performance review	October 2016

### 7.3 STATISTICS ON APPLICATIONS TO IMB HMP BRINSFORD

<b>APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>JULY 2012 JUNE 2013</b>	<b>JULY 2013 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>JULY 2014 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>JULY 2015 JUNE 2016</b>
ASSOCIATION	0	1	0	1
CANTEEN & FOOD	13	12	3	1
CELL CONDITIONS	1	5	2	0
COMPLAINTS - STAFF	2	9	9	6
DISCIPLINARY CONCERNS	14	23	8	4
EDUCATION & LIBRARY	1	3	1	0
HAIRCUTS	0	0	0	0
I E P	0	2	2	4
LACK OF GYM	1	1	1	0
MISCELLANEOUS	16	43	13	10
MISSING MAIL/PROPERTY	17	35	10	5
PERSONAL HEALTH	6	8	4	3
RACE/RELIGION PROBLEMS	1	0	0	0
RELOCATION REQUESTS	4	1	0	3
RECEPTION	0	0	9	0

TELEPHONE	2	4	1	0
TRANSFERS OUT	5	8	9	1
UNFAIR TREATMENT	8	9	12	6
VISITS & VISITORS	6	3	6	5
EMPLOYMENT ISSUES	8	9	0	3
SENTENCE RELATED HDC ETC.	2	20	11	4
CATALOGUE PURCHASES	0	3	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>57</b>
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS	3	6	1	2

**Applications are made by either placing requests in any one of the eight application boxes, which are situated throughout the establishment and collected weekly by a Board member or verbally when prisoners see a Board member. All applications are dealt with weekly.**

**END OF REPORT**

**John Dearden  
Chair - IMB Brinsford**