



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at
HMP Leyhill

for reporting year
February 2016 to January 2017

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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

Section 1 The Statutory Role of the Independent Monitoring Board

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal/Reception Centre (IRC) to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Minister of Justice from members of the community in which the prison or Centre is situated.

The Board 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 Minister of Justice, or any official to whom authority has been delegated, any concerns it may have.

report annually to the Minister of Justice 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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Section 3 Description of HMP Leyhill

HMP Leyhill is a Category D Open Prison in a rural setting, located off the M5 motorway between Bristol and Gloucester.

The prison holds a highly complex group of prisoners, with a total capacity during the reporting period of 515. It is one of only two establishments in the Open Estate to accept sex offender and child offender life-sentenced prisoners. The ratio of Indeterminate Sentenced Prisoners and Lifer Prisoners to Determinant Sentenced Prisoners increased during the year such that, by the end of the reporting period, there were some 370 Lifer/ISP (Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection) prisoners held in the establishment.

Prisoners needing to show they have made progress in their offending behaviour prior to parole are required to be tested in the community. To this end, opportunities are available to obtain work experience in the community local to the establishment.

In addition to the significant number of individuals contributing to the life of the prison in a wide range of voluntary roles, during the reporting period varied kinds of support to prisoners was provided by the following organisations:

- Career information, advice and guidance - National Careers Service
- Personal development, Social and Life Skills and Work-related Learning - Weston College and Samax
- Benefits and appointments on release - Job Centre
- Qualification support – N-Ergy
- Resettlement Services – CRC Catch 22
- Specialist support – CFO3
- Bank Accounts – Bristol Credit Union & Nationwide
- Gymnasium courses - Astar
- Healthcare services – Inspire Better Health
- Optician Services – Homecare Opticians
- Dentistry – Time for Teeth
- Mental Health services - Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Mental Health Trust
- Day Centre for older offenders – RECOOP

Escort Services to and from the prison were provided by GEOAmey.

Section 4 Executive Summary

During the reporting year, the prisoner profile changed significantly: the over 50s made up about 70% of the population [5.1.5], over 60% were sex offenders [5.4.2] and roughly 75% were Lifers or with Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection [5.5.1]. These changes increased pressures in several strands of prison life, especially in Resettlement and Purposeful Activity [5.4.2-4; 5.4.6-7; 5.5.1-2] but the single greatest problem area, despite some welcome changes to internal arrangements, related to ROTL [5.1.21; 5.2.10; 5.4.2-3; 5.4.7; 5.4.11; 5.5.2-4; 5.7.6]

Given these pressures and the extreme complexity of other dimensions of the prison population (detailed in Section 5.1), the prison was well-served in the maintenance of community safety by the inclusive approach of the proactive Security Department [5.7.2-5] and the creative energy and commitment of those working within the Equality and Diversity area [5.1 passim]. Though there can be no relaxation of vigilance concerning the presence of illegal drugs and other substances, there were some welcome developments, not least the availability of new tests for synthetic substances, their use in Mandatory Drugs Tests [5.3.18], and the firmness of response when involved prisoners were identified [5.7.7-8].

As a result, Leyhill was in essence a safe and decent place in which to live and work, in times of sickness [5.3.1; 5.3.10-12; 5.6.3] and in health [5.6.11; 5.7.1 and passim], and at its best there was a sense of community. This owed much, among other factors, to the formal system of pastoral care [5.6.9; 5.7.5] and a Chaplaincy team that was inclusive and outgoing [5.1.13-15; 5.6.10], but perhaps key to it were the many opportunities for prisoners to make responsible and significant contributions to the shaping and maintenance of community life [5.1.30; 5.2.4; 5.2.6-7; 5.3.15; 5.4.4; 5.7.3]. Given the stress placed on the importance of giving such opportunities, it is all the more surprising that those working in the Prisoners' Advice Centre – one of the key features of Leyhill – still have not been given the facility recommended by HMCIP after the previous Inspection, namely that “Peer advice workers should have access to e-mail and internet” [5.2.12].

Life in prison is intended to be purposeful and the work in Education Learning and Skills proved to a high degree productive and well-regarded by prisoners [5.2.8], though the Creative Arts still are not involved to sufficient extent to unlock their full potential [5.2.5]. Provision for older prisoners by The Lobster Pot was outstanding [5.1.6-7; 5.2.5; 5.4.9] but whilst the aim of extending guaranteed funding to up to 3 years is reassuring, this is, bearing in mind the expected growth of this cohort, a still disappointingly short time-span [5.2.5]. Much effort was expended in trying to provide genuinely meaningful and full-time engagement in both on and off-site industries and other purposeful activities. There was undoubtedly improvement but there is clearly scope for more [5.4 passim].

In what is a period of undoubted overall progress within the prison – an IMB judgement re-enforced by the recent report of HMCIP – the resolution of many of the most persistent shortcomings lie largely outside the control of the Leyhill authorities: the poor condition of many of the washing and toilet facilities [5.6.15]; major equipment and flooring issues in the central kitchen [5.6.16; 5.6.18]; the need for better equipped kitchenettes in the residential Units [5.6.13]; the newer problems posed by the increasing numbers of disabled prisoners, [5.1.9]; residual problems flowing from the installation of the new boiler [5.6.17]; an estate wide problem concerning the inter-prison transfer of prisoners' belongings [5.6.8]; the shortage of “approved premises” for prisoners on release [5.1.9]; the need for more flexibility in the ROTL regulations [5.4.3; 5.4.11] and the acknowledged unfairness of the plight of many IPP prisoners [5.5.1-2]. The Board looks towards the Minister and NOMS to address such matters. Their response will be a key factor in enabling Leyhill to move from being a very good prison into an excellent one.

4.1 Questions for the Minister

- 4.1.1 Has the Minister a timescale in mind for dealing with those indeterminately sentenced prisoners who are over tariff and could reasonably be considered for release? [5.5.1][5.5.2]

4.2 Questions for the Prison Service

- 4.2.1 Has the policy for the management and regularisation of property held by prisoners been reviewed, and what further action is to be taken to minimise the loss of property during transfer? [5.6.8]
- 4.2.2 What action is to be taken to ensure the provision, beyond the next three years, of long-term funding provision for older offenders through the Lobster Pot day centre facility? [5.2.5]

And as there are issues concerning matters raised last year:

- 4.2.3 Are there likely to be any changes to current ROTL regulations and, if so, will these changes give more flexibility to Governors in the Open Estate in seeking to maximise opportunities for prisoners to engage in work out in the community? [5.4.3][5.4.11]
- 4.2.4 What action is proposed, in light of the issues mentioned in this report, to enable those prisoners who have been suitably risk assessed and are actively involved in the resettlement process to be granted controlled access to computers in order to carry out their work in support of prisoners preparing for release? [5.2.12]
- 4.2.5 As it was accepted in previous responses that the Creative Arts can directly contribute to rehabilitation, what actions are proposed to ensure that opportunities to integrate these into the sentence plans of all appropriate prisoners are maximised? [5.2.5]
- 4.2.6 What arrangements are in place to rectify the remaining outstanding issues arising out of the new boiler installation, in particular the omission of any provision for space heating in the Laundry? [5.6.17]
- 4.2.7 What action is to be taken to ensure that all prisoners employed in industries within the prison are provided with regular meaningful work throughout the full working day? [5.4.5][5.4.6]
- 4.2.8 What were the results of the promised analysis of the availability of, and demand for, suitable “approved premises” and what plans are in place to secure further additional provision? [5.1.9]
- 4.2.9 What arrangements are proposed to effect refurbishment of the central kitchen and the washing and toilet facilities for prisoners and for the provision of improved facilities for the disabled? [5.6.15][5.6.16][5.1.9]

4.3 Previous Year’s Concerns not mentioned earlier

- 4.3.1 The arrival of prisoners at Leyhill with inadequate documentation is no longer considered an issue.

- 4.3.2 The new legislation and the availability of testing equipment have, together with the re-introduction of Mandatory Drug Testing and the established Zero Tolerance regime, had a significant positive impact on the supply and use of NPS.

Section 5

5.1 Equality & Inclusion

- 5.1.1 During the reporting year, the prison continued to respond positively to its duties under the 2010 Equalities Act and the associated PSI. The appropriate structures and procedures outlined in the Board's report last year very largely remained in place with continued reassuring results. The one structural change was that the Equalities Monitoring Tool (EMT) replaced the monitoring previously undertaken by SMART and it is now linked to the NOMIS system. The arrangement helps identify offenders' protected characteristics and to spot whether any group is disproportionately involved in Adjudications, Complaints, Use of Force incidents and problems related to ROTL and IEP. The relevant data is monitored at each bi-monthly Action Team meeting (DREAT). However, unfortunately National Hub Data is not published timely enough to be of maximum value when considering local situations.
- 5.1.2 The concept of Equality and Inclusion (known locally as Equality and Diversity) expanded significantly under the 2010 Equalities Act: and the Board has seen evidence that, despite the challenges posed by such a wide-ranging remit, the prison continues to respond energetically to its enlarged duties. One sign of this is the expansion this reporting year of the Equalities Team from one officer to three. Examples of good practice are identified later in this report under Strand Sections.
- 5.1.3 During this reporting year 43 DIRFs were submitted. This is an increase from last year, but not necessarily a negative as it could indicate increasing confidence in the quality of responses and the thoroughness of investigations. This positive interpretation (favoured by the Board) gains credence from the similar findings of HMCIP's Inspection concerning the investigations and in particular the unambiguous finding that discriminatory behaviour was not tolerated.
- 5.1.4 This year issues raised through DIRFs included; homophobic bullying (six prisoners raising the same issue); provision of special diets; inappropriate and racist comments; access to work for disabled offenders; shortage of accessible hostel places; and defacement of the LGBT display board. Some DIRFs were reclassified e.g. as a complaint or a VR. Issues raised on DIRFs were taken to DREAT meetings and where necessary became part of a change process via DREAP.

Strand Issues and Achievements

Age & Disability

- 5.1.5 This Strand is particularly important at Leyhill as the age population in the 50 - 70+ group is increasing as a percentage of the whole population. The Age population (50-70+) according to NOMIS is 204 (69.52% of the total population) of prisoners. There are 91 in this group identifying as Disabled. If the calculation is based on prisoners with 1 or more disabilities the overall figure is greatly lowered and the Board considers that to be a more accurate picture.
- 5.1.6 The outstanding innovative and committed work for the older prisoners continued

apace, based on the Lobster Pot. In an attempt to engage those elderly prisoners who do not yet attend, the RECOOP team extended their visiting to the Residential Units, the range of activities was broadened still further and publicity was widened.

- 5.1.7 The whole area under the auspices of the Lobster Pot is thriving. OFSTED viewed the Lobster Pot's work as "excellent" and HMCIP's Report termed it "an excellent resource, providing a creative range of activities, support and assessment of need". These judgements reflect the Board's own independent perceptions gathered week in, week out. As a model of good practice, the Lobster Pot is visited by staff from other prisons and in the Board's experience such visitors have been hugely impressed.
- 5.1.8 With such a paean of praise, providing many examples of the work is superfluous. Suffice therefore to mention a handful of innovations that caught the eye: the doubling of the number of trained disability orderlies; a social care worker helping elderly prisoners manage personal care matters; the identification during Disability Awareness Month of a new focus combining mental health and disabilities; the availability for those who choose to have "Disabled Person Lives Here" signs on the door of their room; and the start by the OMU of monthly Q & A sessions at the Lobster Pot.
- 5.1.9 Despite all this and the excellent levels of support and care from all areas involved in "end of life", there remain significant issues, albeit of varying levels of intensity. As indicated elsewhere [5.6.2], with growing numbers the prison is struggling to offer wheelchair-dependent prisoners the accommodation needed. In addition – and subject of an on-going capital bid - on an extensive site there are still areas where wheelchair passage is problematical. Furthermore, providing work for such prisoners is an on-going challenge. It is not simply a question of physical access to premises, but also of finding work situations they are capable of handling. And when the time comes for release, hostel accommodation for aged offenders continues to be difficult to find and, for the disabled, extremely difficult.

Foreign Nationals

- 5.1.10 Towards the end of the reporting year, 12 foreign national prisoners were listed on NOMIS, though in fact two of them were thought to be British citizens and their status subject to on-going investigation.
- 5.1.11 One prisoner arrived from the sending prison without correct documentation relating to nationality. As a result, all Foreign Nationals are now having their status checked immediately on arrival.

Religion

- 5.1.12 During the year, 23 identified faiths were represented within the prison. Towards the end of the reporting period the largest groups included 36 Buddhists, 70 Roman Catholics and 30 Muslim. Smaller groups included 6 Mormons, 11 Pagans, 5 Jews and 1 Baha'i. 110 identified with no religion.
- 5.1.13 Serving such a diverse community posed particular challenges to the Chaplaincy. However, it continued to play an encouraging and active part in ensuring all prisoners had the opportunity to explore their faiths and its staff played a central role in all areas of prison life [5.6.10]. In a major change to past practice, the Chaplaincy team agreed that displays celebrating the faith strands would be integrated and there would be inter-faith weeks. The first was held in November and prisoners were

encouraged to attend special meetings and find out about different faiths. Thanks to excellent efforts by the kitchen to provide appropriate menu choices for religious celebrations and other special religious events, there were occasions (for example at Christmas, Ramadan and Diwali) when others than adherents to the particular faith were able to share in the celebrations simply as a community gesture.

- 5.1.14 There were, nevertheless, also opportunities for individual faiths to maintain distinctive (though not necessarily unique) features, through both religious observation and teaching. Pleasing sensitivity was shown in responding to expressed concerns and changing needs, as the prison community is of its nature always changing in composition. For example, the Muslim Imam and prisoner representatives continue to monitor the preparation and serving of halal food and Buddhist meditation sessions were held fortnightly in response to a growth in numbers.
- 5.1.15 There was a recognition that the complexity of the range of faiths could leave staff unaware of important aspects of them. Two examples are the significance of some of the religious symbols (e.g. Pagan symbols) and of the variety of religious differences within the Muslim faith. In response to this situation, Interfaith Awareness staff training is now to be provided three times a year.

Race

- 5.1.16 At the beginning of the year the BAME community expressed a wide range of concerns. Examples included: lack of access to supervised work and outside work; lack of books and DVDs in the library reflecting their community and, because of cultural misunderstanding, a problem with perceived staff attitudes towards some BAME prisoners. In line with these concerns, the Equalities Officer noted in a report to DREAT “there is a feeling of apathy towards engagement from this section of the population”.
- 5.1.17 In response, enormous effort was made to involve BAME prisoners (varying between roughly 11% and 15% of the prison population) and the latter half of the year saw greater involvement in this Strand. Some examples of this effort included ethnic monitoring of access to both supervised and unsupervised work parties, an open forum with WEX to discuss work opportunities and monitoring attendance at WEX evening surgeries. It was noted that BAME orderlies in the gym were over represented, not under-represented as was previously thought. A social space for BAME offenders was provided, particularly for playing dominoes. Cultural awareness amongst staff started to be addressed. One area already focused on is the cultural issue that being assertive does not necessarily mean being aggressive.
- 5.1.18 These developments took place on foundations that in many ways are undoubtedly strong. They reflect what, in the Board’s view, is a genuine desire to improve staff/prisoner relations. There have been excellent monthly equality and diversity displays; continuing focus groups; staff/prisoner football matches; praiseworthy variety and handling of food; and a multi-cultural week. Once again, there was a first-rate Black History Month, including a Drum and Dance Band performance which thoroughly engaged the 100+ prisoners attending; a gospel choir (an event that prisoners requested be repeated); displays; a testimony wall of quality and engagement; and, to cap it all, a visit by D.Mac.UK, attended by 130+, and ending in a feast. In the words of one prisoner this was “by far the best Black History Month I have ever experienced in any prison”.
- 5.1.19 In August, the Samoan rugby player, Terry Fanolua, talked about his life and his

experiences of racism and stated “you have to be in it to win it”. Some BAME offenders seemed more engaged after this event, but others still feel they are “walking on eggshells” around the prison. Much was achieved in the latter half of the year. The direction of travel is undoubtedly right, but the nature of the journey means that there are still challenges to be met.

Gypsies and Travellers

- 5.1.20 In the latter part of the year two traveller representatives within this Strand took up their roles and soon made an impact. Awareness month in July was very informative and, with effective stories on the testimonial wall, was positively received. With support of the Equalities Team, two meals and a concert event were held.
- 5.1.21 Two concerns, though understood, are still on-going. The first is that some travellers are unwilling to identify as such for fear that their characteristic mobile life-style may mean that, because of a lack of a permanent address, they will not be given ROTL. The other is the perceived unreasonableness, given their culture and associated lack of ease in a classroom setting, of the Government’s expectation that all prisoners should reach Level 2 in English and Maths. A meeting was held with the Learning and Skills Department in November to discuss these issues. The work is continuing.

VICs (Veterans In Custody)

- 5.1.22 At the end of the reporting year there were 54 prisoners who had previously served in the British army.
- 5.1.23 On induction all VICs now receive an introductory letter outlining the available support. It includes contact with 3 new helplines offering Care After Combat and details of other veteran help organisations that are invited into the prison. Help is available in applying for service disablement pensions, in finding accommodation and in accessing service records through NOMS.
- 5.1.24 Dedicated VICs noticeboards are on display in the residential Units and in the Lobster Pot; and the Soldier and Veterans Magazine is available through the Library.
- 5.1.25 Monthly meetings are held in the chapel and provide a varied programme. Attendance has frequently been between 9 and 12. On Remembrance Day some veterans read their own poetry and the poppy collection raised £265.70.
- 5.1.26 It was encouraging that when a Leyhill officer attended a Butler Trust meeting for VICs it was found that most of what is considered best practice is already followed at Leyhill. However, though staff have worked hard to strengthen the Strand during the past year and confidence in what is possible has grown, there is still potential for growth both in the range of activities and the numbers engaging in them. The idea of a veteran/buddy system has already been identified as worth exploring and is indicative of the positive attitudes now present.

Sexual Orientation

- 5.1.27 This is a very active equalities Strand and it is growing in confidence. Currently there are 50 offenders identifying as LGBT and the “identifying” has increased since last year. The Strand representative is enthusiastic and creative in strongly promoting it.

- 5.1.28 The Strand's forum was very well attended and throughout the year contributed many positive ideas for the Equalities Team to consider. World AIDS Day was promoted. A new link was forged as a result of a coffee and cake activity (involving 75 prisoners) that raised £114 for the Terence Higgins Trust. Other new links include with Gay West and the LGBT choir 'Sing Out Bristol'. A LGBT newsletter was launched in November and a policy for the provision of condoms has been drafted for the Governor's consideration.
- 5.1.29 In May, an excellent sexual orientation display and testimonial wall created interest amongst a wider audience. However, the defacement during the LGBT Awareness Month of some of the displays in one of the residential Units – and a repetition after the provision and repositioning of new displays – is a disappointing indication that work still has to be done in challenging the homophobic views of some prisoners.

Conclusion

- 5.1.30 With very committed staff, actively involved, interested prisoners, and with systems in place to ensure accountability, monitoring and continued progress, the commitment at Leyhill to enhancing its equalities culture is clear. There is no doubting its resolve. In addition to work in particular Strands, matters such as working on prisoners' perceptions of being 'shipped out' and valuable initiatives within the reception process (involvement of a mental health nurse, the Buddy System and the Chaperone Initiative) benefit them all. The ongoing challenge remains to provide equality and diversity training for ever-changing cohorts of prison and civilian staff and, amongst offenders - as in the world outside Leyhill – the embedding of a more understanding culture at all levels.

5.2 Education Learning and Skills

- 5.2.1 The prison continued to ensure that all prisoners are thoroughly assessed during Induction. However, a concern expressed to the IMB was that, judging by information received from sending prisons, there is still on occasion within the system difficulty in ensuring that basic skills have reached an acceptable level before a prisoner reaches a resettlement prison.
- 5.2.2 Very largely, Weston College and N'ergy ran the same courses as last year. However, difficulties over the recruitment of staff by Weston College caused problems in running the Painting and Decorating and the Site Carpentry Courses. The Board was particularly concerned, given the extent of drystone walling in the Cotswolds and adjacent areas, that failure to recruit a lecturer led to the dropping of this very popular course, though the hope is to replace it with a course in the even more widely required trade of bricklaying.
- 5.2.3 There were the usual important inputs from inside the prison. Perhaps the outstanding development of the year was the rejuvenation of Recycling under the guidance of an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of staff. It has now reached the point of being able to register as a centre for the delivery of the WAMITAB (Industry Standard Recycling) qualification. As ever, the P.E. Department played a major role, not least in cooperation with Healthcare [5.3.10]. Also notable were the car valeting courses (popular because of the knowledge of the relative ease with which the skills can be profitably used outside) and Horticulture (another course that brings clear employment possibilities in the Cotswold area).

- 5.2.4 In stressing the regional suitability of many of the courses being run, the Board would register its satisfaction that, in addition to there being an annual Prisoner Needs Analysis [PNA], there is also evidence of willingness to respond to its findings. For example, prisoners volunteered to members from time to time their frustration that there had been no forklift training. This found expression in the latest PNA and now arrangements have been made for an outside agency to supply it.
- 5.2.5 Regrettably there continued to be no funding for Business Enterprise and for Arts and Crafts. All creative pastimes in these fields were supported only on a voluntary basis. The activities involved included Fine Cell Work, Creative Art 'Starting Points' to Music. These activities were run mainly by The Lobster Pot. In addition The Lobster Pot incorporated into its programme social and life skills provision for the over 50s and activities geared to the resettlement objectives of prisoners working towards release. RECOOP which currently supplies this provision will continue its work in 2017-2018. The short-term nature of such provision does not encourage longer-term planning. It seems likely that the quality of an already impressive service could be yet further enhanced by longer contracts.
- 5.2.6 Once again, the education programme was enhanced by the contribution of Peer Mentors in subjects particularly benefiting from one to one tuition, such as literacy (supported by the Shannon Trust) and mathematics (supported by Fair Shares). Board members know from informal conversations with prisoners how much value those undertaking such roles can place upon the responsibilities given to them. They can play an important part in the process of rehabilitation so core to the work of a Resettlement Prison.
- 5.2.7 Throughout the average week some 22 or so prisoners were engaged in Distance Learning. Virtual Campus was more fully utilised than previously and Tuesday evening sessions attracted an average of 12 offenders. In a welcome example of the prison's willingness to respond to individual needs and interests, recognizing the fact that nowadays many prisoners have some I.T. competence when they enter Leyhill, a Level 3 course was introduced and attracted 28 students.
- 5.2.8 In evaluating the quality of the courses provided, one figure stands out from the myriad statistics available: throughout the year there was only one absence that was unauthorised. Particularly in an Open Prison where men, rather than be escorted, find their own way to classes, such a figure speaks highly of the attractiveness of the tuition. Its effectiveness in other respects inevitably has in part to be measured by examination pass rates. Vocational courses had a highly commendable 100% pass rate. English results remained very good and, at Level 2, success rates in Mathematics improved from around 40% to 79%, though there was a small drop at Level 1 from 67% to 62%.
- 5.2.9 As many prisoners in a Resettlement Prison are on the cusp of re-entering wider society, the experience of success and the associated re-building of self-confidence are important aspects of their preparation for release. The introduction towards the end of the reporting year of Celebration of Success occasions held in suitably imposing settings was very welcome. The IMB witnessed the great pleasure prisoners derived from them. Given the very limited - if any - success many prisoners have experienced in formal learning situations, such 'public' celebrations are very important, not least because of the accompanying enhanced self-esteem in the prisoners concerned.
- 5.2.10 Against all the successes must be placed the opportunities missed. Once again risk

assessments connected with ROTL were limiting factors. Other issues relating to ROTL are recorded at 5.4.2 and 5.5.2-4.

- 5.2.11 Given the references in the Board's previous reports to the problems caused by the restricted level of access to the computer system allowed to prisoners working in the Library, it is now a pleasure to report that ways have now been found that permit them to deal with the system relating to the borrowing and return of books when the Librarian is not on duty. The impact of this change has meant that her professional skills can now be used more fully rather than her having to input into the system data manually transcribed in her absence. The heavy use of Library facilities by a large proportion of prisoners is testament to the quality of the services provided overall.
- 5.2.12 Elsewhere, however, hard-to-understand limitations on computer use are having an increased adverse impact on very worthwhile activities. Prisoners' access is currently limited to Virtual Campus, Meganexus, City & Guilds, and Evolve and, mindful of security considerations, the Board would not question this general policy. However, as it pointed out in last year's report, in an Open Prison selected prisoners often have ready access to computing facilities when they routinely go outside to work and on ROTL. No one has yet explained, either in response to last year's report or subsequently, why offenders of that standing cannot in special circumstances have similar access to help provide services to the prison community. As the Board stated last year, it would be strange if there was more risk of their abusing such access when in the prison than when gaining access outside. The Prisoners' Advice Centre, staffed by highly-regarded prisoners, in going about its valuable work is increasingly finding that relevant up-to-date material is available only on line, not in print. Given this situation, and mindful that the recent HMCIP Inspection Report indicated that as long ago as the last Inspection, when the world was far less dependent on electronic communication, the prison received the professional recommendation that "Peer advice workers should have access to e-mail and internet" [p.63 in the latest HMCIP Report], the Board believes the case for a sympathetic review of the present situation is now very strong indeed.

5.3 Healthcare

- 5.3.1 The provision of healthcare at Leyhill Prison continued at a high level despite the extra strain put upon the service by various staffing difficulties during the year and the sometimes substantial numbers of older disabled prisoners, many of whom have chronic conditions. These require a high level of care that is likely to be higher than might be expected at many other prisons. Examples include Diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Post Cardiac/Stroke care and Asthma.
- 5.3.2 There was a change in the service provision in April 2016 following receipt of tenders to Bristol Community Health. The resulting group of providers goes under the name of 'Inspire Better Health'. Whilst most of the services available in 2015 were good, there was concern about the dental provision but this is now provided through a different group called Time for Teeth and has proved to be a better fit for what the prison needs. Many of the previous problems were to do with waiting times (often due to the way in which the appointment system was managed) but the situation has improved considerably with the new arrangement.
- 5.3.3 Services provided from outside the prison include: Optician, Audiology, Ultrasound (all monthly); Podiatry (fortnightly); Physiotherapy (weekly) and Dentistry (several times a week).

- 5.3.4 An appointments system continued to enable prisoners to attend Healthcare and go through the triage service in the morning, thus allowing any relevant referrals to be made. Waiting times for non-urgent Nurse appointments averaged about 10 days and self-referrals to GPs about 2 weeks.
- 5.3.5 Just as in the outside world, many appointments were not kept. Such failures waste time within Healthcare and prevent the appointment slot being used by someone else. In an attempt to reduce this, part-way through the year a reminder system was implemented and a reminder slip is now delivered to the prisoner on the Friday preceding the week in which his appointment is due.
- 5.3.6 It had been hoped that some level of evening cover in Healthcare could be organized but this did not prove possible. However, prisoners can now collect any prescribed medication on Friday evening after they come back from working away from the prison.
- 5.3.7 A welcome increase in nursing staff since last year led to specialization within the Healthcare staff. Examples include training in Spirometry/COPD reviews, Nurse prescribing, Patient assessment & Clinical Reasoning (Triage), Nail care (this relieves the podiatrist), Palliative Care, and treating patients with long term conditions (particularly relevant given the age profile at Leyhill).
- 5.3.8 A further improvement was the introduction of an ultrasound service providing both AAA (Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm) screening and musculoskeletal ultrasound scanning.
- 5.3.9 Pharmaceutical services are now supplied by the pharmacy located in Bristol Prison. Prescriptions are ordered electronically, but there were some problems during the latter part of the year with items being unavailable and Leyhill not being informed in a timely manner. In the case of urgent requirements this can have a particularly detrimental effect.
- 5.3.10 The work in Healthcare continued to benefit greatly from close working with the P.E. Department. It receives referrals for health improvement, weight loss and stroke rehabilitation. Recently 2 officers completed training enabling them to do cardiac rehabilitation. The P.E Department also provides support to the member of the Healthcare staff who runs a 12 week course to help prisoners stop smoking. The most recent course attracted 31 attendees and 5 were placed on a waiting list. Nicotine replacement therapy is available through a drug called Champix (which mimics the nicotine effect) and through one-to-one support as needed.
- 5.3.11 Other inter-departmental support was supplied by arrangements for the provision of Personal Care Assistants for prisoners who needed assistance with their day-to-day personal care. The need for this was not great and eligible patients tended to prefer to wait until they themselves felt unable to cope.
- 5.3.12 The Palliative Care Suite was used 3 times during the year with Healthcare staff providing sensitive, compassionate care. The Prisons Ombudsman's reports into the deaths were all positive, referring variously to "a high standard of end of life care", "caring and compassionate palliative treatment and support" and "care equivalent to that the patient could have expected to receive in the community". With the possibility of referrals from other Category D establishments in mind, a Leyhill Palliative Care Unit operating manual was produced jointly by HMP Leyhill, Inspire Better Health and South Gloucestershire Council.

- 5.3.13 Appointments to hospital clinics were managed better than last year, due in part to the recruitment of more prison drivers. However, when escorts or bed-watches were required, staffing was at times notably stretched.
- 5.3.14 The 'Inspire Better Health' initiative has led to the integration of the service provided to prisoners needing Mental Health or drug support. The team now attends the induction sessions for the new arrivals and explains the available services and how to access them. Though there can be self-referrals, most come as a result of the Healthcare induction process.
- 5.3.15 Peer Mentors, trained to assist prisoners with drug concerns, play an important role in the team's approach. They attend the induction sessions and staff the Recovery Hub areas in the A and B Residential Units seven days a week. Though the optimal number of 3 to 5 peer mentors was sometimes difficult to maintain because they may move from the prison, the concept and the service are very valuable.
- 5.3.16 Towards the end of the reporting year, the team started to recruit 3 staff members to bring staffing levels up to complement. When they are appointed, it is expected that two staff members will be involved in providing more group support sessions. SMART Recovery meetings already happen on a regular basis. Topics covered in different groups included anxiety and sleep issues. There are plans to start in 2017 a PS/Spice awareness group and one covering steroid awareness.
- 5.3.17 As ever, external support has been very welcome. Though there was a break during the year, meetings with AA (Alcohol Anonymous) and CA (Cocaine Anonymous) are due to restart and it is hoped that NA (Narcotics Anonymous) will also soon be providing support.
- 5.3.18 The need for such initiatives is clear. Psychoactive substances continued to be an issue and misuse of prescription drugs is also a growing problem. The Psychoactive Substances Act which became law in 2016 and the new test kits for psychoactive substances together have proved useful. The use of the latter in the MDT (mandatory drug test) during the latter part of the reporting year appears to have acted as a deterrent (particularly as there seems some confusion about how long the presence of these substances are detectable).
- 5.3.19 Despite the challenges that remain, overall the Board is confident that for the most part the Healthcare services provided are at least as good as those available in the outside community and, indeed, in some aspects probably better than the norm.

5.4 Purposeful Activity

- 5.4.1 There is an expectation that every prisoner of working age, unless medically unfit or in education, will be meaningfully employed in the prison or in the community and, despite the prison being effectively at full complement throughout most of the reporting period, this was generally achieved.
- 5.4.2 During the reporting period, the proportion of sex offenders increased significantly such that this category of offender now represents in excess of 60% of the total prisoner community and whilst much effort was directed towards securing external workplace opportunities out in the community, finding employment opportunities for, and placing, sex offenders, continues to be difficult. However, despite this particular difficulty and the ongoing restrictions imposed by the current ROTL policy, on average, some 40 to 50 prisoners were able to take advantage of opportunities to work out in the community each week. Although significantly less

than the levels achieved before the introduction of the current ROTL policy and before significant changes in the prison population, this represents a welcome but modest increase over that achieved last year.

- 5.4.3 A relaxation in the period between ROTL Boards from three months to six months for those prisoners already working out was a contributory factor in maintaining these improved levels. So too were the more recent efforts made to reduce the time taken to vet offenders in order to avoid potential job opportunities being lost before ROTL clearance was granted (as was the case earlier in the year). Undoubtedly the current ROTL policy is still a factor in the reduction in numbers previously working out and despite an expectation that the policy would be re-visited, no sign of imminent change is apparent.
- 5.4.4 On-site work opportunities during the year when simply listed look impressive. However, when looked at in detail the picture is more mixed. Many prisoners continued to find gainful employment as orderlies within various Departments and with widely varying levels of responsibility. Some responded better than others and many roles are not overly taxing, though without their inputs the prison would be far poorer, both financially and as a community.
- 5.4.5 A limited range of trade-related courses were available. In particular the Level 2 Carpentry course, the Level 2 Cookery course and the Barbering course were not only successful in terms of results, but also in terms of the level of take-up. However, the sudden and unexpected cessation of the popular and well-delivered Painting and Decorating course was a significant loss to the range of vocational training on offer, as was the loss of the Dry Stone Walling course. The Print Shop and the Carpentry Shop both continued to produce quality work when such work was available but both these workshops are heavily reliant on a steady flow of orders in order to maintain full employment for the significant number of prisoners employed in these areas. This has consistently been an issue over a number of years in the Print Shop, where basic assembly work has had to be used to keep prisoners occupied during what would otherwise be idle time.
- 5.4.6 The DHL warehouse provides vocational on-job training in Warehousing as does, to a lesser extent, the MOJ Store whilst the busy Recycling Centre and Car Valeting garage provide meaningful employment whilst providing opportunities to gain both experience and qualifications that can lead to potential employment on release. The recently expanded Market Garden operation has also been of benefit although, by its very nature, the seasonal element of the work leads to peaks and troughs in the amount of work available. A continuing disappointment has been the low levels of work in the Laundry where demand from other prisons has dropped by more than 50% from that previously experienced and was the level used in 'Benchmarking'. As a consequence, staff are often frustrated by being unable to provide regular patterns of work and offenders were often observed playing cards or reading simply to pass the time.
- 5.4.7 The provision of meaningful work is not only important from a training point of view, particularly for those prisoners without qualifications or previous experience, but, for some, it plays a crucial role in developing a work ethic that is an important element in the drive to reduce reoffending. In this sense, the need for work to be regular and ongoing is particularly important. To this end it was pleasing to note the increased frequency and involvement of Supervised Work Parties carrying out a wide range of work out in the community during the reporting period. The Board understands the difficulties faced and appreciates the significant efforts made to attract a wider and

more reliable range of work within the prison and externally in the community, but there is still room for improvement.

- 5.4.8 Some significant elements of purposeful activity do not necessarily relate directly to employment. For example, in addition to providing courses leading to qualifications for those wishing to work in the physical fitness industry, the Gym programme provided opportunities and challenges through a wide range of courses for prisoners of all ages, ranging from full physical work-outs to smoking cessation sessions.
- 5.4.9 The Lobster Pot once again provided an ever more varied programme of activities for the Over 50s prisoners who make up almost 70% of the total prison complement. Each of the three daily sessions offered are regularly attended by some 50 or so prisoners. Over the year, this important facility experienced a total footfall of over 43,000 to these daily sessions. The Library continues to play an important role and was always busy, with some 90% of prisoners using the facility, many taking advantage of the facilities on offer on a regular basis. The Chaplaincy provided a range of activities that included but went well beyond those with a clear theological emphasis. Many of them were available during evenings and weekends when offenders were not at work.
- 5.4.10 A small number of prisoners are, through direct involvement with the Great Expectations project, actively involved in advising and mentoring young people in the local community who have become involved in, or who are at risk of being involved in, criminal activities. In addition to the benefits to those being mentored, the project is of enormous potential benefit to those prisoners involved.
- 5.4.11 In summary, Leyhill continues to work extremely hard to provide a varied programme of purposeful activities. However, in part because the current make up of the prisoner community creates difficulties in finding as many external work opportunities as needed and, in part, as a consequence of the current ROTL restrictions, Leyhill – though a Resettlement Prison - is not able to give more prisoners an opportunity to work out in the community ahead of release. This is very disappointing.

5.5 Resettlement

- 5.5.1 The number of Lifer and IPP prisoners continues to rise, together constituting nearly 75% of the prison roll. The age profile has also risen with a significant number of men over the age of 50. Some are much older, often serving long sentences. For them resettlement presents a particular challenge.
- 5.5.2 The number of IPP prisoners over tariff (some well over) is a concern so significant in the Board's eyes that it forwarded a motion on the issue for consideration at the IMB National Conference. The worry essentially is about the basic unfairness of the situation, something which lately the Justice Department seems to have acknowledged. However, there are also aspects relating to the day to day arrangements for such prisoners that cause concern. Given the nature of the original offences, readily accessing external work placements for them is difficult. This has an impact on the provision of suitable evidence for Parole Boards and is demotivating for the prisoners. Moreover, at times during the year prisoners were extremely frustrated by the difficulties they perceived in getting ROTL, (particularly in comparison with what they had heard of other Open Prisons) and by not being kept fully informed of progress in the assessment of their suitability for it.
- 5.5.3 A related issue in some cases was the very limited availability of hostels or other approved premises in some of the areas where prisoners plan or are required to

settle on release. This caused delays in being able to build up sufficient experience of ROTL in preparation for Parole Boards.

- 5.5.4 For some time, neither internally nor externally has there been any lack of awareness of such problems or of the need to tackle them. The changes to ROTL policy during the previous reporting year had their own major repercussions within the prison, but a recent internal review of management procedures, together with the recruitment of extra staffing in OMU and team re-organisation, shows signs leading to improvement. [Other comments on ROTL are at 5.1.21; 5.2.10; 5.4.2-3; 5.4.11 & 5.7.6]
- 5.5.5 ROTL issues aside, many prisoners have, in the Board's experience, positive attitudes to many aspects of offender management and, in particular, they continue to appreciate the opportunity to attend and take part in their Risk Boards.
- 5.5.6 The number of prisoners with physical disabilities of varying types has increased. Providing them with suitable supervised work both within the prison and externally in order to progress towards resettlement is difficult.
- 5.5.7 News of successful post-release employment following qualifications gained at Leyhill in dry-stone-walling, on-site carpentry, catering, barbering and horticulture is encouraging.
- 5.5.8 The staff at the Resettlement Hub nowadays, as the name implies, are engaged in a cooperative venture, involving a wide range of professional help from outside agencies such as N-ergy, Catch 22 and the careers service. As the situation beds down, the potential seems likely to increase to the benefit of all concerned.

5.6 Residential Services

- 5.6.1 The prison's Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) remained at 515 and towards the latter part of the year the number of prisoners hovered close to that number. At such times, new residents were initially housed in one of the small number of 2-bed rooms, until a single room became available.
- 5.6.2 The trend mentioned last year of the prison receiving an increasing number of elderly prisoners continued, many with disabilities. This trend is now well-established and shows no sign of easing. Some of the disabilities are relatively minor, but pressure on accommodation for those with mobility problems or other pressing care needs has now become a challenge. Indeed, meeting these accommodation needs fully seems on the edge of requiring some building modifications. It is highly desirable that such modifications should be made slightly in advance of need rather than some needy prisoners having to suffer before the longish process of modifications is set in train.
- 5.6.3 The prison's Palliative Care Suite is a recognised National Resource. During the year one outside recommendation was received. Locally, there is a welcome preference for prisoners to be transferred at a pre-palliative stage, not least because such a period provides an opportunity for patients to adjust to a new setting and fellow prisoners before a move at a final stage into the Palliative Care Suite. This is a self-contained unit attached to a residential block in which disabled prisoners are accommodated. Its use during the reporting year was very limited but much appreciated [see 5.3.12].

- 5.6.4 One prisoner was granted compassionate release and died soon afterwards. The Board was delighted to hear of the prison's support of the grant. For a variety of reasons, such grants cannot be for everyone. However, for those whose very weakened state poses no realistic threat to outside society, routine compassionate release for those who desire it, if suitable outside accommodation is available seems the mark of a civilised, humane society.
- 5.6.5 There is no segregation of prisoners (save in 3 short-term holding cells within the Reception Unit) and there is no Vulnerable Prisoner Unit.

Prison transfers

- 5.6.6 Though there were occasions when prisoners were held in the holding cells for unacceptable periods (on one occasion from approximately 7.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. when GeoAmy had not turned up on time), such waits were rare and arising through factors outside the prison's control. The Board is satisfied that staff mitigated the problems as much as possible. They kept prisoners informed as best they could and showed their concern in practical ways, such as allowing comfort breaks, providing drinks and sandwiches.
- 5.6.7 On at least one occasion, problems over the documentation of arrivals led to a prisoner eventually having to be turned away. Unsatisfactory and indefensible though such rare administrative errors are, more generally whenever Board members observed the reception of prisoners they were impressed by the humanity shown during the process and in particular by the contributions of existing prisoners who have a part to play in it.
- 5.6.8 This year the transfer of property from previous prisons generated far more applications to the Board than in the recent past: last reporting year there were 5, this year there were 16. One aspect related to a prisoner's property not all coming on the van with him and a significant quantity having to be transferred separately. However, most frustrating to prisoners was when the process of seeking to retrieve missing items dragged on over weeks and very occasionally several months. Factors concerned were various: sometimes it was very difficult gaining a response from the previous prison; occasionally there was a contributing internal failure to chase up a missing reply at the earliest reasonable point or to keep the prisoner informed in a timely manner; on one or two occasions there lacked a timely intervention to consider the possibility of compensation or otherwise formally bringing the matter to a close. Part-way through the year an internal review of the prison's Complaints system took place and late in the year changes were implemented. It is to be hoped that these prove effective in dealing with those aspects of the problem that lie within the scope of what the prison can most readily do. However, there also needs to be action more widely across the prison system for the problems to be minimised.

Pastoral care

- 5.6.9 In broad terms, the formal system of pastoral care seemed to work well. The increase during the year in the number of OSGs may have eased overall pressures slightly and created that little bit of extra space within routines that facilitates caring. Personal Officers were required to have at least monthly contact with their charges, making significant entries in records which were then reviewed by a more senior officer. Board members' frequent examination of Unit Observation Books was regularly reassuring. It evidenced sharing of significant information and generally caring attitudes.

- 5.6.10 Other aspects of pastoral care, for example the GOBOFF system [5.7.4], ACCTs and VRs [5.7.5] and, increasingly, the Social Care contributions all provided effective support. The Chaplaincy continued to play a major role, particularly in dealing with external family concerns. However, the Chaplaincy's impact on the atmosphere of the prison was far wider. One long-serving prisoner, when explaining that his time at Leyhill was the first when he had ever become involved with the Chaplaincy, identified two specific characteristics. He stated that the Chaplaincy staff all seemed to work as a team so that he felt it didn't matter which member he approached and the provision for prisoners went well beyond the narrowly religious.
- 5.6.11 Overall, pastoral care continues to be one of the strengths of the prison and that helps to maintain essentially positive attitudes among many prisoners. Staff-prisoner relationships, with few exceptions, seem very good. Together with a proactive Security Department, these factors give many grounds for confidence. However, as the Board pointed out last year, staffing levels especially at night are minimal. The Board is aware of this not only because of routine access to data but also when a member makes a night visit. If on relatively rare occasions the staff complement is marginally reduced, the essential tasks are covered by a member of staff taking on a role normally fulfilled by a colleague of either one grade higher or lower. This is a sensible response to an immediate situation, but the Board remains convinced that staffing levels should constantly be reviewed to ensure that financial pressures never take precedence over prudence and that assumptions built into decision-making remain realistic in fluid situations.

Residential accommodation

- 5.6.12 In many ways, two of the residential Units provide potentially attractive, spacious accommodation (though C Unit by virtue of its cramped structure is never likely to be more than serviceable). There has been during the reporting year commendable efforts in redecorating some communal areas to increase their attractiveness
- 5.6.13 Improved kitchenette facilities in all Units continues to be a need with no indication of being met. The Board is very mindful of the extremely restricted budgets of many men leaving prison. It would therefore reiterate its view that, in a Resettlement Prison, the opportunities for prisoners to develop, through frequent practice, their self-catering skills should not be so very limited. The need for improved kitchenette facilities was also made in HMCIP's report on the September inspection.
- 5.6.14 Generally, prisoners looked after their accommodation well and their personalisation of their rooms was appropriate.

Maintenance issues

- 5.6.15 As last year, the main issue relating to the residential (and some other) premises was the frequent failure to provide speedy and long-lasting responses to maintenance problems. In broad terms, prisoners kept the recesses in the residential units clean and efforts at redecoration were appreciated, but prisoners trying to maintain standards found it dispiriting that in many places there were features that cried out for remedy, e.g. water coming through ceilings, longstanding mould stains, sinks without plugs, toilet cubicles that were out of service for significant periods, taps without caps, showers that didn't work properly. For the most part, these problems were reported promptly but the contractual arrangements with Carillion for one reason or another seemed a huge barrier to effective long-lasting maintenance. The Board was delighted that the HMCIP's Inspection Report also highlighted the need for

refurbishment of the recesses. Decency requires that this key element of proper provision is now attended to promptly and effectively.

- 5.6.16 Similarly, longstanding maintenance issues continued to plague the central kitchen. The flooring problem (with associated potential safety problems) was reported last reporting year and persisted during this. Again, the Board was told that contractual problems have been an issue. There were few weeks during the year when all major pieces of kitchen equipment were working. At one point, 4 out of 8 major pieces of equipment were not serviceable. During one period of roughly 3 months no sterilising equipment was available and so only disposable plates could be used. During other periods, the menu was affected. These problems have had a direct effect upon prisoners. For the most part they were very understanding and kitchen staff showed remarkable skill in responding to constant equipment problems, but the failure to provide adequate equipment maintenance arrangements continues to be a major concern.
- 5.6.17 For several years, the Board has drawn the Minister's attention to significant problems arising out of contractual arrangements. In its last two Annual Reports it has highlighted problems with the delivery of the major contract for renewing the prison's new boiler system. Sadly, despite reassurances contained in responses to those Reports, problems have continued. The heating currently provided in the prison laundry is insufficient to cope with winter temperatures in a large and airy building. The continued failure to provide adequate heating there bears directly on the issue of the decency with which prisoners are treated.
- 5.6.18 To repeat verbatim a comment made in last year's Report: "For their part, on-site maintenance staff, kitchen managers and Unit and other staff showed commendable commitment (and at times inventiveness) in making the best of difficult situations out of their ultimate control. In response to such forbearance, it is to be hoped that where necessary, changes in contracting procedures and standards will be quickly effected".

Catering

- 5.6.19 Despite the serious equipment issues within the kitchen (5.6.17), catering staff provided an excellent service within the constraints imposed. Particularly notable were the provision of special menus to mark a range of highpoints within the religious calendars of a commendable range of traditions and also the care taken on a day to day basis to respond to the various religious sensitivities.

Canteen

- 5.6.20 The Canteen arrangements (which allow offenders to make private purchases) generally worked smoothly within the national limits. There is a quarterly review by the Prisoners Consultative Committee of the items available and a realistic approach to any understandably late orders.

5.7 Safer Custody

- 5.7.1 It is pleasing to report that the generally high standards reported last year have continued to be evident, witnessed in members' direct contacts with prisoners and in the data available within the prison system.

- 5.7.2 These standards are underpinned by an excellent prison-wide structure and a proactive Security Department. The Security Team meeting every quarter is chaired by the Head of Security and regularly attended by the Governor (or Deputy Governor), and representatives of the Chaplaincy, Healthcare, OMU, Listeners and the Samaritans. A member of the IMB has been a regular observer. During the reporting year, full reports (including comprehensive statistics) were furnished and actions on areas of concern from the previous quarter discussed. Action plans were thoroughly detailed and checks on progress made.
- 5.7.3 As elsewhere in the prison, the prisoner voice was well represented. Prisoner representatives of the Violence Reduction group and the Listeners made major inputs and relevant points from the Prisoners' Consultative Council were routinely aired. Observation confirmed that prisoner representatives always appeared welcome and that their views were treated with respect.
- 5.7.4 As last year, the 'GOB-OFF' scheme worked extremely successfully, enabling many potentially difficult issues causing anger and anxiety to be dealt with immediately, so avoiding, with only rare exceptions, any escalation reflecting in behaviour with potential disciplinary implications. The value prisoners place on this scheme is vividly reflected by the fact that it was used on some 1,000 occasions a month.
- 5.7.5 Violence Reduction books were opened as and when required (typically only 2 or so a month) and the work done by staff in this area, as remarked upon in members' rota reports, was routinely exemplary. Equally significant in reflecting the generally civilised behaviour within the prison, it was not unusual for the number of ACCTs being opened to be as low as 1 or 2 a month. Members noted that related documents were completed conscientiously and checked by line managers regularly. The number of active VRs and ACCTs remained much the same from month to month, with details being investigated at the quarterly meetings. There were no worrying trends reflected relating to the age and/or ethnicity of the prisoners concerned.
- 5.7.6 The concerns over ROTL reported last year are still present, but are significantly reducing by internal changes in the OMU and more guidance being issued to prisoners, particularly about the timescale of the different procedures being followed. Evidence of the reduction in concerns comes from the content of the GOB-OFFs, information from the Advice Centre and from there being fewer applications to the Board on the issue. Nevertheless, that there is still a significant amount of work to be done on the issue was confirmed by the recent report of HMCIP and it is a matter in which the Board continues to take a close interest.
- 5.7.7 The presence of illegal substances that the Board reported on last year is still a worry. The evidence of their presence comes not only through the discovery by staff of affected prisoners and relevant equipment but also in the distaste for such behaviour that prisoners not involved express in various ways. The number of suppliers identified and their being moved out to closed conditions have been positive features of the year, but there is no scope for any reduction in vigilance.
- 5.7.8 The Board has been pleased to note that indications given to it in response to last year's Report of ongoing work to help prisons deal with drugs problems (particularly in relation to synthetic substances) were followed in the latter part of this year by the availability of new tests for synthetic substances. Their use in Mandatory Drug Tests has already proved valuable and led to the transfer to closed conditions of several prisoners. The Board understands that, as with many new procedures, there are still aspects of their use that have to be assessed and that the challenges faced in

responding to new ploys developed within the drugs market continue to require unremitting vigilance, but it is pleased to acknowledge some useful developments.

Section 6

6.1 <u>BOARD STATISTICS</u>	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	13
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	1
Number of members leaving within reporting period	1
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	378
Total number of segregation reviews held	n/a
Total number of segregation reviews attended	n/a
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	27.07.16

6.2 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Code	Subject	Year 2016-17	Year 2015-16	Year 2014-15	Year 2013-14
A	Accommodation	4	1	1	0
B	Adjudications	3	2	3	3
C	Equality & Diversity	3	0	30	0
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	4	1	2	6
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	2	3	5	0
E 2	Finance/pay	3	0	5	0
F	Food/kitchen related	1	2	3	0
G	Health related	5	3	4	7
H 1	Property (within current establishment)	5	4	3	0
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	17	5	3	8
H 3	Canteen, Facilities, Shopping	0	2	0	0
I	Sentence related (HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc)	25	27	36	18
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	4	3	3	0
K	Transfers	2	2	2	14
L	Miscellaneous	3	3	5	9
	Total number of applications	81	58	78	65
	Of total, number of Confidential Access	1	0	0	2

