



**HMP Risley  
INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

**Annual Report**

**April 2015 – March 2016**

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## **SECTION 1**

### **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

The Prison Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 requires 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 it's prison and the range and adequacy of the programs 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 concerns 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 custody.

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

## **SECTION 2**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

HMP Risley is one of the largest Category “C” training prisons in the UK, currently housing an average of 1115 male prisoners with an operational maximum of 1115.

The prison continues to be a hub for foreign national prisoners in the North West and Immigration Enforcement staff are permanently based in the prison. The population profile showed that at the end of this reporting year there were 160 foreign nationals, 209 sex offenders, 59 IPP’s and 76 lifers.

The Risley estates consists of 7 residential wings, 2 of which house vulnerable prisoners/sex offenders. There is also a care and separation unit with its own outside exercise area.

The training facilities within the establishment provide 12 workshops and 14 education classrooms together with a library. There is also a health centre with a full-time doctor and nursing staff.

In addition, dental, ophthalmic, podiatry and physiotherapy services are provided.

Other facilities include a sports hall and two gymnasiums.

To cater for the various faith groups of the prisoners, there is a multi-faith centre which is supported by several ministers from the various faiths and a Muslim Imam.

## **SECTION 3**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **(a) Issues for the minister**

The prison has responded positively to the budget reductions in 2015 - 2016 and will continue to do so in 2017. Managing the budget cuts takes considerable time and effort and inevitably can only damage the regime and its efforts to address offending behaviour. The board is aware of the financial constraints, but would urge these cuts to be limited in order to maintain a safe environment in which to keep the prisoners. Certain prisoners have suffered in relation to the cut backs, mainly infirm and old prisoners who have sometimes been left in their cells for longer periods. The board would like the minister to give assurance that this will not continue and extra funding can be found to eliminate the situation.

Property maintenance is provided by AMEY and the standard of maintenance and response times taken are unacceptable. The system of reporting work and following up the progress of the work is impossible to follow. It is the opinion of the Board that the Planet FM system is a budget controlling system employed by NOMS to delay major works being carried out. You cannot have a maximum spend of £750 on a job, and then have to obtain approval to progress the work.

#### **(b) Issues requiring operational response**

##### **Learning and skills.**

Over the last few years, many positive changes have been made within this area. However, there is scope for further improvement and the introduction of full contracted allocation of hours would go a long way towards achieving an acceptable level of purposeful activity for all prisoners.

### **GENERAL**

The continued requirement to make savings is having an adverse effect upon staff and prisoners which has resulted in more violence between prisoner on prisoner, and prisoner on staff. This is unacceptable, and more resources should be set aside to ensure prisoners are not in their cells for extended periods.

A reduction in the level of overtime covering staff absences, has resulted in the deterioration of some aspects within the prison.

The Care and Separation unit is still holding vulnerable prisoners suffering severe problems with mental health issues and this practice should not continue. The Board suggests that specialist areas should be introduced offering a more acceptable environment.

## **SECTION 4**

### **LEARNING AND SKILLS**

Education at HMP Risley is provided by Novus which is part of the LTE Group, a college with a wealth of specialist experience in providing learners with the knowledge and skills needed to live a productive, crime-free life on the outside. Novus commissioned research by Manchester Metropolitan University has found that those prisoners who engaged in education are 24% more likely to find employment than those who did not.

#### **A curriculum designed to meet the needs of Learners**

HMP Risley is a re-settlement establishment and the curriculum offer reflects this. English, Maths and ICT courses are offered across a range of levels from Entry Level to Level 2 in English and Maths and Level 3 in ICT. ESOL is delivered for learners for whom English is not their first language.

Vocational Training in Joinery Skills, Building Maintenance, Industrial Cleaning, Plastering and Hospitality/Catering are offered at Level 2. Courses such as Magazine, encourages learners to develop their communication, creativity, team working, time-management and ICT skills. Learners on this course produce a bi-monthly publication called “The Ritz”, which is well received by prisoners. The Level 2 Business Venture course enables learners to develop their own ideas for self-employment, from initial ideas to formulating business plans and identifying potential funding, making their plans become a reality on release. The Self-Marketing and Personal Employability course enables those learners who are nearing release to look at their own skills, set realistic employment targets, practice their interview skills and produce a CV. PEARL (Personal Employability and Reflection of Learning) is a popular programme with prisoners. The course encourages self-reflection and assessment of a range of behaviour management and interpersonal skills which are essential for success in the workplace and life.

Support for learners wishing to study at a higher level is also provided through the Open University.

The Learner Support Service is provided via an Induction and Guidance Programme.

### **Quality Teaching and Learning**

The Education Department has thirty-one members of staff directly involved in teaching learners. All teaching staff have achieved Grade 1 or 2 in their last Observation of Teaching Learning. Feedback from the most recent OFSTED inspection was favourable and highlighted good teaching and learning, effective leadership and management and good outcomes for learner. We will receive confirmation of the Grade achieved when their report is published later in the year.

Current data for the academic year 2015/16 is as follows:

2,967 learners commenced a learning programme, of which 1,793 achieved, 356 are continuing and 302 are awaiting results.

Overall retention is currently 96% and overall success 91%.

Success rates in English and Maths, across all levels, are currently 72% and 76% respectively. The National bench mark for English is 63%.

The Vocational Training Team has direct links with Employment Support Advisors that are employed by Novus to support the through-the-gate transition into employment upon release.

The Education Department is keen to promote and encourage all learning and they regularly participate in, and host, events such as Family Learning Day which was developed to encourage fathers to engage in educational activities with their children. The last Family Learning Day was so successful and popular, that plans for a further event are already under way. In addition, they have just embarked on a “Story Book Dad’s” project with English Level 1 and 2 learners, to encourage learners on these courses to make an individual educational portfolio for their children, including making a story with “daddy reading the story personalised to their little one”.

Music in the prison takes place every week and this popular programme is always over-subscribed.

Learners also enjoy participating in other projects such as National Fair Play Day which focuses on equality and diversity through the sport of football. Projects such as National Poetry Week are also celebrated events across all the curriculum areas.

The involvement of learners here at Risley for “Magic Maths Day” has recently commenced and a poster for this National event, has been created by the learners in the Apple Mac cla.. They are hoping to secure motivational speakers, recognised poets and creative writers to engage with the learner through the functional skills provision.

In the latest Learner Survey, learners scored their experience of the Novus provision as follows:

*91% stated that they were satisfied with their course*

*92% stated that they were achieving what they had set out to do*

*85% stated that they were developing the skills they needed to get a job*

## **SECTION 5**

### **HEALTHCARE SERVICES.**

Healthcare Services (Physical and Mental Health) are provided by a Joint Partnership arrangement between Bridgewater Community NHS Foundation Trust (BCHT) and Greater Manchester West NHS Foundation Trust (GMW) respectively. The service aims to provide Primary and Mental Health Services within the prison setting that are equivalent to those which would be available within a community setting.

#### **Bridgewater Community NHS Foundation Trust**

BCHT currently employs a Head of Healthcare, 12 Nurses (including 1 Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Healthcare Manager and Band 5/6 Registered General Nurses), 1 Healthcare Support Worker and contracts for the provision of 10 GP clinical sessions each week, with on-going plans to further develop and expand the service as part of the new 5-year Contract from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

These services are supported by 10 GP clinical sessions each week, on-site Pharmacy provision, a Dentist and Dental Nurse who attend five days a week, a Dermatologist, Physiotherapist, Podiatrist, Diabetic Nurse Specialist, Hepatitis C Nurse Specialist and Optician (including on-site Diabetic Retinopathy Screening).

There is also a Substance Misuse Team (from a separate Provider CGL/Pathways) comprising a Specialist GP (Substance Misuse) and two Nurses during the day.

Diagnostics (ultrasound) are available on-site and there are plans for NHS England to supply on-site, x-ray equipment, as part of the North West Programme during 2016.

A Healthcare Improvement Advisor attends several days a week and offers Wellbeing Services for both staff and patients, which is commissioned by NHS England from

Warrington Borough Council. Their role is an integral part of the Prison Health Improvement Group (PHIG) and ensures the implementation of the Prison Health Improvement Plan, a multi-disciplinary approach to wellbeing across the whole prison.

**Greater Manchester West NHS Foundation Trust**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, GMW will take over the provision of Mental Health services at the prison, with plans to develop the Mental Health service into a Stepped Care Model. Wellbeing Practitioners are being recruited to support the Clinical Nursing Team with support of 2 Psychiatrist sessions per week with Clinical Psychologist input and Counselling services.

The service is currently in transition from a 5 to 7 day service, due to the demands of the population. This will be implemented following a process of Organisational Change.

## **SECTION 6**

### **SAFER CUSTODY**

The Safer Custody Team supports and monitors vulnerable prisoners and is assisted by the Peer Support Group. Monthly meetings of the Suicide and Self-Harm Group are well attended and the minutes of these meetings are well documented.

Issues regarding listeners and prisoners are also documented in great detail, as is training course for listeners. The listeners continue to provide support to fellow prisoners and the availability on listeners through this period has been sufficient.

The Board have carried out an overview of all minutes and documented presentations of the Safer Custody Team, reference ACCTS on Licenced Recalled Prisoners (both monthly and annually), Foreign National Prisoners (again, both monthly and annually), in-depth documentation on Current “At Risk” Prisoners and “Cast Study Updates” on Risk Prisoners.

### **Case Study Updates covers:**

#### **Positive Points of Practice**

Informative assessment

Collaborative working practice exemplified by attendance at review of Chaplaincy Initial Care Map “Best Practice” submitted by SO. Total detail incorporated into report, easy to understand and showing a sequential progression of issues

Open process of documents completed within 24 hours of opening

Good quality handovers from night to days

#### **Documentation and Recordings of Safer Custody Incidents**

Having been given total access to files within the “Safer Custody Department”, all incidents and on-going incidents are fully and professionally documented.

In total 359 ACCT’s were opened for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, with an average duration of 11.5 days per ACCT. 252 ACCT’s were opened, due to thoughts of self-harm and 107 ACCT’s were opened due to actual self-harm. Health and Safety received 153 form F213SH’s for actual events of self-harm for this period.

32 Foreign Nationals, 97 Licence Recall and 44 Lifer prisoners all had ACCT's opened. A breakdown of all ACCT's opened across the establishment are in the table below:

Location of ACCT's opened.:

<b>A</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>CSU</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>RECEPTION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>WDGH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>359</b>

## **SECTION 7**

### **CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT**

Prisoners are located in the CSU (before or after adjudication) following a misdemeanour or for their own safety and protection. Prisoners relocated for their own protection fall into two categories - threats of self-harm or threats from other prisoners.

The number of prisoners in CSU varies considerably from day to day.

All prisoners on arrival at CSU are seen by Healthcare and they monitor the prisoners thereafter on a regular basis. A Governor visits the CSU on a daily basis.

The PSO 1700 makes a mandatory provision for the protocol that is in place at HMP Risley which provides for an officer within the CSU notifying a member of the IMB whenever a prisoner is located to this unit. An IMB member then visit's the prisoner as soon as is possible, to ensure that all their statutory needs are being met.

The prisoners within the CSU have access to a shower, some of their own property, and an outside yard for exercise.

The Board attend a sample of adjudications, when members attend to ensure that all the adjudications are carried out in a fair manner and in accordance with the relevant guidelines. They also ensure that the prisoner has sufficient time to prepare their case, and are given every opportunity to speak for themselves at the adjudication.

Segregation reviews are carried out routinely as required and Board members attend the majority of reviews.

The Board consider the CSU to be a very well run unit with staff providing a high standard of care. The CSU continues to be clean and relatively peaceful, given its purpose. At a time of extreme difficulty in relocating prisoners from the CSU to other establishments, the Board have witnessed the hard work the officers put in during the reviews, particularly to achieve re-allocation to other establishments when appropriate to do so. The prisoners tell us they are well treated by the officers who form a small, dedicated and appropriately trained team.

## **SECTION 8**

### **EQUALITY**

A board member attends Equality meetings which covers all aspects of the Equalities Act - age, disability, gender re-assignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships. These are now called “protected characteristics.”

HMP Risley is committed to providing the very best service in order to fulfil this statement and deliver a decent and effective prison regime that reduces re-offending.

Since these meetings, policies have been put in place and the board are receiving less applications for them to deal with issues independently, as many of the complaints are investigated and dealt with through the meetings.

## **SECTION 9**

### **VISITS**

At the start of the year, there were still problems for families wishing to book visits to prisoners. This has since improved, with the introduction of the on-line booking system and allocated visit times. It is certainly not perfect, but there is a vast improvement on the previous system.

Staffing problems also cause delays in processing correspondence also affect incoming mail and the Board have received applications concerning registered and recorded letters having been signed from the post office's care into that of the prison, which have still not reached the recipients until 10 days later.

The visits area has benefited from new more comfortable seating this year, but the noise level when the visiting room is full, continues to be unacceptable. There is the potential to resolve this at a minimal cost.

The Visitors Centre outside the gate is small and frequently over crowded, often with over 100 visitors. Disabled visitors have great difficulty using the toilet facilities. Overall, the centre is in dire need of refurbishment.

### **Family Forum/Family Day - POPs**

Board members, on a number of occasions, have attended this group. The Forum gives prisoner's families the opportunity of meeting senior management (generally a Governor) fact-to-face and airing their concerns/views on a large number of subjects affecting both them and their partners.

It is the view of the Board that both Family Forum and Family Days are very much appreciated by the visiting families and should be extended.

## **SECTION 10**

### **CHAPLAINCY**

The number of prisoners attending formal worship is not very high, approximately 10% of the prison population. However, the services of the Chaplaincy team are much appreciated by prisoners and staff alike.

All prisoners first come into contact with the Chaplaincy on the day after their arrival, where a member of the Chaplaincy team see them in the Welcome Centre and carry out their initial induction. After that, the prisoners can ask for a member of the Chaplaincy team at any time. Furthermore, the Chaplaincy will assist in a prisoner being given approval to visit hospital and attendance for a sick or deceased relative.

The Chaplaincy team visit all those on an open ACCT document daily, and will attend to all prisoners in the CSU. A member of the Chaplaincy team will also attend all ACCT reviews throughout the week for those prisoners on an open ACCT.

Great effort is made to provide spiritual guidance for all faiths and also hold a regular service and study group.

The team is multi-faith and multi-diverse, and treats all religious and faith groups equally, irrespective of the number of prisoners registered to each faith.

## **SECTION 11**

### **ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES**

The residential wings in Risley continue to deteriorate although prisoner painting parties have improved the decorative order and keep the prison graffiti free. It is the overall condition of the facilities and equipment which concerns the Board most, particularly on B wing which has been described in numerous reports by HMIP, as unfit for purpose. Although the minister is well aware of the problem, he has not seen fit to address the situation.

Some of the problems of B Wing are as follows:

Despite the best efforts of pest controllers, who visit the prison regularly, there are still reports of cockroaches on the wing.

The showers sometimes do not work due to the low water pressure.

The facilities for association between prisoners are very small and cramped for so many prisoners.

However, it is not just on B Wing that problems are encountered. The maintenance and repair of all the equipment in the prison is poor. One example, is when washing machines and dryers fail, they take a long time to repair. One tumble dryer has been out of action for 7 months, apparently waiting for spare parts. The result of this, is that prisoners are

drying their washing draped over the railings on the walkways. This restricts visibility and causes a problem when items drop onto the floor and the netting. It also results in items of clothing going missing, causing frustration amongst the prisoners.

Heating and hot water in the showers on A and B Wings are inadequate and regularly faulty. The time it takes to get the contractors back into the prison to rectify the work are unacceptably long.

Generally, the residential areas are clean and tidy but with the majority of the areas ageing, they are in need of comprehensive refurbishment.

## **SECTION 12**

### **SECURITY**

HMP Risley remains a safe environment for prisoners, but the ever-increasing problems of drugs, NPS (SPICE) and mobile telephones still prove a challenge for the security staff.

The IMB have concerns over the lack of drug dogs within the prison. The number of dogs and handlers has been reduced due to austerity cuts, leaving the prison vulnerable and increasing the work load of the already over-stretched security staff.

The Security Department have made great efforts in ensuring the safety of the prisoners within Risley. The governance of the Security Department has had a number of changes within the last 12 months. However, this does not appear to have distracted the Department from their goals, as a recent audit was very favourable.

The Board have a close working relationship with the staff, and security is an issue for all who work within Risley. Due to the high vigilance of staff, HMP Risley remains one of the safer jails within the North West and, therefore, a safer environment for prisoners.

**SECTION 13**

**[SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOARD DURING THE REPORTING YEAR.]**

Each week, Board members attend the prison to conduct rota visits and monitor adjudications.

They also respond to prisoner applications, attend Separation and Care reviews and observe prison management meetings. Board members also observe ACCT reviews.

The Board holds a monthly meeting at which the Governor or his deputy attends in order to brief the Board on prison matters and to discuss issues from rota report.

Presentations have been given by prison staff to the Board to keep us informed about specialist functions within the prison.

Members have visited other establishments during the year and the Chair has attended Area Chair meetings at numerous establishments throughout the year.