



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP &YOI Thorn Cross

for reporting Year
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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

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1 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:

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

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

2.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Main judgements

2.1 It is our belief as a Board that the prisoners at Thorn Cross are treated fairly and the Governor and staff continue to provide a fair and equitable environment for the prisoners. The establishment has been operating at maximum capacity which has resulted in pressures on work placements and rehabilitation activities. Despite all the pressures the Governors and staff continue to provide a positive and purposeful culture for the prisoners and should be congratulated for their continuing dedication and enthusiasm to making Thorn Cross a success.

2.2 The increasing availability of the new psychoactive substances (NPS) has been an issue and incidents reported of possession has resulted in adjudications and transfers but the continued vigilance of the officers, substance misuse staff and mentors is helping to reduce the incidences. The problem also results in failed Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) and the resulting adjudications and potential for transfers back to closed conditions.

2.3 The prison underwent a Security Audit within the reporting year with the results being shared with the IMB. It is pleasing to note that the Board has been reassured that the resulting action plan is being implemented at the time of writing and the searching of prisoners and their visitors is being reviewed and strengthened. It is hoped that this will result in less contraband being brought into the establishment. Like most other prisons there is a perpetual problem of contraband, drugs, alcohol and mobile phones and accessories being found in the prison. External security has been installed to deter “drops” collected by prisoners into the open estate.

2.4 Prisoners continue to raise concerns relating to Release on Temporary License (ROTL). Although it is acknowledged this is part of the rehabilitation and preparation for release process they have to appreciate it is an individualised process and that there will be differences based on the risk assessment for each individual. The discipline and offender management-staff have worked hard to explain the process and the weekly open sessions have been successful in resolving the issues which has reduced the number of applications on this subject.

2.5 The following report indicates a rise in the issues relating to staff and prisoner concerns. The number is higher than reported last year because of the number of applications received relating to delays in the prison responding to complaints. The issue was raised with the Governor and has been resolved by allocating the complaints handling duties to a full time member of staff.

2.6 The transfer of prisoners and their property between establishments remains a problem. The external contractors will only carry so much property with the remainder staying at the transferring prison. This leads to lost property or extreme difficulties in retrieving and sending on to the prisoners. It may be beneficial to review the contract specification to clarify the responsibility for the property on transfer. Prisoners will submit claims for compensation creating work for what might be avoidable.

Main Areas for Development

TO THE MINISTER

2.7 The continued availability of NPS, despite legislation, continues to be problematic and dangerous. Severe penalties for possession whether it is for dealing or taking should be strictly enforced. The penalties should be consistent across all prisons and strongly emphasised among the prisoner population. Additions to a lengthy prison sentence may be a deterrent.

2.8 The availability of mobile phones, sim cards and other devices have high currency values within a prison. The possession of such can lead to other problems such as bullying, harassment of family and friends whilst incarcerated and continuation of "business" whilst incarcerated. More sophisticated methods of disablement needs to be introduced as a priority.

2.9 The transportation of prisoners and property between establishments. This needs to be reviewed to reduce the incidences of lost property and compensation claims.

2.10 The Board is pleased with the progress made by the Governor and his staff in addressing the issues in previous reports. In particular the improvement with communication for both staff and prisoners. The open sessions in the Offender Management Unit relating to ROTL have been well received and reduced the number of issues reported on ROTL.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

2.11 The use of NPS is a national concern. Urgent measures are needed across the prison service to minimise and detect and the use of this substance in all its forms to reduce the potential of long term, life damaging effects. Detection of most illegal substance can be supported with the correct testing and equipment and all custodial establishments should have access to the latest and modern equipment. Thorn Cross does not have the equipment and would benefit from operating a Barringer Ionscan Drugs detector to identify those who might have taken drugs or be in possession of drugs. The tackling of the drug culture in all custodial establishments is of the utmost importance.

2.12 Education and training is pivotal to the rehabilitation of prisoners and it is imperative that the budget is sufficient to allow education in the basics, such as literacy and numeracy as well as more academic subjects. Attainment of qualifications will enhance the opportunity of employment on release. The budget for this reporting year has not sustained all the educational opportunities and a review of budgets would be welcomed. The problem may stem from the high intake of prisoners coming to Thorn Cross at the end of their sentences who only have entre level qualifications or at best Level 1 in English and maths. The Sycamore Tree restorative justice course is a key element of the overall rehabilitation programme. The IMB Board would encourage the Prison service to provide more funding for this programme.

2.13 The outsourcing of contracts has raised some issues. The estates management is now provided by Geo-Amey and this has resulted in delays of regular maintenance

programmes and essential repairs. Some of the washroom facilities have leaked resulting in damp and mould growth because of delays in repairs.

TO THE GOVERNOR

2.14 The Governor and staff should be congratulated on the work and dedication of staff through what can be perceived as difficult times with the changing agendas and developments. The effective communication in the prison continues to improve and the IMB membership are encouraged to see the use of the mentors arranging the inductions and Prisoner Representative Committee being used to highlight the minor issues within the establishment that can be resolved quickly.

2.15 The Lifer and IPP community have equal access to rehabilitation activities but their perception of the lack of a defined release date can be perceived as detrimental and their needs may be different to those prisoners with release dates and having ROTL's. It might be beneficial to progress the activities already started for Lifers. The Lifer Family Days were successful and appreciated.

2.16 The numerous minor maintenance issues and repetitive complaints about domestic equipment on the units need to be resolved. The lack of decent domestic equipment for prisoners creates annoyances with the prisoners as well as taking up staff time. As an example a small domestic microwave for a wing of 30 prisoners on unit 7 is not sufficient and the installation of a more robust microwave would be more beneficial and potential to be more cost effective.

2.17 The continuation of the good work relating to purposeful activity and increasing the number of workout opportunities. There have been instances where prisoners have arranged their own workouts which have been successful but the converse has happened where they have attempted to arrange a workout and security checks have resulted in the workout being denied. The prisons should have "ownership" of the workouts.

2.18 The increasing amount of contraband entering the establishment is of concern. A review of the search process on return from outside and before visits may result in minimising the amount entering the establishment. It is appreciated the difficulties with an open estate to minimise the "drop" to the prison but extra grounds patrols may be a deterrent.

Improvements

2.19 The Board is pleased with the developments and progress within the Offender Management Unit and the drop in sessions have reduced the number of issues raised in relation to ROTL.

2.20 The change of location of the IMB office has been greatly appreciated as it is believed that this has raised the profile of the IMB amongst the staff and the prisoners and there is now a more visible presence of the members within the establishment. Also the access to a computer has greatly improved our working life.

2.21 The encouragement of the Mentor scheme should be applauded, as the communication between prisoners to prisoners is appreciated more than officers/ staff communication e.g. inductions by the Shelter Mentor and Substance Misuse mentor.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 HMP &YOI Thorn Cross is situated on the outskirts of south Warrington in Appleton. It opened as a Category D Open Prison for juvenile and young prisoners in 1985 on the site of an old Royal Naval base. In 2008 it became an establishment for 18 to 25 year olds and in 2013 the age limit was removed and now takes prisoners of all ages.

3.2 The operational capacity is 381 in 7 units for category D prisoners nearing the end of their sentence, this also includes Lifers and IPP prisoners that are nearing parole. The objective is successful rehabilitation into the community and therefore reducing reoffending.

3.3 Should segregation be required there are 4 cells allocated on Fulmer Unit where prisoners await transfer back to closed conditions, the aim is for immediate transfer but within at least 24 hours. The remainder of the unit is utilized for prisoners new to open conditions for induction prior to transfer to one of the remaining six units. There have been occasions where issues have been raised relating to cell sharing but the allocation of cells has to be balanced with the operational capacity.

3.4 The establishment has several workshops on site with opportunities for training and rehabilitation into a working life in the community. There are outside agencies operating some of the workshops (Timpsons, Reporting Lives, Max Spielman and Railtrack) and have on occasions created job opportunities for prisoners on release. The Gym is the focus for leisure activities and the Farms and Gardens workshop keep the site attractive, tidy and colourful.

3.5 The educational element is provided by Manchester College under the guise of Novus. Training programmes have undergone change to reflect the changing age groups. Course provided include numeracy and literacy as well as other life style courses.

3.6 Healthcare commissioned by NHS England is provided by Bridgewater Community Healthcare Foundation Trust and mental health services are provided by Greater Manchester West Mental Health Foundation Trust. The unit has undergone refurbishment to be more conducive to care that reflects that provided in the community.

3.7 Transport is provided by GEOAmy and is supplemented by the use of the prison's own vehicles for transfers between establishments and transporting prisoners to work placements ,thus reducing travel costs.

4 SAFETY

4.1 The experience of the IMB members are the majority of prisoners feel safe within the establishment and there is limited evidence of bullying or intimidation between prisoners. If and when there are occurrences the officers deal with the incident appropriately and use the correct reporting channels. Based on previous history and/or intelligence prisoners who are deemed at risk of perpetrating bullying or potential of being bullied are closely monitored by staff.

4.2 The Sycamore programme, organised by the chaplaincy, continues to be successful and popular. The course reflects on the feelings of the victims of crime and how that impacts on the prisoner's thoughts and behaviours.

4.3 The number of ACCT (Assessment Care and Custody Teamwork) documents opened is extremely low but when opened they are managed appropriately and reviewed by the correct designated staff. The establishment has trained and maintained adequate numbers of ACCT assessors during the year. The changing age groups have seen the use of ACCT,s improve and any open ACCCT's are discussed at the monthly IRMT meetings.

4.4 The changing age ranges has reduced the incidence of bullying and there were only 3 applications received in year specifically related to perceived verbal bullying / victimisation. If and when bullying is suspected close monitoring is undertaken and staff are fully aware and support the victim. Moves to alternative units or workplaces are offered on occasions .

4.5 The Peer Mentor scheme continues to provide excellent support in providing support and advice to new prisoners to the establishment. It is the peer mentors associated with substance misuse and Shelter that conduct the induction sessions, twice weekly, and offer an "open door" to any one feeling vulnerable. The Mentors have an office on the main concourse in the education block where prisoners can "drop in" for advice and support on any prison related issue.

4.6 Members of the IMB attend the Security Meetings and the Integrated Risk Management Team meetings monthly reporting back to the remainder of the board on issues concerning the prison and individual prisoners at that point in time. Any gang related issues are closely monitored and historical relationships are not encouraged and discouraged by all means available.

4.7 The changing Board leadership gave an opportunity to revisit work and purpose of the rota visits. These now include an "out of normal hours" visit monthly one of which highlighted concerns on staffing and fire evacuation procedures in each unit. The Board was reassured by the designated Fire Officer and new fire doors and alarms are being fitted within the units.

5. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

5.1 The Diversity and Equality Action team (DEAT) meet regularly and monitors any issues or reported incidents and oversees relevant policies and procedures ensuring changes when needed according to Prison Service Instruction (PSI) and Prison Service Order (PSO). A designated member of staff has allocated time to ensuring these activities are maintained and follows up action required following reports of inappropriate behavior and comments from both prisoners and/or staff.

5.2 The meeting is chaired at senior level with a working action plan that enables monitoring on developments. Subgroups look at particular areas and there is great commitment to ensuring related issues are handled appropriately and any action required is actioned. Prisoner representatives attend and raise concerns on behalf of others which are listened to, even though they may not be directly related to diversity and equality issues.

5.3 Prisoners are fully informed of the complaints and application processes on induction and are aware of the location and handling of the correspondence. This year the IMB have received 8 applications relating to the response time to complaints. This was due to the time needed to investigate or to obtain information from other sources. The establishment monitors all complaints and the times to investigate all the elements, including external, to ensure a timely response.

5.4 The Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme (IEP) is fair and effective and most prisoners are fully conversant with the schemes from previous establishments. They are also cognisant that the scheme can and is used as rewarding good behaviour and punishment following adjudications.

5.5 The Board has monitored family days and family visits. The area is conducive for family interaction with a designated play area and toys for younger children. During the visits there are refreshments available for the family members and the offender. Visits are and can be arranged by phone and on line. All visiting sessions are maximised to capacity to ensure the prisoners have fair and equitable contact with their families. There have been special family days arranged for the prisoners serving life sentences.

5.6 Thorn Cross has a wide and varied cross section of Faiths and Festivals and celebrations are arranged and publicised predominantly by the Chaplaincy and kitchens to ensure needs are met as far as is practicable. Food is provided for special religious dietary needs via the canteen lists and equipment is available on the residencies to reheat the meals. Many of the diverse groups have representatives who participate in the DEAT discussions.

5.7 Family issues relating to any of the prisoners are raised and discussed when considering Release on Temporary License (ROTL) or Resettlement Day Release (RDR) or any discharge

release arrangements. The Board tasked with the decision are fully aware of the family situations and arrangements before the decision is made and communicated to the offender.

6. SEGREGATION/CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

6.1 Thorn Cross does not have a segregation/ care and separation unit as other establishments but has 4 allocated "holding" cells on Fulmer unit should a prisoner require isolation following an incident and prior to transfer back to a closed establishment. A member of the IMB is notified of the transfers and will visit the prisoner where possible but the transfer is actioned speedily which does not always allow for the visit to take place. Prisoners are only in the holding cells for a very short period of time or overnight if necessary due to the timing of the incident.

6.2 Fulmer Unit is staffed sufficiently to deal with the prisoners allocated to the unit and any prisoner allocated to the holding cells. There are always extra staff on the unit to action the transfer and transport the prisoner to the identified receiving establishment. A full and comprehensive record of all occupancy of the holding cells and transfers to other establishments is maintained on the unit.

6.3 All Board members are able to speak freely to any prisoner on the unit whether in the holding cells or in the normal cellular accommodation. The unit is visited on every rota visit and included on every rota report.

6.3 Adjudications take place on Fulmer unit in a designated room and where possible are observed by a member of the IMB to ensure they are conducted fairly and fair and appropriate resolutions are agreed. The prisoner is given time to prepare themselves and given every opportunity to speak for themselves at the hearing. Thorn Cross does have a low tolerance policy and adjudications for significant offences usually result in transfers back to closed conditions. Like many other establishments Thorn Cross has encountered offences with NPS, mobile phones and sim cards, other addictive substances and resulting failed drug tests and alcohol.

6.4 As a result of the low tolerance, adjudications are opened but before the investigations are completed the prisoner has been transferred to other establishment and it becomes incumbent on the receiving establishment to complete the process and meter out the punishment. If the process is complex involving witnesses and/or other agencies e.g. police it could be construed that the process is not completed at the receiving establishment and the offence committed whilst at Thorn Cross has gone unpunished. However the loss of 'open' status may be and is considered a considerable deterrent.

6.5 Contraband entering the establishment continues to be problematic. In the reporting year there have been incidences of mobile phones, sim cards, NPS and other substances and even fresh meat and fish. Despite excellent use of intelligence available to the discipline staff it remains a problem. Items found through searches and cell searches are high value currency items and it is important that prevention on entering the establishment is paramount and use and uptake of the contraband is impossible.

7. ACCOMMODATION (including communication)

- 7.1 The prisoner's accommodation is provided in 7 units across the estate. On the rota visits conducted by the IMB the cleanliness and tidiness of all areas on the units is monitored and any issues reported. Since the outsourcing of estate maintenance there have been issues of reporting and timeliness of repairs and general maintenance issues.
- 7.2 There have been innovative changes within catering such as "Theme- Nights" and revision of the menus based on preferences identified from a questionnaire. The new menus contain five options, including vegetarian, and the menus change on a four week cycle.
- 7.3 Each unit is equipped with toasters, microwaves and kettles in a designated kitchen area enabling the prisoners to cater for snacks in association time. Food items from the "staff- mess" can be purchased during visits for children and family members and from the canteen list for the prisoner's personal use.
- 7.4 The catering facilities within the establishment are maintained in clean, tidy and workable conditions. Utensils are adequate and identified for specific use such as Halal. Portions sizes are difficult to control but main courses are delivered in foil containers to ensure adequacy and fairness at the serveries but officers are present and oversee the serving of meals. Each unit has a food comment book where staff and prisoners are encouraged to comment on the food, but there needs to be consistency across the establishment where such books are kept so that they are readily available to ensure maximum use of reporting issues.
- 7.5 The Staff "mess" is a training unit and managed by NOVUS the education provider by a member of their staff. There is a varied menu of snacks and light lunches available during the working week provided in conducive surroundings. They also cater for conferences, prison visits and family days and training events.
- 7.6 There has been issues with prisoner property within the reporting year in that it does not always follow the prisoner between transfers, is lost or mislaid in transit and that some prisons allow items of property that is then not allowed at Thorn Cross. Applications received relating to this issue were 11 which relies on other establishments to investigate and respond. This issue is not always controllable due to outsourced transport limiting transferring property and leads to the potential compensation claims across the system.
- 7.7 Staff/prisoner relationships are good with the ethos on rehabilitation back into the community, Officers have a good working knowledge of individual prisoners and ensure that the prison regime is appropriately and effectively managed. Prisoner representatives are encouraged to participate in meetings, in particular the Prisoner Representative Committee to ensure all accommodation and communication issues are discussed and actioned. A member of the IMB is a member of the committee

8. HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)

8.1 Healthcare is provided by Bridgewater Community NHD Foundation Trust for general health and by Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust for mental health services. Services are provided daily for all prisoners. There are no in-patient facilities within the establishment and should a prisoner require hospitalisation this is at the local hospital or the specialist unit to deal with the diagnosed condition. This has resulted in increased workload for discipline staff to provide bed watches or escorts but where possible the prisoners who have release on temporary license may make their own way to these appointments, if local, so reducing the need for escorts. The department received good reviews in the reports from the Care Quality Commission and Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons.

8.2 Following the refurbishment of the reception area this has resulted in extra clinical consulting rooms which are comparable with clinical rooms in community care. The entire department has undergone redecoration resulting in improved working conditions for staff. The extra clinical space has now allowed for monthly in-house sessions for ultra sound and x rays sessions as well as screening for Aortic Aneurysms three monthly.

8.3 The staff use the System One computer programme for clinical records and this year have developed the system to utilise the prescribing and dispensing module. There have been issues raised by prisoners relating to the timing of the medications, particularly Methadone, which was resolved with the Governor working with healthcare staff and substance misuse staff a resolution was implemented which has resolved the issues.

8.4 The healthcare staff are now involved in assessing prisoners for cell sharing if there are any health reasons that would not allow sharing a cell. They also issue Fit for Work notices where a prisoner may feel that for health reasons they are not fit for work, as they would have to in the community. This year they have become involved in relationship advice when a prisoner starts their overnight release / home leave as they have raised concerns about starting intimate relations following prolonged periods of abstinence.

8.5 The healthcare staff work closely with other agencies and colleagues from HMP Risley. In this reporting year they have not experienced any major staffing issues and where sickness has affected the staffing levels, staff from HMP Risley have been made available to cover the shortfall. There is also now a monthly podiatry clinic which complements the diabetic treatment plans ensuring feet and podiatric problems are managed in house reducing the risk of complications for the diabetic prisoner population within the establishment.

8.6 Staff have worked closely with the prison staff to ensure disabled prisoners are safely accommodated, these are both physical and sensory disabilities, and a unit within the establishment is designated as a health and well-being unit where their disability can be managed and staff are aware of any special needs.

8.7 The Change Grow Live Service provides the rehabilitation of substance misuse service and the provider works with other local prisons and support services in the community ensuring prisoners on release are fully aware of services available to them. Mentors support the team and actively promote their service at inductions and are highly valued in their ability to interact with their peers.

9. EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

9.1 Education and training is provided by Manchester College under the auspices of NOVUS. There is a purchaser supplier relationship with the prison, which aims to meet the needs of the prisoner and the prison. The budget for education is in the order of £1million per year and it is the intention to utilise all of the funds on resources to prevent the risk of losing some of the allocation. There have been some issues in this reporting year partly due to organisational issues. Some courses are now being run quarterly as this is sufficient to meet the need e.g. industrial cleaning. Some courses have been suspended due to lack of tutors e.g. plastering. The education provision was graded as outstanding in a recent OFSTED inspection.

9.2 The prisoner's literacy, numeracy and writing is assessed on admission and prisoners allocated to appropriate lessons where needed but the number requiring the courses has diminished over the year due to other establishments being more effective in their provision. There have been issues raised from prisoners that their certificates of completion of a course and evidence of attendance on courses has not been transferred from other establishments which may delay preparation for release. Qualifications gained are now being input onto C nomis which should avoid loss or discrepancies.

9.3 The courses are well supported and are monitored on a weekly basis but the intention is to monitor daily to ensure all prisoners attend the session and are not missing from the lesson. Some courses are more popular as it is the belief they are more advantageous to employment on release. Catering has raised its profile, whilst horticulture has had its numbers reduced so that the course operates at its optimum level. The Gym courses are still one of the most popular and well attended.

9.4 Other areas of purposeful activity are continuing but there are issues raised over the "wage" paid and the variances between on-site workshops. Recycling Lives is very popular because they pay the prisoner better monies. Timpsons, and Max Spielman also have on-site workshops. Timpsons was recently mentioned in local media, as an ex offender who was trained whilst in Thorn Cross, has now secured employment in one of their retail outlets.

9.5 The Virtual Campus is up and running and popular but as anticipated, due to security issues, the internet access is problematic as access versus security. During this year 11 prisoners have done long distance learning, 6 are currently on part time Open University courses with 8 due to start the next course. The use of the virtual campus also enables prisoners to complete the driving test theory, health and safety which all help towards employment on release.

9.6 The prisoners continue to sit the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) to enable the prisoner to seek employment on building sites or in trades on release. However, it is concerning that prisoners completing the Railtrack course can no longer take the end of course qualifications needed for employment. Although this has arisen through no fault of the prison it is hoped that a speedy resolution to this can be found.

9.7 Prisoners have ready access to the library which has a varied range of books, CD's and DVD's. There is ample opportunity for anyone, including the IMB, to join in and books can be sourced from all the libraries in the town.

WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

10.1 The allocation of work placements, training opportunities and employment or purposeful activity are normally sufficient to provide places for the maximum capacity of the establishment for at least part of the working day. There have been some issues this year with education provision due to organisational changes and employee changes with the provider. Art classes have reduced to half days which were previously full days and popular, plastering was suspended due to lack of educational staff.

10.2 There is a senior Governor allocated responsibility for education and training who chairs regular meetings with the providers and discipline staff to ensure issues are resolved and action plans implemented where necessary.

10.3 The labour allocations board ensure all prisoners are allocated to appropriate activities and they are where they should be at the right time. There have been issues where prisoners leave their place of employment for an appointment and return to their units rather than their place of work. As a result there is now a lock-out period where once all the prisoners have left the units the doors are locked and only reopened for breaks and meal times till the working day has finished.

10.4 The number of workout opportunities has decreased in year mostly due to the reluctance to pay minimum wage by the employer. The prison continues to encourage workouts where possible and some prisoners have successfully secured their own workout following health and safety and appropriate security checks. The converse has also happened where they have tried to secure a workout which has been totally inappropriate. At the time of reporting 60 prisoners have work-outs .

10.5 It is the ethos of reducing reoffending to instil a good work ethic and train towards employment on release. The prisoners attending the Railtrack course can and have secured employment on release and as previously mentioned there are now prisoners securing employment in Timpsons retail outlets on release. The obtaining of the CSCS card ensures the prisoner has the necessary qualification for building site work or a trade. This includes bricklaying, plastering, painting and decorating.

RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

11.1 The Offender Management Unit (OMU) achieved a rating of “good” in the HMIP Audit for August 2016. The success rate for Release on Temporary License (ROTL) and Home Detention Curfew (HDC) applications are comparable to any other open prison in England and the HMIP inspectors noted that processes were in line with policy and prisoners were given fair access to ROTL. It has to be remembered that ROTL is a privilege that has to be earned and is not an automatic right.

11.2 The team are based in a porta cabin which is overcrowded and only allows for limited privacy in the consulting rooms and is not conducive to a good working environment for the staff based there. A bid has been placed for the replacement of this accommodation during the reporting year, we look forward to the construction. The telephone conferences system works extremely well saving staff time by not having to attend meetings off site. There are issues with the video link and it desperately needs updating as it does not accept incoming calls and is unreliable in its working capabilities.

11.3 The Offending Behaviour Programmes are completed at the closed establishments prior to transfer to Thorn Cross but if it is deemed that a prisoner would benefit from a programme this can be arranged through the ROTL process. Enhanced Behaviour Monitoring (EBM) is well embedded with an average of 8 prisoners being monitored at any one time. Regular meetings are held with between OMU, Psychology and HMP Kirkham to ensure consistency across the North West prisons.

11.4 All sentence plans are completed within the first 8 weeks of arrival at Thorn Cross. The OMU hold regular meetings with all partner agencies to ensure and enable closer and better working communications with Offender Supervisors and other agencies.

11.5 Prisoners attend a discharge board 12 weeks prior to release to enable plans to be formulated with other agencies, Shelter, National Career Service, Job Centre and Offender supervisors. The OMU also operate a “open house” every Friday afternoon where Offender Supervisors are available to discuss any concerns, issue a prisoner may have in relation to ROTL and HDC.

11.6 There is a well- established Integrated Risk Management Team that meet monthly to review statistics and discuss any issues relating to prisoners new to open conditions of concern / high risk and of those in the establishment of concern/ high risk. These meeting are attended by relevant parties and agencies and a member of the IMB.

11.7 Relationships with Stonham Bass remains strong and have been robustly reciprocated, as and when needed, during the year.

Section – Work of Board

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	5
Total number of visits to the Establishment	279
Total number of segregation reviews attended (no segregation unit)	0

A Section - Applications

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	2	1
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	5	2
C	Equality	2	1
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	8	5
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	6	1
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	0	9
F	Food and kitchens	1	0
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	2	4
H 1	Property within this establishment	0	2
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	11	1
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	1	0
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	15	22
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying/complaints	11	1
K	Transfers	1	0
L	Miscellaneous	9	3
	Total number of IMB applications	74	52