



**Annual Report**  
of the  
**Independent Monitoring Board**  
at  
**HMP Springhill**

for reporting year  
1 January to 31 December 2016

Published  
20 June 2017



*Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody*

## Section 1

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### STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prison Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release;
- (2) inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has;
- (3) report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

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

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## Section 3

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

- 3.1** HMP Springhill is jointly managed with HMP Grendon (located next door). A single Independent Monitoring Board monitors both prisons.
- 3.2** As from April 2016, the prison service regional management structure was altered. South Central region was abolished with the southern part moving within South West and the northern part going into London. Springhill was encompassed within the London and Thames Valley region.
- 3.3** Springhill is an open establishment (Category D) and accommodates up to 335 adult men. It was the first open prison in the country, and opened in 1953. The “Big House” was built as a family home in 1872 and used in wartime as a base for MI6 and then Special Operations Executive (SOE). Springhill residents are those who are considered trustworthy in open conditions, including those coming to the end of their long sentences as well as those serving shorter sentences.
- 3.4** One of the primary aims of the prison is rehabilitation and resettlement. All men not serving a short sentence are encouraged to join a resettlement scheme that allows them to carry out work for the local community and to seek work experience and full time work for the last months of their sentences.
- 3.5** Men are accommodated in 13 huts. In 10 of the huts, men are mostly 2 per room. Each hut has a communal lounge, kitchen, showers and separate toilets. There are 3 huts with 40 single rooms each – these are allocated according to a structured incentive system. There is a single 16-bed unit, which is dedicated for men with substance misuse support needs. Office accommodation and Springs restaurant (used by visitors and staff from Springhill and Grendon) are in the Big House.
- 3.6** Certain facilities (e.g. the dental suite in Grendon) and an increasing number of staff teams e.g. OMU (Offender Management Unit), Business Hub and Security serve both prisons. However, Springhill and Grendon cater for different categories of prisoner and have very different regimes.
- 3.7** Care UK provides healthcare services under contract with the local healthcare commissioning body (Health & Justice Commissioning NHS England, Thames Valley Area Team). Nurse clinics include Wellman, Diabetes, Asthma, Immunisations and ‘Stop-Smoking Clinic’s. There are visiting Podiatry and Physiotherapy services. Mental Health In-Reach is provided by Barnet MHT. There are Dental (‘Time for Teeth’. ) and Optician services providing regular clinics.
- 3.8** DART (Drug & Alcohol Recovery Team) is subcontracted by Care UK and delivers substance misuse treatment services.
- 3.9** Milton Keynes College provides education services.
- 3.10** MTCNovo provides resettlement services under contract with the Ministry of Justice. It operates in Springhill through the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).
- 3.11** Carillion plc provides maintenance and facilities management services under contract with NOMS.

## Section 4

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This report presents the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Springhill for the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016. IMB evidence comes from observations made on visits, attendance at meetings, scrutiny of records and data, informal contact with men and staff, surveys and prisoner applications.
- 4.1.2 Men are treated humanely although the deteriorating condition and fabric of the prison remains a constant negative to the positive efforts to foster a more rehabilitative culture (see 5.7, 6.1).
- 4.1.3 Preparations for release have improved considerably in the second half of the year as evidenced by the increases in ROTLs (Release on Temporary Licence) and the opportunities for further education and employment (see 5.2 and 5.4).

#### 4.2 Areas of excellence

- 4.2.1 **Prison Council:** The Prison Council is a valuable channel for identifying problems and implementing improvements. During 2016, the Council made significant contributions to a number of initiatives. There will be changes to its constitution from January 2017, and the Board hopes that these changes will lead to additional improvements to communication, and the rehabilitative culture (see 6.4).
- 4.2.2 **The Enabling Environment:** A significant initiative during this year has been to address a traditional prison culture characterised by fear, violence and lack of trust to one of a rehabilitative culture where the dynamic between men and staff can be transformed at every interaction. The Board welcomes this initiative at Springhill (see 6.1).

#### 4.3 Areas of concern

- 4.3.1 **Prisoner accommodation and facilities:** This was reported in our 2014-2015 report as an area of concern. There have been issues this year both with the speed of response from Carillion for regular maintenance across the prison and repair issues falling outside the maintenance contract which require a lengthy bidding process. From the prisoner experience, outcomes in many areas have been poor, and in an old establishment such as Springhill, conditions and fabric are likely to deteriorate faster than current contractual arrangements can cope (see 5.7 and Appendix A).
- 4.3.2 **ROTL:** This was reported in our 2014-2015 report as an area of concern and remained a concern in the earlier half of the year when ROTL numbers were low. The situation has improved through the year with ROTL numbers increasing significantly, suggesting that OMU is coping better with the new ROTL procedures (see 5.5).
- 4.3.3 Discussions with men suggest that the relationship between OMU staff and men can be improved, with some men fearful of raising issues with OMU or questioning their decisions in case they were discriminated against when it came to ROTL consideration. The Board recognises that the recent increases in ROTL numbers combined with an enabling environment are contributing to improvements in a culture change (see 5.5.3).

## Section 5

### OBLIGATORY REPORTS

#### 5.1 Equality & Inclusion

- 5.1.1 There is a well-established team of equality mentors at Springhill who, supported both by the Prison Council and staff, take responsibility for helping to organize a wide range of events and celebration days which were held across Springhill during the year. This included a Romany Traveller week, Black History month, the re-dedication of the Buddha Grove, LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) events and a day each month to celebrate and focus on differing cultures and countries. The men helped to plan and cook special meals and devised sports and quizzes.
- 5.1.2 The team produced a newsletter highlighting diversity events and provided further information aimed at supporting diversity. Special meetings for particular groups of men (the lack of which was highlighted in HMIP report of 2014) have been developed such as a weekly meeting of older men.
- 5.1.3 More than 50 men observed Ramadan in 2016, with the kitchen staff ensuring that food, including hot meals, were available in accordance with the requirements of the fast.
- 5.1.4 The Chaplaincy team is inclusive and multi-faith and represents various Christian denominations together with Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan and Sikh faiths. There is a chapel and a mosque along with a multi-faith room at Springhill. The Chaplaincy hosts a popular Christmas carol service each year. The team runs the Sycamore Tree Project to enable men to understand the impact of their crime on victims, with a positive effect on attitudes and behaviours. A Relationship course was also made available. The Team is responsive, and is well supported. There is currently a vacancy for a Roman Catholic priest.
- 5.1.5 There is now a dedicated Custodial Manager (CM) and supporting administrative member of staff to underpin diversity and equality. The use and analysis of data on diversity and equality characteristics has increased. DEAT (Data Evaluation and Analysis Team) analysed whether adjudication results were unfairly biased against BME (Black and Minority Ethnicity) men. The study proved that this was not an issue. The Board welcomes the greater use and scrutiny of this data.

#### 5.2 Education, Learning and Skills

- 5.2.1 Education and learning in Springhill is provided largely through Milton Keynes College (MKC), under contract to the Skills Funding Agency. In 2012, a new form of contract was introduced under OLASS (Offender Learning and Skills Service) Phase 4 using a payment by results approach. As of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014, MKC is paid only on actual registrations and achievements. The final 20% of funding for a course is received only if a student passes the course.
- 5.2.2 The success rates (viz completed and passed) for the education year (August 2015 – July 2016) were mixed.

Course	Starting numbers	Success % rate
Functional skills English 1	24	68
Functional skills English 2	25	63
Functional skills Maths 1	11	67
Functional skills Maths 2	31	84
Living in a diverse society	63	100

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Making choices	123	100
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The overall success rate was 94%. The retention rate was 94%. Absenteeism has been reduced significantly, as monitoring of attendance has increased and been reported to the management team. Attendance of those enrolled over the year was 93%.

- 5.2.3 There was continued opportunity for study with the Open University (OU), and other higher education and distance learning for which inmates can apply for a student loan. As at December 2016, there were 15 students in higher education. The students are only part time and it is difficult to find time to study and get access to computers. But the top floor of one of the Springhill accommodation huts has been converted to allow OU and distance learning students access to a computer in their rooms. To facilitate higher education, Oxford Brookes University offers funded places for some courses and also helps with means-tested maintenance grants on release. Oxford Brookes students provide mentoring for English and Maths once a week. One-off projects of educational value have included a Shakespeare workshop, facilitated by the drug and alcohol team, and a debate on the EU referendum, which included speakers from staff and men.
- 5.2.4 Challenges for education at Springhill over the year have included:
- Restrictions on funding requiring a Skills Needs Analysis to develop the curriculum.
  - Gaps in tutor provision: Up to July 2016, there had been 6-8 weeks with no English tutor. After July 2016, there were gaps in CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme), plumbing and carpentry tutor provision. As at November 2016, all tutor vacancies had largely been filled.
  - The need for more direct allocation to courses: this issue was finally resolved in October when direct allocation was allowed.
  - Inadequate sequencing: sequencing needs to be improved so that learning is done early on in a prisoner's time at Springhill rather than impacting on ROTLs.
  - Misallocation to English and Maths levels, in particular, due to inadequate time on induction week to complete the assessment and follow up diagnostics. This issue has been resolved by introducing an earlier diagnostics process.
  - In April 2016, the Head of Learning and Skills (for both Grendon and Springhill) left and a temporary replacement was appointed in December 2016.
- 5.2.5 Despite these challenges, the Board notes the commitment of the Governor and the education staff to continue to improve the education regime. The Prison Council reported views from men that one of the Maths teachers is "fantastic" and the Horticulture course is "the best course they have participated in whilst in custody". Sequencing was introduced in August to manage the allocation and scheduling of education with work activities and so help men meet their sentencing targets on release.

### 5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

- 5.3.1 This has continued to be provided to a satisfactory standard for Springhill men. This was maintained during the contracting period from Nov 2015 through to the introduction of the new contract in April 2016. The Health Care team have been through significant change during this time, with new personal being inducted.

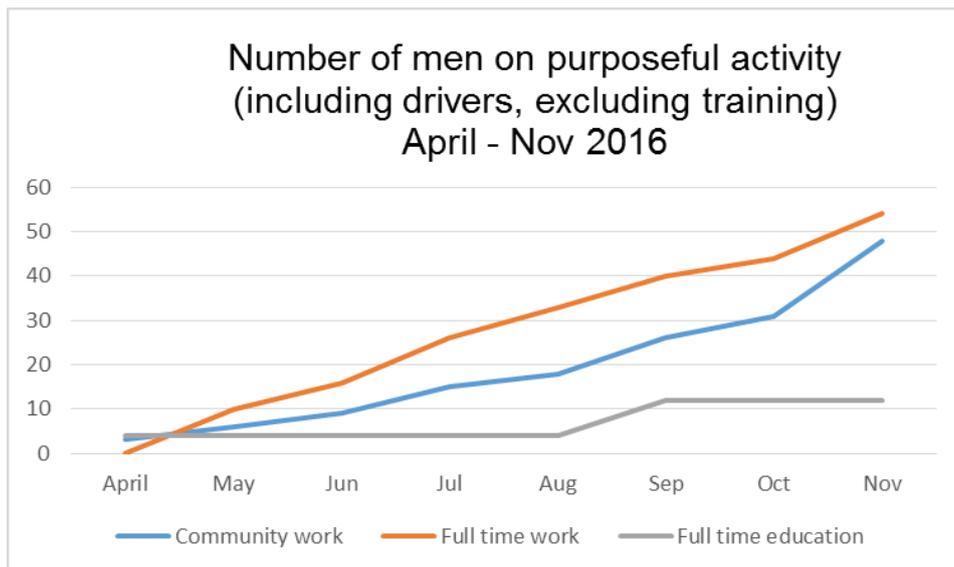
5.3.2 Staff:

<b>December 2016</b>	
Full Time Nurses	4
Part Time Nurses	2
Healthcare Assistant	1 (P/T)
Vacancies	3

Healthcare is currently recruiting for 2 RGNs (Registered General Nurse) (Band 5). During the year vacancies have been filled with Bank Nurses. Mental health care is supported by BEH MHIT secondary care services who employ a part-time Learning Disability Nurse and 2 part-time Registered Mental Health Nurses.

**5.4 Purposeful activity (including work)**

- 5.4.1 There is a defined pathway to employment at Springhill, with men starting work on camp, progressing to community and voluntary work on camp and off camp, and finally working in paid employment off camp leading up to release. Included in this pathway are opportunities for education and training, which should lead to resettlement and employment.
- 5.4.2 Springhill’s number of restricted status men on 31 December 2016 was 144 and over the year this required additional resources due to the need for additional checks with outside probation for job placements, staff vetting of placements, as well as random job placement checks by staff.
- 5.4.3 The on-site Activities’ Hub is responsible for finding and arranging the vetting of both community and work placements. For the first 5 months of the year it has faced difficulties due to staff shortages, delays and difficulties in assessing work placements, and difficulties in finding employers willing to take on work placements for purposeful full time work.
- 5.4.4 In spite of this, the Activities Hub has significantly increased levels of purposeful activity, as illustrated in the chart below for period of April – November 2016.



5.4.5 The Activities Hub working together with OMU (Offender Management Unit) has developed the following initiatives to help deliver on this growth:

- **Employer placements:** Meetings with companies and recruitment agencies regarding potential employment in rail track work and road construction work; and possible delivery of onsite PTS (Personal Track Safety) training for heavy plant operation. Some employers such as Carillion will fund all training.
- **Internet facilities:** Introduction, in July 2016, of monitored Internet facilities to provide residents with the facility to search and apply for work and complete short online training.
- **Sequencing:** A member of the Prison Council was instrumental in getting the sequencing process up and running.
- **Employer Engagement:** An Employer Engagement event held at Springhill in September 2016, was attended by over 20 employers and approximately 200 men. Another is to be held in February 2017.

## 5.5 Resettlement

5.5.1 One of the primary aims of the prison is rehabilitation and resettlement. All men not serving a short sentence are encouraged to join a resettlement scheme that allows them to carry out work for the local community and to seek work experience and full time work for the last months of their sentences. Fundamental to these aims are opportunities for purposeful activity (see 5.4), an early understanding of the prison's functioning, an efficient and fair ROTL process, and assistance with the practical problems facing men on release.

5.5.2 To help men settle in to the prison, a Buddy Scheme was introduced in July 2016 to assist new arrivals at Springhill to learn about the functioning of the camp.

5.5.3 ROTL process: In the IMB's last report the Board was concerned with OMU 's ability to cope with the new ROTL processes (incorporated in PSI13/2015) and to deliver a dependable service to the prison. This remained a concern for the first half of the year when ROTL numbers were relatively low. Also, discussions with men suggest that the relationship between OMU staff and men could be improved with some men fearful of raising issues with OMU or questioning their decisions in case they were discriminated against when it came to ROTL consideration. In August 2016, the Prison Council reported its concern at the high number of residents experiencing delays with their ROTLs due to staff absences.

The Board recognises that the recent increases in ROTL numbers combined with an enabling environment are contributing to improvements in a culture change.

5.5.4 During 2016, steps were taken to improve numbers on purposeful ROTL, in line with the ROTL policy and to streamline the process to reduce time delays. Such steps included:

- The issue by Springhill of a ROTL Local Policy Document in November 2015 as guidance incorporating the impact of PSI 13/2015 and the inclusion of the additional restricted ROTL status.
- Introduction, in July 2016, of a logging process to assist in tracking and monitoring the progress of ROTL applications from time of arrival in OMU (i.e. prior to receipt by the OS (Offender Supervisor) or Case Administrator).
- Redesigning of some forms, including a simplified sentence plan document.
- Changes to improve joint working between OMU and the Activities Hub.
- Allowing licences to be signed the night before the ROTL start date in order to prevent delays.
- Improving the procedure for the timely collection of ROTL12 documents.
- Cover to be provided for OSs who are on holiday.

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- 5.5.5 In the latter part of 2016, the situation improved with ROTL numbers increasing significantly. The table below gives a snapshot comparison of individual ROTLs on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> December, showing considerable increases in purposeful activity, especially in full time work.

<b>Individuals on ROTL</b>	<b>01.06.16</b>	<b>01.12.16</b>
Community work	6	34
Full time work	7	44
Full time education	4	9
Other (including drivers, training RDR/ROR*)	43	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>110</b>

\*Resettlement Day/Overnight Release

- 5.5.6 The previous benchmark figure of 20% of the population to be on active ROTL on a daily basis (i.e. approx. 65) is now being over achieved on a regular basis but there are limits on how far these numbers can go given the following constraints:
- The site has to meet contractual obligations of the education contract with Milton Keynes College.
  - The running of the required daily activities on site must be met.
  - The increasing number of retired men.
  - The number of men waiting to complete their 3 month lay down.
  - Some delays in carrying out risk assessments for standard and more especially for restricted men.
- 5.5.7 Management's focus is rightly concentrating on the quality of work placements and prioritising full time work over community work.
- 5.5.8 In early 2014/15, a significant number of men came to Springhill with out of date or missing paperwork including OASYS (Offender Assessment System) documents. This increased the backlog of paperwork in the OMU and put further pressure on work for risk boards. This was an ongoing problem into 2016. However, during the latter part of this year there has been considerable improvement with a significant increase in ROTL numbers in November and December 2016.
- 5.5.9 Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) reports on all residents being discharged from Springhill but does not manage those residents working with NPS (National Probation Service). The latter accounted for 29% of the residents discharged in 2016.
- 5.5.10 Some men have expressed disappointment about the level of support provided by the CRC, complaining that many men leave Springhill with nowhere to live. CRC stresses that it is not a housing provider and it is difficult for men to find accommodation because:
- Councils and private landlords are reluctant to take on tenants who have debt.
  - Men are not priority candidates for social housing.
  - Men on release find it difficult to fund a rental deposit.
  - There is a shortage of homeless shelters.
- 5.5.11 For all discharges for 2016, 81% were to accommodation classified as 'Family and Friends', 10% to 'Bail and Hostels', and 2% to 'No Fixed Abode'. Of these 2%, none apply to the last 8 months of 2106. Discharges to 'No Fixed Abode' are currently the exception and not the rule at Springhill.

## 5.6 Safer Custody

- 5.6.1 During the year a new Safer Custody Manager was appointed. There have been improvements both to the results and the reporting and the Board expects to see further improvements through 2017.
- 5.6.2 The prison has raised the awareness of bullying and suspected bullying. All IRs (Intelligence Report) related to bullying are directed to the Safer Custody department for investigation and review.
- 5.6.3 Staff monitoring continued to discover occasional drug alcohol and mobile phones finds.
- 5.6.4 Following the recent audit on safer custody and violence reduction, Springhill was rated Green / Good and maintains the previous rating.
- 5.6.5 Springhill took over the control of managing ACCTs (Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork) for vulnerable men who were previously either automatically transferred to another prison or lodged temporarily next door at Grendon. On occasions men on an ACCT were also out on ROTL with family members becoming involved in reporting back to the prison on the prescribed checks.
- 5.6.6 Springhill however, does not have facilities to segregate vulnerable men who need to be put on a constant watch.

<b>Springhill</b>	
Number of absconds	6
Number of Failure to return	0
Number of ACCTs	9

- 5.6.7 Segregation, Care and Separation: There is no Segregation Unit at Springhill. Men who need to be removed from open conditions at short notice are often moved to adjoining HMP Grendon. Once there, as there is no Segregation Unit either, men are accommodated on various wings (where they are known as Lodgers – see 6.4).

## 5.7 Residential Services

- 5.7.1 Accommodation. Carillion has the maintenance contract for Springhill and Grendon. While Carillion do carry out a large number of small repairs on a weekly basis, major issues are taking many months to resolve because they fall outside the maintenance contract. For example, leaking roofs in the kitchen in Springhill were first reported in June 2015 and are still not repaired. Broken flooring in the kitchen was reported 18 months ago is not only still unrepaired but has caused a trip injury to a resident.
- 5.7.2 Some of the outstanding repairs are jeopardizing the safety of the men and staff and security of the prison. For example, CCTV cameras are not all operating correctly; in the education workshop a roof leak caused the ceiling to collapse.
- 5.7.3 The Board has monitored the time taken for some of these repairs to be fixed (see Appendix A).
- 5.7.4 The long-awaited refurbishment of Y Hut showers was finally let as an emergency contract despite the fact that it had been a long-standing problem and funding had been available for some time.

- 5.7.5 Other showers and washroom areas and the huts generally remain in a poor state. Funding has been allocated for the refurbishment of 2 hut showers before the end of the financial year 2016.
- 5.7.6 Accommodation for those with physical disabilities remains very limited and some other areas remain inaccessible for those with mobility problems including parts of education, the new association room, the OMU, the chapel and other locations.
- 5.7.7 The IMB welcomes the national initiative whereby Governors now meet regularly with Carillion's senior management to discuss top priorities for the prison.
- 5.7.8 Catering. Overall the performance of the kitchens in Springhill is remarkable considering the financial resources at their disposal. The quality and quantity of food provided is very good and is rarely criticised. The kitchens provide a wide range of religious food provision to cater for the diverse needs and wants of the population.
- 5.7.9 Library. Springhill has its own library provided by Buckinghamshire Library Services. The Board reported last year that improvements were set back in 2015 with the loss of the librarian, and the library did not provide access to catalogues and easily accessible PSIs and PSOs. The situation has markedly improved during 2016. A new librarian was appointed, and in March 2016, PSI indices were made available in the library with residents being able to identify and request particular PSIs. In addition, folders were provided with the most popular PSIs.
- 5.7.10 Visits. There has also been the recognition that the system for welcoming visitors needs improving and this led to the development of the visiting area in the main dining hall. A significant improvement was made including new equipment and toys for the children's play area, which has been well received during 2016. A varied menu of food including hot options is now available. Men under the guidance of a staff member created a new food server area, which is very welcoming.
- 5.7.11 There have, however, been significant delays in the repair of the heating in the dining area and during November and December the heating was not working. Staff brought in temporary heaters but these made little effect on raising the temperature in the large area. This has impacted negatively on visits with family and children.

## Section 6

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### OTHER AREAS OF THE PRISON REGIME

#### 6.1 Enabling Environment

- 6.1.1 A significant initiative during this year has been the concept of an enabling environment to help develop a rehabilitative culture where the traditional dynamic between prisoner and staff can be transformed at every interaction - however modest. The aim of a rehabilitative culture is to:
- Reduce violence
  - Generate hope
  - Improve job satisfaction
  - Reduce reoffending
- 6.1.2 Better communication between men will be encouraged with inter- hut competitions. Huts will be renamed to help improve the current rather dehumanizing single letter names. There was a staff/resident Christmas event in the dining hall, and a new year's day staff/resident football match.
- 6.1.3 The renamed Community Council (see 6.5) should provide better communication between all the huts and management, and should encourage a more consistent approach to staff and resident exchanges.
- 6.1.4 A questionnaire sent to staff and men was responded to by 60 men and 15 staff. The results when published in Feb 2017 will form the base line to measure successful implementation.

#### 6.2 Drug Strategy

- 6.2.1 The Drug Strategy Committee meets regularly to monitor performance against the prison's Drug and Alcohol Strategy Policy and the Supply Reduction Action Plan. Acknowledged areas of concern are:
- Periodically, a shortage of trained officers and/or staff hours to perform the various testing regimes including Suspicion Testing.
  - Budget restraints on the purchase of testing kits.
- 6.2.2 In 2016, there were 408 mandatory tests with 29 proving positive. There were 43 suspicion drug tests carried out, 27 of them proving positive.
- 6.2.3 1 in 3 men are active clients of DART and men value the support offered by the DART team. There are 4 Peer Supporters recruited from among the men. 8 workshops are available including:
- Spice Awareness.
  - Cannabis Awareness.
  - Brain Chemistry.
  - Relaxation.
  - Alcohol Awareness.
  - Steroid Awareness.
  - Acupuncture.

## 6.3 Lodgers

- 6.3.1 Whenever men need to be moved out of the open conditions of HMP Springhill into closed conditions, they are often transferred on a temporary basis to nearby HMP Grendon before moving them to another establishment. These men are generally known as Lodgers in Grendon.
- 6.3.2 Reasons for this temporary lodging vary and include movement for the prisoner's own protection, or because he is no longer deemed suitable for open conditions, or because of a misdemeanour for which he may be subject to adjudication and transferred back to closed conditions. The Lodger process involves a shared responsibility by both prisons.
- 6.3.3 The presence of the Lodgers causes extra work for the staff in HMP Grendon and dilutes their attention away from residents on the wings. For Lodgers, and especially those who are for Lifers or with indeterminate sentences, the move from open to closed conditions can increase feelings of vulnerability.
- 6.3.4 Observations and case studies by the Board have revealed a lack of clarity as to the division of responsibility between the two prisons. On occasions, it has been difficult for the Board to identify and locate Lodgers for want of inconsistent signposting. Complaints from Lodgers have included: not being informed of reasons for transfer, not receiving medication in good time, not receiving a proper meal on the evening of their transfer to Grendon and property not dealt with according to prison regulations. In some cases, it appears that Lodgers have been kept for unduly long periods in Grendon with little information as to their onward transfer. Lodgers can be moved quickly out of Springhill and on from Grendon with little opportunity for the Lodger to make any complaint about the process or for Board to keep track of the reasons for their movement and whether proper procedures have been followed.
- 6.3.5 The Board has also observed excellent care for a lodger on an open ACCT, with a review carried out by Springhill staff, where issues of medication, property, and next steps were all dealt with effectively and efficiently.
- 6.3.6 During 2016, the Board submitted a report to prison management outlining their findings. Management has responded positively and has introduced additional procedures for staff to follow. The IMB will continue to monitor.

## 6.4 Prison Council

- 6.4.1 During much of 2016, the Prison Council continued to develop and was recognised and valued by men and management as a way for information to be disseminated, and also as a forum for men and management to raise and debate issues of concern. The new prisoner run Information and Guidance (IAG) room which was developed in 2015 continues to function well. Prison Council Meetings continued to be held once a month. These are run by the Prison Council chair and members and also attended by an IMB representative, members of senior management from various departments, and either the Governor or Deputy Governor.
- 6.4.2 During 2016, the Prison Council made significant contributions to a number of initiatives, including presenting written proposals for reducing absconding and a buddy system. Its ideas resulted in improvements being introduced in a number of areas including ROTL procedures, medical prescriptions, catering and the offender payroll. Overall, the tenor of the Prison Council meetings improved during the year with management becoming more receptive to proposals communicated by the Prison Council members who appeared to feel able to argue their case on a more equal footing. However, it is notable that some issues were left incomplete from one meeting to the next due to the failure of either the prison management or the Prison Council chair to take the necessary agreed actions.

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- 6.4.3 Men on the Council are subject to an inevitable churn of a D Cat prison, and in December prison management and Council members agreed to reorganise the structure of the Council to help improve representation of all the men and to help communication between officers following decisions made at the Council. From January 2017, the renamed 'Community Council at Springhill' will be chaired by a Governor, with elected representatives from each hut and staff from each department. Prior discussions at hut level will contribute to agenda items at the monthly meeting.
- 6.4.4 The Board will continue to monitor how these changes will contribute to an improved rehabilitative culture.

## Section 7

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### THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

#### 7.1 Board statistics

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Recommended complement of Board members	15	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12	8
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3	3
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	2	3
Total number of board meetings during reporting period	12	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	9	8
Board Member on sabbatical until February 2017.	0	1

## 7.2 Applications

Code	Subject	2014	2015	2016
<b>A</b>	Accommodation	1	1	4
<b>B</b>	Adjudications	1	3	4
<b>C</b>	Equality & Diversity (inc religion)	0	0	1
<b>D</b>	Education/employment/training inc IEP	2	1	1
<b>E 1</b>	Family/visits inc mail & phone	0	1	0
<b>E 2</b>	Finance/pay	2	2	2
<b>F</b>	Food/kitchen related	0	0	0
<b>G</b>	Health related	1	3	6
<b>H 1</b>	Property (within current establishment)	1	3	1
<b>H 2</b>	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	1	4	2
<b>H 3</b>	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	0	0	0
<b>I</b>	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re- cat etc.)	16	16	6
<b>J</b>	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	5	3	3
<b>K</b>	Transfers		2	1
<b>L</b>	Miscellaneous	3	6	3
	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF IMB APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jean Morgan, Board Chair in 2016, all members of the Grendon/Springhill Board and our IMB Clerk, for their hard work and support over the last 12 months.

Rob Wondrak  
IMB Chair, Grendon and Springhill.

February 2017.

## Appendix A

### Selected monitored fabric issues:

Area	Issue	Date reported	Dated resolved or outstanding	Months to resolve
Kitchen	Leaks to ceiling	Jun 2015	Outstanding	
	Floor under fryers	Jun 2015	Dec 2016	18
	Blast freezer	May 2016	Jul 2016	3
	Outside freezer icing up	Jun 2015	Jul 2016	13
	Chip fryer	Jun 2015	Apr 2016	10
Education workshop	Roof leak exposing asbestos	Jun 2016	Outstanding	
Laundry	3 washing and 2 dryers	Jun 2016	Outstanding	
Y Hut	Showers	Mar 2015	May 2016	14
L,N, Q Huts	Showers replacement	Oct 2016	By end March 2017 for 2 Huts	
Healthcare	Corridor floor repairs	Dec 2015	Outstanding	
Gym	Heating	Dec 2016	Outstanding	

