



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP Risley

for reporting Year
1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

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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 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.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Because of budget cuts, there are problems in the running of the prison due to the reduction in staffing levels. This is having an adverse effect on the welfare of the prisoners because of unacceptable periods when prisoners are locked in their cells. Reduced staffing levels also affect the smooth running of the movement of prisoners, especially transportation to hospital for appointments, health care appointments within the prison and escorting prisoners to their educational courses and family visits. The high levels of substance misuse by prisoners constantly necessitates prison officers having to manage the disruption this causes, over and above their normal duties.

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

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 Board has concerns over the lack of drug dogs within the prison, 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 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.

3 DESCRIPTION OF HMP RISLEY

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 131 foreign nationals, 212 sex offenders, and 80 IPP’s and lifers.

The Risley estate 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 healthcare 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 Iman.

Evidence Sections 4 – 11

4 SAFETY

Prisoners arriving at HMP Risley are received in good condition after their journey and proceed through Reception where they are assessed within 24 hours through the Welcome Centre. Both ACCT procedures and the MAPPA scheme are implemented during that time. Support schemes are fully explained at Reception to the incoming prisoners.

Violence between prisoner/prisoner, and prisoner/officer has increased dramatically due to substance misuse prisoners gaining access to mobile phones together with the reduction in staffing levels.

There have been 4 deaths in custody. All deaths have been handled by the prison staff satisfactorily and any comments from the coroner's reports have been acted upon.

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

The Board attends regular Equality meetings which covers all aspects of the Equality Act. Through these meetings the IMB monitors that any prisoners falling within the protected characteristics category do not suffer unnecessary disadvantages. Since the inception of these Equality meetings the Board have received less complaints from prisoners.

The Board always endeavors to ensure equality in its own recruitment and processes and has been successful.

HMP Risley has a designated visiting area where family visits take place. Private areas need to be provided for interventions. Family days take place at the prison approximately every three months (dictated by school holidays). The Board note that at these family days the prisoners enjoy a good relationship with their children using the games and toys provided by the prison.

6 SEGREGATION/CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

Due to the increase in substance misuse, the Unit runs at capacity the majority of the time.

The Board is informed within 24 hours of new arrivals in Segregation/CSU and informed promptly of Review Boards for Rule 45/49 prisoners.

The Unit is clean and tidy and maintained well with graffiti and damages swiftly dealt with. All prisoners are provided with facilities and the regime runs well when the area is appropriately staffed. Staffing of the Unit is occasionally an issue and more resources would ensure that the unit runs at its best.

All the appropriate attendees attend the Segregation Review Board meetings and prisoners attend where appropriate. Discussions and decisions fully cover all aspect of time spent in the CSU and decisions are made in respect of location, mental state and any transfers. All prisoners are aware of their rights to appeal and adjudication decisions. Board members are always able to speak with prisoners at any time. All documentation within the Unit are completed and up to date.

There have been 3 occasions to use cellular confinement in the Unit which have been conducted appropriately. In the last 12 months there have been 11 dirty protests which were all handled appropriately and swiftly. Health and safety of staff and prisoners being paramount.

There have been 16 prisoners on GOOD over 42 days. There were very few examples of prisoners going from cc to cc without a break.

Currently there is a structured plan of closures within the Unit, resulting in prisoners being 'behind their doors' more than necessary.

7 ACCOMODATION (including communication)

In the view of the Board the WC and showers on certain wings are not decent and dignified and a program has been implemented for a group of trained prisoners to improve the conditions by painting and decorating the premises.

Meals are served on time generally, subject to incidents which may be happening within the prison and all hygiene standards are maintained and catering staff are properly dressed.

Generally all prisoners have access to telephones.

8 HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)

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 (GWM) respectively. The service aims to provide primary and mental health services within the prison setting and are equivalent to those which would be provided within a community setting.

With HMP Risley healthcare, there is a designated reception nurse who completes reception screening for all new prisoners on the day of admission. All medical and dentistry services are in place and monitored every 3 months at a Contracts meeting with NHS England and there are no concerns. There is a good working relationship between the health providers and the NHS (Warrington Council Well-being Services).

In addition to in-patient care, with a number of private, clinic rooms being available, the prison has regional beds in hospitals in Liverpool, Preston and Manchester. There is usually a waiting list and prison staffing issues lead to hospital appointments being cancelled or re-arranged.

There is a mental health team and each mental health nurse has a substantial case load. Mental health attend all ACCT reviews.

Psychological support services are available to prisoners with a Clinical Psychologist being available one day a week. There are also 2 full time Psychological well-being Therapists available.

Prisoners are made aware that they can request an assessment for social care and they are also made aware of who the Healthcare providers are. Exit questionnaires asking for comments/opinions of care and treatment provided, which are completed by prisoners is generally positive and complimentary.

9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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 engage in education are 24% more likely to find

employment than those who do not.

The prison offers a broad range of courses but it would be advantageous if the prison could provide art and metal work courses. There are enough places taken up but overall the Board thinks that more courses should be available. All prisoners are assessed after arrival at the prison and if there are prisoners with learning difficulties, suitable arrangements are made. Once a prisoner enrolls on a particular course, they generally progress from course to course, especially on nationally recognized qualifications.

Prisoners do tend to attend better paid activities than educational courses. Approximately 6% of classes are cancelled because of the prison regime. Prisoners think that the quality of education provided is good and can improve their employment prospects. At the moment vulnerable prisoners are not given the same opportunities for enrolment on courses and this is currently being looked at. If a particular prisoner asks for in-cell study this can be provided. The library and gym are also well attended by prisoners and the gym has a good range of activities with the library being well stocked.

10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

At HMP Risley there is a comprehensive range of prison work available including joinery, building maintenance and industrial cleaning with plastering and hospitality/catering being available to the standard of Level 2 NVQ. Allocation of the work to prisoners is fair and quick and once allocated the work the prisoners' attendance is good. All prisoners are in full-time activity. There are recognized qualifications linked to this work but there is an opening for a construction qualification and perhaps stronger links between the prison and local employers could be forged. It is a priority of the prison to ensure each prisoner is given the opportunity to learn to enable them to gain employment on their release.

11 RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

Regarding the consistency and quality of offender management within the prison, the Board are concerned with both the internal prison offender management structure and the external providers (Probation Service). Due to staffing levels the offender management team are not able to provide consistent management control. Staff are constantly being allocated other duties and consequently prisoners are not receiving the assistance they need. Regarding support for destination after release of prisoners, a comprehensive interview with the prisoner is conducted which covers their day of discharge, accommodation, employment and education training, financial management and income, relationships, alcohol and substance misuse and thinking and behavior. On completion of this interview the prisoner and staff

member sign off the contents which is covered under Data Protection. It is the opinion of the Board that co-operation between Probation Services and the Community Rehabilitation Company leaves a lot to be desired and certainly needs looking at.

With regard to prisoners having bank accounts on release, this is currently being negotiated at the prison between the prison and Nationwide Building Society.

Removals and transfers of deportees are conducted through UKBA and presently have issues with the smooth running of this procedure because of refusal by prisoners, staffing and transport availability.

12 WORK OF BOARD

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 and attend all family forums.

The Board holds a monthly meeting at which the Governor or her 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. The Board also gives presentations to all new operational prison officers to set out the work undertaken by the Independent Monitoring Board and ensure that they are aware members of the Board are available to the prisoners if required.

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

13 BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended Complement of Board Members	14
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	6
Total number of visits to the Establishment	440
Total number of segregation reviews attended	75

14 APPLICATIONS TO IMB

	2016-2017	2015-2016
ACCOMMODATION	40	17
ADJUDICATIONS	3	7
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	0	0
EDUCATION	0	0
FAMILY MAIL CALLS	9	5
FINANCE/PAY	2	6
FOOD	9	6
HEALTH RELATED	61	20
PROPERTY ALL AREAS	51	38
CANTEEN	5	8
SENTENCE RELATED HDC	84	35
STAFF	27	19
TRANSFERS	11	2
MISCELLANEOUS	50	25
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPS	352	188