



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP & YOI Sudbury

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.

Main judgements

Are prisoners treated fairly?

The prison strives to treat prisoners fairly. In negotiations outside the prison (10.4; 10.6) and arrangements inside (4.1; 6.6; 8.2) most staff create a culture of personal responsibility and respect. The relatively small number of prisoners not benefiting from enhanced status are supported to achieve it. (5.1)

Are prisoners treated humanely?

The prison attaches great importance to treating prisoners humanely. The state of the residential accommodation poses a challenge (7.3; 7.4), but the outdoor environment is much improved (10.3). New arrivals are well supported, with a dedicated wing for their first night and beyond. (4.2). End of life care is excellent (8.8).

Are prisoners prepared well for their release?

Preparation for release is good. The Reducing Reoffending team works enthusiastically to ensure a coherent route from arrival to release using Pathways. (9.5; 11.3; 11.7). A positive attitude to work is encouraged (11.10). Not all prisoners at Sudbury are geographically close to their families, which hinders successful resettlement. (11.13)

Main Areas for Development

TO THE MINISTER

Sudbury was recently designated a Reform Prison. The Board would like to know if this model of prison reform is still part of Government policy.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

Proximity to family is recognised as playing an important role in successful resettlement. It should be made easier to secure a Cat D to Cat D transfer where the prisoner wishes to be located nearer to his family.

TO THE GOVERNOR

The Board would welcome a continuation of support to the Gardens department in the new financial year, so that it can grow its reach outside the prison and become self-sustaining, as it has had a huge impact on the outdoor environment of the prison and on prisoners involved in this area.

Improvements

The Governor and staff of Sudbury have a strong focus on rehabilitation and a number of improvements have been put in place over the 12-month period covered by this report to enhance the resettlement prospects of prisoners. Outstanding amongst these are:

- significant investment in the Gardens Department, which now offers prisoners huge opportunities to learn horticultural skills and a supportive environment for the

development of softer skills. It has also led to a great improvement in the appearance of the grounds, which are now always bright and welcoming;

- the provision of dedicated staff to run Family Days, which focus on building a positive relationship between prisoners and their children by engaging them in shared, structured activities;
- the integration of well-developed and supported Pathways to Reducing Reoffending scheme across the prisoner journey, so that every section of the prison understands its role in the pathways and prisoners embark on an appropriate, rehabilitation-focused route as soon as they arrive at Sudbury.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 HMP Sudbury is an Open Category D male Resettlement and YOI Prison with a Certified Normal Accommodation of up to 581 Prisoners. The actual roll fluctuates during the working week as prisoners leave during the day, to work and support the local community or are temporarily released at weekends to re-integrate themselves back into family life. The number verified in the roll at the time of writing is 557 prisoners.

3.2 The Prison presently holds a highly complex group of people including both the elderly and disabled. It carefully manages the risk associated with such offenders being held in an open prison, with risk assessment being a core part of day to day management.

3.3 The buildings were originally a United States Air Force hospital for D-Day landing casualties during World War II. Most of the original single story accommodation is still in use but has been converted and refurbished and in some instances replaced to provide single and double rooms. Additional accommodation has been provided in recent years. There is a small secure accommodation unit.

3.4 The wings were originally built as temporary structures not intended to last for more than 70 years and as a consequence are difficult and expensive to maintain.

B Evidence sections 4 – 11

4 SAFETY

4.1 Generally, prisoners feel safe from violence, coercion and bullying and report that conditions compare favourably with the closed estate. New arrivals are warned at induction that involvement in drugs or other illegal activities will make them vulnerable, and prisoners believe that those who respect the terms of their category D status are not at risk.

4.2 Reception and induction processes are thorough and careful. Staff are aware that new arrivals can only process a limited amount of information at one time, and W5 wing is assigned to new arrivals only. It has locking doors, specially trained orderlies and is located next to the Prisoner Information Desk (PID) so that residents can access reliable information quickly and easily. The induction booklet was rewritten this year with significant input from prisoners, to make it more relevant and accessible. Prisoners are moved on to their permanent wing when an influx of new arrivals requires the space, so time spent on the wing varies, but all first nights are spent on W5.

4.3 When IMB members have been in attendance they have found that new prisoners arrive in good condition after reasonable journeys in accredited transport.

4.4 Because of the nature of the prison only a small number of prisoners are on ACCTs at any one time. The recent HMIP report found that these were good and well managed.

4.5 A number of prisoners have achieved nationally accredited IAG qualifications to level 3 through an intensive course offered by the St Giles Trust through CRC, and these individuals move rapidly into Listeners and Peer supporter roles or onto the PID. Peer support is available in specialised areas, such as SMS. All are well used. Samaritan phones are also available, as is an internal Safer Custody hotline. Work with focus groups indicate that prisoners are clear about the many ways of reporting bullying and violence that are available to them.

4.6 The open environment makes supporting victims of violence and challenging perpetrators more difficult. In low level incidents, mediation is used, but sometimes victims ask to be transferred rather than having to face friends of their bully if he is moved out. In these cases the prison strives to ensure that they are found places in other open establishments. In the period covered by this report there has been a total of 9 prisoner-on-prisoner assaults, 5 of which were serious, and 7 assaults on staff.

4.7 There are problems relating to drugs and mobile phones, inevitable in the open estate, but prisoners are warned during induction of the risks involved - the Substance Misuse Service provides part of the induction, and is highly regarded within the prison. Robust, intelligence led searches, ensure that prisoners handling drugs and mobile phones are removed to SAU and back into the closed estate, which provides a powerful disincentive.

4.8 There have been two deaths in custody during this reporting year, one from natural causes, the other awaiting toxicology reports. In both cases relatives were treated with respect and concern, and affected prisoners were offered support.

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

5.1 Most prisoners at HMP & YOI Sudbury benefit from earned enhanced status, those who do not are supported and encouraged to gain enhanced status, using various pathways available within the environment.

5.2 Family links are encouraged and supported by the provision of excellent Family visits. These visits embrace all aspects of family life. Structured activities that replicate normal family life are planned and include time when Dad has sole charge of the children, giving Mum a much needed break. Recent HMIP Inspection identified this as Best Practice. These visits are regularly monitored by the IMB.

5.3 Family Ties always form part of the domestic ROTL application process.

5.4 Approximately 40% of the prison population is from a black or minority ethnic background. Translation services are available for those prisoners who require them. This has been observed in use by members.

5.5 At the time of writing there are no transgender prisoners, 5 prisoners have said they are gay or bisexual and there is the expertise available for support should they require it. There is a small number of Travellers. There is written evidence that all DIRF applications are investigated properly.

5.6 Currently there is a 30 hour allocation for equalities officers but they were often deployed to other duties. This is of concern to the IMB.

5.7 A full time Head of Chaplaincy post has recently been created and this has enabled the chaplaincy team to enhance its profile. There is a Multi Faith Room, which together with a chapel ensures that there is a quiet space available for all religions. All statutory requirements are met for all faiths. Currently there is a vacancy for an Anglican Chaplain which has been advertised.

5.8 West 7 is a dedicated area for vulnerable and disabled prisoners, but the criteria for allocation is somewhat nebulous and would benefit from written clarification. Occasionally prisoners are located due to the needs of the prison despite not meeting the criteria.

6 SEGREGATION/CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

6.1 There is no segregation unit at Sudbury.

6.2 There is a Secure Accommodation Unit (SAU) with two somewhat scruffy cells plus one short-time holding room. There is no access to an exercise facility, which makes the SAU unfit for purpose.

6.3 The Secure Accommodation Unit does not meet the Category C technical specifications, and Sudbury, like other open prisons, is waiting on the outcome of the National Review of secure accommodation.

6.4. Most prisoners who are found guilty on adjudication of a significant breach are returned to closed conditions as soon as is logistically possible. It is unusual for a prisoner to be held in the SAU for a period in excess of 24 hours, where this does occur every effort is made to liaise with other prisons to expedite the process. Where prisoners are located and waiting for police arrest there may be an unavoidable delay but this is managed well by staff.

6.5 There have been no 72 hour reviews at Sudbury during the reporting year.

6.6 The SAU is viewed by some prisoners as a place of safety especially if they have concerns for their personal safety or mental welfare. They are supported extremely well by the SAU staff, and are generally positive when speaking with the IMB members about the support and reassurance they have been given.

7 ACCOMMODATION (including communication)

7.1 The principal accommodation in Sudbury comprises residential units, a kitchen with dining room, a modern Healthcare unit, a well-equipped gymnasium, chapel, library and working workshops and Educational blocks where Prisoners can learn skills and achieve qualifications at NVQ level 2. There is also a large playing field, which prisoners can use for football and outdoor sporting activities and during association periods in the summer months. New enhanced security measures such as advanced CCTV have been installed and are presently being tested.

7.2 The site was built as a temporary structure in the 1940s and much of the original accommodation is still in use. A programme of rolling improvements has included the provision of new double glazed windows, but the Board continues to raise concerns regarding rooms in the accommodation blocks that are cold and damp and often in need of additional repair. These events trigger applications to the Board, especially during the winter months with lower temperatures. There are new works planned for some the accommodation to have external cladding fitted and the Board will report on this in the coming year. The Kitchen is better appointed than might be expected for an ancient structure, and levels of hygiene are appropriately observed. Many Religious festivals are catered for and specialist dietary needs are managed throughout the year. In this connection, the Board is pleased to note that prisoners are encouraged to come into the kitchen (after appropriate risk assessment) to prepare and cook their own festive dishes. The persistent issues with vermin in this old structure are robustly managed, but the problem remains.

7.3 Consistent budgetary constraints over the years have impacted on Sudbury. The showers and toilet facilities are in urgent need of replacement. The standard is completely unacceptable in many of the wings. The Board have been advised that money has been secured to replace some of the shower and toilet facilities but believe that more investment is urgently needed to ensure the necessary improvements are made. Similarly, even following repeated critical comments from the Board, the main corridor remains depressingly scruffy despite the best efforts of prison staff. The prisoners have access to communal phones.

7.4 Maintenance of the Prison is managed by AMEY under its National Contract since 2015. There appear to have been increasing delays in getting issues dealt with compared with the previous in-house provision and there has also been some tension within the contract as to what works are served under it and timescales for delivery. The Board remains concerned about the more specialist equipment repair contracts across the prison as they do not appear to offer consistent value for money when newer is often cheaper over a given term.

7.5 On the whole, staff / prisoner relations appear to be supportive and positive, despite a small group of consistently negative staff. The Board receives regular updates regarding the good work that staff conduct with the prisoners, especially around Mental Health difficulties, ACCTs, family days and the work of the Family Liaison Officers during challenging times such as bereavement. However, the pressure on staff to perform additional duties during the working day often means that 1-2-1 time with prisoners, which build supportive custodial relationships and enhance the overall safety of the prison is not always available.

8 HEALTHCARE (including Mental Health and Social care)

8.1 Healthcare services, including Mental Health Services for the reporting year were provided by Care UK.

8.2 Care UK has been successful in recruiting staff to the vacant posts they inherited when they took over the contract. Care UK ensured that the newly appointed staff had the right skill mix to deliver an effective and proactive service within the prison, this included the appointment of a Registered Mental Health Nurse. At the end of this reporting year there is one unfilled vacancy for a Pharmacy Technician. Once appointed they will be responsible, with others, for the improvement in medicine management within the prison. There are between 130-150 prisoners in possession of their own medication and the aim is to empower more prisoners to take ownership of their own health needs, as they would do if they were in the community.

8.3 All prisoners are screened for physical and mental health needs, as well as substance misuse, within two hours of arrival at Sudbury.

8.4 The number of prisoners who are transferred without their medication is low, averaging 30-40 per year. Systems are now in place to ensure that any prisoner who arrives at Sudbury without his medication is assessed, and medication is either supplied from stock or through a fast tracked prescription request.

8.5 Healthcare provides specialised clinics covering chronic disease management such as diabetes, cardio-vascular, respiratory etc. Prisoners also have access to podiatrists, optician and physiotherapy. The waiting list for dental treatment has significantly reduced as a result of additional sessions. The list stands at 53 with no one waiting longer than 6 weeks to be seen.

8.6 Prisoners presenting with mental health needs are now triaged and are usually seen within 10 days by the appropriate medical staff unless the assessment indicates earlier intervention. Access to mental health services for prisoners presenting with acute onset of symptoms or rapidly deteriorating mental health status continues to concern the board, whilst recognising that this is a problem, too, for individuals within the community setting. A working group which will include prisoner representation is currently being set up to look at more effective ways of managing the mental health needs of prisoners within the prison population.

8.7 Healthcare staff continue to monitor attendance and actively seek ways to address DNA (Did Not Attend) rates. Currently DNA appointments with a GP average 13.6% per month. Whilst this is an increase on last year's figures almost 600 more prisoners were seen by a GP. DNA appointments with the nurse have improved now averaging 7.8% compared to 9.3% last year. DNA hospital appointments occur very infrequently as a result of forward planning. There is now a computerized booking in system within the Healthcare department.

8.8 The Board has attended two deaths in custody in this reporting year. One was expected. Post mortem findings have yet to be released on the second prisoner. The Board would like to praise both the Healthcare team and the prison staff for the empathy and care that they gave to a terminally ill patient and his family. All agencies were involved in his end of life care and his wish to remain within the prison was supported until the final hours when he was transferred to hospital due to his presenting symptoms. This prisoner also received peer support.

8.9 Care UK has been successful in reducing the waiting list for smoking cessation clinics, currently there is only one prisoner waiting to commence the programme.

9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

9.1 Prisoners without recorded basic skills level are assessed within first 6 weeks of arrival, those with only entry level literacy and numeracy skills are strongly encouraged to attend courses in reading and number as these are a prerequisite to accessing other training and to obtaining work outside the prison.

9.2 The Education department records students' progress towards targets as part of their ILPs. All qualifications offered are recognised nationally, some City & Guilds, some NVQs including CIBT.

9.3 There is a wide range of courses available, which clearly meet prisoners' needs as all are oversubscribed and operate a strictly applied waiting list. Study skills courses, IT and Furniture Restoration all offer sessions in the evenings to enable out-workers to take part. The aim is that class size should not exceed 8. Some courses, such as counseling are offered in blocks to enable learners to progress rapidly and access roles within the prison where the skills can be applied. There is a learning support worker to help students with learning difficulties.

9.4 Prisoners can combine education and training courses to produce a range of related skills that will support self employment: business, IT and financial management qualifications can be taken alongside plastering and decorating or bricklaying.

9.5 Clearly presented pathways were introduced this year - prisoners are interviewed by careers staff within 6 weeks of arrival to discuss their employment plans, then by OMU to plot how they will progress along their chosen pathway. Flowcharts of the range of routes available are displayed prominently all around the prison, mapping out possibilities for movement between education, training and work experience within the main employment areas available.

9.6 The IT section of the library is closed to non-students every Wednesday afternoon so that distance learners can attend a supported learning session. Some take university access courses, some are studying for degrees and at least one student has completed a Masters and is about to embark on a PhD. Prisoners engaged in distance learning all spoke highly of the support they received from the prison in general and from the education department in particular, though sharing a room was seen as a distinct disadvantage when trying to study at this level.

9.7 The Library has a good range of books in a variety of languages as well as newspapers, periodicals and DVDs. It is well used for private study (using the IT provision) and reading, and offers a good range of children's books for use in the 'story books dads' scheme.

9.8 The Gym is popular and appreciated. Prisoners can book up to 3 sessions a week, though they would like more. There is a good range of sporting opportunities on offer, along with circuit training.

10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

10.1 HMP & YOI Sudbury offers a wide variety of vocational and educational courses including Bricklaying and Painting & Decorating courses and most have some ICT embedded within them and learners produce their portfolio of evidence electronically whilst simultaneously working towards appropriate units, however there are some courses which will always be popular and will usually be oversubscribed with a waiting list.

10.2 The quality of learners' practical and portfolio work is very good. Learners produce high quality course and practical work. This has been recognised both by External Verifiers from awarding bodies and by Ofsted.

10.3 Heavy investment in the Gardens department has provided high quality horticulture qualifications at level 2 and led to a marked improvement in the physical environment.

10.4 Established collaborative working relationships between strategic partners and employers is improving. The quality of provision offered is good or excellent. Many mainstream Employers are now offering work placements to prisoners which are very positive, but also on the same basis so that prisoners are given the same terms as other employees. This equality has seen demand increase for this type of placement.

10.5 The Trackworks railway training programme continues to remain very popular but employment prospects have declined. Prisoners who combine this with bricklaying or horticulture are now achieving better outcomes as regards employment

10.6 Innovative work has been undertaken with the MoJ's National Distribution Centre at Branston, where a rolling programme for employing 8 prisoners for a minimum of 10 months began in October. These workers are paid the going rate for their work, and the Prison Service is demonstrating to other employers that it is committed to offering work to serving offenders.

11 RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

11.1 Offender Management has improved over the past 12 months following re-arrangement of the OMU department. Sadly some prisoners feel that it is not greatly helpful to them.

11.2 The introduction of Prisoner Information Desks has proved popular, but the provision needs to be expanded to meet demand.

11.3 "Pathways to Reducing Re-offending" is progressing well, with the introduction of Sequencing and the teaching of "Soft Skills" where "hands-on" teaching (e.g. mechanics) cannot be offered. The availability of more relevant courses such as those now available in the gardens area is called for

11.4 Observation suggests that the level of co-operation in MAPPA arrangements continues to be positive.

11.5 Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company are good in house where the two are co-located, though less good outside the prison. Pilot courses to help successful reintegration into family life (Coming Home and Family Literacy in Prisons) have been well received but once pilot funding ends these are difficult to sustain.

11.6 Release on Temporary License (ROTL) is working well. Used regularly ROTL is helping with the normalisation of family life and re-entry into the community. It is also giving prisoners the confidence that they need to face release.

11.7 Family links are actively encouraged. The existing Visits Centre is small and in need of further improvements to encourage prisoners to make the maximum advantage from their visit. Notwithstanding this we see Family Days at Sudbury as most effective. A structured and dedicated team has been seen to be planning and delivering such days with fathers given time to be alone with their child(ren), mothers having time to relax and discuss with other mothers, families given the opportunity of eating together as a family, and so forth.

11.8 Plans are in hand to make the Staff Mess available to family days at week-ends where prisoners can follow the Barrista course (up to 6 at time) and trainees benefit from links to Costa Coffee with possible eventual employment opportunities.

11.9 The prison works hard to find positive contracts and work placements for prisoners. Some are currently employed at a turkey farm, learning butchery skills. Of the approximately 130 prisoners who go outside for paid and charity work an increasing number are finding permanent employment in the local area.

11.10 A Jobs Fair was held in October, where employers were surprised at the numbers attending. Prisoners were motivated by the message that they could find employment despite have a record, if they apply themselves and take the opportunities on offer.

11.11 Responsibility for post release accommodation resides with the CRC who will often only give an appointment with the prisoner upon his release but with no certainty that accommodation is available that day. Local Authorities will often not give housing interviews prior to the day of release, hence the problem.

11.12 Prisoners can be given a bank account on request through the CRC.

11.13 The prison struggles to support prisoners who wish to transfer to a Category D prison nearer to their family, due to the low priority assigned to such transfers with the prison system.

C Section – Work of Board

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	6
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6
Total number of visits to the Establishment	222
Total number of segregation reviews attended	4

D Section - Applications

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	1	1
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	1	0
C	Equality	0	0
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	2	2
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	2	N/A
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	1	3
F	Food and kitchens	1	0
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	6	5
H 1	Property within this establishment	1	5
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	5	
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	0	2
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	11	5
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	1	1
K	Transfers	4	1
	Total number of IMB applications	41	28