



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at
HMP Ranby

for reporting year
1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

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Section 1

The Statutory Role of the IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and immigration removal centre to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice 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 the Board 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.

Section 2 Location/Description/Changes from last year's report

2.1 Location

HMP Ranby is situated in North Nottinghamshire, mid-way between the towns of Worksop and Retford. The Category C male adult resettlement prison was converted in 1971 from its previous function as a Forces Army Camp.

2.2 Description

The Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) at HMP Ranby as at the end of March 2017 was 892 and its Operational Capacity (OC) 1098 which has been reduced by 60 to 1038 for 18 months to accommodate TPIG.

The residential accommodation consists of seven House Blocks. Located on the House Blocks are: the departments for the Induction of new prisoners, Resettlement, Skills for Life and Safer Custody. One House Block has prisoners on Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS).

There is no provision for a 24-hour healthcare service as HMP Ranby has no hospital unit. The single storey Healthcare building accommodates other functioning departments such as Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DARTS), Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS) and Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT). Healthcare is provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The Segregation unit is located in one of the old buildings and has sixteen single cells. Attached to the Segregation is a small, paved exercise area which is contained by a high wall.

Education is allocated within two buildings, one of which holds the library and one the Chaplaincy. For prisoners in the Segregation Unit, there is in-cell learning and teachers visit them as appropriate. Education is provided by Milton Keynes College.

The workshops in Ranby, which are run both by the prison and Education, include:

Textiles; Painting and Decorating; Woodwork; Woodmill; Wood Assembly; Plastics; Industrial Cleaning; Officers Mess; Data Input; Laundry; Powder Coating; Engineering; Plumbing; Gardens; Trackwork.

Physical exercise takes place within two buildings and the sports field. One building instructs prisoners mainly on weights and treats prisoners who have physical disabilities/stroke complaints.

2.3 Changes from last year's report

Work has begun on a 60 bed Cat D facility on a site outside of, but close to, the prison.

Gym equipment has been installed in the exercise areas of all the House Blocks.

We are disappointed to report that the new Barber's Shop that we reported on last year is still not ready for use. However, it is expected to open in April 2017 and will be reported on next year.

SECTION 3 Executive summary

3.1 HMP Ranby officially became a Reform Prison on 1 July 2016. The new Executive Governor delivered some early objectives:

- To develop an empowered workforce by involving staff in shaping the future of Ranby
- To create and maintain a safe environment
- To deliver a needs-led regime
- To develop and maintain strategic relationships
- To build a cohesive community
- To improve the built environment
- To create a rehabilitative setting

The new way of working with the prisoners will be in three distinct phases to address offending behaviour and rehabilitation with the aim of reducing reoffending. These phases are known as Arrive, Stay, Depart.

On arrival prisoners will undergo a lengthened induction phase (see 4.2) where detailed assessment of the prisoners' risks, needs and aspirations will be undertaken.

During the Stay period the prison will engage with the prisoners by ensuring they meet his needs and those of external reviewers by addressing any substance misuse as well as other sentence requirements. The prisoners will engage in learning through gaining appropriate accreditation and work practice in Industrial Academies. This will not only prepare the prisoner for employment with qualifications and skills but also to ensure any barriers to reintegration into society are removed.

During the Depart phase, the last twelve weeks, the prison will make specific recommendations about working towards the earliest date of release (HDC). The prison will continue to build on the learning pathways to ensure the transition to release is as smooth as possible.

It has recently been announced that Ranby will be joining with two other prisons to form a group. This group will be managed by the Executive Team that resides in the Training Centre nearby Ranby. The other two prisons are Stocken, a long-term Cat C, and Sudbury, a Cat D and along with Ranby, as a resettlement prison, will have the ability to manage prisoners more effectively. The role of Ranby as a Reform Prison will not change within the new group working.

There have been two prisoners on ROTL who are working in the Training Centre which is nearby the prison. Further prisoners are being assessed for ROTL in the coming months. There have been some local objections but has not been as many as at first thought. ROTL prisoners will be working on the Cat D building in at least the initial stages of site clearance etc.

The Governor and his team put forward delivery priorities for 2016/2017 to include finance and commercial, operational delivery, strategic development and HR and OD. The majority of these have been met during the reporting period though parts are still ongoing or in the planning stage. The Board is conscious of this and will continue to expect regular updates on progress.

3.2 Particular issues

Segregation

1. The number of prisoners admitted to Segregation
2. Increased workload due to disruptive behaviour of prisoners
3. Prisoners with mental health issues in Segregation

Healthcare and Mental Health

1. Lack of 24-hour nursing care
2. Inappropriateness of having prisoners with severe mental health issues in this prison
3. Demands on staff owing to high numbers of ACCT documents

Purposeful Activity

1. Insufficient work coming into the prison for the number of prisoners requiring work
2. Number of prisoners remaining on House Blocks during the day
3. Too many prisoners allocated to workshops where there is not enough work
4. Incidents involving drugs occurring in the workplace

Resettlement

1. Ongoing difficulty of finding suitable accommodation for some prisoners on release
2. The number of outstanding OASys
3. The number of prisoners who do not know their Offender Supervisor

Kitchen

1. Poor state of some flooring areas

House Blocks

1. Poor state of showers in large house blocks
2. Heavy workload for staff particularly on larger house blocks
3. Practice of doubling up in cells

Safer Custody

1. High number of ACCTs
2. Too few safer cells

Drugs

1. The presence of PS
2. The role that drugs are playing in the violence to prisoners and staff and debt in the prison

Property

1. Failure to standardise property allowances for all prisons
2. Failure of prison systems to ensure safe transfer of property when prisoners are moved around the prison and between prisons

Transfers

1. Continuing problem of obtaining transfers out of HMP Ranby for some difficult-to-place prisoners

Security

1. Contraband a continuing problem

SECTION 4 Mandatory Reporting Areas

4.1 Equalities and Inclusion

The Board wishes to acknowledge the amount of excellent work done by the Equalities Team for the benefit of all prisoners in the establishment.

Equalities Training

During the reporting period the Equalities Induction process has been updated. Two of the Equalities Peer Advisors attend the Induction twice a week. The staff induction process all new POELTs now attend Equalities for an Induction together with new staff.

Disabilities

Equalities questionnaires are completed by prisoners on Induction which is required to be updated by the Equalities Team on a daily basis on NOMIS to ensure there are no data gaps.

Veterans in Custody

Over the reporting period there have been an average of 15 VICs at any one time at Ranby, however, there may be more as not all Veterans disclose. Regular monthly meetings have been held at a time when the Retford Branch of the Royal British Legion are available to come into Ranby.

Also the SSAFA representative from HMP Whatton visits any VIC on a one to one basis when they request to see him.

The Equalities Department is also working with 'Care after Combat', an unprecedented Government approach scheme. They work with the veterans and plan for the time they will be released. They help them not to come back to prison and hopefully find jobs and somewhere to live, and give them hope.

Race

Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) meeting takes place quarterly. Black History Month took place in October 2016. It was well attended and throughout the month there were events with music, food and visiting speakers.

Gypsy/Traveller/Roma

Meetings take place quarterly. In March 2017 there was a celebration of St Patrick's Day. There has been an average of 20 prisoners in this group throughout the reporting period. Equalities team members have attended Gypsy/Roma/Traveller seminars. In December 2016 they attended Eastern European Roma Cultural Awareness training.

Older Residents

Meetings take place quarterly and there has recently been an Older Residents Coffee morning where they were able to chat to each other, play bingo and have a quiz.

LGBT

Meetings take place on a quarterly basis and the men know where to go if there is a problem. Equalities staff have attended an Area Transgender meeting.

Religions

Following on from Discrimination Incident Report Form (DIRF) investigations the Sikh and Hindu religion now have their own minister and Rastafarian items have been received into the establishment to facilitate their meetings. The Board is concerned to

note that there is no minister for the Rastafarians and there has been a few security issues (no staff present in the service). This is currently being looked at by the Head of the Chaplaincy. The Board hopes that this can soon be resolved.

Chaplaincy

The Board commends the exemplary work done by the Chaplaincy team. They work consistently in very demanding circumstances to provide compassionate pastoral support to prisoners and their families.

4.2 Education, Learning and Skills

The success rates in English and maths continue to make progress versus the poor results experienced in 2015. There is still much more work to do and the Education Department continues to drive the maths and English agenda across the department and the prison as a whole.

Level 2 qualifications have been successfully introduced in Business, Art, Cookery and in the Textiles Workshops. The Peter Jones L2 Academy in Business is a notable addition and represents learning equivalent to the first year of a degree course. The Education Department has also introduced SAGE, a computerised book-keeping course for small businesses.

There has been a significant increase in the level of employer engagement undertaken and agreements are in place with Timpson, Boots, Greene King and Interserve to work with learners with a view to them gaining employment with those organisations on release. An agreement is now in place with Trackworks to ensure that four learners from each cohort of 24 are interviewed and offered jobs by rail maintenance companies.

The Mobile Testing Vehicle from CITB has been facilitated which enables learners to take the online CSCS card examination whilst still in the establishment. So far, the 'bus' has attended twice and is scheduled to attend Ranby every month.

An Access to HE Course at Level Three has been introduced to offer support to higher level learners engaged in Distance Learning programmes. Based around a humanities programme, the course also helps learners with study skills, essay writing and research methods.

The Board is very pleased to note that a prisoner was offered a job by Richard Williams the executive chef at the Tal y Cafn in Colwyn Bay. He has started a blog to help support ex-offenders and has secured a position in North Wales as an ambassador for the Probation Service.

Another prisoner won Milton Keynes' College Award for Most Inspirational Learner taken from across the whole of the Milton Keynes provision with 28 establishments.

Induction

The Education Department took over the induction process during the reporting period.

The level of learner engagement has been much higher than anticipated, refusals as a percentage are very low (less than 5%) and behaviour has generally been good – all especially pleasing as this is a potentially difficult cohort of learners.

The new format for the induction of prisoners is a longer process and involves a multi-functional approach. New prisoners arriving at Reception are screened by Healthcare

(see Section 4.3) and spend their first night on House Block 1. The following day Red Band prisoners give them their initial induction talk before being allocated to Library and Gym Induction. Prisoners are then allocated to the 'Arrival Centre' to take part in eight tutored sessions with input from Healthcare, E&D, Programmes, and Resettlement.

NCS then conduct a 1 to 1 interview with every prisoner towards the end of the programme to complete their Skills Action Plan and when all elements are complete, OMU are informed and will take over the prisoners' pathway.

Library

On 1st April 2016 the library provider, Lincolnshire County Council, contracted out the library service to Greenwich Leisure Ltd who now provide the service at Ranby. The transition went smoothly.

Unfortunately, there is still an ongoing problem with redeployment of officers away from the library owing to staffing demands elsewhere in the prison. This results in prisoners being denied access to library services. From April 2016 to March 2017, the library was closed 55 times, significantly lower than last year's figure of 131. The Board regrets that this very important service is interrupted although it recognises the commitment of Management to rectify this situation.

Storybook Dads continues to be popular with 104 prisoners having completed the activity. The Board commends this scheme which provides support to families and enables prisoners to maintain a rewarding bond with their children. Help is available to prisoners with low or no literacy ability so they can take part in the programme and produce a story tape for their children.

The Shannon Trust Reading Plan supports prisoners with no or very low literacy skills. It continues to develop with 12 mentors available to support prisoners, an increase on previous years. However, there are still issues with recruiting learners as there is an understandable reluctance on the part of prisoners to acknowledge their need for literacy and numeracy support.

Most vocational training is managed internally by the prison, with assistance from the education provider, Milton Keynes College. At the end of the reporting period there were 17 learners engaged in distance learning and of the 17 three were studying with the OU. Learners enjoy the opportunity to study independently and have open access to the library to utilise the facilities and to conduct research. The education department is piloting an Access to HE course at Level 3 designed to help learners develop the important study skills required for higher level learning. Education attendance when measured against the number of planned learners routinely exceeds 90% (in the top 3 prisons where Milton Keynes College is the provider) although allocation versus capacity is sometimes lower than that, and the prison is working hard to minimise the number of unauthorised absences.

4.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

Healthcare at HMP Ranby continues to be provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and includes Integrated Mental Health, Physical Healthcare, the Substance Misuse Service (SMS) and a dedicated Pharmacy team. In addition, there is GP and other professional medical provision. The Board commends the staff for their continuing hard work and commitment to prisoners' wellbeing.

On arrival at the prison, prisoners are subject to a health screen, by a Qualified nurse with access to full clinical records, which covers physical health, mental health risks,

learning disability, social care, substance misuse history, blood borne viruses, vaccination history and hospital appointments. Referrals can be made direct from Reception. Booklets about pharmacy, care pathways and appropriate services are issued at Reception and patients are made aware of current screening programmes.

The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 came into force in May 2016 but has not made any significant difference. What has changed is that prisoners using psychoactive substances (PS) are developing addiction/dependency which is both physical and psychological in nature. The board is concerned by the continuing increase in the number of referrals to SMS for PS use and those coming into HMP Ranby who have been actively using these substances both in the community and the sending establishments.

The large number of prisoners with mental health problems continues to be a matter for concern. The Healthcare team is central to the Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) process, whereby prisoners at risk receive frequent monitoring and support, and this has implications for the time commitment of the Mental Health team. Three prisoners were recruited for a Mental Awareness Peer Support (MAPS) initiative and this has worked well with ongoing recruitment as prisoners are moved/discharged. There were 12 referrals for admission to a Mental Health Hospital under Section 47 - 6 were admitted and 2 are still waiting for beds, which has been an ongoing difficulty.

Problems continued with the House Blocks in communication issues regarding lack of delivery of appointment slips, unlocking for appointments, etc. This creates a 'waste of time' and resources when prisoners fail to attend appointments.

Funding was obtained through the Care Act 2014 and the Healthcare Department works with Nottinghamshire County Council Social Care on the operation of the older person's pathway. The Memorandum of Understanding has been implemented and a Social Worker attends fortnightly, undertaking assessments which lead to personal plans.

Healthcare has worked closely with the prison in partnership for the full implementation of the Smoking Cessation which will come into force in July 2017. There have been bi-weekly meetings and a staggered approach has been taken to address the needs across the prison population.

During the year the National Bowel Screening programme was implemented and the NHS Health check age of screening was lowered to 35. Drop in clinics were commenced on the residential wings for prisoners to access a nurse for appointments, test results, etc. and this has proved both popular and beneficial.

4.4 Purposeful activity

Actual attendance against planned-for Industries during March 2017 was 83%. This is local data to take account of staff shortages and workshop closures. However, attendance against the full roll for the measurable Hub data is only 62%

There is a good measure of work in the workshops and there is currently a great deal of work being done by departments to increase numbers in the workshops and therefore reduce the number of prisoners remaining on the House Blocks. This is focused on Residence, Healthcare and Activities and Ranby is beginning to see positive results although the Board recognises that this will take time to develop.

However, the Board maintains that there are still too many prisoners remaining on the House Blocks during the working day.

The percentage of prisoners who are over-rolled has been reduced from 50% to 30%. The over-roll is necessary to allow prisoners to attend appointments, visits etc. during the working day and still have a good attendance at work. Should a workshop reach its capacity then prisoners will be returned to their House Block. As Industries become more efficient at getting prisoners to work then the over-roll will reduce and prisoners will be employed elsewhere.

The workshops at Ranby are busy and staff are positive about the continued improvements and measures that have been put in place to assist instructors such as additional monitoring tools and added support where necessary. The laundry currently has work from an outside contract and more work is expected on the back of this. The prison is working with contacts from outside to try to secure contracts for additional workshops. In addition, plans are being worked on in conjunction with HMP Sudbury to manufacture goods in Ranby's workshops which are to be offered for sale to members of the public and prison staff.

At the end of the reporting period there were 7 vacancies within the Industries function. A recruitment campaign with vacancies advertised locally and on the internal job site was initiated in March 2017.

A new workshop is dedicated to the manufacture of jeans for Prison Industries and the textiles group as a whole had a healthy Quarter 2 order to the value of £93,475

As reported last year, the NVQ testing ability for the polymer processing workshop has been withdrawn, efforts are still being made to have it reinstated, but this appears to be a long process.

The on-site waste management facility, in addition to the City & Guilds qualification, introduced a new qualification in December 2015 – Waste and Management Industry Training Advisory Board (WAMITAB) which deals more with the actual process management of waste rather than the C&G course that deals mainly with general issues. WAMITAB courses are organised by Milton Keynes College.

In the reporting period 61 prisoners gained the WAMITAB qualification. This appears to be an excellent and well-run course and should be promoted more throughout HMP Ranby.

There are numerous qualifications available under the British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICS). All prisoners wishing to work as cleaners must qualify at certain levels before they are allowed to work on the wings. In the reporting period 87 prisoners gained BICS qualification.

Domestic cooking classes are available and are well attended. These courses provide prisoners with the ability to cook and feed themselves once they are released. The course provides a foundation should they wish to continue to a formal qualification available in the Officers Mess or main kitchen.

4.5 Resettlement and OMU

At the end of this reporting period there were three full-time case workers, one full-time housing and welfare case worker and one part-time admin assistant. An Employment, Training and Education advisor attends on one day per week.

Staff conduct a Resettlement needs analysis as soon as the prisoners arrive here through the Induction process. This way any urgent needs can be addressed as soon as possible.

Staff see every prisoner within the final 12 weeks of their sentence. Staff are managing to overcome the housing issues that have been prevalent in the past. In March 2017 98% of prisoners were released into some form of accommodation. PACT deliver a family workshop called "Coming Home". This is to help with the reintegration back into family life. Prisoners of 'No Fixed Abode' can do a "Nowhere to live" session which is a reality check for the prisoners, which shows them what is available if they want it.

There are three Resettlement Peer Advisors in the prison and there is scope for this to increase to five. These are all based on House Block 5 but they are able to service all House Blocks as and when required.

Resettlement has joined with OMU to support recall prisoners and also have a good working relationship with SAAFA to support ex-military personnel.

Staff also help prisoners open bank accounts towards the end of their sentence if required. They also work with Integrated Offender Management re: all prolific offenders.

The Board is still concerned about the number of prisoners who do not have an OASys. Figures have decreased from 25% to 10% but this is still too high. This is caused by prisoners arriving at Ranby without an OASys or one that is out of date. An indication is that during one week at the end of the reporting period 56 prisoners arrived with no date on their OASys, 58 were over 12 months old and only 27 arrived with an up to date one.

When applications are submitted to OMU, the replies sometimes take an unacceptable length of time. OMU aim to reply to prisoners within 7 working days and believe only about 10% are over time. This is significantly lower than last year's figure of 25%. Offender Supervisors attend Reception to see prisoners on arrival and they are also part of the Induction process. This way hopefully prisoners are aware who their specific Offender Supervisor is, so they have a good point of contact within the prison. is this true I thought it was the reverse?

4.6 Residential

Ranby is a large, dispersed site with 7 residential units that range in size, physical security, designated services and staffing levels and this produces its own challenges. The Board is still unhappy with the amount of cell sharing that is prevalent around the prison.

Ranby has a high turnover of offenders with an average of 250 new receptions per calendar month (known as 'Churn' within the service). This places a strain on the services in residence but also on other functions such as Activities, Discipline, Safer Custody and overall stability. In effect, this can be statistically measured as the changing the whole population of Ranby every 6 months. All new receptions are initially located on House Block 1. The House Blocks range in occupancy from 240 down to 60 and this has an effect on the feel and services that are offered on each. Services for older and/or more vulnerable offenders are located on the smaller, quieter units thus giving the necessary support and flexibility that is needed within a controlled and managed environment. Ranby has only 2 constant watch cells between all the House Blocks although a new one is planned for the Segregation Unit.

In January 2017 two new Heads of Residence took up their appointments and have begun to implement changes. Monthly meetings for Residential staff have commenced and are chaired by the Heads of Function. A commitment has been given by the Functional Heads that all Residential managers will be visible especially during peak

times when the prisoners are out. Residential Priorities have been published outlining the focus on Safety and Respect. Dedicated Cleaning Officers have been identified with clear guidance to improve overall cleanliness.

During monitoring the Board has raised a number of issues regarding the House Blocks:

- Some laundry facilities have been lost on the House Blocks due to machines breaking down. The prison has decided to replace these machines with domestic ones. Although the machines are in the prison it is taking time for them to be plumbed in.
- Around House Block 2 the amount of litter thrown out of the windows is an on-going concern.
- On House Block 5 there is a problem in the servery as there is a potential trip hazard caused by an electric cable. The board has reported the issue but without any action from the prison.
- The use of prisoner courtesy keys has become a problem, because some of the officers' keys do not work. The prison is aware of these problems and is looking to put things right.
- On House Block 1 some of the showers only "dribble" yet on occasions some have flooded the landings because of the flow of water is perhaps blocked.
- The issuing of kit is getting better. On House Block 3 it is very well managed but not quite so on House Blocks 1 and 2. A back to basics approach is in progress, which has focused on ID cards, kit bags, cell standards.

The use of P.I.D workers has been implemented across all the House Blocks. The St Giles trust and User Voice have been asked to improve consultation and develop a community where the men take responsibility and personal pride. They will work closely together and will be encouraged to ensure that staff are involved in the service they provide. As an interim measure monthly meetings have taken place with both the PID workers and perspective Council workers with the Heads of Residence. A Council election is planned for 31st May 2017 with the first full council meeting in mid-June.

Plans have been formulated for cell compacts to be introduced following consultation with staff and the men. This accounts for all the supplied equipment the men should have in possession. On implementation, all men will be given the correct equipment and will be made accountable. This will include curtains, privacy curtains, quilts and soon, fridges in all cells. A painting program has also now commenced.

During the reporting period gym equipment has been installed in the exercise area of each house block.

The prison has begun an introduction of a Personal Officer Scheme. On each cell card will be listed the officer responsible for that prisoner. This is being rolled out across the establishment and requires a monthly quality entry on c-nomis. Names of personal officers will be recorded on c-nomis and displayed in wing offices and landings. All of the prisoners will have their first names displayed on Roll boards.

A review of the current IEP scheme has taken place and staff will be encouraged to use this as a valuable tool to address the poor behaviour witnessed at present. Focus groups have taken place with User Voice who have provided three proposals to improve the IEP scheme. Quality assurance has been introduced to ensure the

scheme is equitable. The new policy will ensure that the prisoners receive positive comments and are given opportunity to submit representation to review boards.

Residence will monitor attendance at activities ensuring that all available activity spaces are utilised. This will include using the IEP scheme to incentivise a good work ethic and there will be the introduction of a new sick Policy.

Kitchen

The catering function at Ranby is within the Residence and Services function and this is a well-managed process. Despite the pressures of food inflation, the kitchen came in on budget whilst producing 3000 meals a day. The Board receives few complaints about the food and this is supported by the continuing work of the food focus groups and regular menu reviews. However, most complaints are regarding portion sizes and some of these the Board feels are justified.

The Board still has concerns over the poor state of parts of the kitchen floor. The Board has reported on this every year for the past three years. The kitchen staff have made strenuous efforts to get this resolved but have so far been unsuccessful.

Board members regularly taste the food both in the kitchen and on the wings.

4.7 Safer Custody (includes ACCTs)

There were no deaths in custody in the reporting period.

The offender population at Ranby contains a high proportion of vulnerable individuals, many of whom have experienced negative life events including drug and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, family background and relationship problems, social disadvantage or isolation and previous sexual or physical abuse. Self-harm often results and is stated by some prisoners to be a coping mechanism.

Debt is still an issue with tobacco being the main currency. It has become a bigger problem with the phasing out of the small packs of tobacco. Some prisoners cannot afford the initial outlay to purchase the large packs and therefore an opportunity for racketeering has arisen.

All staff are trained in Safer Custody with regular reviews and updates.

The high number of ACCTs, which continues to give the Board cause for concern, has inevitably led to a greater workload for staff. There is particular pressure on staff where prisoners require multiple observations/conversations. Also, staff do not always have time to write up recorded observations of the required quality. However, the requirements following the HMIP Report of 2015 have been met during the year regarding the quality of assessment planning and monitoring of ACCTs in order to improve effective care planning.

The need for space and cell sharing is becoming more and more common as the prison population rises and the refurbishment of old cells is needed. Before pairing prisoners a risk assessment must be carried out by the induction staff. There is a national requirement that a CSRA (cell sharing risk assessment) must come with him to prison.

There are still no extra safer cells on the Houseblocks despite the fact that such provision would help the management of prisoners by staff.

Within the reporting period there has been an average of 10 well trained Listeners available who provided a sensitive and effective service to the prison population.

Resolve, a moderate intensity cognitive-behavioural intervention, has been introduced into the prison. This is directly due to the Reform Programme. To March 2017 eight staff and five prisoners have been trained in mediation using the Resolve template.

The main focus within the Safer Custody team during 2016/2017 has been violence reduction. There are monthly meetings and the input with each relevant department is identified.

The dedicated residential wing for older prisoners now covers those from age 40. In practice there has been limited uptake by prisoners.

4.8 Segregation

The board wishes to acknowledge the on-going high standard duty of care demonstrated by officers working in the Segregation unit. The staff/prisoner relationships are extremely good, with officers going out of their way to help the prisoners in their care.

Education is now routinely offered for the segregated prisoners, but while monitoring the Board has noted this is not always delivered. This is due to the Education Department's staffing issues but this is a newly introduced scheme that requires further work and resources from education to become fully embedded. When it is delivered, education staff come to the unit on a Tuesday and Thursday and provide cell packs with feedback work. There are plans afoot for this to be expanded in the future to include small group sessions with risk assessed men to be delivered on the unit.

The amount of Own Interest prisoners located on the unit has reduced significantly during the reporting period with the majority of men now segregated for breach of Good Order and Discipline rules or Cellular Confinement after an adjudication.

There was an incident in January 2017 where 9 prisoners damaged cells in an act of concerted indiscipline and they were removed accordingly. This put a great strain on the unit for a period of time, and the officers managed the situation with their usual professionalism.

A number of prisoners have been held in Segregation during this reporting period due to exceptional circumstances with their mental health. Any decision taken to locate a prisoner there due to his mental health is done by a multi-disciplinary team with a key role played by mental health workers, with the object of segregation being to improve the prisoner's safety and wellbeing. These prisoners are on open ACCTs which the Board monitors frequently. There have been occasions where prisoners are held here for long periods of time due to lack of facilities elsewhere. *The Board repeats its belief that prisoners are sometimes not transferred to secure hospitals in a timely manner.* The Board wishes to acknowledge the great work demonstrated by the Segregation staff who have built up positive relationship with these prisoners to enable safe transfers to secure hospital settings or reintegration back into normal location. *The board believes that if mental health prisoners are to be housed in the unit, then appropriate mental health training should be given to staff routinely.*

A virtual Segregation monthly meeting is held between Ranby, Humber, Moorland and Lindholme to facilitate the rotation of problematic prisoners. However, this is not resolving the problem, just moving the problem elsewhere.

Members attend the governors' and judge's adjudications regularly.

The Board is pleased to note the additional admin help that has been made available to the unit staff during this reporting period.

SECTION 5 Other issues

5.1 Property

Property issues continue to generate many prisoner applications. Discontent arises over the varying amounts of property a prisoner is allowed in a prison, each of which sets its own limits. When the property of a prisoner transferred from another prison is beyond that allowed in HMP Ranby, the excess is stored away and prisoners find themselves without items they need or want and are obliged to purchase again at their own cost. The Board's specific concerns are with the failure to standardise property allowances in all prisons and the failure to ensure safe transfer of property when prisoners are moved around the prison. The Board feels that staff at HMP Ranby do the best they can under very exacting circumstances.

Another issue relates to complaints to other prisons regarding prisoner property that has failed to arrive at Ranby. All too often the Board receives complaints that the previous prison does not respond to a prisoner's complaint even though the Complaints Clerk sends reminders that complaints are overdue. Some complaints have been unresolved for many months. It is not the responsibility of the IMB to resolve these issues but that of the prison service.

5.2 Security

During the period April 2016 to March 2017, 8472 Mercury Intelligence reports were received in the Security department, this is an increase of 584 compared to the previous 12-month period.

During the reporting period 5 large scale Operations have been planned and executed by the Security Department:

- May 2016 – Operation Ambuscade, which targeted certain prisoners on House Block1 and House Block 2
- July 2016 – Operation Intrepid, which was a month-long operation which saw the prison work in partnership with the NCA to target illicit mobile phones
- September 2016 – Operation Arrow, a search of the KainoS spur (1 East) on House Block 5.
- February 2017 – Operation Adonis, which targeted specific prisoners on House Block 3
- March 2017 – Operation Asperity, which was a day long, shut down search of the establishment.

All Operations have been carried out with the support of HMP Ranby staff with the assistance of MAST – Midlands Area Search Team.

During the reporting period the number of parcels being thrown over the fence has vastly reduced when compared to the previous 12 months. In the period April 2016 to March 2017 there were 25 parcels retrieved by staff, the previous year's figures were 79. There are several inferences as to the reason for the reduction, including enhanced staff vigilance, introduction of the Patrol dog, 2 x 3 month periods of Directed Surveillance using increased CCTV, partnership working with Nottinghamshire Police

and disruption techniques implemented when prisoners suspected of involvement in parcels were identified.

The use of Body Worn Cameras has continued during the reporting period and this will be expanded further with the introduction of more cameras during the next reporting period.

The Security team also work very closely with the Safer Custody team in identifying those responsible who wish to continue in their criminality in either arranging illicit items or using violence or intimidation and staff take whatever steps they can to disrupt these men.

5.3 Transfers

The Transfers Department is faced with a very heavy workload due to the increasingly difficult task of arranging the transfer, in a prison system where some prisons are closing and others already at capacity, urgent transfers for prisoners at risk, prisoners who request a transfer on compassionate grounds and prisoners who need to be re-categorised after extreme disruptive behaviour. In addition, the workload is further increased by arranging for prisoners on production (court visits), hospital appointments and those transferred from other prisons. The inevitable slowness in securing transfers puts departments such as Segregation under great pressure. Staff in the transfer department do a remarkable job. Transport (or lack of) is of concern to the Board as GeoAmey/London is constantly cancelling transfers due to limited availability of transport. The Board acknowledges that this problem is outside the remit of Ranby staff but there is an impact on workloads of getting prisoners back to HMP Woodhill and HMP Bullingdon mostly due to spaces and transport.

HMP Berwyn has not really been an opening for HMP Ranby as they have very strict criteria and although a handful of prisoners have been sent to them, HMP Ranby has not benefitted from the opening of this new prison.

The impact of the closing of Glen Parva has seen several prisoners being sent to Ranby and they have integrated well into the regime.

There is still an issue with getting CAT B prisoners moved quickly to local prisons.

5.4 Reception

The Board again must bring to your attention the excessive activity that the Reception building at HMP Ranby deals with as there are almost 3000 prisoners each year arriving and departing to other establishments. The prisoner movement occurs six days a week. In addition, Reception deals with prisoners attending court, prisoners who have served their sentence, police production, hospital appointments and security moves. The property brought in by prisoners from other prisons does not conform to the rules set by HMP Ranby and is almost always excessive. Staff then have to spend time storing it away. This activity takes up the already insufficient time available to staff, especially when they are relocated to other duties around the establishment.

All lifer parcels and property purchased from the 4 suppliers is also processed through reception. That includes the applications for the items and the checking to see if the prisoners are entitled to those items. There is very little or no OSG cover to assist with the distribution of the items.

The Board is pleased to note that an extra officer is to be located in Reception to deal with issues and offer support to staff.

Signed for on and behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board
At HMP Ranby

J Harrison

SECTION 6 BOARD STATISTICS

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

BOARD STATISTICS 2016 / 2017	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	15
Number of Board Members at the start of the Reporting Period	9
Number of Board Members at the end of the Reporting Period	10
Number of New Members joining within the Reporting Period	2
Number of members leaving within the Reporting Period	1
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of Visits to the Establishment	500
Total number of Segregation Reviews Held	Not known
Total number of Segregation Reviews Attended	213
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	4 Oct 2016

PRISONER APPLICATIONS TO IMB DURING REPORTING PERIOD

CODE	SUBJECT	2016/ 2017	2015/ 2016	2014/ 2015	2013/ 2014	2012/ 2013
A	Accommodation	3	12	13	51	32
B	Adjudications	3	17	9	13	18
C	Equality & Diversity	5	0	12	9	12
D	Education / Employment / Training inc IEP	23	33	38	61	40
E1	Family / Visits including mail & phone	4	8	37	34	40
E2	Finance / Pay	1	11	11	3	6
F	Food / Kitchen Related	1	4	8	4	12
G	Health Related	24	36	66	112	69
H1	Property (within current establishment)	67	59	91	39	43
H2	Property (during transfer / in other establishment)	25	19	43	69	71
H3	Canteen, Facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	3	7	20	33	25
I	Sentence Related	33	48	72	116	60
J	Staff / Prisoner Related	14	11	15	23	21
K	Transfers	24	40	95	103	69
L	Miscellaneous	52	65	77	96	40
	Total Number of Applications	291	370	607	766	558
	Total number of Confidential Access	6	21	10	21	12