



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at
HMP Littlehey

for reporting year
1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017

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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

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STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison 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:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- (c) 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.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the main findings of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Littlehey for the period February 2016 to January 2017. It is drawn from observations made on Rota Visits, attendances at prison management meetings and prisoner forums, scrutiny of records, formal consultations at Prisoner Applications, and informal contact with prisoners and staff.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Main Judgements	Cross-Reference
<p>1. The Board considers that, overall, appropriate emphasis is placed at HMP Littlehey on treating prisoners with fairness and decency. There are, however, areas of concern about transgender and young prisoners, recent changes in procedure for prisoners' visits and facility maintenance</p>	<p>Sect 5 Paras 2-4 Sect 7 Paras 3-5</p>
<p>2. The Board also judges that due consideration is given to treating prisoners at Littlehey with humanity. Standards were to some extent undermined by a number of factors during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The prison remains overcrowded (5%) with 77 single cells doubled-up. b. Staff shortages impacted out of cell-time and meal-times at weekends. c. The age profile at HMP Littlehey leading to increasing pressures in terms of physical and mental health needs, the need for hospital escorts and bed-watches, and the introduction of Care Act provision. In addition the Littlehey End of Life Suite remains unused 	<p>Sect 7 Para 1</p> <p>Sect 7 Para 2</p> <p>Sect 8 Para 2-5</p>
<p>3. The Board assesses that, in the main, the prisoner/staff relationship is positive and that staff at Littlehey attempt to establish a welcoming and understanding ambience for prisoners. But the transfer of prisoners continues to result in mislaid personal property.</p>	<p>Sect 4 Para 1</p>
<p>4. Littlehey is a comparatively safe environment. Levels of violence are low, and well-established Safer Custody procedures provide a multi-disciplinary approach to the management of anti-social behaviour and violence reduction. There were 10 deaths in custody, all due to natural causes, in the reporting period; a reflection of the ageing population. There was a rise noted in the number of ACCTS raised in the Reception Wing</p>	<p>Sect 4 Paras 2-4</p>
<p>5. In terms of preparation for release, HMP Littlehey has a cohesive and well-structured approach. Rehabilitation strategy includes Personal Development Plans for every prisoner, a wide-ranging Education Programme and an impressive range of Vocational Training and Employment opportunities. But the Board notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Meaningful activity is not yet available to all. e. Possible shortfalls in the availability of specialist Interventions. f. The continuing backlog in OAYSY reports d. A need for increased near-to-release Resettlement provision 	<p>Sect 10 Paras 2-3</p> <p>Sect 11 Paras 4-5</p> <p>Sect 11 Para 6</p> <p>Sect 11 Paras 7-10</p>

Main Areas for Development

TO THE MINISTER

- i) Will the Minister review the provision of pre-release Resettlement facilities for the sex-offender population as a whole, bearing in mind the observations of the Board at Section 11, Paragraphs 7 to 10.
- ii) Will the Minister acknowledge the changing demographics of the prisoner population and put in place a national strategy for the older offender, (from sentencing, custody, through the gate), bearing mind the observations of the Board at Section 8 Paragraphs 4-5
- iii) The Board is not embarrassed to ask, yet again, when the Minister will ensure that Establishments such as HMP Littlehey can operate at their 'certified normal accommodation' levels? Doubling up in cells designed for one person is not now, nor in the future decent treatment and should not be seen as standard practice, bearing in mind the observations of the Board at Section 7, Paragraph 1.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

The facilities management contract has caused the prison to operate indecent standards at times throughout the year. The nationally agreed weekly meetings might have improved communication but not the speed of repairs. What authority will the Governor be given to improve the facilities in prison? Bearing mind the observations of the Board at Section 7, Paragraph 3.

TO THE GOVERNOR

Will the Governor ensure that a stringent protocol is put in place concerning the loss of prisoner property both on arrival and within HMP Littlehey, bearing in mind the observations of the Board at Section 4, Paragraph 1.

Improvements

The Board notes that an effective approach is now in place for the delivery of needs-assessment and the provision of Social Care within HMP Littlehey.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

1. HMP Littlehey is a male integrated sex offender training Category C prison, located in the village of Perry in Cambridgeshire. It currently has 98% of its population convicted of a sexual offence. The operational capacity of the prison is 1220, with a Certified Normal Accommodation of 1154.

2. Healthcare is provided by the Northampton Health NHS Foundation Trust, and Social Care and Library facilities by Cambridge County Council. Education is delivered by PeoplePlus. The contract for facilities management service is held by Carillion. The Visitor Centre is run by the Ormiston Trust. Resettlement facilities are provided by BeNCH (CRC), Shaw Trust, Job Centre and National Careers Service

3. Other providers of services include Samaritans, Prison Visitors, Prison Fellowship, RELATE, Shannon Trust, local Churches, and the Mothers Union.

4. The prison houses 13 wings, including an Enhanced Environment Wing two units allocated to older prisoners and a Progressive wing. The residential accommodation is supported by 2 kitchens, 2 healthcare centres, an education facility, workshops, 2 libraries, 2 gymnasiums, a Care and Separation Unit with 9 cells, an all-weather sports pitch and a visits hall.

5. The average age of the prison population is 46.3 years but it has 42% over 50 years (compared to the national figure of 15%), and 15% under 30 years. There are over 50 nationalities and over 20 religious denominations represented in the prison

4 SAFETY

1. **Reception and Induction.** The Board has observed a high standard of Reception and Induction procedure throughout the reporting period; a process that involves both staff and prisoners. For example, on arrival prisoners are seen by a Listener (Samaritan-trained), a health trainer, Health Care and the duty first night officer. After initial induction they are escorted to the Reception Wing, where they are further introduced to the Littlehey regime by a prisoner Induction Orderly. After being on the Reception Wing for a period of six to eight weeks prisoners are moved on to one of the residential wings. A continuing weakness of the transfer system has, however, been observed. Prisoner property is frequently mislaid as prisoners are moved between establishments, often resulting in referral to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman and claims for compensation. Applications to the Littlehey IMB concerning lost property rose by 60% on the previous year.

2. Vulnerability

a. Littlehey remains a relatively safe prison (self harm incidents has averaged 22 per month for the reporting period, and 17 violent incidents per month). For the year ending September 2016 Littlehey's average self-harm incident per 100 prisoners was 15 compared to a national figure of 44. Littlehey's serious incident per 100 prisoners was 4 compared to 29 nationally (source Ministry of Justice). The Board commends the Violence Reduction Policy that aims to identify perpetrators and victims of violence as a robust tool enabling Littlehey to maintain a safe environment. Moreover, the monthly Safer Custody meeting provides a multi-disciplinary approach to the management of incidents of violent or anti-social behaviour whereby emerging trends are identified and specific individuals are challenged. All prisoners who display

difficulties, including those with complex mental and physical health problems and learning difficulties, on ACCT documents, food refusals and in segregation, are discussed at a weekly Complex Needs meeting attended by a multi-disciplinary group of staff.

b. Notwithstanding the positive safety record at Littlehey the prison intends to further enhance surveillance facilities through the addition of further CCTV cameras.

c. The Board notes that, there were 256 ACCT documents raised at HMP Littlehey during the reporting period, a 17 % reduction compared with 310 the year preceding. However, there was an increase in the number of ACCT documents opened in the Reception Wing over the same period; up from 42 to 58. Of some 538 new arrivals at HMP Littlehey at this time, 241 were in prison for the first time. Nationally a quarter of self-harm incidents occur within the first month of arriving in a prison (MoJ 2016 safety in custody). Littlehey Senior Management Team and the Board are monitoring this aspect accordingly.

3. Deaths in Custody. There were 10 deaths in Littlehey in the reporting period, the fourth highest nationally. All were from natural causes. This number may not be surprising in light of the high percentage of ageing and infirm prisoners; currently 42% (national HMPPS average: 15%) Two deaths occurred on site, and 5 in a local hospice. A further three deaths were in outside hospitals. Appropriately, the number of trained family liaison officers has been increased to 6, and prisoners who have a care and support role attended training symposium involving the Alzheimer's Society, Sensory Care, Social Care, Advocacy Services, Occupational Therapy and St John's Hospice. The Head of Equalities and Social care has also provided NVQ training in End of Life care via Bishop Auckland College, to date 8 members of unified staff have completed the training. The prison working agreement with the local hospice in order to provide decent and dignified end of life care, has been recognised in the local hospital CQC report as an outstanding initiative.

4. Smoke Free Policy. In line with MoJ policy, a smoke-free environment was introduced in January 2017, but thorough preparations for smoking cessation had been on-going since the previous September. Perhaps because of this and the establishment of drop-in support clinics, the impact of the change appears to have been minimal, but the Safer Custody team continue to monitor closely for signs of increase anxiety and potential self-harm. [After note: a very recent rise in ACCT documents and violent incidents has been reported, which it is suspected may be a longer term reaction to the introduction of the No-Smoking policy.]

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

1. The LEAT (Littlehey Equality Action Team) has met quarterly, chaired by the Governor with good attendance from staff and representatives from the protected characteristics groups who are able to speak freely regarding their group. In furthering the actions for some of these groups the biggest issue has been dedicated staff time, especially for the Veterans in Custody Officer and the Disability Liaison Officer. Of note, once processed by the Littlehey authorities, all Discrimination Incident Report Forms and responses are reviewed by a representative from Peterborough Racial Equality Council.

2. The Board observes, in particular, the increased effort being applied to meet the requirements of the small, (11 currently) but demanding Transgender group within the Littlehey prison population. This group has ongoing issues in trying to obtain items from the canteen and catalogues to enable them to live in gender. The Equalities Governor has helped by organizing and managing 'pop up shops'. But the problem has revealed a degree of disconnect between prison retail instructions and transgender prisoner policy.

3. Ormiston Trust has held successful children's, lifer and adult days in the visits hall to provide an informal and relaxed day-visit for prisoners. However at the end of the reporting year changes have had to be made to accommodate an improved working regime. This has led to the visits hall having to be closed whilst staff take lunch. Thus prisoners are returned to their cells, and families must depart for the Visitor Centre. A hiatus of over 2 hours. This has reduced potential time for prisoners to spend with their families.

4. The Board recalls that, when Littlehey housed a Young Offenders population, parenting classes were offered to help young fathers develop appropriate relationships with their children. As 15% (180) of the Littlehey population is currently under 30 years of age, the Board senses that a similar course could be of value.

5. During the reporting year, the Board has been approached by and received applications from prisoners imprisoned for public protection (IPP) who are often a number of years over their initial tariff. In many cases they have completed their sentence plan but are frustrated by not being able to progress through the prison system, particularly open conditions. Encouragingly, Board Members, in August 2016 recorded that the Littlehey IPP population stood at just over 100 and that there had been a reduction of approximately 40 in the previous year. The Board noted that the Parole Board had made efforts to address the IPP situation; however, it remains a continued source of discontent for impacted prisoners.

6 SEGREGATION/CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

1. Over the reporting period there has been a welcome reduction in the use of the Care and Separation Unit (CSU). The Board has been required to attend almost 50% fewer segregation reviews than in the previous year. The Safer Custody Governor, who has responsibility for the CSU, has been tasked with conducting reviews in an effort to provide continuity of decision-making and plans to move prisoners out of the Unit. Notification to the Board of new arrivals in the CSU has been timely and review boards held, in the main, to an agreed schedule. Segregation documentation has been readily available to Board members and CSU staff co-operate fully in enabling appropriate access to all prisoners on a weekly basis. Where prisoners are held for more than 30 days, care plans are put in place and where necessary the regional Deputy Director of Custody's authority has been obtained for continued segregation.

2. The Board has attended a sample of adjudications, on a monthly basis, and has monitored the overall performance of the Segregation unit through attendance at regularly held segregation monitoring and review group and adjudication standardisation meetings. The Board concludes that the segregation is well managed and conforms to the applicable regulations.

7 ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNICATION

1. Littlehey has 77 single cells which are doubled up, with two men sharing a space designed for one, and is overcrowded by some 5%. This places a strain on resources and, even with a large OAP population, some of whom may not require activity facilities, there are still some prisoners not allocated appropriate occupation.

2. Littlehey was subject to staff shortages throughout the reporting period, and was forced to impose a restricted, Green/Amber, regime. This had inevitable repercussions on the prisoner population. Evening meals at the weekends were served at 15.30. The breakfast provision is cold (and not over generous) and thus there could be a long gap at weekends between substantial hot meals. In addition, reduced time out of cell under the Amber regime impacted

the opportunity for prisoners to progress their sentence plans The Amber regime was lifted in February 2017.

3. Facility and ancillary maintenance was transferred in June 2015 and is now managed under contract by Carillion. The transition was not smooth and delays in repairing showers, heating and washing facilities continued throughout the current reporting period, which on occasion, has undermined expected standards of decency. Moreover the introduction of an upgraded in-cell television facility which was scheduled for October 2015 has still not occurred, and a proposal for Carillion to use qualified prisoners as part of a local workforce appears to have stalled.

4. Littlehey has an active Prisoner Forum where representatives from each wing meet with staff from each department to raise and discuss issues. The Forum has been well attended by the prisoners but less so by staff. The Board believes the Forum to be highly valuable in terms of prisoner interface and has recommended that the governing–governor attends on occasion in order to give the meeting more standing.

5. The Board is pleased to report that:

a. H-Wing has been fully accredited as an Enabling Environment and that the Management Team plans to expand the process across the site. There are early anecdotal indications that the recall rate of prisoners released from the Environment may be lower than expected but it is too early to be able to draw firm conclusions.

b. Prisoner Information Desks have recently been established across the site whereby accredited prisoner orderlies assist other prisoners with addressing problems and personal issues. The Board hopes that this will lead to a reduction in the number of prisoners needing to use the formal complaints system and in a reduced number of Applications to the IMB; but it is too soon to make a judgement.

8 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

1. Healthcare is provided by Northampton Health NHS Foundation Trust and Phoenix Futures and the Mental Health InReach Team. Availability is broadly comparable with that in the community. For example, at the end of the reporting period the waiting times were: dentist 8 weeks, optician 3 weeks, podiatrist 8 weeks, physiotherapist 12 weeks and 5 days for a doctor's appointment.

2. The ageing prison population continues to make significant demands upon healthcare services, with an average of 214 on-site appointments per day and 78,362 total internal appointments for the reporting year. In addition, there were some 1308 external medical and dental appointments (an average of 25 weekly) which further eroded the prison staff levels available on site. Moreover, there were 154 bed watches required per month. Bed watches are particularly labour intensive causing operational challenges and often involving the use of staff from surrounding prisons. Finally, there were 162 ambulance and health care professional responses at HMP Littlehey in the last year.

3. Notwithstanding, the significant additional demands placed on Healthcare and Prison staffs at Littlehey alike, the Board is pleased to record evidence of additional local efforts to address some of the special needs of the Littlehey population. For example, The Physical Education Department launched a COPD [circulatory obstructive pulmonary disease] course

in conjunction with an external physiotherapist. 15 delegates were assessed during the two month programme. The results were described as remarkable as men who were initially unable to walk became fit enough to advance to the remedial gym programme. Two further programmes will run in 2017. In addition, Healthcare hold clinics including diabetes, hepatitis B, coronary heart disease and bowel screening and additional 'end of life' and audiology clinics have been introduced during the reporting year.

4. Providing a prisoner meets eligibility criteria, a prison's Local Authority is responsible for assessment of need and provision of social services. Cambridgeshire County Council carries out the appropriate Care Assessments on a face-to-face basis at Littlehey, and a significant degree of the necessary personal support arrangements is being provided by visiting Carers. In addition, prisoners also provide some Care support. Social Care Awareness training is provided for prisoners, and Littlehey has hosted a Conference for Prisoner Carers in conjunction with a local Healthcare Trust and other outside agencies. Dementia training is provided to staff, and training for both staff and prisoners to assist those with Learning Difficulties is being considered. However, prison staffs are not fully trained in meeting the care needs of prisoners nor is this currently part of their role. Moreover, however willing, prisoners are rightly restricted in the extent of their peer-support activities.

5. Government policy states that prisoners should have access to the same level of care in prison as they would in free society (The Care Act, 2014). But the Board suspects that the sterling efforts of the Safer Custody team, staffs at HMP Littlehey, and prisoner peer-supporters, plus the support provided by Cambridge County Council may have emerged without the guidance of a specific national template. A review by HMPPS with a view to the provision of consistent social care for those prisoners with special and complex needs including, perhaps, the establishment of secure "Care Home" facilities within the prison estate, would be welcome.

6. Finally, the Board once again regretfully notes that the Littlehey End of Life suite, which was completed in 2013, continues to be unused; reportedly due to a lack of funding.

9 EDUCATION

1. The Board reports positively overall on this area. There are 1,100 places available for prisoners to work or study on a part-time or full-time basis, and 92% of eligible prisoners are engaged. The education curriculum is inclusive with progression routes from Entry Level to Level 3/ Distance Learning, with retention rates of 98.46%. Classrooms are well equipped, and the prison has been praised for its positive reaction to address the recommendations of the Dame Sally Coates Review of Prison Education. In-cell study is supported and encouraged. Some 150 prisoners are engaged in distance learning, including A-levels and Open University courses. These are funded by The Prisoners Education Trust and personal contributions. In addition, library capacity is adequate for the current population and these facilities are well-supported by Cambridge County Council.

2. The Board also considers that the Physical Education Department appears to be well-managed. It offers 2 gymnasium; one currently requiring some essential equipment repairs. 71% of prisoners use the facilities which reflects well considering the large OAP population.

10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

1. HMP Littlehey offers an impressive range of Vocational Training and Employment opportunities including welding and fabrication for the prison estate, the production of camouflage nets for the MoD, recycling domestic appliances and adapting equipment for use by those who are visually impaired. In addition, painting and decorating, engineering, plumbing, animal care, food hygiene and catering qualifications are available. The Board is pleased to report that, in response to HMIP expectations, the prison is working towards the introduction of level 2 qualifications in all applicable work areas.

2. The Board notes that the prison currently offers in the region of 1189 activity spaces. Against the background of a population of around 1200, which includes a number of OAPs, the situation would appear to be extremely positive. However, there will always exist a degree of mismatch: employment aspirations may not match availability; some prisoners will lack the entry qualifications for specific education courses; some jobs may entail a security filter; some prisoners may require a sedentary environment. A host of constraints thus result in a small degree of non-allocation.

3. The prison has, nonetheless, undertaken a number of initiatives to maximise prisoner involvement. For example, prisoner orderlies have been appointed who liaise with unassigned prisoners advertising alternative activity opportunities and, following workshop refurbishment, near-term plans envisage a further 84 employment opportunities. Statistics for this area should be, therefore, gauged against the background of a large OAP population, some of whom may not wish to undertake meaningful activity, and the over-population of the prison against the certified normal accommodation level. Nonetheless, the Board considers that the needs of the ageing Littlehey prison population merits additional focus.

11 RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

1. The work of the Strategy and Pathways Group, continued strongly through the reporting period. A number of Resettlement initiatives were undertaken this year including the introduction of the provision of Citizens Cards for prisoners requiring Photo Identification on release, assistance for prisoners within 4 months of release who wish to obtain bank accounts and, in concert with Noddle, a route for prisoners to obtain a Credit Rating prior to release [but see further in paragraph 10].

2. Sequencing was introduced at Littlehey at the end of 2015 and is now firmly embedded; by April 2017 every prisoner will have been sequenced and have their own Personal Development Plan. The process commences shortly after the prisoner arrives with interviews with an Offender Supervisor and the National Careers Service, and an education Initial Assessment. Information is collated to identify the prisoner needs and to enable staff to plan the required interventions in a logical sequence throughout the offender's sentence. For this information to accompany the prisoner throughout their sentence the recording of this information on P Nomis is essential.

3. The Ofsted common inspection framework was amended last year to include a new judgment termed 'personal development and behaviour'. In order to evidence this for Ofsted and HMIP inspections, Personal Development Plans (PDP) have been introduced at Littlehey. These are individually tailored for each prisoner and designed to record progress throughout the stay at Littlehey.

4. The Board is pleased to report that the Littlehey Programme department states that, during the reporting period, in overview the availability of appropriate Interventions was adequate for the demands of the Littlehey population who admit their guilt. However, many of the Interventions needed by prisoners to follow sentence plans were not available to deniers, of whom there are a significant number (approximately 40%) at Littlehey. In 2017 two major sex-offender Interventions were discontinued and will be replaced by the Horizon and Kaisen courses. These are available to deniers, but only a small number will be allowed on each course. The effect of this is that many deniers in Littlehey will continue to remain unable to access appropriate Interventions

5. The optimum allocation of Interventions at Littlehey is also subject to an effective risk assessment under RM 2000. The responsibility for the completion of RM 2000 does not appear to have been assigned formally at Littlehey. It is currently undertaken by default by the Programmes/Psychology department. The Board questions whether this activity could more readily lie within the Offender Management Unit (OMU).

6. The backlog in OASYs reports, highlighted in the IMB's previous Annual Report has continued. Around 37% of prisoners arrive either without a current OASYs or with a partial report, in January 2017, there were some 170 prisoners at Littlehey without an adequate Report and, with an average caseload of 53 per desk in the OMU, this shortfall appears to be a permanent fixture. Capacity in the OMU also continues to be undermined by the frequent redeployment of uniformed staff to fill shortfalls elsewhere in the prison

7. Under the current Transforming Rehabilitation contracts prisoners are moved to resettlement prisons prior to release. However, 40% of those convicted of a sexual offence are currently housed in 8 specialist prisons. Provision was not made for resettlement services to be delivered in these prisons. Moreover, sex-offenders nearing release cannot readily be moved to their local Resettlement Prison, where they would be at risk and need to be housed in a VP wing or facility.

8. These shortcomings were addressed, and the senior management team at Littlehey successfully negotiated with the local CRC, BeNCH, which is now providing some Resettlement services on-site. But these must be funded by an Offender Manager in a prisoner's eventual settlement area. In addition, Littlehey now has the services of the Shaw Trust, which specialises in the more complex Resettlement needs of some 50 prisoners, through the gate. The prison also has a highly effective resident National Careers Service facility.

9. However, for the reporting period BeNCH and Shaw Trust personnel have attended Littlehey on a part-time basis only. Moreover, funding from Offender Managers has at times been slow in being granted and on others, refused. This, and the initial hiatus suffered with the introduction of Transforming Rehabilitation, has meant that it is unlikely that all prisoners have been released from Littlehey with adequate accommodation and other resettlement provision. The Board has not been able to access meaningful statistical data in this regard and evidence is, therefore, mainly anecdotal. But we understand that there are around 50 prisoners released from Littlehey monthly and BeNCH inform us that they address the housing needs of around 12 of these. This should not be taken to imply that the Probation Service does not monitor the accommodation of all ex-sex offenders released into the community, but rather that HMP Littlehey has not had the resources to fully oversee this aspect prior to release.

10 This lack of resources has recently been further manifest when the prison was forced to abandon time-intensive efforts to assist prisoners in obtaining bank accounts and citizen cards. Despite this the Board is optimistic for the future. Both BeNCH and Shaw Trust are proposing to provide full-time resources on-site. This, coupled with the continuing efforts of the Reducing Reoffending stakeholders, should lead to an increased provision of resettlement preparation.

But, this will continue to be contingent on buy-in for funding the resettlement of the prison sex-offender population by the offender management community, and will need close monitoring. This notwithstanding, unless HMPPS reassesses the situation applying to the sex-offender estate, prisons such as Littlehey will be forever unable to provide the range of resettlement support available at Resettlement Prisons.

A. THE WORK OF THE BOARD

1. The Board continues to monitor the prison through rotas, themed rotas, focused rotas (incorporating the 2016 monitoring framework), up to two application clinics each week, segregation reviews and attendance at various establishment meetings (such as Senior Management Team, Security, Safer Custody, prisoner forums, education and resettlement). Whilst an improvement in the performance of the CJSM e-mail facility had been experienced during the year, it continues to be a subject of frustration for Board members; with difficulty in logging-in and attaching documents the major reported problems.

2. The retention of new recruits has continued to be a problem for the Board. Despite the efforts of the interviewing panel, the full extent of the commitment to IMB duties appeared not to have been understood fully. This resulted, in further resignations from the Board citing work and unforeseen personal availability problems. This has led to increased pressure on the remaining Board members to effectively continue the monitoring task.

3. The reporting year saw a rise in IMB applications of over 25%. At the annual Team Performance Review, held in December 2016, a previous decision to suspend the pre-scrutiny of applications had been confirmed, and the Board attempted to see all applicants face to face. However, a number of prisoners are continuing to abuse the IMB application and confidential access process.

4. Training for Board members has continued through regular presentations provided by prison staff or experienced Board members prior to most monthly Board meetings. The Board enjoyed an informative visit to HMP Peterborough and is grateful to the Director, staff and the IMB Board for their hospitality. Attendance of Board members at the IMB Sex Offender working group has continued.

5. Finally, the Board has continued to enjoy excellent support, within the constraints of the available hours, from staff working in the prison Business Hub.

B. BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	14
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	13
Total number of visits to the Establishment	548
Total number of segregation reviews attended	137

APPLICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	21	17
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	7	9
C	Equality	8	11
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	13	8
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	22	21
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	5	8
F	Food and kitchens	2	2
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	12	13
H 1	Property within this establishment	31	14
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	48	19
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	14	10
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	48	32
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	21	25
K	Transfers	6	5
	Miscellaneous	18	30
	No Show	52	37
	Total number of IMB applications	328	261