



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at
HMP & YOI Kirklevington Grange

for reporting year
1 January to 31 December 2016

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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

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, 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.

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3 Description of the Prison

3.1 Kirklevington Grange is an open prison catering for both Category D adult male prisoners and young male offenders. The operational capacity of the prison is 283. It has often operated below this level, with around twelve to fifteen young offenders on roll.

3.2 Although no longer formally designated a resettlement prison, Kirklevington Grange still places a significant emphasis on the resettlement role and employs a range of strategies to support this.

3.3 On arrival prisoners undergo a rigorous risk assessment, which may take up to three months. Then, if appropriate, prisoners are eligible for release on temporary licence (ROTL). Initially they undertake unpaid community work and then may be able to get paid work or further education and training outside the prison, if this is available and part of their sentence plan.

3.4 Prisoners are accommodated within the main building and in four units situated in the grounds. Three of these were originally accommodation units on oil platforms, while the fourth and most recent was purpose built. Further facilities within the establishment include an education centre, gymnasium, workshops for welding, woodwork and white goods repair and maintenance, recycling facilities and extensive greenhouses and gardening areas.

3.5 Education is provided by Novus, formerly The Manchester College. Nursing and administration is provided by G4S, GP services by Spectrum, dental services by Burgess and Hyder and non-clinical drugs and alcohol support by Lifeline. The Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and the charity MIND provide care and support on mental health issues. Durham Tees Valley Probation has continued to run a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes. Volunteers from NEPACS (North East Prisoners After Care Society) run a tea bar in the visits room and shop facilities are provided by DHL.

4 Executive Summary

4.1 During 2016 HMP & YOI Kirklevington Grange consistently operated at the highest level within the national prison performance regime. This success is corroborated by the Board's monitoring activity and more informal observations over the year.

4.2 Significant changes were made to the prison in 2016. The Acting Governor was appointed to the permanent post; this provided welcome stability. Of greater significance was the re-rolling of Kirklevington Grange (in association with Holme House in Stockton) as a Reform prison. This provided greater budgetary flexibility, a focus on resettlement outcomes and the opportunity to provide a greater degree of 'normality' within a prison environment.

4.3 In support of the Reform status a comprehensive Delivery Plan is in operation to improve the physical environment and the preparation of prisoners for release. This plan is well supported by staff and prisoners.

4.4 The closer working relationship with Holme House has enabled prisoners to have a better understanding of the regime prior to transfer and, consequently, more positive outcomes.

4.5 Kirklevington continues to have considerable success in its resettlement work. An impressive variety of purposeful activity is on offer. The prison's coffee shops and car valeting service are more in demand than ever. A consistently high number of prisoners found work outside the prison.

4.6 Prisoners have access to healthcare that is generally just as good as the service available to the public outside. Prisoners are generally safe and violence is extremely unusual. Illicit drug taking remains a concern but this is being tackled vigorously.

4.7 There is good progress in Education where success rates in English and Maths are high. Programmes are well presented, varied and relevant to prisoner needs.

4.8 Of concern to the Board is the condition of some parts of the prison where the age and design of building makes maintenance difficult and diverts funds that may be better used to provide improved prisoner outcomes. This is particularly the case with a number of toilet and shower facilities. Rota reports have frequently referred to these problems.

4.9 In the Board's view, the prison regime at Kirklevington Grange is fair and reasonable in its operation. Prisoners are mostly very positive about their experience of the prison. There were very few applications to the Board in 2016. This was also reflected in the relatively low number of prisoner complaints.

5 Equality and Inclusion

5.1 The prison continues to successfully promote equality and inclusion under the 2010 Act, under the provision of the present Single Equality Plan.

5.2 The prison inmates provide equality representatives who meet with the staff as and when required to discuss prisoner and staff issues. This works well, allowing everybody to take part in the discussions and is well appreciated both by staff and prisoners.

5.3 The chaplaincy continues to be representative of all faiths that are requested by a prisoner, giving guidance and a listening ear.

5.4 Throughout the year a wide range of events and special religious festivals supporting equality and inclusion are provided for, including Ramadan, Chinese New Year, etc, and the prisoners are well informed in advance of times and locations.

5.5 The Catering department does an excellent job of providing menus appropriate to special occasions and festivals; eg. Burns Night; Christmas; etc. The department also successfully deals with the requirements of Ramadan especially for the working prisoners. All of these efforts are much appreciated by the prisoners.

5.6 There are few reported incidents of discrimination and any reported are dealt with quickly; this being the view of both staff and prisoners alike. There are few examples of graffiti within the prison and any that do occur are removed.

Generally the staff and prisoners work well together on this issue, providing a fair climate in which to live for both parties.

6 Education, Learning and Skills

6.1 Prisoner engagement in Education is pivotal to the aims of the prison to ensure that on release prisoners are equipped for life in the outside world, particularly in obtaining employment.

6.2 The Board is, once again, pleased to report that this aim continues to show good results. Prisoners achieved an overall success rate in English and Maths of 95%. (Ofsted rates over 85% as Good). There is continual encouragement for prisoners to achieve Level 2 in both English and Maths.

6.3 All prisoners, on transfer to the prison, are assessed for levels of Numeracy and Literacy. The National Careers Service is part of this assessment providing information of prisoner experiences and expectations, so that a meaningful, individual sentence plan is put in place.

6.4 Information and encouragement to join in Vocational training courses is part of the preparation for life outside prison. There is also an Employability course available for prisoners.

6.5 Board members have found that the work provided by the Education staff is well presented, varied and relevant to prisoner's needs. The men are involved and engaged. The relationships between staff and prisoners are relaxed and respectful. There is praise for successes.

6.6 Failure to attend classes is not acceptable and the staff record and act upon any non attendance.

6.7 The department provides an appointment system where the men can keep track of their progress and can inform staff of conflicts of community work, home leave and paid work. Staff accommodate these conflicts in a positive way by providing alternative sessions and times.

6.8 Overall prisoner comments on the education provision in the prison are varied but as a generalisation they are positive and the overall aims are appreciated.

7 Healthcare and Mental Health

7.1 The healthcare available to prisoners at Kirklevington Grange is generally good and no worse than most people experience in the community outside. This is

despite the fact that some prisoners have quite demanding healthcare needs.

7.2 Waiting times for appointments with the doctor or dentist have varied over the year but have usually been reasonable. G4S provide healthcare staff who are in every day; some of whom are shared with HMP Holme House. Spectrum provide doctors who hold clinics once or twice a week, including every Friday.

7.3 Delivery of prescriptions continues to be efficient with medication prescribed one day being available that day or the next.

7.4 Access to in-patient care, either at HMP Holme House or in hospital, has been satisfactory. Prisoners whose risk assessment has not allowed them to make their own way are escorted to external appointments, if this is deemed necessary on medical grounds.

7.5 The relatively small number of prisoners who have mental health problems are identified by referrals and assessment at induction. They receive appropriate care and support provided by Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and the charity Mind, based at HMP Holme House. Listeners are trained in mental health awareness.

7.6 Drug abuse, particularly involving new psychoactive substances, continues to be a problem and of the 113 prisoners transferred out, the majority were for failures of the mandatory drug testing programme or searches. Illegal drug use demanding an immediate medical response has been rare. The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team has provided good support to prisoners wanting to rehabilitate themselves and are involved in the induction process. Mentors have been appointed from within the ranks of prisoners, strengthening the resources available to the DART team.

7.7 The smoking ban has been largely complied with and there have been surprisingly few problems. E cigarettes are available through the canteen. The healthcare team has made available aids to stop smoking, such as nicotine patches.

7.8 Healthcare accommodation is situated in a Portakabin which is satisfactory in terms of space but has ongoing problems of being unreasonably cold. New fan heaters have been supplied but the air conditioning is noisy despite a recent service by outside contractors. Water main problems have affected radiators but this is being dealt with.

7.9 Prisoners have rarely complained to the board about health care provision during 2016.

8 Purposeful Activity

8.1 This is an area of pivotal importance to the ethos of the establishment where successful employment in the outside world is seen as the key to changing attitudes and to leading a crime free life.

8.2 On transfer to the prison every prisoner has a 3 month lay down period in order to familiarise themselves with the Open conditions and the expectations required by the establishment. The Board is aware that for long term serving prisoners this can be a difficult transition. However each prisoner is interviewed and is required to be fully engaged in making the decisions and sentence plan that will match expectations on both sides. This seems to be a successful approach.

8.3 The engagement in Community work, training or eventually outside paid employment is carefully monitored. Non-compliance can result in transfer back to closed conditions.

8.4 The 30 days of unpaid employment as the first step to achieving ROTL continues to be in place in the prison. The car valeting service and a coffee shop where the prisoners deal with the public and gain certificated qualifications is now well established with the local community. There is also a shop where goods made and grown in the prison are on sale to the public. The Board is pleased to report on the successes of these initiatives.

8.5 Work is also available in the internal coffee shop where training and certification are also given. The standards of goods and produce in all of these are excellent and very popular.

8.6 Prisoners are kept informed of opportunities available in and outside the prison by wall displays and written matter freely available to all. Other certificated work available includes horticulture, machine operations, welding, woodworking, portable appliance testing (PAT), food preparation. In the opinion of the Board these purposeful work opportunities are seen to be delivered with good training, enthusiastic teaching and a good degree of success. The prisoners react with equal enthusiasm.

8.7 The gym continues to be very well used and also has contacts with members of the public through Bowls.

8.9 The Library continues to attract an above 90% usage by prisoners. The Library itself is always attractive with displays and information on many topics.

9 Resettlement

9.1 The Board is impressed with work the prison has undertaken to promote the resettlement of prisoners. Each prisoner is individually managed with their needs addressed and all staff have a role in the input of the offender management system.

9.2 Kirklevington Grange and Holme House prisons are part of the Reform agenda resulting in closer operational working between the prisons. This has enabled prisoners at Holme House to have a better understanding of Kirklevington's regime and what would be required of them if transferred. This also applies to prisoners returned to Holme House for non-compliance – following a risk assessment they will be given a list of what they need to do before they can be returned.

9.3 There is still an issue regarding incorrectly completed Oasys documentation accompanying prisoners from other prisons resulting in additional officer time spent on completing these prior to prisoners being risk assessed.

9.4 Prisoners receive an induction into the prison and are allocated prison mentors to help prisoners adjust to the new regime, this normally takes 2 weeks. All prisoners are allocated an offender supervisor.

9.5 All Restricted ROTLs (including Lifers and IPPs) are subject to scrutiny by Psychology through Enhanced Behaviour Monitoring (EBM). Their case histories are reviewed and they are closely monitored in their first month. Progression dates vary depending on sentence. Reviews take into account offence, thinking and behaviour, education, training and employment before Resettlement Day Release is granted. Checks are made via probation in the community regarding safeguarding, addresses, domestic violence issues etc., which all link in to risk assessment.

9.6 There were 113 prisoners returned to closed conditions in 2016. 47% of those were returned in the first 4 months of the year. The reasons for return were:

• Failed MDT	9
• Risk Assessment	21
• Psychoactive substances	40
• Alcohol	2
• Own request	1
• Breach of ROTL Licence	5
• ACCT management	3
• Security intelligence	13
• Regime non-compliance	12
• I/P Mobile Phone	5
• Police investigation	2

9.7 62% of those returned had served less than 6 months at Kirklevington (29% under 3 months). However this is an improvement on last year and linked to those transferring with longer sentences in the latter half of the year as well as Kirklevington being more proactive with Holme House.

9.8 16 prisoners were released on parole in the last year with only 2 parole boards deferred (the best performance on the open estate). Kirklevington's Offender Management team was praised for the high quality of work in relation to parole board preparation.

9.9 There are numerous agencies available to provide advice, assistance and support to prisoners and reduce re-offending – DART, NCS, NEPACS, Probation, Shelter, APM, Manchester College, Barnardos Parenting Course, Chaplaincy (all faiths), library services and prison staff.

9.10 The number of prisoners in paid employment remains high, currently at the time of writing 58 with 28 employers. More and more job vacancies require online applications to be completed as soon as vacancies become available and require email addresses of applicants. The provision of restricted internet access for prisoners to apply for jobs online is being investigated. The main issue to be addressed is how to resolve the use of individual email addresses.

9.11 Post release accommodation is normally 100% - if prisoners have no home to go to they are placed in hostels. This did not apply to one prisoner who was released without licence.

10 Safer Custody

10.1 The prison takes positive and proactive measures to promote a safe environment. A training programme is in place for staff; it is well attended and the material is treated seriously.

10.2 A clear anti-bullying policy is in place and, once a problem is identified, support plans are drawn up for both victim and perpetrator.

10.3 16 ACCT's were opened in 2016 compared with 6 in 2015

10.4 There was one act of self harm whilst under the influence of alcohol – the prisoner made cuts to his leg and an ACCT was opened. This prisoner was not on an ACCT when he self-harmed. He was transferred the following day to closed conditions.

10.5 There were 56 reports related to possible bullying incidents recorded and investigated. As a result 2 prisoners were transferred to closed conditions. A number of these reports relate to a small number of prisoners or the same issues, and as a result of those reports and investigations 18 Violence Reduction Support Plans were opened. There was one recorded incident of assault, prisoner on prisoner, but this was not related to bullying.

10.6 There are 13 Listeners in place, an increase on last year. They are all Transition Mentors, and they have all attended Mental Health Awareness and Bereavement Counselling Training. The prison has Listeners of all ages so they can relate to both the Young Offenders and the older residents. Their method of working remains relatively the same; a rota is in place so that each Listener knows what day he is the lead. This means he checks to see if there are any new receptions and makes sure he sees them on that day, he then signs the copy of the rota in the information room.

10.7 Kirklevington scored Green in a Security Audit, conducted by Operational Assurance, just before the end of the reporting year.

10.8 There were no Deaths in Custody

11 Segregation

11.1 The Segregation Unit was decommissioned in October 2016 and Kirklevington now only uses a secure holding room.

12 Residential services

12.1 Prisoners' accommodation continues to be maintained to a high standard. It is in single rooms, with prisoners having their own keys. A rolling programme of repainting has ensured that wings generally look clean and smart. Since 2015 property maintenance has been outsourced to Amey. There are clear systems for both staff and prisoners to report faults. Minor jobs are reported through the internal computer system and the work carried out by the prison works department; made up of prison staff and prisoners. As part of the Prison Reform programme substantial redecoration will be carried out, particularly in the main corridor, in partnership with local Arts organisations.

12.2 The kitchen and two coffee shops contribute successfully to the prison's resettlement programme. A pool of around 25 to 30 prisoners is available for work. Prisoners can train for National Vocational Qualifications level 1 and level 2 in either of the coffee shops. The standard of cleanliness in the kitchen is high and the food served is often complimented on by the prisoners.

12.3 There are regular Food Consultative Meetings, which are attended by staff and prisoner representatives. The menus operate on a "pre-selection" basis and are refreshed on a four-week cycle. There is a modern bakery, which provides a wide variety of products to the canteen, and also to the interior and exterior coffee shops. Some products are available to the general public. Many were sold at the Christmas Market.

12.4 A member of the Board visits the kitchen each week, where they have the opportunity to inspect and taste the food. They have generally found the choice to be good and the food appetizing and of good quality. There have been few complaints from the prisoners.

13 Work of the Board

BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended Complement of Board Members	10
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	7
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	0
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the prison	143
Total number of segregation reviews held	0
Total number of segregation reviews attended	0
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	1 st October 2016

IMB APPLICATIONS

Code	Subject	2014	2015	2016
A	Accommodation			
B	Adjudications			
C	Equality and Diversity (incl Religion)			
D	Education/employment/training Incl IEP	1	1	
E1	Family/visits incl mail & phone		1	2
E2	Finance/pay			2
F	Food/Kitchen related			
G	Health related			
H1	Property (within current Prison)		2	
H2	Property (during transfer/ In another prison)	5		
H3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue Shopping, Argos			
I	Sentence Related (inc HDC ROTL, parole, release dates, Re cat etc.)	2	5	2
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee Concerns inc bullying			
K	Transfers			1
L	Miscellaneous	1	2	
Total Number of IMB Applications		9	11	7
Of the total the number of IMB Applications Confidential Access was:		0	0	0

Verbal “on the hoof” Applications

In addition to the above, the Board dealt with verbal “on the hoof” applications. These numbered 20 during the year and covered the following topics:

Accommodation	1
Equality/Diversity	1
Education/employment/training	5
Family visits	
Pay	1
Food/Kitchen	
Healthcare	1
Property in prison	2
Property Transfer	1
Sentence Related, ROTL etc.	1
Prisoner concerns	1
Miscellaneous	6

For and on behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Kirklevington Grange

John Logan
Chair
March 2017